

Annual Report 2023 / 2024

Bar Association of Sri Lanka



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

About the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Since our inception, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka has progressively been endowed with greater social responsibility, reflecting our pivotal role in both advancing and overseeing the equitable administration of law throughout Sri Lanka. As the premier legal association in the nation, we embody a multifaceted role that extends beyond regulation, actively fostering the just practice of law.

The essence of our Association is encapsulated in Latin term, omnium jura defendinus – defending the rights of all. This motto underpins our commitment to supporting our lawyers, enabling them to uphold the rule of law with unwavering dedication.

Our function as a co-regulator of the legal profession is twofold: we ensure that our members adhere to the utmost ethical and professional standards, and we act as the definitive voice for the legal community. Our history is marked by a steadfast commitment to backing, aiding, inspiring, and advocating for our members and society at large.

The scope of our duties is expansive. We amplify the professional voice, fostering discussion, and proactively addressing law reform matters through policy advocacy and engaging dialogues with the government.

Our Association unites the legal community, keeping members abreast of legal developments and facilitating connections with peers through an unparalleled array of publications, resources, events, networking opportunities, and support from regional law societies.

Welcome to the Bar Association of Sri Lanka's Annual Report for 2023/24.





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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Simultaneous to the said challenges, we found that it was required for the BASL to engage with the membership both senior and junior of the profession specially, outstation branch associations and to assist the said members to improve the knowledge as well as the basic facilities such as libraries etc., in order to enable the said members to discharge the respective professional duties efficiently.

It is with great pleasure that I send this message to the Annual Report of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka 2023/2024. The

It is a common ground that practitioners in the legal profession encountered many challenges due to lack of facilities in the respective registries of courts, ad hoc procedures being introduced to the systems by the stake holders such as land registries, Court registries etc.

The prevailing adverse economic conditions in the country was a challenge for the BASL to conduct programmes for the benefit of the members specially, the inability for the BASL to provide concessionary or pro bono opportunities for junior members to get engaged with the activities of the BASL.

It is well known that the year 2024 is the golden jubilee year of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and thus, it is imperative that the Bar Association being the premier body of organization of the legal professionals to conduct programmes to celebrate the said miles stones of the Association on par with the standards of the legal fraternity. Accordingly, the said celebrations commenced with multi





religious programmes during the months of January and February at the Secretariat. The memorabilia and the first day cover to celebrate the golden jubilee of the BASL would be unveiled and issued at the first Bar Council Meeting scheduled to be held on 23rd March 2024.

Further, the dilapidated condition of the secretariat building was a concern which required urgent attention inter alia in view of the collapse of a part of the roof of the main Auditorium and the disfunctions of the facilities at the building. It was a recurrent concern for the Management Committee to take proactive steps to improve the efficiency and the efficacy of the staff of the secretariat specially, to introduce HR systems, IT management systems etc., in view of the absence of such systems at the secretariat.

I am indeed happy to place on record that notwithstanding such obstacles specially, in view, of the unwavering commitment and dedication of the members of the Management Committee and the Chairmen/ Conveners of the sub-committees, we were able to have a very productive and successful year for the benefit of the entire legal fraternity.

The programmes conducted by the BASL, during the last year ranges from the highly acclaimed National Law Conference, Junior National Law Conference, day seminars, workshops, webinars in all languages, residential programmes, CPD workshops, CPD Seminars, certificate courses etc., right throughout the year.

Further, whilst respecting the social obligations, the BASL conducted a law week, covering the entire country with the support of the branch associations, Attorney-General Department, Ministry of Justice, Legal- Aid Commission, Department of Prisons, Sri Lanka Police, Tri-forces, Bribery Commission, Inland Revenue Department etc., for the benefit of the citizens including the school children, government servants, members of the tri-forces and police. The main object of the said programme was to educate the said segments in the society in order to preserve the Rule of Law and to foster and inculcate the democratic values among the community. Despite the many challenges, the BASL was successful in conducting programmes in all provinces which were well attended by the membership.

I am delighted to place on record that as a result of the best practices which were introduced and adhered by the Management Committee, as evident by the financial report, the BASL was able to generate and save a sum of Rupees approximately 40 Million for the benefit of the membership

notwithstanding the expenses that are being incurred for the renovation of the secretariat as no such major renovations had been effected for a long period of time.

It shall be placed on record that the National Law Conference Committee, Junior National Law Conference Committee, Seminar Committee, CLE Committee, Special Project Committee, Diary Committee had played a significant role for the success of the current year, had contributed to the revenue and the significant success of the programmes conducted during the past year.

It was my pledge that the BASL will always be apolitical and the BASL will have a zero tolerance for any interference with the Independence of the Judiciary and for any threat to Democracy or to Rule of Law. The Annual Report amply demonstrates the proactive steps taken by the Bar Association against the Executive, the Legislature, the Members of the Cabinet and other Government officials where the intervention of the BASL was necessary. The position of the BASL was consistent and the said consistency had been maintained during the year irrespective of any pressure or persons political or otherwise. BASL was consistently raised its concerns and protested against the moves of the Government to introduce laws which would curtail the freedom of the citizens including the members of the Legal fraternity in our country.

Further, I am extatic to inform that apart from the above, the novel programme which was launched to improve the library facilities in outstation bars by providing complete New Law Report sets, publications and other reading materials including furniture to said branch associations, have been widely accepted and acknowledged by the membership. The said programme is to be continued during coming year too. The main objective of the said programme is to improve and create better access for the members to have their knowledge enhanced in order to enable the members to be on par with the standards of the profession and to be competitive with the rest of the jurisdictions. It is a common knowledge that the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as arbitration, mediation both commercial and community, negotiations would be the future of the legal profession. Further, the influence of artificial intelligence and the information technology cannot be ignored by the legal profession. Thus, the BASL conducted many programmes with the support of the funding agencies with the participation of both local and international jurists and experts for the benefit of our members during the last year. These programmes will continue in the coming year as well.

We were mindful of our engagement with the international organizations and the counter parts outside the territorial jurisdiction of Sri Lanka. Hence, the BASL whilst participating international conferences such as LAW ASIA had entered in to memorandum of understandings with the Indian Bar Association. Further, BASL continue to have closer relationships with all Law Asia member associations specially with the UK Bar Association, IBA etc.,

It is noteworthy to place on record the programmes conducted by the International Relations sub-committee of the BASL which included webinars, seminars, panel discussions etc., on various selected areas which paved access for our members to the knowledge and expertise of international jurists etc.

Further, the enormous programmes conducted by the legal aid committee of the BASL had been widely acknowledged and appreciated specially in view of the novel approach of the sub-committee to assist and provide legal aid to citizens at instances such as medical negligence or accidents and victims of police brutality etc,.

I am happy to take note that there will be many events such as community based in the coming year. Further, an International Conference, Sports Festival, Medical camps, Legal Aid Camps are scheduled to be held during the coming year to coincide with the said Golden Jubilee celebrations.

The BASL will introduce loan schemes for vehicles and housing specially for junior members, Life Insurance policies etc., during the coming year. It is a pleasure to place on record the cordial relationship between the bench and the bar specially, the assistants and the encouragement which we received from his Lordship the Chief Justice and the members of the Judiciary. Further, I acknowledge with

gratitude the continuing support received from the Hon. Attorney-General, Hon. Solicitor- General and both senior and junior members of the Official Bar during the last year.

I further acknowledge with thanks the continuing support received by the Bar Association from Senior President Counsels and both senior and junior members of bar to continue with the work under difficult circumstances.

Further, I deeply appreciate once again the untiring efforts of Chairmen, Co-Chairmen, Conveners, Co-Conveners and members of all Sub-Committees of the Bar Association whose contribution had been the main reason for the success of the last year.

I deeply acknowlege and appreciate the unreserved support I received from the Deputy President, Mr. Nalinda Indatissa PC., Secretary, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, AAL, Treasurer, Mr. Chamath Jayasekara AAL and the Assistant Secretary Mr. Mehran Careem AAL. There is no doubt the Bar Association will miss the services of Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi and Mr. Mehran Careem who are completing the term of office of the Association. The Bar will appreciate with gratitude the remarkable and inerasable footprints left by Isuru and Meheran as office bearers of the Association for many years to come.

I deeply appreciate the support of the members of the Executive Committee and the Bar Council where we debated over matters of importance without any malice or ulterior motives in order to reach and to arrive at an unbiased and independent decisions. I shall also place on record my deep appreciation to the Admin Secretary of the BASL, Mr. Sunil Gamage, the Accountant and all the executive and minor staff of the Secretariat for the support given.



Mr Kaushalya Nawaratne, PC President

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

As we culminate another year of legal advocacy, education, and reform, I take this moment to extend my heartfelt greetings and reflect on the journey we have navigated together. The past year has been a testament to our collective resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law and justice in our beloved country.

The year 2023/24 was marked by significant achievements and challenges that tested our resolve and strengthened our purpose. With a greater commitment, we witnessed remarkable progress in the area of legal education, with the introduction of innovative programs designed to equip our future lawyers with the skills and knowledge required to excel in a rapidly evolving legal landscape ensuring that our members remain at the forefront of legal practice and jurisprudence.

Our advocacy efforts have been relentless, especially in the face of challenges that threatened the very fabric of our justice system. Together, we stood firm in our resolve to protect the independence of the judiciary, to promote access to justice for all, and to uphold the highest standards of ethics and professionalism within our ranks. Our collective voice has been a powerful force for change, influencing policy, and shaping the future of legal practice in Sri Lanka.

The past year also saw us deepening our engagement with the community through legal aid and outreach programs, reaffirming our commitment to social justice and the protection of human rights. Our members have generously contributed their time and expertise, providing much-needed legal support to those who would otherwise be without representation.

As we look ahead, let us carry forward the lessons learned and the strengths gained into the new year. The challenges we face are many, but so are the opportunities to make a lasting impact on the legal profession and the justice system in Sri Lanka. Let us continue to work together, with integrity and purpose, to advance the rule of law and to protect the rights and freedoms of our fellow citizens.

I extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your contributions, your passion, and your dedication to the cause of justice. I wish to thank the outgoing Secretary Isuru Balapatabendi and assistant secretary Mehran Careem for their tireless efforts for the past two years. It is my honor to serve as your Deputy President, and I look forward to what we will achieve together in the year to come.

salate.

Nalinda Indatissa, PC Deputy President

REVIEW BY THE SECRETARY



Supporting and nurturing our own is key to fostering resilience

The year 2023/2024 presented tremendous obstacles that put the Association's devotion and cohesion, to the test. When I became the Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I placed a strong focus on encouraging open communication among the members, and giving their welfare and professional development first priority.

Over the recent past, The BASL played a pivotal role in our country's journey towards democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, enhancing our visibility and relevance in the eyes of the public. We took a steadfast stance on various issues concerning human rights, and when necessary, pursued legal avenues to protect the rights of our fellow citizens.

Following the controversial period, post-pandemic and amidst Sri Lanka's political and economic turmoil, the BASL stood firm in upholding the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and the rights of its members and the general public. We commend our members for their resilience, serving as exemplars of strength and remaining dedicated as the guardians of the law. Even in the face of adversity, the public continued to place their trust in our legal system, knowing that justice would prevail.

Furthermore, this year, we focused on resuming our efforts from where we left off and enhancing the development and infrastructure of the Bar, for sustained growth.

Following is an overview, highlighting the key accomplishments and notable achievements of the year.

Welfare facilities and infrastructure

- The Bar Association, as a cornerstone of the legal profession, dedicates itself to the welfare and advancement of its members, through various initiatives and programs.
 The BASL works tirelessly to support lawyers in their professional endeavors and personal well-being.
- One of its primary focuses is providing ongoing education and training opportunities to ensure that members stay abreast of legal developments and enhance their skills. Additionally, the Bar Association offers



- guidance and support to lawyers facing challenges in their careers, whether through mentorship programs, career counselling, or assistance with ethical dilemmas.
- Distribution of New Law reports and Sri Lankan
 Law reports, to libraries of outstation Bars, was a very
 successful project conducted by the BASL this year. 25
 Bars in the country benefited from the said project.
- The BASL also distributed over 120 chairs to court houses on the request of seven outstation Bars.

Professional Purposes and Ethics

- It was prudent to devise a set of draft rules for inquiries and a standard complaint form, as to how a complaint is to be made, in order to streamline the process and reduce the administrative backlog.
- It was also decided that draft rules should be made, so
 that respondent Attorneys-at-law can also be informed
 of the steps and process to be adopted in the event that
 observations are called for, as there were discrepancies in
 the types of responses, and at times a lack of response,
 leading to further administrative backlog.
- The Committee also discussed the possibility of assisting the Administration of the BASL, by setting up a better system for registration and tracking of the progress of complaints.
- The Committee deliberated on the burning issue of advertising legal services through Social Media. The Committee also identified that there needs to be a clearer understanding within the membership, as to matters concerning attire. The Committee's attention was also drawn to the need to ensure sufficient awareness programs for junior members, pertaining to ethics of the profession.

Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities (Police and Prisons)

 A wide spectrum of issues, including harassment, abuse, false accusations, defamation, safety concerns, theft, and professional obstruction were brought forward by the Attorneys-at-law which were promptly addressed by the committee.

Environment

 The BASL intervened in the Fundamental Rights Application bearing number SCFR 168/21 in the

- Supreme Court, filed by the Centre for Environment Justice regarding the X-Press Pearl Disaster.
- The BASL partnered with the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), to enhance environmental conservation and legal advocacy, through a memorandum of understanding signed on the 15th of November, 2023. The aim is to strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws in Sri Lanka, and promote the conservation of its biodiversity. The collaboration focuses on joint projects to raise awareness, educate lawyers about environmental laws, and address pressing environmental issues for a sustainable future.

Continuous Legal Education and Professional Development - workshops

- The Seminars committee organized many residential and day legal workshops, covering the entire Island. The residential legal workshops were organized jointly by the seminars committee in collaboration with EEJ Activity, in an effort to disseminate legal knowledge among lawyers practicing all over the Island.
- Addition to above mentioned workshops, the seminars committee successfully organized two residential programs and two-day workshops for senior practitioners on strategic commercial dispute resolution in Negombo and Kandy.
- Due to the high demand for developing negotiation strategies and alternative dispute resolution areas, the seminars committee decided to expand the program to every lawyer without considering seniority. As a result, the seminars committee successfully organized two, day programs in Ratnapura and Polonnaruwa respectively.
- An island-wide conference series covering all branch associations of the BASL, were organized. These workshops are conducted to raise awareness on various topics relevant to the practitioners.
- In June 2023, the CLE Committee launched the "GURUDA SAARA SABHAWA" legal seminar series, aiming to provide an interactive platform for legal practitioners. Held biweekly at the BASL auditorium, the series quickly gained popularity among both junior and senior lawyers, attracting an average of 150 participants per session. Participants actively engaged in discussions, addressing practical challenges faced in legal practice. Nine seminars were held under this series.



