

**COUNCIL MEETING OF THE WESTERN PROVINCE
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL**

21st March 2016 (Monday), at 09.30 a.m.

AGENDA

- I. **Announcements by the Chairman**
- II. **Presentation of Papers and Documents**
- III. **Presentation of Committee Reports**
- IV. **Petitions**
- V. **Questions**

01. Question asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe on 23.02.2016 from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/10)

- a) Separately, how many are the disciplinary inquiries carried out on Teachers' and Principals' services at Zonal and Provincial level as at 31.12.2015?
- b) Would you present to this Council as to the name lists of officers who have been transferred stating as 'based on Preliminary Inquiries' and time periods relevant to such transfers?
- c) Among the officers subjected to disciplinary inquiries, who are the officers that have not been issued with a charge sheet even when 03 months have elapsed?
- d) Would you separately present facts to this Hon. Council regarding the matter?

02. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/17)

- a) (i) Are you aware that a new service minutes have been introduced for Teachers' and Principals' services through Government Extraordinary Gazette notifications?
- (ii) How long has it taken up to now?

- b) (i) Do you know that the Teachers and Principals engaged in service currently should be absorbed into those new services and later on due salaries and prescribed promotions shall be provided to them ?
- (ii) Have institutions belonging to your ministry taken action in relation to that?
- (iii) Would you present to this Council statistics and due salaries paid, in relation to each such service?
- (iv) If the aforementioned affairs have not concluded, would you present to this Council details relating to problems existing by Zonal level in relation to each service, statistics relevant to it and unpaid due salary amounts?
- (v) Would you present to this Council as to how much time would be required further to complete absorptions and promotions of Teachers and Principals into new services having solved all these problems, as well as, to pay due salaries?

03. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/18)

- a) (i) Is there a legally adopted position functioning as Coordinating Officer in Zonal Education Offices of Western Province?
- (ii) If in functioning state, since when was it?
- b) (i) What is the legal standing with regard to establishing of the said position ?
- (ii) What are the duties assigned to them?
- (iii) From which service had the recruiting to this service been carried out? On which basis was that?
- c) How many officers are engaged in service in the said position at present? Would you mention to this Council as to who they are?

04. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Ashoka Ranwala from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Animal Production and Health and Agrarian Development. (Q/VI(1)/16/19)

- a) How many are the public ferries existing in Colombo and Gampaha districts of left and right banks in Kelani River which flows a distance of more than 40 Kilometers bordering the said districts?
- b) Could you present to this Council a name list of the said ferries?
- c) How many are the canals and streams flowing to Kelani River (in relation to the areas of authority of Gampaha and Colombo districts)?
- d) Could you present a name list of those canals and streams to this Council?

05. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Kithsiri Kahatapitiya from the Hon. Minister of Fisheries, Roads, Transport, Cooperative Development and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Facilities, Industries and Rural Development.
(Q/VI(1)/16/20)

- a) Are you aware that a land has been allocated from the New Chattle Estate to provide a fuel station for Madurawala Cooperative Society?
- b) Do you know that construction work had already begun to construct the said fuel station having laid the foundation stone?
- c) Due to which reason has its work halted on the way?
- d) Do you know that if the said fuel station was built, it would be a service to people of the area while becoming a revenue source to the Cooperative Society?
- e) What actions would be taken by you to implement the said project in future?

06. Question to be asked by Hon. Member J.A. Royce Vijitha Fernando from the Hon. Chief Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, Engineering Services, Law and Order, Local Government and Provincial Administration, Economic Promotion, Electricity and Energy, Environmental Affairs, Water Supplies and Drainage and Tourism Affairs.
(Q/VI(1)/16/21)

- a) Do you know that Western Provincial Road Development Authority took action to construct new buildings in the weekly fair at Kamachchode, Negombo by utilizing finances of the Economic Development Ministry?
- b) Is it lawful to completely close down the road providing access to the beach from the main street of Negombo as well as to Kamachchode and Beach-street villages for more than 150 years and being a road named as "Vistheerni Road", named after Reverend Father Vistheerni who is specific to Negombo area; and constructing buildings in the middle of the said road?
- c) Why is the weekly fair is conducted in adjacent roads without utilizing these buildings?
- d) How much has been spent to repair these new buildings and roads?
- e) What are the reasons for not employing Negombo Municipal Council for the project of "Buildings of Kamachchode Fair" and land development project?
- f) Is there an authority assigned to certain Ministry or an Authority of a Provincial Council to function without the approval of the relevant Local Government Authority with regard to a particular construction?

07. Question to be asked by Hon. Member J.A. Royce Vijitha Fernando from the Hon. Chief Minister and Minister of Finance and Planning, Engineering Services, Law and Order, Local Government and Provincial Administration, Economic Promotion, Electricity and Energy, Environmental Affairs, Water Supplies and Drainage and Tourism Affairs. (Q/VI(1)/16/22)

- a) Do you accept that a swimming pool is there at Negombo Eththukala Beach that belongs to Western Provincial Ministry of Tourism?
- b) Has necessary approval been obtained from Negombo Municipal Council, Urban Development Authority, Coast Conservation Department and Central Environmental Authority in relation to constructing of this swimming pool in Negombo Beach?
- c) When had the said swimming pool been constructed under Provincial Road Development Authority (W.P.) and handed over to Western Provincial Ministry of Tourism?
- d) How much has been spent to construct the said swimming pool?
- e) Who is maintaining the said swimming pool at present?
- f) Was it by way of a tender had the swimming pool been assigned to the person maintaining it currently?
- g) Was an advertisement published in popular newspapers about the said tender? When was it? In which newspapers?
- h) How many bidders participated?
- i) Who was selected among those bidders? When?
- j) Is there a contract containing conditions relevant to maintaining of the swimming pool at Eththukala Beach belonging to Western Provincial Ministry of Tourism? With whom?
- k) When will the said contract period terminate?

