



(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)

No. 66.]

MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT :

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, Speaker

Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker and the Chair of Committees

Hon. Angajan Ramanathan, Deputy Chairperson of Committees

Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena, Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration,
Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture

Hon. (Dr.) Ramesh Pathirana, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of
Industries

Hon. Prasanna Ranatunga, Minister of Urban Development and Housing and
Chief Government Whip

Hon. Roshan Ranasinghe, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs and Minister of
Irrigation

Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and
Constitutional Reforms

Hon. (Mrs.) Pavithradevi Wanniarachchi, Attorney at Law, Minister of Wildlife
and Forest Resources Conservation

Hon. Kanchana Wijsekera, Minister of Power and Energy

Hon. Sajith Premadasa, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Seetha Arambepola, State Minister of Health

Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna, State Minister of Transport

Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar, State Minister of Education

Hon. Siripala Gamalath, State Minister of Highways

Hon. Sivanesathurai Santhirakanthan, State Minister of Rural Road Development

Hon. Sisira Jayakody, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Indigenous Medicine

Hon. Premitha Bandara Tennakoon, State Minister of Defence

Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, State Minister of Primary Industries

Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law, State Minister of Agriculture
Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs
Hon. Anupa Pasqual, State Minister of Social Empowerment
Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion
Hon. Ashoka Priyantha, State Minister of Home Affairs
Hon. Shantha Bandara, State Minister of Mass Media
Hon. Vijitha Berugoda, State Minister of Piriven Education
Hon. K. Kader Masthan, State Minister of Rural Economy
Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises Development
Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan, State Minister of Higher Education
Hon. Shasheendra Rajapaksa, State Minister of Irrigation
Hon. Janaka Wakkumbura, State Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government
Hon. Thenuka Vidanagamage, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing
Hon. S. Viyalanderan, State Minister of Trade
Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance
Hon. Kanaka Herath, State Minister of Technology
Hon. D. B. Herath, State Minister of Livestock Development

Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah
Hon. Kapila Athukorala
Hon. (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorala, Attorney at Law
Hon. Sampath Athukorala
Hon. Tissa Attanayake
Hon. Hector Appuhamy
Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya
Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena
Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal
Hon. Thavaraja Kalai Arasan
Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma

Hon. Mahindananda Aluthgamage
Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi
Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura
Hon. M. Udayakumar
Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna
Hon. Akila Ellawala
Hon. Govindan Karunakaram
Hon. Gayantha Karunatilleka
Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam, Attorney at Law
Hon. Faizal Cassim
Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law
Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara
Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga
Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri
Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku
Hon. Mano Ganesan
Hon. Udaya Gammanpila
Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi
Hon. Udayakantha Gunathilaka
Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena
Hon. S. M. Chandrasena
Hon. Milan Jayathilake
Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha
Hon. Piyanakara Jayaratne
Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana
Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana
Hon. M. S. Thowfeek
Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban
Hon. Shan Vijayalal De Silva
Hon. Duminda Dissanayake
Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake
Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake

Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha
Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya
Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law
Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena
Hon. H. Nandasena
Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda
Hon. Asanka Navarathna
Hon. Charles Nirmalanathan
Hon. S. Noharathalingam
Hon. Nimal Piyathissa
Hon. (Prof.) G. L. Peiris
Hon. Nirosan Perera
Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera
Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam
Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle
Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi
Hon. Rohana Bandara
Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara
Hon. (Prof.) Ranjith Bandara
Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen
Hon. S. M. Marikkar
Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana
Hon. Imran Maharoof
Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar
Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma
Hon. Mohomad Muzammil
Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law
Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law
Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka
Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka
Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero
Hon. B. Y. G. Rathnasekara
Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka
Hon. Ali Sabri Raheem
Hon. Ishak Rahuman

Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna
Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa
Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe
Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha
Hon. M. Rameshwaran
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam
Hon. Nimal Lanza
Hon. Gamini Lokuge
Hon. Gamini Waleboda
Hon. Eran Wickramaratne
Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe
Hon. (Mrs.) Rohini Kumari Wijerathna
Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law
Hon. Hesha Withanage
Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitarana
Hon. Chandima Weerakkody, Attorney at Law
Hon. Jayantha Weerasinghe, PC
Hon. D. Weerasingha
Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe
Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
Hon. Dilip Wedaarachchi
Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan
Hon. Jagath Samarawickrama
Hon. Jayantha Samaraweera
Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena
Hon. M. A. Sumanthiran
Hon. Jagath Kumara Sumithraarachchi
Hon. Vadivel Suresh
Hon. W. D. J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law
Hon. (Dr.) Rajitha Senarathne
Hon. H. M. M. Harees
Hon. Abdul Haleem
Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath

Hon. Vijitha Herath

Hon. Jayarathna Herath

Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie

Hon. Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka

Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, Secretary-General of Parliament

Mr. Chaminda Kularathne, Chief of Staff and Deputy Secretary General of Parliament

Mr. Hansa Abeyrathne, Assistant Secretary-General

Parliament met pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker took the Chair.

1. Messages from the President : The Speaker read the following message received from the President:—



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இலங்கை சனாதிபதி
President of Sri Lanka

My No. PS/CSA/00/4/4/2

October 17, 2023

Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana
Speaker
Parliament of Sri Lanka

Hon. Speaker,

The Navy Act (Chapter 358)

By virtue of the power vested in me by Section 21 of the Navy Act (Chapter 358), having considered necessary in the national interest, an order has been issued to the members of the Sri Lanka Navy Specialized in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography to perform such hydrographic activities as non-naval duties provided for in the Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations, No. 06 of 2021 made under Section 321 of the Merchant Shipping Act, No. 52 of 1971 and published in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 2261/54 of January 06, 2022, and in paragraph (ee) of Section 4 of the National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency Act, No. 54 of 1981.

Accordingly, it is hereby informed Parliament regarding same, in terms of Section 21 of the aforesaid Act.

Yours sincerely,


Ranil Wickremesinghe
President

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசு
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

2. Announcements by the Speaker : The Speaker made the following announcements:—

I

“I wish to inform Parliament that I have received copies of nine petitions submitted to the Supreme Court regarding the Bill titled ‘Anti-Terrorism’, in terms of the Article 121(1) of the Constitution and although the Bill had been included in the Order Paper issued on 03.10.2023, was not presented to Parliament on that date, for the First Reading as per Standing Order 50 (1) of the Parliament either.”

II

“I wish to inform that in terms of the provisions of Article 79 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I have endorsed the certificate on the Bills titled ‘Civil Procedure Code (Amendment), Elections (Special Provisions), National Eye Bank Trust of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Ports Authority (Amendment) and Civil Aviation (Amendment)’ on 17th October 2023.”

III

“I wish to inform Parliament that in addition to the copies of thirty four petitions that I have announced on 04th, 06th and 17th October 2023, I have received the copies of eleven more petitions filed at the Supreme Court under Article 121(1) of the Constitution in respect of the Bill titled ‘Online Safety’.”

3. Presentation of Reports from Committees: (1) The Hon. Ajith Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker, the Chair of the Legislative Standing Committee presented the Report of the Legislative Standing Committee on the Bill entitled, “Local Authorities Elections (Amendments)” together with the Minutes of proceedings.

Ordered that, the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

Bill, as reported by Legislative Standing Committee, to be considered on Thursday, 19th October 2022.

(2) The Hon. (Dr.) WIjeyadasa Rajapakse, PC the Chair of the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented the Report the of the said Committee on —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/06 of 04th July 2023; and
- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/10 of 29th August 2023

which were referred to the Committee.

Ordered that the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(3) The Hon. W.D.J. Seneviratne, Attorney at Law, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society presented the Report of the above Committee on Conferring the Honour of Senior Instructing Attorneys-at – Laws Bill which was referred to the said Committee.

Ordered that, the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

(4) The Hon. Lalith Varna Kumara, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Media, Youth, Heritage & New Citizen presented the Report of the said Committee on —

- (i) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Foundation for the year 2021;
- (ii) Annual Report of Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited for the year 2021;
- (iii) Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation for the year 2020; and
- (iv) Annual Performance Reports of the Department of Government Information for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021

which were referred to the Committee.