- The CLE Committee also collaborated with the Marawila Bar Association to organize "SHANIDA SAARA SABHAWA".
- A two-day symposium on contract law, the "Colombo Forum," was organized in collaboration with the EEJ Activity, exploring the impacts of Artificial Intelligence on various contract types.

Webinars

- Webinars in all three languages were conducted under several standing committees this year. Several amendments were made to various laws, amendments to the law relating to the Notarial Practice perhaps being the most discussed. Webinars were held concentrating on important amendments and developments which clarified most of the issues, practical and technical, faced by lawyers.
- 15 webinars were conducted by the seminars committee this year, concentrating on many areas of the law.
- A webinar series named the "quarterly law update"
 was launched by the CPD committee, covering the
 developments in the law as seen in Superior Court
 Judgments and legislation passed during the select period
 under review.
- An international webinar on Data Protection Law with LAWASIA is to be held in June 2024, which will showcase a forward-thinking approach towards engaging in global dialogues on legal developments. The preliminary discussions were held in Bengaluru with Dr. Gordon Hughes, Secretary-General of LAWASIA, which reflects a collaborative effort to promote knowledge sharing and best practices in the area of data protection.
- A webinar was organized on the 23rd of September, 2023 with the participation of leading experts in aviation law to discuss the Current Challenges to Aviation and Legal Problems in International Civil Aviation. With over 150 participants joining in, this webinar was an immense success.
- A hybrid Panel Discussion was held on the 16th of November, 2023 at the CCC- ICLP ADR Centre, to share insights about Institutional Arbitration and Mediation in the SAARC Region with the participation of notable speakers from across the South Asian region.
- Several Certificate courses to enhance and update the knowledge on pertinent areas of the law were conducted.

Certificate courses on Intellectual property law, cross examination, para legal activists, company secretarial practice, taxation, forensic medicine and science, and legal English, drew a lot of attention and managed to generate substantial revenue to the BASL.

Apprenticeship programs

 The Apprenticeship Committee conducted several training sessions for apprentices as well as law students.
 The court visits and lectures by senior members of the profession were very popular among the large number of apprentices, who were called to the Bar and will be called to the Bar very soon.

Legal Aid Services

- The Anti-Torture Program of the Legal Aid Unit under the BASL, was established in collaboration with funding support from the Embassy of Switzerland. Since its inception in August 2021, the program has been dedicated to addressing critical gaps in legal aid provision for victims of custodial torture, intimidation, and police harassment. With an emphasis on victim support and advocacy, the Unit operates a 24-hour hotline to offer crucial assistance to those in need. Seminars were conducted partnering with the Magsitrate's Court lawyers in Colombo, Bar Association of Avissawella, Bar Association of Anuradhapura, Maho Bar, Bar Association of Ampara and for officers of the police and the armed forces.
- The BASL was also represented at the first regional conference on access to legal aid, held in New Delhi, India.

National Law Week

- National Law Week 2023 attracted a lot of media as well as public attention throughout the country.
- The national Law week committee conducted legal awareness campaigns, legal clinics and public lectures all over the Island, with the assistance of regional Bars, and the main program being conducted in Colombo, with the participation of a large number of lawyers and the general public.
- The mock trial and the moot court gave an insight into court room procedure, which was very popular among the law students who attended.



National Law Conference

- The Bar Association of Sri Lanka's most anticipated and esteemed gathering, the National Law Conference 2023/2024, with the theme "Improving the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka - legal, Policy, and procedural solution" was held on 2nd to 4th of June, 2023, at the Grand hotel, Nuwara Eliya.
- The three days conference attracted massive media attention and resulted in a white paper being drafted and presented by the BASL on the discussion, proposals and conclusions reached at the conference, to the respective authorities.
- The National Law conference generated a large revenue to the BASL, which has enabled the BASL to carry out much needed renovation work, at the secretariat.

The Junior Bar

- The Junior National Law Conference was successfully held at Shangri-La, Hambantota on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of October 2023, under the theme "Legal Mosaic: Blending Tradition with Progress". This esteemed occasion witnessed the participation of over 350 legal professionals including delegates, speakers and special invitees.
- The Junior National Law Conference hosted a delegation of approximately 350 participants, including representatives from the official and unofficial bar, as well as delegates from various sectors.
- The Junior Bar Committee launched a comprehensive program aimed at empowering young female lawyers, aspiring to specialize in family law.
- Additionally, an orientation program was conducted to newly called Attorneys-at-law, with guidance on professional ethics and practical skills necessary for successful legal practice.
- The Junior Bar committee also launched the Junior bar law journal at the BASL auditorium.

Sports

 The lawyers Football team's participation in several football matches in Malaysia, was certainly the sporting highlight this year. The lawyers football team performed well at the said encounters.

- The Law-Medical Cricketing Encounter also took place this year in Colombo.
- Felicitation of Lawyers who completed 50 years and 60 years at the Bar
- The felicitation of lawyers who have dedicated 50 and 60
 years to the legal profession, was a momentous event that
 was held at Galadari Hotel Colombo, which symbolized
 not only their individual achievements, but also their
 enduring commitment to justice and the rule of law.
- Tributes were paid to these esteemed individuals for their outstanding service and profound impact on the legal profession. Their wealth of experience, wisdom, and integrity serve as an inspiration to younger generations of lawyers, aspiring to uphold the highest standards of legal practice.

Overseas Relations

MOU with the Bar Association of India

- The BASL entered into a MOU with the Bar Association of India, at the LAWASIA Conference held in Bangalore, on several matters that would benefit lawyers from both countries.
- This bilateral cooperation Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the president of the BASL Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne President's Counsel, and Mr. Prashant Kumar, the President of the Bar Association of India, to work closely to deepen the mutual knowledge and understanding of our professions and professional bodies, and continue to develop a positive and mutually beneficial relationship.

Diary, Calender and Sinhala Law Journal

- It is vital to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Diary Committee in launching the BASL diary as well as the calendar.
- The Sinhala Law Journal Committee launched the Sinhala law journal which is available to all lawyers.

HR and the Leave policy of the BASL

 A new HR policy and a leave policy was introduced to the BASL staff this year, which has streamlined a lot of processes at the BASL secretariat.

Many organizations collaborated with the BASL in respect of several programs that were conducted. I place on record my appreciation of the said Organizations including the Efficient and Effective Justice (EEJ) Activity of the USAID, which provided wide support for many activities of the Association. I must also thank the Swiss Embassy, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Max Planck Institute and the Search for Common Ground, for their assistance in the Association's efforts.

Most activities of the association are conducted via the devoted sub committees headed by illustrious Chairpersons, Deputy Chairpersons, Conveners and Co-Conveners and members, without whom our journey would have been impossible.

I wish to thank the President of the BASL Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne, President's Counsel, for his able leadership in navigating the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to greater heights, and for all the support and advice given to me, in order to carryout functions of the secretariat smoothly this year. I wish you all the very best for another successful term of office.

I thank the Deputy President Mr. Nalinda Indatissa President's Counsel for all his guidance and advice and his contribution to matters of importance at the BASL.

I wish to thank Mr. Chamath Jayasekara, the Treasurer for all his support extended to me, who was able to successfully sustain the financial operation of the BASL during this year.

I express my special and sincere thanks to Assistant Secretary Mr. Mehran Careem who will be relinquishing office today, for his commitment in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Secretariat and his meticulous attention to all administrative matters of the BASL, and also for his commitment towards the secretariat during the last two years. Thank you again Mehran.

I extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Executive committee of the BASL, Branch Presidents and office bearers of the respective Bars, Chairmen/ Chairpersons, Deputy Chairmen/ Chairpersons, Conveners and Deputy Conveners of standing committees for the assistance given to me and to the BASL.

I am also appreciative of the support of the Administrative Secretary Mrs. Suranee Samarasekera and the BASL staff who ensure the smooth functioning of administration of the BASL secretariat and for their unstinted assistance at all times.

I thank His Lordship the Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya President's Counsel, Their Lordships and Ladyships of the Supreme Court, Justice Bandula Karunarathna, President of the Court of Appeal, Their Lordships and Ladyships of the Court of Appeal, Secretary of the JSC Hon. Sanjeewa Somaratne, an all Honourable Judges of the High Court, District Court and the Magistrates Court who have always supported the BASL and maintained a strong relationship between the Bench and the Bar.

I also with to thank Mr. Sanjay Rajaratnam President's Counsel the Hon. Attorney General, the Solicitor General and all other officers of the Attorney General's Department for their continued support.

In conclusion I thank the Membership, for their interest, support and unwavering unity which propelled the BASL to the position it holds today.

1.

Isuru Balapatabendi, AAL Secretary



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



It is with great pleasure that I conclude my tenure as the Treasurer of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the term 2023-2024, during which we have achieved the highest recorded surplus (income over expenditure) of Rs. 40,704,283.27, in the history of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka despite the challenges posed by the country's economic downturn. The remarkable success of this financial year can be attributed to the dynamic leadership and strategic approach of our President, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne P.C as well as the unwavering dedication of the Management Committee, Deputy President, Mr. Nalinda Indatissa P.C, Secretary, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi and Assistant Secretary, Mr. Mehran Careem, and other Standing Committee Chairpersons. Their collective efforts played a pivotal role in steering us towards a successful financial year.

In my capacity as the Treasurer, I have diligently overseen expenditure, adhering closely to budgetary allocations for each project. Collaborating closely with respective Committees, we ensured that every initiative underwent thorough scrutiny. I firmly believe that our vigilance in this regard has been instrumental in the successful execution of numerous projects throughout the year.

The highly successful National Law Conference - 2023 the flagship event of the BASL, under the chairmanship of Mr. Faiszer Musthapha, PC, has been instrumental in generating a surplus of Rs 19,448,520.98. On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I extend heartfelt appreciation for the unwavering commitment and dedication exhibited by Mr. Faiszer Musthapha PC, and the entire NLC Committee.

Aligned with the vision of the President of the Bar Association, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne P.C, we have strategically utilized the income generated from the National Law Conference - 2023 to further our objectives. Specifically, we have directed these funds towards developing libraries of 25 outstation Bars, thereby enhancing access to legal resources and for uplifting the standards of 8 outstation Bars by donating chairs to improve infrastructure facilities.

This year, 2024 holds special significance as the Bar Association commemorates its 50th Anniversary. Leveraging our strong financial position, we have been able to prioritize several renovation projects within the Bar Association premises, addressing long-standing needs befitting our stature as a leading professional body in the country.

The BASL initiated various projects under the leadership of our President during my tenure, primarily focusing on renovating and enhancing the premises of the Bar Association. These endeavors were aimed at improving both the appearance and functionality of our facilities, with significant investments allocated to renovating and revitalizing the exterior to create a more welcoming and aesthetically pleasing environment and to refurbish the ground floor area to accommodate the BASL secretariat staff. This strategic decision aims to streamline member interactions and enhance overall service delivery by providing easier access to essential resources.

Furthermore, I want to emphasize that all construction projects undertaken during this year were executed with the utmost transparency and accountability. Each project underwent meticulous scrutiny and approval by both the Procurements Committee and a dedicated Working Committee. This ensured that every step adhered to established protocols and best practices.

These projects were closely monitored by a team of professionals including a Chartered Architect, Chartered Quantity Surveyor, Chartered Structural Engineer, and Chartered Electrical and Services Engineer. Their expertise not only ensured the quality and efficiency of the work but also provided an additional layer of scrutiny to maintain transparency throughout the entire process.

To ensure the continuous enhancement of our members' professional knowledge, the Bar Association has consistently financed a range of seminars, workshops, and residential conferences across the country throughout the year.

These initiatives are organized and facilitated by dedicated committees such as the Continuous Legal Education

Committee, Bar Association Seminars Committee and

Continuous Professional Development Committee.

It is noteworthy that while these initiatives serve to update the knowledge of our membership, they also generate a considerable income for the Bar Association.

National Law Week 2023, organized by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, was successfully financed and conducted across the country in collaboration with branch associations. This event exemplified our commitment to extending social responsibility towards the general public by providing valuable

legal education and support.

During National Law Week, we organized free legal aid clinics aimed at assisting individuals in need of legal guidance and support. Additionally, various programs were designed specifically for school children to educate them about the law and their rights as citizens. These initiatives were instrumental in promoting legal awareness and empowering the community to navigate the legal landscape effectively.

The Bar Association continued its commitment to the professional development of new entrants to the legal profession and junior members of the bar. One of the key initiatives in this regard was the financing of orientation programs, workshops and residential conferences organized through the Junior Bar Committee, which is chaired by Mr. Jagath Wickremanayake P.C.

One of the notable events organized by the Junior Bar Committee was the Junior National Law Conference 2023. This conference proved to be a resounding success, not only in terms of its impact on professional development but also in its financial outcome. I am pleased to report that the conference generated a surplus of Rs. 2,000,000/=, making it a significant contribution.

The BASL Program Office conducted several certificate courses for members, law students, and non-members throughout the year 2023-2024. All programs were highly successful, resulting in a surplus of Rs. 6,500,000/=. I take this opportunity to thank to Mr. Prakalathan Thureisingham, the Program Manager, for his contribution to the success of these programs.

During this year we invested in a new sound system and projector for our Auditorium. Over the past three years, recurring issues with the sound system led to additional costs as we had to rent equipment for events. This investment not only addresses the ongoing problem but also represents a long-term solution, eliminating the need for external rentals and saving costs in the future.

Additionally, we have invested in upgrading the appearance of our Auditorium by acquiring a new head table and lectern. These enhancements aim to create a more professional and aesthetically pleasing environment for our events.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of modernizing our facilities and services, we undertook the refurbishment of the Bar Association Agency Post Office and the Book Shop.

To enhance convenience and accessibility for our members,

we introduced a card payment system at the Bar Association Book Shop. This initiative simplifies transactions and expands payment options, catering to the diverse needs and preferences of our members.

In response to concerns raised by the Police regarding potential misuse of the BASL car pass for illegal activities, we took proactive measures to address this issue. Specifically, we implemented a new bar-code system that enhances security and accountability by accurately identifying member details associated with each pass for the year 2024 car passes.