08. Question to be asked by Hon. Member K. D. Aruna Deepal from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/23)

- a) How many are the total number of watchmen (day-time/ night-time) required for schools of Bandaragama Education Zone? How many are employed currently?
- b) Could you present a name list by each school of watchmen deployed only as night-time watchmen? If so, who are they?
- c) Could you present a name list by each school of watchmen deployed only as day-time watchmen? If so, who are they?
- d) Could you present a name list by each school of watchmen deployed in service on shift basis as day-time and night-time watchmen? If so, who are they?

- e) Is there a certain system to check whether the above mentioned night watchmen's service is performed properly? If so, what is it?
- f) Have the persons who were not recruited for watchmen's service, but for other position, been deployed in watchmen's duties? If so, who are they?

09. Question to be asked by Hon. Member K. D. Aruna Deepal from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/24)

- a) In Western Province, under which act, statute, regulation, code of conduct or other common law would action be taken in relation to Teacher's disciplinary acts? If so what is it?
- b) If, in order to take disciplinary action in relation to certain teacher, do you accept the fact that above mentioned law or regulation or code of conduct need to be contravened?
- c) Whether providing transport facility to a child to attend school by a teacher on the consent of the child's parents is an anti-disciplinary act? If so, under which law mentioned above?
- d) By attending school along with a teacher, will the said child be encountered with future behavioral problems? If so, in which manner is that?
- e) Do you know about the maximum number of people that can be transported by a bicycle? Has any officer of Provincial Education Service been assigned with authority to approve or encourage transportation of more than two people in a bicycle? If so, to whom?
- f) If certain officer has taken arbitrary and unlawful action with regard to a teacher's discipline, what action would be taken against such officer/ officers?

10. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Nandana Pathmakumara from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology. (Q/VI(1)/16/25)

- a) How many are the number of schools in Western Province, included under "1000 Secondary Schools Project"?
 - (i) Which schools are they?
- b) What are the development programmes received by those schools specifically as a result of "1000 Secondary Schools Project"?
 - (i) Has every such project been handed over to students?
 - (ii) If not why is that?
- c) Are you aware that there are unsuccessful schools when implementing this Secondary School project?
 - (i) Which schools are they?
 - (ii) what action will be taken by you regarding such?

11. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Rose Fernando from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology.
(Q/VI(1)/16/26)

- a) (i) What are the names of Directors appointed to Education Zones of Kelaniya and Negombo in Western Province?
- (ii) What are their educational qualifications?
- b) How many persons are there who are higher in terms of grade and educational qualifications than the above mentioned Directors who are in service at present?
- c) What are their names?
- d) Are you aware that persons devoid of educational qualifications required for the position are acting in above positions?
- e) Would you take action to rectify the errors happened in previous era by appointing persons possessing real educational qualifications?
- f) If not, why is that?

12. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Rose Fernando from the Hon. Minister of Education, Cultural and Arts Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs and Information Technology.
(Q/VI(1)/16/27)

- a) Are you aware of the conflict in Dapsamara School of Seeduwa located within Negombo Education Zone?
- b) Are you aware of the conflict among teachers-parents-officers that occurred at the occasion which received publicity that books will be distributed by Jeyaraj Fernandopulle Fund, which actually has Rs. 1.5 Million allocated from the Urban Council Fund?
- c) Why has action been taken based on the said incident and on political influence to transfer the Principal of the school who pioneered to upgrade the school?
- d) Would you take action to stop political influences on schools?
- e) Would you create the environment required for active Principals who restore village schools, to work without influences?
- f) If not, why is that?

VI. Motions for Leave of Absence

**VII. Announcements of the Ministries / Statements of
the Ministers**

VIII. Personal Explanations

IX. Private Members' Affairs

01. Hon. Member Mahesh Almeida:

"A large number of people live in estate related areas in Western Province and a large number of estate schools have been established with the objective of making better the lives of children of estate people and transform such children into strong partners in the country's economy. Even though a lot of facilities have been allotted to ensure reception of proper education by these children who are studying in estate schools, the teachers teaching in them are facing many difficulties.

Among the difficulties faced by such teachers, the main difficulty is transportation available for them to reach the said schools. As a solution to it, this Provincial Council is in the opinion that measures should be taken, by the intervention of the Western Province Provincial Council, to provide a motorcycle to all the Teachers and Principals of estate schools to facilitate their transportation affairs." (M/vi(01)/14/14)

02. Hon. Member M. Rose Fernando:

"The right to proper school education by clever students born in low income earning families in villages is being disinherited by gradual closing down of village schools by introducing various names and programmes. It is observed that the students who cannot travel to far away schools through vehicles tend to drop out of school education as a result of closure of village schools. Owing to this situation, parents are faced with various difficulties. Therefore, this Western Province Provincial Council is in the opinion that the education rights of village students should be safeguarded by providing facilities again to village schools." (M/vi(01)/15/01)

X. Adjournment of the Council

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09.03.2016
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