



*(Ninth Parliament - Fourth Session)*

No. 68.]

## MINUTES OF PARLIAMENT

Friday, October 20, 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

### PRESENT :

**Hon. Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana**, Speaker

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

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

**Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Attorney at Law**, Minister of Ports, Shipping and  
Aviation

**Hon. Douglas Devananda**, Minister of Fisheries

**Hon. Manusha Nanayakkara**, Minister of Labour and Foreign Employment

**Hon. Nalin Fernando**, Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security

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

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

**Hon. Vidura Wikramanayaka**, Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural  
Affairs

**Hon. Sajith Premadasa**, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament

**Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna**, State Minister of Transport

**Hon. A. Aravindh Kumar**, State Minister of Education

**Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage**, State Minister of Tourism

**Hon. Siripala Gamalath**, State Minister of Highways

**Hon. Sivanethurai Santhirakanthan**, State Minister of Rural Road Development

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

**Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake**, State Minister of Primary Industries

**Hon. Piyal Nishantha De Silva**, State Minister of Fisheries

**Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law**, State Minister of Agriculture

**Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka**, State Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs

**Hon. Sanath Nishantha**, State Minister of Water Supply

**Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara**, State Minister of Foreign Employment Promotion  
**Hon. Arundika Fernando**, State Minister of Urban Development and Housing  
**Hon. Ashoka Priyantha**, State Minister of Home Affairs  
**Hon. Shantha Bandara**, State Minister of Mass Media  
**Hon. Tharaka Balasuriya**, State Minister of Foreign Affairs  
**Hon. Vijitha Berugoda**, State Minister of Piriven Education  
**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. S. Viyalanderan**, State Minister of Trade  
**Hon. Ranjith Siyambalapitiya**, State Minister of Finance  
**Hon. Shehan Semasinghe**, State Minister of Finance  
**Hon. D. B. Herath**, State Minister of Livestock Development

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**Hon. A. L. M. Athaullah**  
**Hon. Kapila Athukorala**  
**Hon. Tissa Attanayake**  
**Hon. Wajira Abeywardana**  
**Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe**  
**Hon. Thushara Indunil Amarasena**  
**Hon. Mayadunna Chinthaka Amal**  
**Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala**  
**Hon. Dullas Alahapperuma**  
**Hon. Thisakutti Arachchi**  
**Hon. U. K. Sumith Udukumbura**  
**Hon. M. Udayakumar**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda**  
**Hon. Sanjeeva Edirimanna**  
**Hon. Akila Ellawala**  
**Hon. Lalith Ellawala**  
**Hon. Gayantha Karunatileka**  
**Hon. Sagara Kariyawasam**, Attorney at Law  
**Hon. Faizal Cassim**  
**Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda**

**Hon. Lakshman Kiriella, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Gevindu Cumaratunga**  
**Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri**  
**Hon. Karunadasa Kodithuwakku**  
**Hon. Mano Ganesan**  
**Hon. Udaya Gammanpila**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Upul Galappaththi**  
**Hon. Yadamini Gunawardena**  
**Hon. Milan Jayathilake**  
**Hon. Nalin Bandara Jayamaha**  
**Hon. Piyankara Jayaratne**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Channa Jayasumana**  
**Hon. M. S. Thowfeek**  
**Hon. Kulasingam Dhileeban**  
**Hon. Palani Thigambaram**  
**Hon. Anura Dissanayaka**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake**  
**Hon. Sarathi Dushmantha**  
**Hon. (Major) Sudarshana Denipitiya**  
**Hon. Isuru Dodangoda**  
**Hon. Premnath C. Dolawatte, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. W. H. M. Dharmasena**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Gayashan Nawananda**  
**Hon. Asanka Navarathna**  
**Hon. Vasudeva Nanayakkara**  
**Hon. Nimal Piyathissa**  
**Hon. Dilan Perera**  
**Hon. Niroshan Perera**  
**Hon. K. Sujith Sanjaya Perera**  
**Hon. G. G. Ponnambalam**  
**Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle**  
**Hon. Uddika Premarathne**  
**Hon. Rohana Bandara**  
**Hon. R. M. Ranjith Madduma Bandara**  
**Hon. Rishad Bathiudeen**

**Hon. Seyed Ali Zahir Moulana**  
**Hon. Imran Maharroof**  
**Hon. Imthiaz Bakeer Markar**  
**Hon. S. M. M. Muszhaaraff, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Mohomad Muzammil**  
**Hon. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Wasantha Yapabandara, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Nipuna Ranawaka**  
**Hon. (Ven.) Athuraliye Rathana Thero**  
**Hon. Kumarasiri Rathnayaka**  
**Hon. Ishak Rahuman**  
**Hon. Harshana Rajakaruna**  
**Hon. Gunathilaka Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. (Dr.) Thilak Rajapakshe**  
**Hon. Namal Rajapaksa, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa**  
**Hon. Upul Mahendra Rajapaksha**  
**Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam**  
**Hon. Waruna Liyanage**  
**Hon. Gamini Lokuge**  
**Hon. Gamini Waleboda**  
**Hon. Eran Wickramaratne**  
**Hon. (Mrs.) Rajika Wickramasinghe**  
**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. 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. Rauff Hakeem, Attorney at Law**  
**Hon. H. M. M. Harees**  
**Hon. Abdul Haleem**  
**Hon. (Prof.) Charitha Herath**  
**Hon. Vijitha Herath**  
**Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie**

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. Announcements by the Speaker :** The Speaker made the following announcement:—

“I wish to inform that the Hon. Jayarathna Herath, Member of Parliament, and the Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, Member of Parliament have been nominated to serve in the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Alleviating the Impact of the Economic Crisis by the Committee of Selection on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, in terms of the provisions of the Standing Order 111(13) and 130(3) of the Parliament, to fill the vacancies occurred due to the vacation from the Membership of the above Committee, by the Hon. Palani Thigambaram, Member of Parliament and the Hon. M. Rameshwaran, Member of Parliament from the Membership of the said Committee.”