Upon assuming the role of Treasurer from 1st April 2023 to 31st December 2023 (9 months), I am pleased to report that we managed total fixed deposits amounting to Rs. 18,000,000/=, ensuring prudent financial management and stability within the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and as at 31st of December 2023 our total amount of fixed deposits were Rs. 180,803,476.05 in comparison to Rs. 157,451,678.17 the total fixed deposits as at 31st December 2022.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Accountant, Mr. Malinga Bandara, and Account Assistants, Ms. Aruni Liyanaarachchi and Ms. Surangi Liyanage, for their unwavering commitment in preparing monthly financial reports and assisting the finance activities of the Bar Association.

Additionally, I am grateful to the Administrative Secretary, Mrs. Suranee Samarasekara, and Senior Administrative Officer, Mr. Sunil Vidanagamage, along with the Secretariat staff, for their invaluable support throughout the year. Their efforts have significantly contributed to the smooth functioning of all BASL activities.

I am thankful for the invaluable assistance of Mr. Rajindh Perera, my predecessor, whose experience and insights have greatly aided in managing finance during my tenure. His guidance has been useful in making crucial decisions, and I sincerely appreciate his contributions.

As we bid farewell to this fiscal year, let us celebrate our achievements and look forward to continued growth and success in the years ahead.

Chamath Jayasekara, AAL

Treasurer



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY



As the Assistant Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), it is with a profound sense of respect and appreciation that I pen this message. The journey we have embarked upon together as custodians of justice and advocates of the rule of law has been both challenging and rewarding. This aims to not only summarize our collective efforts and accomplishments but also to acknowledge the invaluable support we have received and to cast a forward gaze at the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Over the past year, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka has been at the forefront of advocating for legal reform, ensuring access to justice, and protecting the independence of the judiciary. Our commitment to upholding the rule of law has been unwavering, even in the face of adversity. We have championed the cause of human rights, providing legal aid to those in need and raising our voices against injustices.

Our educational initiatives have seen significant success, with numerous seminars, workshops, and training sessions conducted to enhance the professional development of our members. These platforms have not only served to broaden our legal knowledge but have also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect among our members.

The legal aid programs have been a cornerstone of our efforts to ensure that justice is accessible to all. Through these programs, we have been able to offer assistance to the most vulnerable sections of our society, ensuring that their right to legal representation is not just a theoretical promise but a practical reality.

However, our journey is far from over. The challenges facing the legal profession and the rule of law in Sri Lanka are manifold. The increasing instances of threats to judicial independence, the erosion of public trust in legal institutions, and the ever-present specter of political interference are but a few of the hurdles we face. Moreover, the rapid pace of technological advancement, while offering new avenues for legal practice and education, also poses unique challenges in terms of privacy, cybersecurity, and the digital divide.

As we look to the future, our resolve must be stronger than ever. We must continue to advocate for reforms that strengthen the rule of law, ensure the independence of the judiciary, and protect the rights and freedoms of all citizens. We must be vigilant against any forces that seek to undermine these principles and be ready to stand as a bulwark against injustice.

As I end my term, I wish to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Council, committees and sub-committees, all of whom worked tirelessly on behalf of the profession to make decisions in the best interests of the Bar. Of course, the work of the BASL is only possible because of the able support from our talented staff, who work hard to deliver on the decisions taken. My thanks, which I extend on my own behalf and on behalf of members, to all staff for their unstinting support over the past year. It is very hard to single out any one person, but I especially would like to thank Suranee and Sunil, and in particular, each of whom has provided me with words of wisdom along the way.

I wish to thank Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, for his faith in me in for nominating me to this post. Thank you for the honour of representing our profession over the past two years. This position has been challenging and rewarding, and has been one of the proudest times during my career at the Bar.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Mr Kaushalya Nawratne PC and Mr. Saliya Pieris, PC for their leadership and advise during my tenure. It with immense pride that I state that the BASL is now well and truly the most respected and admired professional organizations in the Country.

I thank all the members of our dynamic Executive Committee for their continuous support given to me right throughout, especially Vice President Mr Nalinda Indatissa PC and Treasurer, Mr. Chamath Jayasekera.

I also extend my deep appreciation to those who guided and assisted me in numerous ways to discharge my functions and duties as the Assistant Secretary of the BASL.

My special thanks also go to my wife Alimah who has been a pillar of strength to me and my little daughter, Leana, who would have dearly missed me amidst the busy schedule, for all the support given to me during my tenure at office.

In conclusion, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all our members, supporters, and partners for their unwavering commitment and support. The path ahead may be fraught with challenges, but with your continued support and dedication, I am confident that we can overcome these obstacles and build a just, equitable, and prosperous future for all Sri Lankans.

Mehran Careem, AAL Assistant Secretary



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The Bar Council 49th Convocation & Induction

- BASL Election 2023/2024
- First Bar Council Meeting
- Bar Council 2023/2024
- Minutes of the First Bar Council Meeting 2023/2024
- 49th Annual Convocation
- Convocation Address by the President BASL
- Convocation Closing Remarks by the Secretary BASL



12th January 2023

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

1. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE,ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, MRS. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 11TH JANUARY 2023. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY

MR. FAISZ MUSTHAPHA, PC DR. K. KANAG ISVARAN, PC MR. ROMESH DE SILVA, PC MR. IKRAM MOHAMED, PC MR. S.M. KUSHAN DE ALWIS, PC MR. KALINGA N. INDATISSA,PC

SECONDED BY

MR. SANJEEWA P. JAYAWARDENA, PC MR. CHANDAKA JAYASUNDERE, PC MR. U.R DE SILVA, PC MR. I. W. NALINDA INDATISSA, PC MS. SHIRANTHI N. M GUNAWARDENA MR. JAGATH S. WICKRAMANAYAKE, PC

AS MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT, THE RETURNING OFFICER MRS. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 11TH JANUARY 2023, DECLARED THAT:

MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024.



ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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NOTICE

12th Janauary 2023

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023/ 2024

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POSTOF SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024

1. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. HIMASHE ISURU BALAPATABENDI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, MRS. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 11TH JANUARY 2023. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY

MR. M. FAISZ MUSTHAPHA, PC DR. K. KANAG ISHVARAN, PC MR. IKRAM MOHAMED, PC MR. R.A. ARSECULERATNE, PC MR. W. DAYARATNE, PC MR. KALINGA N. INDATISSA, PC

SECONDED BY

MR. K. D.ROSHAN SANJEEWA KALUARACHCHI MR. JAGATH S. WICKRAMANAYAKE, PC MR. W. K. ANUJA K. PREMARATNE, PC MR. CHANDANA LIYANAPATABENDI,PC MR. P.D.M SANJAYA GAMAGE MR. W. J. SHAVINDRA FERNANDO. PC

AS MR. HIMASHE ISURU BALAPATABENDI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY, THE RETURNING OFFICER MRS. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 11TH JANUARY 2023, DECLARED THAT:

MR. HIMASHE ISURU BALAPATABENDI, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF SECRETARY OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2023/2024.

Salyahuro.

SALIYA PIERIS, PC PRESIDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



BAR COUNCIL 2023/2024

BAR COUNCIL 2023/2024

Akkaraipattu:

Mr. S. L. Abdul Rasheed Mr. Meera Mohideen Baheej Mr. S. Mohamed Abdul Gaffoor Ms. Kalaivasana Loganathan Mr. M. M.Radheef Ahamed

Ampara:

Ms. K. K. S. N. Sextus De Silva Mr. Upul Samantha Gallage Ms. H. M. Sriyani Gunaratne Mr. R. Gnanasiri Kularatne Mr. A. U. Piyadasa Ukwatte

Anuradhapura:

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Mr. Sajeewa P. K. Gunaratne
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Mr. R. C. Kumar Rajakaruna
Mr. C. Dhananjaya Ranathunga
Mr. S. Kandage Kalinga Ravindra
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Mr. R. P. A. Wickramaarachchi
Mr. M. M. Nimal Wijesiri

Attanagalla:

Mr. R. Arachchige Jayasekare Mr. W. A. S. T. Kasthuriratne Ms. V. V. C. Premachandra Mr. K. Arachchige Ravindana Ms. B. M. P. Kumari Senaratna Mr. M. Pathirannahelage Siripala Mr. S. H. D. S. Subasinghe Mr. Somaratne Witanage

Avissawella:

Ms. H. D. P. Kusalani Chandrasena Mr. W. Gamage Neil Herbart Dias Mr. Anuradha M. Kandanhena Mr. U. D. S. Wasantha Kumara Mr. R. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri Ms. Chandrani Ranawaka Mr. K. Asanka Senarathne Mr. W. A. S. Kumara Weragoda Mr. W. P. I. P. Wickramasuriya Ms. K. G. T. S. Wickremasinghe

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Badulla:

Mr. W. M. U. H. Dayawansha Mr. D. P. L. A. Kashyapa Perera Mr. R. M. Dimuthu Premarathna Ms. R. A. Vishaka Rathnayake Mr. R. M. D. I. Kalum Rathnayake Mr. G. P. V. Sujeewana Silva Mr. W. M. N. S. Weerasinghe Ms. U. D. I. Upamali Yasanayake

Bandarawela:

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Batticaloa:

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Mr. Veeresan Thiyaheshwaran
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Mr. D. M. A. B. Chandrasekera



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Mr. C. Asiri Nissanka Galhena

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Dinuthri Nirodhika Nugegoda

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Mr. G. L. G. T. Funaratne Marahela

Ms. N. K. K. Shashini Nanayakkara

Ms. W. R. A. W. M. R. N. W. H. M. Nugegoda Mr. A. G. B. S. J. Kumara Peiris Mr. W. T. N. U. Kumara Perera Ms. K. I. W. Premachandra Mr. S. N. S. B. Rathnayake Mr. S. Chulabaya Ratnayake, PC Mr. W. D. Wickrama Senarathne Mr. I. A. D. P. Senevirathna Mr. M. K. Bandara Seneviratne Ms. S. M. P. Badra Siriwardhana Mr. T. M. S. Janaka Thennakoon Mr. Chandana Bandara Udagedara Mr. S. W. B. Ratwatte Udalagama Mr. S. Dharmapala Weerakoon Ms. W. E. W. K. Weerasooriya Mr. Hemawarna P. Wijetunga Mr. M. T. Saman Sanjana Tantirige

Kalmunai:

Mr. A. M. Rozan Akther Mr. A. Majeed Badurudeen Mr. Ahamed Lebbe Natheer Mr. U.m. Nizar Mr. M. I. Raizul Haathee Mr. Meera Sahib Razzaaq

Kaduwela:

Ms. M. A. D. S. R. Dias Thalduwa Ms. A. T. Prasadi Hewawasam Mr. W. M. Chandana Javathissa Ms. D. Priyanthika Munasinghe Mr. P. R. N. Niranjan Ms. L. D. Nayomi Niroshika Ms. W. A. S. Deepani Premanayake Ms. T. Priyangika Rathnayake Ms. M. M.Swarnalatha Ms. S. K. Uduwaka Gedara

Kegalle:

Mr. Dilan Mahesha Abeyrathna Mr. P. Sri Lal Dayananda Ms. J. M. C. Malini Jayawardena Ms. S. V. Dimantha Jayawardena Mr. S. G. C. Keshanga Perera Mr. M. S. P. M. Rathnawardena Mr. H. R. Parashakthi Senanayake Mr. S. M. B. Haritha Senanayake Mr. S. K. Chaminda Seneviratne Ms. Sujatha Dayanthi Udalagama Ms. K. A. S. S. Waidyasekara

Kuliyapitiya:

Mr. A. M. S. Thilakshitha Adikari Mr. H. Kalum Dharmakeerthi Mr. I. P. Conston Asiri Fernando

Mr. G. G. A. Chamara Gunasena Mr. J. A. Nihal Jayasinghe Mr. K. W. A. I. Bandara Jayatilake Mr. J. M. A. Chandima Ranasinghe Mr. W. M. P. L. Wadugedera Mr. W. H. M. B. H. Wijesinghe Mr. Athula S. K. Wijesinghe

Kurunegala:

Mr. K. M. Rangana Beliketimulla Mr. B. H. M. A. B. Bulathsinghala Ms. E.m.sriyanthi De Saram Mr. W. Dhammika Gamarachchi Mr. I. Upul Kumara George Dafa Ms. Ranjani Vineetha Herat Mr. Herath Mudiyanselage Herath Mr. Hitihamillage Pulasthi Herath Ms. E. M. P. S. Herath Hulugalla Ms. K. W. R. B. P. R. H. Hulugalla Mr. E. M. P. R. Herath Hulugalle Mr. S. Tharapathi Jayanaga, PC Mr. C. M. Sashipri Jayasekera Mr. A. P. C. Maya Jayasekera, PC Ms. T. Madhubhashini Jayasena Mr. J. A. C. Sankalpa Jayasinghe Ms. K. M. K. R. Jayathilake Ms. D. M. A. K. Jayawardana Mr. R. M. M. P. Karunarathne Mr. S. Ramal Ashoka Kumara Mr. K. S. W. N. M. A. Diksande Bandara Kumarasinghe Mr. T. Sapumal Bandara Menama Ms. I. N. G. Ola Gamage Mr. F. J. C. Weerasekera Perera Mr. J. A. Nalin Perera Jayasooriya Mr. R. M. Shiran T. B. Ratnayake Mr. A. M. A. A. Lakmal Ratnayake Mr. S. W. P. M. S. A. Bandara Anjana Senanayake Ms. W. M. R. N. Wanninayake Mr. W. M. T. Bandara Wasala Mr. W. Sudath Wijewickrema

Kekirawa:

Ms. Juliana Margaret Coswatte Mr. S. M. Wijayaratne Korassagalla Ms. P. W. N. K. S. Heenkenda Mr. T. M. Kumara Tennakoon

Kesbewa:

Ms. P. S. Hewathenne Ms. Devika Priyanthi Kottegoda Mr. K. A. Jayanath Kumbalathara Ms. J. A. D. C. Chathuneeka Perera Mr. P. M. Tilakaratne Arachchige Mr. P. W. S. Lal Sunil Weerasinghe

Matara:

Mr. Ranjith Abeysundara

Mr. Panangalage Ariyasena

Mr. J. H. K. S. Deshapriya

Mr. D. Shanaka Gunarathne

Mr. M. V. G. R. Gunasekera

Mr. C. Darshana Hewapathirana

Mr. Sumedha Eravana Kulatunga

Ms. R. M. Lakshma Priyani

Ms. Y. P. Mahagamage (Kodikara)

