

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

05th February 2019, at 09.30 a.m.

AGENDA

I. Announcements by the Chairman

II. Motion for Leave of Absence

III. Presentation of Papers

IV. Presentation of Committee Reports

V. Petitions

VI. Questions/ Interim Questions

01. Question to be asked by Hon. Chief Opposition Whip U. George Perera from Hon. Minister of Roads, Transport, Cooperative and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Development, Industries and Rural Development. (Q/ VI(1)/19/08)

- a) (I) Has the 47(1) investigation conducted to find out the financial forgery made by the officers at that time in Thrift and Credit Cooperative Society Urban Limited of Kochchikade functioning under your ministry, been conducted according to traditions and standards of the Cooperative Societies' Statute?
- (II) If so, can a complete report be presented in that regard?
- (III) If not, what is the reason for it?
- (IV) Do you know that evidence had not been called from the person, who served as the Manager at that time, whose evidence is considered as main evidence, in the 47(1) investigation?
- (V) Likewise, are you aware that a report about the cash in hand, which is considered to be compulsory evidence, has not been presented?
- (VI) If so, has the 47(1) investigation greatly prejudiced owing to the facts revealed by the above said question No. (IV) and (V)?

- b) (I) Has the Committee at that time made an offence under sections of 4-5-1, 4-7-3 of the registered bylaw of the Society and under Section 26 of the Cooperative Society Regulations of 1973 ?
- (II) How is it in detail?
- (III) Can the financial loss incurred to the Society as a result of arbitrary decisions taken by the Committee at that time be recovered from the Committee members of that time?

02. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe from Hon. Minister of Roads, Transport, Cooperative and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Development, Industries and Rural Development. (Q/ VI(1)/19/09)

- a) What action will be taken by you regarding the arbitrary suspension of the Internal Audit Committee of the “SANASA” Society of Kochchikade, Negombo ?
- b) Would you inform to this Council as to for how long was the said Audit Committee suspended at the Committee meeting held on 11.05.2018? and which Committee members took the said decision?
- c) Would you inform to this Council whether instructions have been obtained from the Cooperative Development Divisional Officers in that regard? And which section of the registered bylaw has been violated by this suspension?
- d) Would you also inform to this Council whether a disciplinary inquiry has been conducted prior to suspension of the Internal Audit Committee in that manner?
- e) If not, why is that?

03. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe from Hon. Minister of Roads, Transport, Cooperative and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Development, Industries and Rural Development. (Q/VI(1)/19/10)

- a) Would you inform to this Council whether Mr. R.K. Sumanarathne, Deputy Commissioner of Gampaha has informed in writing that the preliminary investigations relevant to the investigation under 47(1) of “SANASA” Society Ltd of Kochchikade has been completed?
- b) Would you inform to this Council whether a valuation report on the condition of the building has been obtained through a Technical Officer by the Deputy Commissioner of Gampaha before proceeding into further affairs of the said investigation under 47(1)?
- c) Do you accept the fact that a letter has been referred on 06.08.2008 to the Divisional Engineer’s Office by the Deputy Commissioner of Gampaha to obtain the valuation report on the condition of the said building ?
- d) Would you inform to this Council whether a report has accordingly been obtained regarding the condition of the said building and who holds the responsibility to obtain it?

- e) Do you accept the fact that an obstruction has been caused to the Investigation under 47(1) due to not obtaining a report regarding the condition of the said building?
- f) If not, why is that?

04. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe from Hon. Minister of Roads, Transport, Cooperative and Trade, Housing and Construction, Estate Infrastructure Development Industries and Rural Development. (Q/ VI(1)/19/11)

- a) Would you inform to this Council in detail whether a problem has arisen regarding a loan application which was incomplete and has not been approved by the Credit Committee with regard to matters resulted in suspension of the Internal Audit Committee of “SANASA” Society of Kochchikade, Negombo?
- b) If so, what is the name of the Officer of the Committee who owns the said loan application?
- c) How much is the loan amount issued? Is it lawful? And do you accept the fact that obtaining the said loan is like enjoying an illicit privilege?
- d) Would you inform to this Council whether any other measure has been taken to fill the lacuna created by the inability to function in relation to certain sections of the bylaw due to the suspension of the Audit Committee for months? And what action will be taken against the Committee members who have breached the bylaw?
- e) If not, why is that?

05. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Rose Fernando from Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production and Health and Agrarian Development. (Q/VI(1)/19/12)

- a) How many Hectares of cultivatable land of Western Province which has got crops damaged by the “Sena” caterpillar menace?
- b) Haven’t these crop destruction been determined properly until now?
- c) Has a successful scientific method been identified to prevent this Sena caterpillar menace?
- d) When exporting seeds from foreign countries to this country, are they subjected to standardization tests?
- e) Does your ministry, as the Western Province, possess facilities which can be utilized to organize an immediate programme to protect crops from menaces such as these?
- f) Would you arrange for a system in future to face such menaces, which require immediate action?
- g) If not, why is that?

06. Question to be asked by Hon. Member Rose Fernando from Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land, Irrigation, Fisheries, Animal Production and Health and Agrarian Development. (Q/VI(1)/19/13)

- a) Has a proper identification made about irrigational systems and canal systems through which water is obtained for cultivations in the Western Province?
- b) Are you aware that buildings have been constructed, obstructing minor irrigation systems that provide water to agricultural cultivations, in certain areas?
- c) Have the plans relating to these minor irrigation systems been identified by your ministry and been Gazetted?
- d) In which year has the irrigational plans been surveyed, which has the boundaries marked properly and can be referred to in cases where obstructions to canal-ways or minor irrigation systems are detected?
- e) From which officer of your ministry from whom the surveyed plan could be obtained in case any matter arises with regard to said irrigations or canal-ways?
- f) When will a programme be implemented to prepare plans on such minor irrigations and canal-ways, to Gazette as well as to preserve them?
- g) If action will not be taken accordingly, why is that?

VII. Personal Explanations

VIII. Statements on Breach of Privileges

**IX. Announcements of the Ministries / Statements of
the Ministers/ Replies to Breach of Privileges**

X. Council Meetings

To be presented by the Hon. Minister of Council Affairs

Motion:

“Eventhough this Provincial Council at its meeting convened on 22.01.2019 decided that the Monday of 18.02.2019 as a date for convening the Council meeting, without considering any such, and having taken the agreement reached at the Business Advisory Committee meeting of 23.01.2019 into consideration, this Provincial Council decides that the Provincial Council, subsequent to today’s (05.02.2019) dispersal, shall assemble again on 20.02.2019 (Wednesday) at 09.30 a.m. and shall proceed considering that 18.02.2019 (Monday) and 19.02.2019 (Tuesday) as days in which the Council meeting will not be held”

XI. Private Members' Affairs

01. Hon. Member Ajantha Niroshan Padukka

“Micro finance credit is operated by institutions of the private sector in very intriguing manner in the Western Province and throughout the island.

Group loans and private loans are recovered under a 40% annual interest rate. It is a gravely unjust exploitation. As the current monitoring of the Central Bank on this credit practice is not sufficient, this Western Province Provincial Council requests from the Ministry of Finance and Central Bank of Sri Lanka to pay firm attention to this matter and immediately formulate rules and regulations to regularize these credit practices”

(M/VI(1)/18/08)

02. Hon. Member Mahinda Jayasinghe

“As it is felt it proper to pay some kind of allowance to teachers who voluntarily teach the subject of Catholicism in schools of Western Province which has schools with a limited number of students who practice the said religion, this Provincial Council is in the opinion of providing some sort of allowance to the said teachers is suitable after having paid attention to such teachers in every Zonal Office and having prepared a proper programme”

(M/VI(1)/18/09)

XII. Adjournment of the Council

K.H.D.K. Samarakoon
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23.01.2019
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