**2. Presentation of Papers :** (1) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the Annual Report of the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration for the year 2021 and moved that the Report be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on An Open & Accountable Government.

Question put, and agreed to.

(2) The Minister of Urban Development and Housing presented the —

- (i) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2281/37 of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2296/19 of 08<sup>th</sup> September 2022;

- (ii) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2304/88 of 05<sup>th</sup> November 2022;
- (iii) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Section 31 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/26 of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022; and
- (iv) Regulations made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs under Section 41 read with Sections 18 and 19 of the Sports Law, No. 25 of 1973 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2310/27 of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

and move that those Regulations be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sports and Youth Affairs.

Question put, and agreed to.

**3. Presentation of Reports from Committees :** (1) Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health present the Report of the Committee on —

- (i) Performance Report of the Department of Ayurveda for the year 2021; and
- (ii) Annual Report of the 1990 Suwa Seriya Foundation for the year 2022

which were referred to the said Committee.

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

(2) Hon. Mayantha Dissanayake, the Chair of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health presented the Report of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Health on Galaha Bhaddrawathie National Bhikkhu Care Centre Trust Bill which were referred to the said Committee.

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

**4. Presentation of Public Petition:**

(1) Hon. Rohana Dissanayaka presented —

- (i) A petition dated 28.06.2023 from Mrs. M.H.M. Chandralatha of Moragolla, Bambaragaswewa, Galewela; and
- (ii) A petition dated 08.06.2023 from Mr. R.M. Mahinda Bandara Senevirathna of No. 4/6, Hospital Road, Madipola, Matale.

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

**5. National Hydrographic :** The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to make provisions for giving effect to certain Specific Obligations of Sri Lanka under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974; for the establishment of the National Hydrographic Office; for the registration of Hydrographic Surveyors and Nautical Cartographers; and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 07, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

**6. Anti-Corruption (Amendment) :** The Minister of Justice, Prisons Affairs and Constitutional Reforms presented,— Bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Act, No. 9 of 2023.

The Bill was ordered to be read a second time on Tuesday, November 07, 2023, be printed and be referred to the Ministerial Consultative Committee on Sectoral Oversight Committee on Just and Law-Abiding Society.

**7. Sittings of the Parliament :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 8 of the Parliament, the hours of sitting of Parliament on this day shall be 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.. At 9.30 a.m. Standing Order 8(5) of the Parliament shall operate. At 5.30 p.m. Mr. Speaker shall adjourn the Parliament without question put.

Question put, and agreed to.

**8. Business of the Parliament :** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Leader of the House of Parliament moved,— That the proceedings on Item No. 3 of Public Business appearing on the Order Paper be exempted at this day's sitting from the provisions of Standing Order 27 of the Parliament.

Question put, and agreed to.

**9. Regulations under the Companies Act :** The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries moved,— That the Regulations made by the Minister of Industries under Section 527 read with Section 222 of the Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007, and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2323/41 of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, which were presented on 25.08.2023, be approved.

(At 10.31 a.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

Hon. Gamini Waleboda, seconded by Hon. K. P. S. Kumarasiri moved,— That Hon. Nimal Piyathissa do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 1.06 p.m. Hon. Nimal Piyathissa took the Chair.)

### **Suspension of Sittings**

At 4.00 p.m.

The Sitting was then suspended until 4.15 p.m.

At 4.15 p.m.

The Sitting was resumed. The Speaker took the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.34 p.m. Speaker took the Chair.)

(At 4.36 p.m. Deputy Speaker took the Chair.)

The State Minister of Foreign Affairs moved,— That Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe do take the Chair.

Question put and agreed to.

(At 4.37 p.m. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe took the Chair.)

Question put and agreed to.

**10. Notification under the Measurement Units, Standard and Services Act :** The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security moved,— That the Notification made by the Minister of Trade, Commerce and Food Security under Section 4(1)(f) of the Measurement Units, Standard and Services Act, No. 35 of 1995 and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2294/54 of 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022, which was presented on 05.09.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**11. Resolution under the Essential Public Services Act :** The Urban Development and Housing on behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government moved,— That this Parliament resolves that the Proclamation made and published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 2354/08 of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and Schedule thereto, by virtue of the powers vested with the President in terms of Section 2 of the Essential Public Services Act, No. 61 of 1979, which was presented on 19.10.2023, be approved.

Question put, and agreed to.

**12. Adjournment (Request for Ceasefire in Gaza and Peaceful Solution for Israel-Palestine Conflict):** The Minister of Urban Development and Housing moved,— That this Parliament do now adjourned.

Question proposed, and debated.

Question put and agreed to; Parliament was at 4.50 p.m. adjourned by the Presiding Member until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 07, 2023.