Mr. K. Amaranath Manamperi, PC

Mr. M. P. C. Malraj Muthukumarana Mr. J. D. V. N. Jayasinghe

Ms. I. S. N. Koththagoda

Ms. C. Subhadra Pathirana

Mr. C. Perumpuli Arachchige

Mr. G. A. Indika Pushpajith

Mr. U. G. Sisira Rangajeewa

Mr. Kosala Ratnaweera

Mr. Sunil Sedara

Mr. Gam Acharige Sunil Jayaratna

Mr. E. V. Indrajith Thilakaratne

Ms. Y. M. D. Warnasuriya

Mr. G. Sri Jayaraj Widanapathirana

Ms. R. Presadani Wijethunga

Ms. Lalitha Withanachchi

Ms. Y. R. Kuruppu Nanayakkara

Matale:

Mr. Jaliya Anura Gunarathne Mr. I. D. H. N. K. Iddamalgoda Mr. A. M. G. Weerakoon, PC Mr. C. Sugeeshwara Wijeratne

Maho:

Mr. H. M. Sarath Kumara Herath Mr. P. A. C. Manoj Polgampola Mr. I. M. Sandagiri Bandara Ms. W. U. Sandhya Subhashini

Mawanella:

Mr. H. M. L. C. Herath Ms. D. Sandya Mahanama (Mrs. Abeyratne) Mr. G. Arachchille Samarasekera Mr. W. M. Priyantha Wijekoon

Matugama:

Mr. N. Prasad Imbulagoda
Ms. A. Charuka G. Jayasinghe
Ms. J. K. S. Jayawickrama
Mr. D. T. D. Kariyawasam
Mr. Gamini Nallaperuma
Ms. K. D. N. N. H. Pallec
Mr. W. T. D. Sumal Pathmendra
Mr. M. D. H. H. S. Samarasekera
Mr. P. S. W. Weliwaththage
Mr. L. A. K. P. Whaidyathilaka

Mallakam:

Mr. Nagendran Parthipan

Mt. Lavinia:

Mr. D. L. D. Z. Abeysiriwardana Mr. A. N. K. Aluthwatta Rallage Mr. M. J. C. Berugoda Arachchige Ms. R. Champa De Zoysa Mr. V. P. Geethma Fernando Mr. M. Nolit Preeson Fernando Mr. M. Abaya Rohana Fernando Mr. J. D. V. N. Jayasinghe Mr. M. S. Tharanga Leelarathna Mr. Srinath Ravindra Matugama Mr. Athulasiri Ranagala Mr. H. H. Jagath Ranjana Mr. K. D. C. Pandula Sugathapala Ms. S. Iranganie Wijeratne

Marawila:

Mr. J. P. Samanpali Amarasinghe Mr. I. A. Gamini Arthanayake Mr. D. N. Perera Hettiarachchige Ms. T. D. DamayathiNavaratne Mr. M. T. K. Rushantha Perera Mr. W. A. D. P. Sarath Stanly Mr. T. L. Mahesh Sarathchandra Mr. Kushan Senanayake Mr. Indrasiri Senarathne Mr. S. A. M. C. Subasinghe Mr. W. Chandranath Weerasuriya

Mannar:

Mr. Emmanuel Caius Feldano Mr. Sebamalai Jebanesan Logu Mr. M. S. Mohammed Saburudeen Mr. Ariaratnam Wilfred Arjun

Mullaitivu:

Mr. Kanapathipillai Ganeshwaran

Moneragala:

Mr. I. Wiyayabandara Attanayaka Mr. T. U. Sisira Kumara Bandara Mr. R. M. W. Jayalath Bandara Mr. E. M. C. Sampath Ekanayaka Ms. R. M. C. S. Rathnayaka

Maligakanda:

Mr. D. Premalal Athukorala Mr. A. S. Mohammed Anwar Mr. K. Yasantha Perera

Moratuwa:

Mr. M. M. W. D. Mudiyanselage Mr. Naomal Joseph Fernando Mr. A. V. De Silva Gunasekera Mr. R. Abeywicrema Gunawardena Ms. Ishara Asirinie Jayapathma Mr. D. G. R. Manoj Kumara Mr. H. C. Pilana Withanage

Minuwangoda:

Mr. Sarana Darshana Karunaratna Mr. Sarala Chinthaka Karunaratna Mr. R. W. Nalaka Rajasekara Ms. J. A. S. Priyadarshani Silva

Mahiyanganaya:

Ms. K. W. A. C. P. K. Waththe Ms. W. M. C. Upeksha Wijetunga

Morawaka:

Ms. Asha Niluni Abeysekera Mr. D. Darshana Abeywickrema Mr. Hewa Ratthagalage Priyantha

Mahara:

Ms. N. C. Kumari Kulasekera Mr. G. Kankanam Pathirana Ms. N. V. U. Perera Kanankege Mr. S. Wasantha Ramanayake Ms. Rushanka S. W. Samaranayake Mr. G. D. Roshan P. Wimalaratne

Nuwara Eliya:

Mr. Thevaraj Aathavan Ms. Naleen Thilaka Herath Mr. Singarajah Mohanarajan Mr. Perumal Rajathurai Mr. Sivanjothy Yogarajah

Negombo:

Mr. A. L. D. Douglas P. Amarasinghe Mr. D. D. Batagoda Nayakalage Mr. I. L. Nimal De Britto Ms. Ruvini Thushari Dissanayake Ms. S. N. Manouri D. Fernando Mr. W. S. S. Ravindra Fernando Mr. N. K. Bernard Fernando Mr. W. Indika Prashan Fernando Ms. W. C. Padmalatha Ginige Mr. M. Abeywickrema Gunaratne Ms. Namali Gunaratne Mr. H. M. D. Robert Heenkenda Mr. G. D. R. Bastian Jayawardena Ms. R. Thamaramali Kandage Ms. K. K. D. U. A. Karunaratne Mr. D. A. P. W. R. Moderagamage Mr. J. Don Joseph Nicholas Ms. T. M. D. G. Kanchana Peiris Mr. G. A. Germain Indika Silva

Mr. M. J. Andrew Suraj Tissera Mr. M. D. N. Wisvajith William

Nugegoda:

Mr. J. A. D. R. Buddhiraja Alwis Mr. Uditha Iran Hiripitiya Mr. W. Osmund Jayaratne Mr. S. Chandrasiri Karunaratne Mr. N. Dimuthu Kottahachchi Ms. K. L. S. Asha Kumari (Kahawatta) Ms. Dinusha Gayani Lokusuriya Mr. T. D. Lasantha Perera Ms. S. P. N. Lakmali Serasingha

Nikaweratiya:

Mr. R. M. N. Indrajith Bandara Mr. H. M. M. Kumara Herath Mr. B. M. Nandana Senanayaka

Panadura:

Mr. A. Pradeep Baddewithana
Ms. Ramani Dianeetha De Saram
Ms. K. Sheila Manohari De Silva
Ms. Gaveesha De Silva
Ms. W. M. Nilangi Dhanusekera
Ms. P. H. Nadeeja Chamali Dias
Ms. B. D. Thushanthi Fernando
Ms. Charm Achinthya Gajaweera
Mr. S. P. Perera Handunge
Mr. T. M. Premaratna Jayasinghe
Ms. Lakmini Peiris
Mr. M. U. M. Kalhara Perera
Mr. S. Ajith Padmakantha Perera
Mr. K. Diluka Madusanka Silva
Mr. B. N. Urumuththa Gamage

Polonnaruwa:

Mr. Ariyasena Gallage Mr. Mohideen Samsudeen Mr. M. K. D. C. Thilakarathna Mr. R. A. L. Priyankara Wijesiri

Point Pedro:

Mr. Ponnambalam Kumarasamy Mr. M. K. Muttukumar Mr. Rajcevan Nadarajah Ms. T. Thanushan Thangarajah

Pugoda:

Mr. T. W. M. G. C. W. Bandara Ms. H. A. D. S. C. J. Senaratne Ms. H. R. Sandamalee Peiris Mr. D. K. Sanjaya Ranatunga Mr. U. Liyanage Newton Uswatte Mr. D. A. Piyasena Weeratna, PC

Pottuvil

Mr. Mohamed Sathir Aboobucker Mr. S. Alim Ahmed Munasudeen

Ratnapura:

Mr. Dushan Tharindu Arrawwala
Mr. D. J. Dhammika Hettiarachchi
Mr. H. N. Pradeep Hettikandage
Mr. Liyanage Jagath Jayasinghe
Mr. L. P. Dulip Jayawardana
Mr. Y. L. P. Ruwan Karunatilaka
Mr. N. N. Jayathunga Nindawatta
Mr. M. Lalith Asoka Peiris
Mr. W. A. Sanath Ranjan Perera
Mr. R. M. B. Chandrasena
Rathnamalala Bandara
Mr. Gamini Ratnayake
Mr. H. Indika Rupasinghe
Mr. P. Badrajith Wanniarachchi

Ruwanwella:

Mr. R. T. Kumara Athaudage Mr. E. W. Kumara Samaraweera Ms. S. Priyangika Vedasinghe Mr. I. Devege Ranjith Wijesinghe

Mr. V. Kumara Weerasinghe

Sammanthurai:

Mr. Athambawa Hajjul Aroos Mr. A. Mohamed Nazeel Mr. S. M. Mohammed Musthapha

Tangalle:

Mr. Siri Alexander Andrahennedi Mr. Krishanth Punchihewa Mr. V. B. Ratnayake Weerakoon Mr. Chiththa Ranjan Wijesingha

Trincomalee:

Mr. Mohideen Bawa Anfaar Mr. T. Karikalan Mr. Mohan Nagarajah Mr. Aniffa Rajeeb Mr. R. Thirukumaranathan Mr. Thilagaratnam Thusyanthan Mr. Abdul Salam Zahir Ms. Subashini Varathan Chitravelu

Tissamaharama:

Mr. M. Arachchige Gamini Ananda Mr. Sunil Gunasekera Mr. P. A. Jayasiri

Teldeniya:

Mr. Sunil Kitsiri Amarathunga Mr. J. M. U. W. B. Rambukwella Mr. N. W. P. S. U. Kumara Perera Mr. R. M. S. Priyanthe Ratnayake

Udugama:

Ms. B. Jeronimus Edirisinghe Ms. E. K. S. Malshani Ellawala Mr. K. Asanga Sumanasekera

Vavuniya:

Mr. Thipinshan Kunarasa Mr. Muhamad Sarjoon Noordeen Mr. P. Anton Punethanayagam Mr. Ketheeswaran Selvanayagam Mr. Kandasamy Thayaparan Mr. Rajith Lakmal Gunathunga

Valaichenai:

Mr. M. Riyas Mohamed Casim Mr. M. M.Mohamed Razick Mr. M. H. Mohamed Ramzeen

Wattala:

Mr. H. T. Amitha Ariyaratne Mr. K. Premnath Kalehewatte Mr. K. L.Newton Perera Mr. Punchihewage Wijeratne

Warakapola:

Mr. G. P. G. N. Uditha Hapugoda Mr. C. Kumara Kotuwegoda Mr. R. D. W. P. Senadheera

Wellawaya:

Mr. T. M. Bandusena Ms. K. A. N. Deepika Kumari Mr. R. P. Nammunna Arachchige

Welimada:

Mr. Suneth Bandara Ekanayake Ms. K. Priyadarshani Pathirana Ms. W. M. J. L. Weerasinghe

Wariyapola:

Mr. R. M. A. Lal Mahinda Bandara Ms. Nandani Dissanayaka Mr. L. Padma Prasad Silva

1ST BAR COUNCIL MEETING

The 1st Bar Council Meeting of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023-2024, was held on the 25th of March 2023 at the Main Conference Hall of the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) presided over by the Honourable Attorney General. The said meeting was conducted on the agenda which had been previously circulated amongst the members of the Bar Council. The agenda of the said meeting was as follows:

25th March 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BAR COUNCIL OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL) FOR THE YEAR 2023 / 2024 WILL BE HELD ON 25TH MARCH, 2023AT 10.00 A.M. AT THE MAIN HALL OF THE BANDARANAIKE MEMORIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HALL (BMICH) AND WILL BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL.

AGENDA

- 1. Notice convening the meeting
- 2. Condolences
- 3. Excuses
- 4. To table and adopt the Annual Report for the Year 2022/2023.
- 5. To consider and adopt the Treasurer's Report; the Independent Auditor's Report and the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ending 31st December 2022.
- 6. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023 / 2024 by the Hon. Solicitor General.6.1 Invitation to President Elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne to the Head table.
- 7. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023 / 2024 by the Hon. Solicitor General.
- 8. Election of Executive Committee for Year 2023 / 2024
 - a). Election for the Post of Deputy President for the Year 2023 / 2024
 - b). Election for the 21 posts of Zonal Vice Presidents for the Zones of Anuradhapura, Ampara, Avissawella, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo Central, Colombo South, Chilaw, Galle, Gampaha, Jaffna, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Negombo, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura, Vavuniya and Special Category Zone as members of the Executive Committee 2023 / 2024
 - c). Election of the Treasurer for the Year 2023 / 2024
 - d). Election of other Members of the Executive Committee 2023 / 2024
 - i). 8 members to the Executive Committee
 - ii). 5 members to the Executive Committee under 10 years of practice to represent Junior members
- 9. Announcement of Results of the Election for Executive Committee
- 10. Appointment of Auditors for the Year 2023 / 2024
- 11. Appointment of Trustees for the Year 2023 / 2024
- 12. Any other business of which due notice has been given
- 13. Vote of Thanks by Secretary, BASL

Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary - BASL

MINUTES OF THE 1ST BAR COUNCIL MEETING

AKKARAIPATTU: MS. K. LOGANATHAN, AMPARA: MS. K. K. S. M. DE SILVA, MR. R. G. KULARATNE, ANURADHAPURA: MR. D. M. D. C. DAHAMPATH, MR. M. R. DISANAYAKE, MR. S. K. K. GUNARATNE, MR. N. G. C. M. GUNATHILAKA, MS. D. M. P. HETTIARACHCHI, MR. M. M. B. S. KOTUWELLE, MR. S. S. K. MOHOTTI, MR. P. S. R. PREMALAL, MR. R. G. K. RAJAKARUNA, MR. C. D. RANATHUNGA, MR. N. D. G. B. SIRIWARDEHANA, MR. R. P. A. WICKRAMAARACHCHI, MR. M. M. N. WIJESIRI, ATTANAGALLA: MR. R. A. JAYASEKARE, MR. W. A. S. T. KASTHURIRATNE, MS. V. V. C. PREMACHANDRA, MR. K. A. RAVINDANA, MS. B. M. P. K. SENARATNA, MR. M. P. SIRIPALA, MR. S. H. D. S. SUBASINGHE, MR. S. WITANAGE, AVISSAWELLA: MR. W. G. N. H. DIAS, MR. A. M. KANDANHENA, MR. U. D. S. W. KUMARA, MR. R. W. N. PATHMASIRI, MS. C. RANAWAKA, MR. K. A. SENARATHNE, MR. W. A. S. K. WERAGODA, MR. W. P. I. WICKRAMASURIYA, MS. K. G. T. S. WICKREMASINGHE, BALANGODA: MS. A. V. D. FERNANDO, MS. A. C. FERNANDO, MS. A. S. FERNANDO, MR. M. N. GOONEWARDENA, MR. A. A. P. B. MUNIPRIYA, MR. M. I. M. RAFEEK, BADULLA: MR. W. M. U. H. DAYAWANSHA, MR. D. S. S. V. JAYASINGHE, MR. D. P. L. K. A. PERERA, MS. R. A. V. RATHNAYAKE, MR. R. M. D. RATHNAYAKE, MR. G. P. V. S. SILVA, MR. W. M. N. S. WEERASINGHE, MS. U. D. I. U. YASANAYAKE, BANDARAWELA: MR. H. A. K. M.W. R. KULATUNGA, MR. M. A. D. S. SRI WIBUSHANA, MR. W. M. P. M. WEERASINGHE, MR. S. N. WIJESEKARA, BATTICALOA: MR. A. H. N. MOHAMED. IBRAHEEM, MR. A. SOUNDARARAJAH, MR. A. UWAIS, **BALAPITIYA**: MR. L. S. D. DE SILVA, MR. P. S. W. DE SILVA, MS. C. P. DE SILVA, MS. K. J. S. DE SILVA, MR. K. K. S. KODITUWAKKU, MS. H. S. H. SILVA, MS. D. D. G. K. WIJEWARDHANA, BADDEGAMA: MR. P. S. K. ABEYGUNAWARDANA, MR. W. P. D. LIYANAGE, MS. B. C. S. RODRIGO, BIBILE: MR. H. M. M. S. KUMARA, MR. R. M. SARATH BANDARA, **COLOMBO**: MR. J. ROMESH DE SILVA, PC, MR. UPALI. A. GOONERATNE, PC, DR. K. KANAG ISVARAN, PC, MR. A. G. SALITH JAYANGANA, DR. S. D. B. ABEYARATNE, MR. R. S. D. ABEYGOONAWARDHANA, MR. W. W. ABEYGUNASEKARA BASNAYAKE, MR. P. I. ABEYGUNAWARDANA, MR. A. G. J. ABEYNAYAKA, MR. N. A. ABEYRATNE, PC, MR. D. A. ABEYSEKARA, MR. UPALI ABEYWICKRAMA, MS. B. S. ABHAYAWICKREME, MR. A. A. THISARA CHAMARA, MS. A. M. U. P. ADIKARI, MR. A. M H. D. B. ADIKARY, MS. A. M. D. A. K. ADIKARY, MR. K. A. K. AJITH (AJITH KALANSOORIYA), MR. GEOFFREY J. T. ALAGARATNAM, PC, MS. A. M. B. S. MANIKE, MR. A. C. N. JAYARATHNE, MR. R. G. K. ALWIS, MR. A. G. NILUPUL, MS. C. D. AMARASEKERA,MR. J. R. P. AMARASENA, MR. RAJEEV T. AMARASURIYA, MS. RAMANEE AMARASURIYA, MR. SEPALA TILAK AMARASURIYA, MS. H. G. G. P. AMARATUNGA, MR. LAKSHMAN AMERESINGHE, MS. R. A. ANANDAPPA, MR. S. R. ANDRAHANNADI, MR. S. A. ANTHONY, MR. M. L. ANURUDDHA, MR. M. U. ANVER, MR. R. A. R. U. R. APPUHAMY, MR. G. M. S. ARIYADASA, MS. G. W. L. A. ARIYADASA, MS. R. A. K.C.

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WITHANACHCHI, MS. Y. R. KURUPPU NANAYAKKARA, MATALE: MR. J. A. GUNARATHNE, MR. A. M. G. WEERAKOON, PC. MR. C. S. WIJERATNE, MAHO: MR. H. M. S. K. HERATH, MR. P. A. C. POLGAMPOLA, MR. I. M. SANDAGIRI BANDARA, MS. W. U. S. SUBHASHINI, MAWANELLA: MR. H. M. L. C. HERATH, MS. D. S. MAHANAMA. (MRS. ABEYRATNE), MR. G. A. SAMARASEKERA, MR. W. M. P. WIJEKOON, MATUGAMA: MS. J. K. S. JAYAWICKRAMA, MR. D. T. D. KARIYAWASAM, MR. G. NALLAPERUMA, MS. P. K. D. N. N. HEMAPALA DONA, MR. W. T. D. S. PATHMENDRA, MR. M. D. H. H. SAMARASEKERA, MALLAKAM: MR. N. PARTHIPAN, MT. LAVINIA: MR. D. L. DE ZOYSA. ABEYSIRIWARDANA, MR. A. N. K. KUMARA, MR. B. A. M. J. CHATHURANGA, MS. R. C. DE ZOYSA, MR. M. N. P. FERNANDO, MR. M. A. R. FERNANDO, MR. V. P. G. FERNANDO, MR. J. D. V. N. JAYASINGHE, MR. M. S. T. LEELARATHNA, MR. S. R. MATUGAMA: MR. A. RANAGALA, MR. H. H. J. RANJANA, MR. K. D. C. P. SUGATHAPALA, MS. S. I. WIJERATNE, MARAWILA: MR. J. S. AMARASINGHE, MR. I. A. G. ARTHANAYAKE, MR. D. N. P. HETTIARACHCHIGE, MS. T. D. D. NAVARATNE, MR. M. T. R. PERERA, MR. W. A. D. P. SARATH STANLY, MR. T. L. M. SARATHCHANDRA, MR. K. SENANAYAKE, MR. I. SENARATHNE. MR. S. A. M. C. SUBASINGHE, MR. W. C. WEERASURIYA, MANNAR: MR. M. S. MOHAMMED. SABURUDEEN, MONARAGALA: MR. I. W. ATTANAYAKA, MR. T. U. S. K. BANDARA, MR. R. M. W. J. BANDARA, MR. E. M. C. EKANAYAKA, MALIGAKANDA, MR. D. P. ATHUKORALA, MR. A. S. MOHAMMED ANWAR, MR. K. Y. PERERA, MORATUWA: MR. D. M. M. WIJERATNE, MR. N. J. FERNANDO, MR. A. V. DE SILVA GUNASEKERA, MR. R. A. GUNAWARDENA, MS. I. A. JAYAPATHMA, MR. D. G. R. MANOJ KUMARA, MINUWANGODA, MR. R. W. N. RAJASEKARA, MORAWAKA, MR. D. D. ABEYWICKREMA, MR. H. R PRIYANTHA, MAHARA: MS. N. C. K. KULASEKERA, MR. G. K. PATHIRANA, MS. N. V. U. PERERA. KANANKEGE, MR. S. W. RAMANAYAKE, MS. R. S. W. SAMARANAYAKE, MR. G. D. R. P. WIMALARATNE, MULLATIVU: MR. K. GANESHWARAN, NEGOMBO: MR. A. L. D. D. P. AMARASINGHE, MR. B. N. D. DARSHANA, MR. W. S. S. R. FERNANDO, MR. W. I. P. FERNANDO, MS. S. N. M. D. FERNANDO, MR. N. K. T. B. FERNANDO, MS. W. C. P. GINIGE, MR. M. A. GUNARATNE, MR. H. M. D. R. HEENKENDA, MR. G. D. R. B. JAYAWARDENA, MS. R. T. KANDAGE, MS. K. K. D. U. R. KARUNARATNE, MR. D. A. P. W. R. MODERAGAMAGE, MR. J. D. J. NICHOLAS, MS. T. M. D. G. J. PEIRIS, MR. M. D. N. W. WILLIAM, NUGEGODA: MR. J. A. D. R. B. ALWIS, MR. U. I. HIRIPITIYA, MR. W. O. JAYARATNE, MR. S. C. KARUNARATNE, MR. N. D. KOTTAHACHCHI, MS. K. L. S. A. KUMARI. (KAHAWATTA), MS. D. G. LOKUSURIYA, MR. T. D. L. PERERA, MS. S. P. N. L. SERASINGHA, NIKAWERATIYA, MR. R. M. N. I. J. BANDARA, MR. B. M. N. SENANAYAKA, **PANADURA:** MR. A. P. BADDEWITHANA, MS. R. D. DE SARAM, MS. K. S. M. DE SILVA, MS. W. M. N. DHANUSEKERA, MS. P. H. N. C. DIAS, MS. B. D. T. FERNANDO, MS. C. A. GAJAWEERA, MR. S. P. P. HANDUNGE, MR. T. M. P. JAYASINGHE, MS. L. PEIRIS, MR. M. U. M. K. PERERA, MR. S. A. P. PERERA, MR. K. D. M. SILVA, MR. U. G. BUDDIKA NUWAN, **POLONNARUWA**: MR. A. GALLAGE, MR. M. SAMSUDEEN, MR. M. K. D. C. THILAKARATHNA, MR. R. A. L. WIJESIRI, POINT PEDRO, MR. P. KUMARASAMY, MR. M. K. MUTTU KUMARA, MR. R. NADARAJAH, MS. T. T. THANGARAJAH, PUGODA, MR. T. W. M. G. C. W. BANDARA, MS. H. A. D. S. C.

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1. Notice Convening the Meeting

The Hon. Attorney General welcomed all and said that the notice convening the meeting can be taken as read.

2. Condolences

Mr. N. P. Sarath and Mr. Sirisena Vithanage

3. Excuses

4. To table and adopt the Annual Report for the Year 2022/2023

The Secretary Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi presented the Annual Report 2023/2024 and outlined the activities carried out by the association interlia, the initiatives taken during the economic crisis, the Continuing Legal Education programs for the development of professional skills of members through the Seminars Committee, the CLE Committee, the Women Lawyers Professional and Skills Development Committee, the Junior Bar and the Apprenticeship Training Committees and the social and welfare activities for the members carried out by the Social Welfare Committee and the newly formed Benevolent Society. He also stressed that at all times the BASL was in the forefront in matters relating to the Rule of Law and the Administration of Justice. He thanked the President and the Management Committee for the advice and support given to him during the last year and also the members for the confidence placed in him to serve as the Secretary of the Association.

- 5. To consider and adopt the Treasurer's Report; the Independent Auditor's Report and the Financial Statements for the Financial Year ending 31 December 2022
 The Treasurer Mr. Rajindh Perera presented the Auditors Report for the year and informed the members that the Association was in good financial standing. He also drew attention to the salient aspects as in the Auditor's Report.
- 6. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

for the Year 2023/2024 by the Hon. Attorney General Mr. Sanjay Rajaratnam PC as Hon. Solicitor General Ms. Indika Demuni De Silva PC was engaged in the Elections of the Executive Committee.

Hon. Attorney General Mr. Sanjay Rajaratnam PC announced that Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne was elected, uncontested as president of the BASL for the year 2023/24.

- 6.1 Invitation to President Elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne to the Head table by Hon. Attorney General The Honourable Attorney General then invited the President Elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne to the Head table.
- 7. Announcement of the results of the Election for the Post of Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023/2024 by the Hon. Attorney General. The Hon. Attorney General Mr. Sanjay Rajaratnam PC announced that Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi was elected uncontested as the Secretary of BASL for the Year 2023/2024
- 8. Election of Executive Committee for Year 2023/2024
 - a). Election for the Post of Deputy President for the Year 2023/2024
 - President elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne proposed the name of Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC for the post of Deputy President for the Year 2023/2024 which was seconded by Mr. Upali Gunaratne PC. The House approved the same.
 - b). Election for the 20 posts of Zonal Vice Presidents for the Zones of Anuradhapura, Ampara, Avissawella,

Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo Central, Colombo South, Chilaw, Galle, Gampaha, Jaffna, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matara, Negombo, Nuwara Eliya, Ratnapura and Vavuniya as members of the Executive Committee 2023/2024.

i. Anuradhapura

Mr. Mahesh Kotuwelle proposed the name of Mr. Kumara Tennakoon as the Zonal Vice President of Anuradhapura and was seconded by Ms. J. Coswatte. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Kumara Tennakoon was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Anuradhapura.

ii. Ampara

Mr. A. L. Natheer proposed the name of Mr. S. M. M. Musthapha as the Zonal Vice President of Ampara and was seconded by Mr. M. I. R. Haathee. As there were no other names proposed,

Mr. S. M. M. Musthapha was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Ampara.

iii. Avissawella

There being three names proposed. Mr. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri, Mr. Nadeeka Niranjan and Mr. Sudath Wickramaratne, after an election, Mr. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri was elected as Zonal Vice President for the Avissawella Zone. His name was proposed by Mr. W. G. Neil H. Dias and was seconded by Mr. W. P. Indika P. Wickramasuriya.

iv. Badulla

Mr. Sanjeewa N. Wijesekara proposed the name of Mr. Sujeeva Jayasinghe as the Zonal Vice President of Badulla and was seconded by Mr. D. P. L. A. Kashyapa Perera. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Sujeeva Jayasinghe was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Badulla.

v. Batticaloa

Mr. V. Vinoba Indran proposed the name of Mr. P. Premnath for the post of Zonal Vice President of Batticaloa and was seconded by Mr. Ajmeer H. N. Mohamed Ibraheem. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. P. Premnath was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Batticaloa.

vi. Colombo Central

Mr. Wagachige Dayaratne, PC proposed the name of Mr. Sanjeewa Dassanayake as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Central and was seconded by Mr. Chathura Galhena. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Sanjeewa Dissanayake was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo Central.

vii. Colombo South

Mr. M. A. Rohana Fernando proposed the name of Ms. Champa De Zoysa as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo South and was seconded by Mr. V. P. Geethma Fernando. As there were no other names proposed, Ms. Champa De Zoysa was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Colombo South.

viii. Chilaw

Mr. M. W. A. C. Sweeney Perera proposed the name of Mr. I. A. Gamini Arthanayake as the Zonal Vice President of Chilaw and was seconded by Mr. Waruna C. Weerasuriya. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. I. A. Gamini Arthanayake was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Chilaw.

ix. Galle

Mr. A.P. G. Sarathchandra, PC proposed the name of Mr. Duminda Rajapakse as the Zonal Vice President of Galle and was seconded by Mr.Sanjaya Kodithuwakku. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Duminda Rajapakse was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Galle.

x. Gampaha

Mr. S. A. S. C. Senanayake PC proposed the name of Mr. Jayanatha Banadaranayake as the Zonal Vice President of Gampaha and was seconded by Mr. Nandana Srikanth.