Ordered that, the said Report do lie upon the **Table**.

4. Presentation of Public Petitions :

- (1) Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka presented —
 - (i) a petition dated 04.07.2023 from Mrs. A. L. D. S. Damayanthi of No. 515/1, Shrimalika, Kadawedduwa, Yatiyana;
 - (ii) a petition dated 05.06.2023 from Mr. K. P. T. C. Pushpakumara of Katapodigeruppa, Medaviyangoda, Yatiyana, Matara; and
 - (iii) a petition dated 30.03.2023 from Mr. T. K. Manjula Pradeep Kumara of Panikkalagewatta, Thalpavila, Kekanadura.
- (2) Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya presented a petition dated 20.06.2023 from Mr. R. M. H. Bandara of Bosevana, Bogahamadiththa, Hali-ela.

The Petitions stood referred under Standing Order 30(10) of the Parliament, to the Committee on Public Petitions.

The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 10.42 a.m. Hon. Madhura Withanage, Attorney at Law took the Chair.)

5. Motions for Leave of Absence : Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law, seconded by Hon. Sajith Premadasa moved,— The Hon. Rajavarothiam Sampanthan,

Member of Parliament for Trincomalee Electoral district be granted leave under the Article 66(f) of the Constitution to be absent from the sittings of Parliament for a period of three months from October 17th, 2023.

Question put and agreed to.

6. Finance: The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies presented,— Bill to amend the Finance Act, No. 35 of 2018 and the Finance Act, No. 12 of 2012; to provide for the exemption of certain persons from the application of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, No. 1 of 1969; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 07th, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Committee on Public Finance.

7. Conferring the Honour of Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law Bill: Second Reading.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill be referred to a Committee of the whole Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

Parliament immediately resolved itself into Committee.

(In the Committee)

The Presiding Member took the Chair.

Clause 1 was agreed to.

Clause 2

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to leave out line 7 in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“the subject of justice, and having regard to the guidelines made by the Minister assigned the subject of justice under section 3 confer the honour of Senior Instructing”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to leave out line 12 in page 1 and substitute the following:—

“Attorney for a period not less than twenty-five years”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed another amendment to insert the following immediately after the line 4 in page 2 :—

“(3) An Attorney-at-Law to whom a certificate has been handed over under subsection (2), may use the post-nominal title “SIA”. ”;

Question that the amendment be agreed to, put, and agreed to.

Question that the Clause as amended, stand part of the Bill, put, and agreed to.

Clause 3 and 4 were agreed to.

New Clause

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms proposed an amendment to insert the following immediately after the line 4 in page 2 :—

“Minister to
make
guidelines

3. (1) The Minister assigned the subject of justice shall, from time to time, make guidelines relating to the conferment of the honour of Senior Instructing Attorneys-at-Law for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The guidelines made by the Minister under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette* and shall come into operation on the date of such publication or on such later date as may be specified therein.

(3) The guidelines made under this section shall within three months of its publication in the *Gazette* be brought before Parliament for approval.”.

Question that the Clause be read a second time, put and agreed to.

Question that the Clause be added to the Bill, put and agreed to.

Enacting Clause and Title

Question that the Enacting Clause and Title stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Bill reported with Amendments.

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Bill, as amended, be now read the third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill as amended, accordingly read the third time and passed.

8. Regulations under the Judicature Act (No.1) : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2339/06 of 04th July 2023, which were presented on 05.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

9. Regulations under the Judicature Act (No. 2) : The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms under Section 61 read with Section 45(1A) of the Judicature Act, No. 2 of 1978 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2347/10 of 29th August 2023, which were presented on 21.09.2023, be approved.

(At 1.00 p.m. the Deputy Chairperson of Committees took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,—That Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.57 p.m. Hon. Imran Maharoof do take the Chair.)

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.02 p.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

took the Chair.)

The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms moved,— That Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 3.02 a.m. Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake took the Chair.)

Question put, and agreed to.

10. Adjournment (Limiting of BL-2 Exam of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka to English Medium) : The Minister of the Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourn.

Question proposed and, debated.

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.31 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Thursday, October 19th, 2023.