As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Jayantha Bandaranayake was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Gampaha.

xi. Jaffna

Mr. Celestine Stanislaus proposed the name of Mr. B. Thavapalan as the Zonal Vice President of Jaffna and was seconded by Mr. M. P. Kumaraswamy. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. B. Thavapalan was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Jaffna.

xii. Kalutara

Mr. D. T. D. Kariyawasam proposed the name of Mr. Gamini Nallaperuma as the Zonal Vice President of Kalutara and was seconded by Mr. Gamini Ekanayake. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Gamini Nallaperuma was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kalutara.

xiii. Kandy

Mr. Sunil Weerakoon proposed the name of Mr. Sunanda Udalagama as the Zonal Vice President of Kandy and was seconded by Mr. Shantha C. Rathnayaka, PC As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Sunanda Udalagama was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kandy.

xiv. Kegalle

Mr. Wasantha Samaraweera proposed the name of Mr. Ranjith Wijesinghe as the Zonal Vice President of Kegalle and was seconded by Mr. Nalin Hapugoda As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Ranjith Wijesinghe was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kegalle.

xv. Kurunegala

Mr. Kanchana Jayathilake proposed the name of Mr. Shiran T. B Ratnayake as the Zonal Vice President of Kurunegala and was seconded by Mr. W. D. Gamarachchi As there were no other

names proposed, Shiran T. B Ratnayake was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Kurunegala.

xvi. Matara

Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana proposed the name of Mr. Rangajeewa Gamage as the Zonal Vice President of Matara and was seconded by Ms. Indika Nagaratne Koththagoda As there were no other names proposed, Mr. Rangajeewa Gamage was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Matara.

xvii. Negombo

Mr. Rohan Moderagamage proposed the name of Ms. Udani Karunaratne as the Zonal Vice President of Negombo and was seconded by Mr. Douglas Amarasinghe. As there were no other names proposed, Ms. Udani Karunaratne was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Negombo.

xviii. Nuwara Eliya

Mr. Sanjeewa Fonseka proposed the name of Ms. Priyanga Ratnasekera as the Zonal Vice President of Nuwara Eliya and was seconded by Mr. Thevaraj Aathavan. As there were no other names proposed, Ms. Priyanga Ratnasekera was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Nuwara Eliya.

xix. Ratnapura

Ms. Anoma Fernando proposed the name of Mr. M. F. M. Rafeek as the Zonal Vice President of Ratnapura and was seconded by Mr. Amal Fernando As there were no other names proposed, Mr. M. F. M. Rafeek was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Ratnapura.

xx. Vavuniya

Mr. K. Thayaparan proposed the name of Mr. P. A Punethanayagam as the Zonal Vice President of Vavuniya and was seconded by Mr. K. Ganeshwaran. As there were no other names proposed, Mr. P. A Punethanayagam een was elected uncontested as the Zonal Vice President of Vavuniya.

xxi. Corporate Lawyers' Association/ Government Legal Officers' Association Ms. Ms. Himali S. Urugodawatte proposed the name of Ms. Harshani Mapatuna as the Vice President of Corporate Lawyers' Association/ Government Legal Officers'

Association and was seconded by Mr. Asitha Peiris. As there were no other names proposed, Ms. Harshani Mapatuna was elected uncontested as the Vice President of Corporate Lawyers' Association/ Government Legal Officers' Association.

- c). Election of the Treasurer for the Year 2023/2024 President elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne proposed the name of Mr. Chamath Jayasekara for the post of Treasurer for the Year 2023/2024 which was seconded by Mr. Saliya Pieris PC. The House approved the same.
- d). Election of other Members of the Executive Committee 2023/2024
 - i). 8 members to the Executive Committee
 - Mr. Binara A. Gunasekera
 - Mr. A.W.N. Chandika De Silva
 - · Mr. G. D. Charith Galhena
 - Mr. M. D. Asoka Weerasooriya
 - Mr. H. J. Ranjan Halpandeniya
 - Mr. H. M. R. L. Hathurusinghe
 - Mr. R. S Bamunuhandare
 - Mr. K. A. Upul Indika Kumarapperuma
 - ii). 5 members to the Executive Committee under 10 years of practice to represent Junior members
 - Mr. K. W.R. B. Piumi Hulugalla
 - Ms. Nikini Mapitigama
 - Mr. Jayantha Dehi Aththage
 - Mr. R. M. R. B. Kandegedara
 - Mr. Duncan Abenayaka
- Appointment of Auditors for the Year 2023/2024
 President elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne proposed that B. R. De Silva and Company be re appointed as Auditors for the Year 2023/2024, which was seconded by Mr. Asoka Weerasooriya. The House approved the same.
- Appointment of Trustees for the Year 2023/2024
 Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne proposed the names of the following Senior members as Trustees for the Year 2023/2024 as follows -

Mr. Ikram Mohamed PC

Mr. W. Dayaratne PC

Dr. Sunil Cooray

The Bar Council approved the same.

11. Any other business of which due notice has been given Mr. Upali Gunaratna, PC proposed that the Bar Council recognizes Mr. Ananda Wickramasekera, PC as a member who had completed 60 years at the Bar.

The Attorney General acknowledged and recognized Mr. Ananda Wickramasekara, PC as a member who had completed 60 years at the Bar.

12. Vote of Thanks by Secretary, BASL

Isuru Balapatabendi

Secretary

Bar Association of Sri Lanka

49th CONVOCATION

Held on 25th March, 2023 at BMICH, Colombo 07. Chief Guest: His Lordship the Chief Justice Hon. Jayantha Jayasuriya, President's Counsel.

- Arrival of His Lordship Jayantha Jayasuriya PC, Chief Justice, Hon. Dr. Wijeydasa Rajapakshe, PC Minister of Justice and Prison Reforms, Hon. Sanjay Rajaratnam PC, Attorney General, Hon. Justice Banduala Karunarathne, President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Indika Demuni de Silva PC, Solicitor General and other distinguished Guests who will be welcomed by the President and the Management Committee of the BASL.
- Arrival of the President Elect Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne accompanied by his Proposers and Seconders.
- Lighting of the Traditional Oil Lamp.
- National Anthem.
- Announcement of the results of the election for the post of the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023 / 2024 by Hon. Indika Demuni de Silva, PC, Solicitor General.
- Induction of the President Elect of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka by Hon. Sanjay Rajaratnam, PC the Attorney General.
- Announcement of the results of the election for the post of the Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023 / 2024 by Hon. Indika Demuni de Silva, PC, Solicitor General.
- Announcement of the results of the election for the posts of Deputy President, Zonal Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Members of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for the Year 2023 / 2024 by the Secretary, Mr. Isuru Balapatanbedi.
- Address by the Chief Guest, the Chief Justice His Lordship Jayantha Jayasuriya, PC.
- Address by Hon. Dr. Wijeydasa Rajapakshe, PC, Minister of Justice.
- Address by the President, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne.
- Closing Remarks by the Secretary, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi.
- Lunch Hosted by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

































INDUCTION SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT, BASL



Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne., President, BASL

My Lord the Chief Justice,

Members of the Diplomatic community,

Hon. Attorney General,

Their Lordships and Ladyships of the Supreme Court His Lordship justice Bandula Karunaratne, President of the Court of Appeal,

Their Lordships and Ladyships of the Court of Appeal Hon. Solicitor General,

Hon. Judges of the High courts, District courts and the Magistrates courts,

Presidents counsels,

Past Presidents and other office bearers of the Bar

Association of Sri Lanka,

My colleagues at the Bar

Distinguished invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation for your presence on the occasion of my induction as the 27th President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. I believe it is a testament to the trust, faith and confidence placed on me to take on the presidency of the body of such high standing of the legal fraternity. I stand humbled indeed specially due to the fact that my election was unanimous.

Further, I wish to congratulate Mr. Nalinda Indathissa PC, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Mr. Chamath Jayasekara and Mr. Meheran Careem for being elected to the Management Committee as the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary respectively. Further, please accept my warmest congratulations to all members who were elected to the Executive Committee.

When I stand before you today, I vividly recall my journey in the field of law started back in the year 1993 as a student of the Sri Lanka Law College. It is a journey with achievements that I have received purely based on merits, dedications and commitment. I cherish all and singular achievements in my legal career with gratitude and content.

I was fortunate to serve the members of the legal fraternity in many capacities such as the Secretary and president of the Colombo Law Society which is considered to be the main arm of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. Then, as the Zonal vice president, member of the Bar Council, Member of the Executive committee and finally as the secretary with an overwhelming support by you, in the history of an election of the Bar Association. I am confident that the process I followed over the years would undoubtedly be an advantage to understand and serve the members efficiently.

Further, during the last few months, I had the opportunity of meeting my colleagues both senior and junior in all part of the country including the members of the Judiciary, Official Bar, Corporate sector and the Private Sector. The experience I have gathered through my involvement with the Bar and the meetings of my colleagues gave me the opportunity to realize and understand the needs of the members at large. The non-availability of basic facilities, difficulties faced by the members in the day today practice has made the legal practice an impossibility. Turning a blind eye by the authorities to the just and reasonable requests of our members has been a growing concern.

The Laws delays has been a famous topic in ceremonial events of the profession. However, It is the time for all stake holders to take progressive steps to address these important issues without further delay. We, as the Bar Association will always encourage the said steps. Further, the decrease of the professional standards has always been in the focal point within the legal community. It is my belief, that the legal education should necessarily be revisited and the opportunities shall be created for the young members of the Bar specially due to the influction of high nos to the profession yearly. The bar needs to take urgent measures to raise the standards of the legal education and embrace continuous professional development to keep its members on par with their global counterparts. In this regard it is essential that we think progressively and not bow to popular sentiment, although some may attempt to use such popular sentiment for political gain.

It is regrettable to take note that the progressive steps which were to be introduced have been denied by the Parliament without taking in to consideration the futuristic approach of the proposals. It is my belief that the three pillars of the legal community i.e. the judiciary, the Bar and the Official Bar shall work complementary to each other in its endeavor

to maintain the Rule of Law. Further, it is imperative that the three pillars of the democratic governance i.e. the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary shall act harmoniously. It is my pledge to my members that the Bar Association will always remain independent and will always uphold the constitution and protect the Rule of Law. Further, the Bar Association will be the guardian to maintain the independence of the judiciary which is a primary requisite of a democratic governance, any interference with the independence of the judiciary will have zero tolerance and the Bar will take the required steps to maintain the independence and the dignity of the Judiciary and the Profession without any fear or favour. Our Constitution recognizes the fundamental rights of the citizens of our country. It is the duty of each and every stake holder to protect the said basic fundamental rights which includes the right of the citizens to display dissent. The Bar shall and will always defend and aid to protect the human rights and the Rule of Law in its endeavor to have a society with equal rights.

The issues faced by our members both seniors and juniors due to the prevailing economic and political crisis in the country is yet another matter which warrants the attention of the Bar. Therefore, it is my opinion that the membership and the needs of the members shall be the top priority of the Bar Association. There is no doubt the attention of public as well as the executive and the legislature has been drawn towards the Bar Association. An undeniable public trust and confidence has been placed on the legal fraternity. Hence, I am quite sensitive towards the Herculean task on my shoulder as the leader of the Bar which I am confident that I can discharge to the best of my ability.

I am a firm believer of discipline, the traditions and professional ethics which we have inherited by the profession over the years. The protection of the same is imperative to maintain the dignity, integrity and the standard of the legal profession. Therefore, I believe that the Bar Association shall endeavor to apprise the members regarding professional ethics, traditions and discipline. Whilst it is essential to be innovative and for the Bar to keep abreast with the changes taking place in the world, I am convinced of the fact that we also need to cherish and uphold the well known traditions that have made our profession great and which are sadly being abandoned or ignored. It is the need of the hour to respect these traditions and take our profession back to its glory days when lawyers were held in high esteem in our society.

I believe, that it is essential that all law enforcement authorities shall work harmoniously which is required for the betterment of the country. We shall take the required steps to rebuild the lost trust between the State authorities and the legal practitioners which is mutually beneficial to all. The Bar Association belongs to its members. None can claim personal liens over the Association. Hence, the members

of my executive committee and I will endeavor to serve the members devoid of any divisions or party politics. The ulterior agendas of individuals or groups or parties will be vehemently discouraged under my leadership.

Prior to my concluding remarks I wish to extend my warmest wishes to Mr. Ananda Wickramasekara PC, who is herewith us today for completing 60 years of legal practice. Many Congratulations to you sir!

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Saliya Peiris PC, the outgoing President, Mr. Anura Meddegoda PC, the outgoing Deputy President, Mr. Rajindh Perera, the outgoing treasurer for yeoman service rendered to the legal fraternity and to the citizens of the country.

Further, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association and the members of the Bar, I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Hon. AG, Hon. SG, members of the Official Bar and the staff for the support extended from the date of the acceptance of the nominations to date.

Finally, I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to my late father, who always trusted me in all what I did from my school days. I am sad he is not with me today to celebrate my achievements but I am sure that I will receive his blessings always. I should thank my mother, my sister and my brothers for being there for me whenever it is needed. I will be failing in my duty if I do not remember late Mr. Kandaih Sivanantham senior Attorney at law under whose guidance I did my pupilage. I wish to express my unreserved gratitude and appreciation to the gentleman who has been my inspiration over two and a half decades who made me who I am and what I am today. A big

thankyou to my senior Mr. Kushan D' Alwis PC, and Mrs. D' Alwis for all the support given.

I wish to thank my schoolmates, batchmates, my close friends, my chamber mates, the members of my campaign team, my proposers and seconders and all senior and junior members who supported me unreservedly during the period of my campaign.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all my juniors who worked tirelessly to date to achieve the task which was ahead of them. I am indeed grateful to them. Last but not least my wife Shehara and my three daughters Siluni, Chenara and Binara for tolerating my absence from home and allowing me to pursue what I like in my professional career.

This position has been held by giants of the profession and each of them have set such a high bar, I am sure my task before me will be an intimidating one. But I take courage from the fact that ours is a closely knit fraternity, and therefore, with the support of you, my learned brothers and sisters of the Bar, I can navigate through both tranquil and stormy waters, and keep the flag of the BASL flying high, through it all.

Once again whilst sincerely extending my warmest thanks to the entire membership for the trust and confidence placed on me and my Secretary Isuru, members of the Management Committee and the Executive Committee. We shall together work towards the protection of the dignity and the independence of legal profession and the judiciary. I earnestly invite the entire electorate to join us in this endeavor. Thank you.





CONVOCATION CLOSING REMARKS SECRETARY BASL



Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Secretary, BASL

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, Jayantha Jayasuriya, President's Counsel, Hon. the Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam, President's Counsel, Your Lordship Bandula Karunarathne, President of the Court of Appeal, Your Lordships and Ladyships of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal, Hon Indika Demuni de Silva, President's Counsel, Solicitor General, Mr. Kaushalya Navaratne, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, President's counsel, Deputy President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Chamath Jayasekara, Treasurer and Mr. Mehran Careem, Assistant Secretary. Mr. Saliya Peiris, President's counsel, immediate Past President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Hon Judges of the High Court, District Court and the Magistrates Court, Learned President's

Counsel and my dear colleagues at the Bar.

Congratulations Mr. Kaushalya Navaratne, the Bar has spoken in one voice, of the confidence reposed in you in electing you, uncontested, as the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. I also congratulate the Deputy President, Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, President's Counsel and Treasurer Mr. Chamath Jayasekere on being elected to the said posts and Mr. Mehran Careem on being re-elected Asst. Secretary. I also congratulate all those elected to the Executive Committee of the Bar Association for the year 2023/2024.

In my inaugural address as the Secretary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, for the year 2023/2024, I place on record my appreciation of the confidence placed in me in re-electing me uncontested, to the post of Secretary of the BASL, for a second term.

I assumed office as Secretary in March 2022. In my inaugural speech last year, I emphasized that the BASL has traditionally played an important and vital role, in being a voice and a force, for the protection of rights and liberties of the people of Sri Lanka. It was pledged that, the BASL, as a strong and independent professional body, would stand up not only for its members, but for all persons in Sri Lanka. The Association through its united, strong and unyielding stance has delivered on this promise. The BASL was vigilant and vocal, and cemented its place as the foremost professional association in the Country.

In the course of the year 2022/2023, Several important steps were taken for the advancement of the welfare of the membership, continuous legal education and fellowship. It is notable that Nine Legal workshops and several certificate courses were conducted with the curricula of the courses being expanded and new programmes being introduced. Several webinars on important amendments to laws were also conducted. The webinars organized by the Overseas Relations Committee were an opportunity for Sri Lankan lawyers to engage in discussions with foreign experts.

The BASL worked relentlessly in carrying out meticulous research, drafting, and procurement of documents and an exhaustive application process to obtain jurisdictional exemptions from The Solicitor Qualifying Examinations which will undoubtedly prove invaluable, in terms of effort and time and expenses required in the qualification process, and increase the scope of Members to serve foreign clients.

The BASL also entered into an MOU with the Bar Council of the UK on several matters that would benefit lawyers from both countries. The flagship events of the Association, The National Law Conference on the theme of "Navigating through crisis – the role of the law" and The Junior National Law Conference on the theme "Overcoming obstacles – conquering change" were held earlier this month.

Several programmes were launched to ensure practical solutions to issues faced by members such as the dialogue and workshops for police officers pertaining to the due treatment of lawyers; the initiation of a day care centre for young children of members; the introduction of a grievance handling mechanism, a procedure for vetting of complaints against Attorneys-at-Law; and initiation of the process to identify the benefits to be accorded to members under the Benevelent Society.

With a view to serving the general public the 24 hour hotline and an on-line provision of services for victims of torture is provided. Steps are also being taken to ensure that the premises of the BASL is more accessible for persons with disabilities. Legal awareness programmes for low income groups were also conducted.

The easing of Covid regulations enabled members to resume interactions and fellowship. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club won the Smedley Award for membership building for the period 2022–2023 and several sporting

events were conducted during this year under the banner of the BASL, which generated marked enthusiasm among the membership. The Lawyers rugby team performed excellently this season, winning all the matches they played, including The Kalinga Indatissa Challenge trophy, the rugby encounter between the lawyers and Law College. The Annual Law-Medical cricket encounter saw the lawyers emerge champions. The Lawyers Football team also had a successful season, as they played their division matches.

2023/2024 saw the successful completion of all items on the agenda. The agenda for the coming year is full, vibrant and promising and we look forward to the continued support and participation of the membership.

I take this opportunity to thank our Chief Guest, His Lordship the Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, Presidents Counsel, His Lordship Bandula Karunarathne, President of the Court of Appeal, Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal for gracing this occasion. I thank Hon. the Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam, Presidents Counsel, Hon. Solicitor General Indika Demuni de Silva, Presidents Counsel for your presence and for officiating at both the Bar Council and the formalities of this function.

I thank President of the BASL Mr Kaushalya Navaratne, for the corporation received, in planning the agenda for the year 2023/2024, and I pledge my fullest support to you, in the coming year. I thank immediate past president Mr. Saliya Peiris President's Counsel for his exceptional service to the profession in his capacity as President BASL and I thank Deputy President Mr. Anura Meddegoda, President's Counsel, Treasurer Mr. Rajindh Perera, Assistant Secretary Mr. Mehran Careem for all the support received in the past year. I congratulate all of them on an extremely successful tenure of office.

I also place on record my appreciation of the support of Administrative Secretary Mrs. Suranee Samarasekera, Mr. Sunil Gamage and the BASL staff in organizing this convocation.

I thank Attorneys-at- Law Mr. Shehan Gunawardena and Ms. Mokshini Jayamanne for their outstanding compering. I express my thanks to the General Manager and staff of the BMICH for their hospitable service and all technical assistance staff.

A special Thank you to Mr. Ikram Mohomed President's Counsel and Mr. Faiszer Mustapha President's Counsel, my Seniors for their continuous guidance. I wish to express my gratitude to all seniors and colleagues who proposed and seconded my nomination for the post of Secretary BASL.

On a personal note, I also thank my chamber mates, friends and my juniors for their unfailing support. I thank my parents to whom I owe everything, my in- laws and my brothers. I thank my wife Kanishka and my son Javen, for encouraging and supporting me in all my endeavors.

I draw this convocation to a conclusion thanking all of you for gracing this occasion.

Thank you.



Management & Membership of BASL 2023/2024

- Office Bearers 2023 / 2024
- Attendance of the Executive Committee
- The Executive Committee for the Year 2023 / 2024
- Presidents and Secretaries of Branch Associations for 2023 / 2024
- Membership of the BASL



Office Bearers for the Year 2023/2024

The Management Committee

(Left to Right):

Mr. Mehran Careem, AAL (Assistant Secretary)

Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, AAL (Secretary)

Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne, PC (President)

Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC (Deputy President)

Mr. Chamath Jayasekara, AAL (Treasurer)





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BASL- 2023/24 FROM MARCH 25th, 2023 – March 20th 2024

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE				
01	49th Convocation of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka	25-03-2023				
02	BASL Representations at Ministry of Justice Committees on "Nomination of BASL representative to serve on the committee on preparing the sentencing policy, as an act/A duideline"	28-03-2023				
03	Statement on "Lawyer's Professional Entitlement to Represent a client".					
04	Statement on "BASL concerns on the New 'Anti-Terrorism Bill' gazetted on the 22nd March 2023".					
05	Statement on "Affirming its commitment to uphold the Rule of Law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary" - 5th April 2023					
06	BASL Representations at Ministry of Justice Committees on "Way forward from the pre-taial conferance workshop held on 26th, 27th and 28th august 2022 in Negombo organized by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)"	21-04-2023				
07	Statement on "Anti-Terrorism Bill".	26-04-2023				
08	BASL "Public Forum on Anti Terrorism Bill and Online Safety Bill"	02-05-2023				
09	Webinar on "Interim relief and injunctions In civil matters"	14-05-2023				
10	Legal Workshop 1 - Organised by Seminars Committee	21-05-2023				
11	Webinar on "අපරාධ නඩුකරයකදී විත්තියේ කාර්ය භාරය" - Organised by Seminars Committee	28-05-2023				
12	BASL Representations at MOJ Committee meeting on Presidential Secretariat / Committees on "Appointment of Judges to the High Court"	30-05-2023				
13	National Law Conference 2023/2024 - Organised by Seminars Committee	02-06-2023				
14	BASL Representations at MOJ Committee meeting at the presidential Secretariat on "Appointment of Judges to the High Court"					
15	Statement on "The Right to Peaceful Protest."	09-06-2023				
16	Poson Bethi Gee Saraniya	10-06-2023				
17	Webinar on "පුාථමික නඩු විධාන සංගුහයේ 66 වන වගන්තිය'' - Organised by Seminars Committee	11-06-2023				
18	Statement on "Continuing Deaths in Police Custody and the Rise in Criminal Activity in the Country".	14-06-2023				
19	BASL Representations at Presidential Secretariat on "Nomination of BASL Representatives to serve on the advisory committee tasked with drafting of new environmental laws"	14-06-2023				
20	Symposium on "Freedom of expression and protection of Innocent victims In cyberspace" - Organised by ICT Law Committee	15-06-2023				
21	BASL Certificate Course in Intellectual Property Law - 11 weeks	16-06-2023 to 01-09-2023				
22	Workshop on Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka (Maho) - Organised by Legal Aid Committee	17-07-2023				
23	Workshop on "Foundation for a successful career in the legal profession - a guide from the BASL" - Organised by Apprenticeship Traning Committee	17-06-2023				
24	Legal Workshop 2 - Organised by Seminars Committee	24-06-2023 to 25-06-2023				
25	BASL Representations at Presidential Secretariat on "Appointment of the Inspector General of Police"	27-06-2023				
26	BASL Seminar on "Recovery of premises given on lease (2)"	28-06-2023				
27	BASL Certificate Courses on "Cross Examination"- 08 weeks	30-06-2023 to				
		25-08-2023				
28	Statement on "Upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary".	10-07-2023.				
29	Inaugural CPD seminar 2023/24 (Sinhala Medium) - Matale - Organised by Continuing Professional Development Committee	15-07-2023				
30	Legal Workshop 3 - Organised by Seminars Committee	15-07-2023 to 16-07-2023				

31						
	Orientation programme for Attorneys at law called to the Bar in July 2023 - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	18-07-2023 to 21-07-2023				
32	Workshop on Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka (Ampara) - Organised by Legal Aid Committee					
33	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 01. දික්කසාද නඩු සහඅතුරු ඉල්ලීම්					
34	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 02. අපරාධ නඩුවක විත්තිවාචක ගොඩ නැගීමේදී ඇතිවිය හැකි දුර්වලතා	10-08-2023				
35	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 03. බදු ගිවිසුම් මත භුක්තිය ලබා ගැනීමේ සහ සුලු හිමිකම් නඩු කටයුතු වල උත්තරවාද සැකසීම හා නඩුකර මෙහෙය වීම	24-08-2023				
36	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 04. කම්කරු විනිශ්චය සභා පුතිපාදන, ගෘහස්ථ විනය පරීක්ෂණ සහ සේවය අවසන් කිරීම	07-09-2023				
37	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 05. වගන්තීන්හී නොමැති නීතිය	21-09-2023				
38	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 06. ණය ආපසු අය කර ගැනීමේ පනත ආශිුතව සිවිල් සහ අපරාධ නීතියේ භාවිතය	05-10-2023				
39	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 07. කම්කරු විනිශ්චය සභා පුතිපාදන, ගෘහස්ථ විනය පරීක්ෂණ සහ සේවය අවසන් කිරීම	12-10-2023				
40	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 08. ඉඩම්වල අයිතිය පැවරීමේ නීතිය සහ ඉන් පැන නඟින ඇතැම් නෛතික ගැටළු	26-10-2023				
41	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ගුරුදා සාර සභාව 09. අපරාධ නඩු හා අදාල නීතිමය කරුණු	16-11-2023				
42	Workshop on "Admissibility of the electronic and computer evidence and data protection law and computer evidence" - Kurunegala - Organised by ICT Law Committee	28-07-2023				
43	BASL Representations at Presidential Secretariat on "Nomination to the Meeting of the Committee to Study and Make Recommendations for the Protection of Children"	02-08-2023				
44	Workshop On "Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution" - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	04-08-2023 to 06-08-2023				
45	Legal Workshop 4 - Organised by Seminars Committee	05-08-2023				
	BASL Representations at Presidential Secretariat on "Statement made by President Ranil Wickremesinghe on matters related to the restructuring of debt at the AGM of the coconut growers association on 4th August 2023"	07-08-2023				
46	Legal Workshop 5 - Organised by Seminars Committee	30-08-2023				
47	Webinar on "Recent Developments in the Law" - Organised by Continuing Professional Development Committee	02-09-2023				
48	Workshop on "Role of a lawyer in commercial negotiation and mediation"	09-09-2023 to 10-09-2023				
49	Statement "BASL engages in productive discussion with Hon. Speaker".	12-09-2023				
50	Workshop on Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka - Organised by Legal Aid Committee	16-09-2023				
51	Legal Workshop 6 - Organised by Seminars Committee	16-09-2023 to 17-09-2023				
52	Statement on "BASL calls upon the government to immediately withdraw the Anti - Terrorism Bill and the Online Safety Bill".	23-09-2023				
53	Workshop on Juvenile Justice - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	23-09-2023				
54	National Law Week 2023 - 7 days	25-09-2023 to				

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE		
55	Webinar on "2023 අංක 1 දරණ බද්දට දී ඇති පරිශුවල සන්තකය ආපසු ලබා ගැනීමේ පනත''	26-09-2023		
56	Workshop on "The Lawyer and The People; Effectively assisting in Dispute Resolution - Forum On Commercial Mediation And Negotiation" - National Law Week 2023	27-09-2023		
57	National Law Week Forum on "WRONGFUL ARREST, CUSTODIAL" TORTURE AND THE RIGHTS OF THE CITIZEN" for Armed Forces Personnel and the Police - National Law Week 2023	27-09-2023		
58	Workshop on "Forum on Wrongful Arrest, Custodial Torture and the Rights of The Citizen" - Organised by Legal Aid Committee (H.W. Jayawardena QC Auditorium, Colombo)	27-09-2023		
59	Statement on "BASL calls on government to investigate sudden resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge".	30-09-2023		
60	Statement on "Resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanarajah and request for inquiry"	02-10-2023		
61	Statement on "Supreme Court allows basl to intervene in x-press pearl case"	06-10-2023		
62	Seminar on "අඛණ්ඩ වෘත්තීය සංවර්ධන සම්මන්තුණය - 2" (ඌව පළාත) - Organised by Continuing Professional Development Committee	07-10-2023		
63	Webinar on "කම්කරු තීතියේ නව පුවනතා'' Organised by Seminars Committee	10-10-2023		
64	Junior National Law Conference 2023/2024 - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	13-10-2023		
65	Research Article Competition - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	21-10-2023		
66	Webinar on "අපරාධ අධිකරණයක නඩුකරයකදී දැනගතයුතු පුායෝගික කරුණු 01" - Organised by Seminars Committee	24-10-2024		
67	BASL Representations at Ministry of Justice Committees on "Nomination of BASL representative to the meeting on Corporal punishment"	27-10-2023		
68	Legal Workshop 7 - Organised by Seminars Committee	28-10-2023		
69	Webinar on "මුදල් විශුද්ධිකරණයට අදලෙ නීතියේ නව පුවනතා - නීතිඥවරුන්ගේ සහ නොතාරිස් වරුන්ගේ කාර්යභාරය" - Organised by Seminars Committee			
70	Webinar on "பிணை தொடர்பான அடிப்படை எண்ணக் கருக்கள்" - Organised by Seminars Committee	07-11-2023		
71	Webinar on "අපරාධ අධිකරණයක නඩුකරයකදී දැනගතයුතු පුායෝගික කරුණු 02" - Organised by Seminars Committee	08-11-2023		
72	Webinar on "Bail Applications" - Organised by Seminars Committee	09-11-2023		
73	Statement "BASL deeply concerned about court proceedings being discussed in the parliament"	09-11-2023		
74	Webinar on "සාක්ෂි ආඥා පනතේ 27වෙනි වගන්තියට අදාල පුායෝගික භාවිතය'' - Organised by Seminars Committee	15-11-2023		
75	BASL Certificate Course In Para Legal Activists - 12 days	15-11-2023 to 07-02-2024		
76	Webinar on "Institutional arbitration & commercial mediation in the saarc Region" - Organised by Overseas Relations Committee	16-11-2023		
77	BASL Certificate Course In Company Secretarial Practice - 10 days	17-11-2023 to 02-02-2024		
78	Symposium on "Contract Law " Organised by Continuing Legal Education Committee	17-11-2023 to 18-11-2023		
79	Online Certificate Courses on "Land Law" - Course - 05 days Organised by Continuing Professional Development Committee	18-11-2023 to 07-12-2023		
80	Legl Workshop 8 - Organised by Seminars Committee	18-11-2023 to 19-11-2023		
81	Seminar on "Admissibility of the electronic and computer evidence and data protection law and computer evidence" - Ratnapura - Organised by ICT Law Committee	21-11-2023		
82	Webinar on "පිළිගත් මූලෳ ආයතන සදහා කඩිනමින් ණය ආපසු අයකර ගැනීමේ නීතිමය හැකියාව: යථාර්ථය සහ මිතෳාව''	21-11-2023		
83	Webinar on "බෞද්ධ විහාර හා දේවාලගම් ආඥා පනතේ සදහන් පරවේනි නිල පංගුකරුවන්ට නඩුවක් පැවරීමට ඇති අයිතිය, SC/82/2010 ශේෂ්ඨාධිකරණ නඩු තීන්දුව ඇසුරින් විමසා බැලීමක්''	23-11-2023		
84	Seminar on "Strategic Commercial Dispute Resolution" - Organised by Seminars Committee	27-11-2023		

NO.	ACTIVITIES	DATE			
85	BASL Representations at MOJ Committees on "Nomination of BASL representative to the meeting on Presidential task force on enforcing contracts"	29-11-2023			
86	Workshop on gendered online Hate Speech & Cyber Sexual & Gender Based Violence - Organised by Junior Bar Committee				
87	CLE Special Seminar on "2023 අංක. 29 දරන සිවිල් නඩු විධාන සංගුහය (සංශෝධන) පනත පූර්ව නඩු විභාග නව පුතිපාදන'' - Organised by Continuing Legal Education Committee				
88	Seminars on "Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses" - Organised by Seminars Committee	09-12-2023 to 10-12-2023			
89	Statement on "Special entrance exam for holders of degree of bachelor of laws (ll.B) from foreign universities"	12-12-2023			
90	Workshop on "Introductory training in legal research for the junior practitioner" - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	16-12-2023			
91	Statement on "Appointment of Inspector General of Police (IGP)"	20-12-2023			
92	Statement on "The Golden Jubilee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka"	05-01-2024			
93	Statement on "Our adherence to due process and the Rule of Law must not be compromised"	05-01-2024			
94	Statement on "BASL President and Secretary elected uncontested for the year 2024/2025"	11-01-2024			
95	Workshop on "A Pathway For Young Aspiring Female Counsel in the field of Family Law" - Organised by Junior Bar Committee - 12 days	13-01-2023 to 17-03-2023			
96	To Mark the 50th Anniversary celebrations of BASL, Pirith Ceremony & Heel Dana were organised presided by the Maha Sangha				
97	CLE වැඩමුළු මාලාව - ශනිදා සාර සභාව 01 - Organised by Continuing Legal Education Committee	20-01-2024			
98	Introductory Training In Legal Research for the Junior Practitioner in Kandy - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	20-01-2024 to 21-01-2024			
99	Statement - "Related to a tragic incident in which a life was lost in Narammala area"	22-01-2024			
100	Legal Workshop 9 - Organised by Seminars Committee	27-01-2024			
101	Legal Workshop 10 - Organised by Seminars Committee	17-02-2024 to 18-02-2024			
102	Webinar on "සිවිල් නඩුවක් කෙටුම්පත් කිරීම" - Organised by Seminars Committee	29-02-2024			
103	Regional CPD Conference : Northern Province	02-03-2024 to 03-03-2024			
104	The BASL Multi-Religious Ceremony to mark BASL's 50th Anniversary	02-03-2024			
105	Webinar on "නොතාරිස් ධූරය ආශිුත සංශෝධනයන්හී පුායෝගික පැතිකඩ" - Organised by Seminars Committee	06-03-2024			
106	BASL Online certificate course in "Taxation" (8 weeks)	12-03-2024			
107	BASL Online Certificate Course in "Forensic Medicine and Science - 2024 Schedule" (15 weeks)	15-03-2024			
108	The Felicitation Ceremony 2024	15-03-2024			
109	Launch of Junior Bar Law Journal (Volume XIV) - Organised by Junior Bar Committee	15-03-2024			
110	Legal Workshop 11 - Organised by Seminars Committee	16-03-2024 to 17-03-2024			
111	Seminar on "Admissibility of the electronic evidence in Civil and Criminl cases, Personal data protection law and computer Crime" - Galle - Organised by ICT Law Committee	19-03-2024			
112	BASL Online Certificate Course in "Legal English" (8 weeks)	20-03-2024			

Attendance of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee Meetings: 14

Ordinary Meetings: 12 Special Meetings: 02

		Ordinary Meetings		Special Meetings				
		PRE	ABS	EXC	PRE	ABS	EX	TOTAL
1	MR. KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE, PC	12			02	_	_	14
2	MR. NALINDA INDATISSA, PC	08	02	02	01	_	01	09
3	MR. ISURU BALAPATABENDI	12	_	_	02	_	_	14
4	MR. CHAMATH JAYASEKERA	11	_	01	02	_	_	13
5	MR. M. MEHRAN A. CAREEM	12	_	_	02	_	_	14
6	MR. SALIYA K. M. PIERIS, PC	09	02	01	01	-	01	10
7	MR. M. R. ZAROOK, PC	04	08	-	02	-	-	06
8	MR. PALITHA M. KUMARASINGHE, PC	08	04	-	02	-	-	10
9	MR. BINARA GUNASEKERA	09	03	-	02	-	-	11
10	MR. NALIN C. DE SILVA	11	01	-	02	-	-	13
11	MR. CHARITH GALHENA	09	03	-	02	-	-	11
12	MR. ASOKA WEERASOORIYA	07	05	-	01	-	01	08
13	MR. RANJAN HALPANDENIYA	08	03	01	-	02	-	08
14	MR. RAJITHA HATURUSINGHE	10	02	-	01	01	-	11
15	MS. R. S. BAMUNUHENDARE	08	04	-	01	01	-	09
16	MR. UPUL KUMARAPERUMA	06	06	-	01	-	01	07
17	MS. PIUMI HULUGALLA	10	02	-	01	01	-	11
18	MS. NIKINI MAPITIGAMA	06	06	-	01	01	-	07
19	MR. JAYANTHA DEHIATHTHAGE	11	01	-	02	-	-	13
20	MR. R. M. R. B. KANDEGEDARA	10	02	-	01	01	-	11
21	MR. DUNCAN ABEYNAYAKA	09	03	-	02	-	-	11
22	MR. KUMARA TENNAKOON	03	09	-	-	02	-	03
23	MR. S. M. M. MUSTHAPHA	03	09	-	-	02	-	03
24	MR. WIJAYA NANDA PATHMASIRI	05	07	-	02	-	-	07
25	MR. SUJEEVA JAYASINGHE	02	05	-	-	01	-	02
26	MR. G. P. V. SUJEEWANA SILVA		05	-	-	01	-	00
27	MR. P. PREMNATH	03	09	-	-	02	-	03
28	MR. SANJEEWA DASANAYAKE	04	08	-	-	01	01	04
29	MR. CHAMPA DE ZOYSA	05	07	-	-	02	-	05
30	MR. GAMINI ARTHANAYAKE	04	08	-	01	01	-	05
31	MR. DUMINDA RAJAPAKSHA	07	05	-	-	02	-	07
32	MR. JAYANTHA BANDARANAYAKE	05	07	-	-	02	-	05
33	MR. B. THAVAPALAN	08	04	-	01	01	-	09
34	MR. GAMINI NALLAPERUMA	01	11	-	-	02	-	01
35	MR. SUNANDA UDALAGAMA	07	05	-	-	02		07
36	MR. RANJITH WIJESINGHE		12	-	-	02	-	00
37	MR. SHIRAN T. B. RATNAYAKE	06	06	-	-	02	-	06
38	MR. GAMAGE S. RANGAJEEWA	04	08	-	01	01	-	05
39	MS. UDANI KARUNARATNE	01	10	01	-	02	-	01
40	MS. PRIYANGA RATNASEKERA	05	07	-	01	01	-	06
41	MR. MOHAMED RAFEEK	02	10	-	-	02	-	02
42	MR. P. A. PUNETHANAYAGAM	04	08	-	02	-	-	06
43	MS. HARSHANI MAPATUNA	04	08		-	02	-	04



The Executive Committee for the Year 2023/2024

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Avissawella - Mr. Wijaya Nanda Pathmasiri

Badulla - Mr. Sujeeva Jayasinghe from April 2023 to August 2023

Mr. Sujeewana Silva from September 2023



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Colombo South - Ms. Champa De Zoysa

Corporate Lawyers' Association

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Galle - Mr. Duminda Rajapaksha

Gampaha - Mr. Jayantha Bandaranayake

Jaffna - Mr. Balasubramaniam Thavapalan

Kalutara - Mr. Gamini Nallaperuma

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Kurunegala - Mr. R. M. Shiran T. B. Ratnayake

Matara - Mr. U. Gamage S. Rangajeewa

Negombo - Ms. K. K. D. Udani A. Karunaratne

Nuwara Eliya - Ms. K. A. M. Priyanga Ratnasekera

Ratnapura - Mr. M. I. Mohamed Rafeek

Vavuniya - Mr. Pathinathar A. Punethanayagam

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Mr. R. S. Bamunuhendare

Mr. K. A. Upul Indika Kumarapperuma

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Ms. Nikini Mapitigama

Mr. Jayantha Dehi Aththage

Mr. R. M. R. B Kandegedara

Mr. Duncan Abeynayaka



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Anuradhapura	Mr. Kalinga Ravindra	Mr. Danushka Dahampath
Attanagalla	Mr. Ravindana Kuruppu,	Mr. Dasun Subasinghe
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Baddegama	Mr. Priyankara Liyanage,	Ms. Chintha S. Rodrigo
Badulla	Mr. Heminda Dayawansa	Ms. Vishaka Rathnayake
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Balapitiya	Mr. Sumith Dhammika De Silva,	Ms. H. Sujeewa Hirantha Silva
Bandarawela	Mr. Sanjeewa Nishan Wijesekera	Mr. Sujeewan Hendavitharana
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Bibile	Mr. Sarath Kumara	Mr. Sarath Bandara
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Colombo Magistrate's Court	Mr. Shantha Herath	Ms. Deepika Hettimulla



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Embilipitiya	Mr. Premasiri Abeysuriya	Mr. Hiroshana Senarath
Galgamuwa	Mr. Anil P Balalle	Ms. Kanchana Samaradiwakara
Galle	Mr. Duminda Rajapaksha	Mr. Nuwan Balage
Gampaha	Mr. Jayantha Bandaranayake	Mr. Thilanka Chinthaka
Gampola	Mr. Nilantha Pilapitiya	Mr. M. M. Susantha Rathnayake Kirinde
Hambantota	Mr. N. S. M. Samsudeen	Ms. Sudharma R. Wijesinghe
Hatton	Mr. N. Pradeepan	Ms. M. Rathnasekera
Hingurakgoda	Mr. W M I Ranil Kumara Weerasekara	Ms. Chandrika Kumarapperuma
Hettipola	Mr. Ranjith Kumarasiri	Mr. Thilak Sumanaratne
Homagama	Mr. Sudath Wickramarathna	Mr. W. E. Wellappuli
Horana	Mr. Chandana Wijesooriya	Mr. Uditha Rajasekera
Jaffna	Mr. Balasubramaniyam Thavapalan	Mr. Stanilaus Celesine
Kaduwela	Mr. Nadeeka Niranjan	Ms. Samanthi K. Uduwakagedara
Kalmunai	Mr. M. I. Raizul Haathee	Mr. A. M. Rozan Akther
Kalutara	Mr. Mahesh Kanchana De Silva	Ms. Priya Manawadu
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Marawila	Mr. Waruna Chandranath, Weerasuriya	Mr. Indrasiri Senarathna
Maligakanda	Mrs. E. M. Himali Prasangika Ekanayake	Mr. Rajitha Lakmal
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Mathugama	Mr. Gamini Nallaperuma	Mr. Thushara Kariyawasam
Mawanella	Mr. Cryshantha Herath	Mr. Priyantha Wijekoon
Minuwangoda	Mr. Sarana Karunarathne	Mr. Sanjeewa Hettiarachchi
Monaragala	Mr. T. U. Sisira Kumara Bandara	Mr. Indika Wijayabandara Attanayaka
Moratuwa	Mr. Chandana Withanage	Ms. Ishara Jayapathma
Morawaka	Mr. Priyantha Raththagalage	Ms. Asha Niluni Abeysekara
Mt. Lavinia	Mr. Athula Ranagala	Mr. Geethma Fernando,
Mullaitivu	Mr. S. T. Kangatharan	Mr. N. Sutharssan
Nawalapitiya	Mr. Amila Prasad Sumanapala	Ms. Champika Sanjeewani Dissanayake
Nikaweratiya	Mr. R M Nadun Indrajith Bandara	Mr. H M Mahinda K Herath
Negombo Law Society	Ms. Udani Karunarathne	Mr. Indika Fernando
N' Eliya	Ms. N. T Herath	Mr. T Athavan
Nugegoda	Mr. Osmund Jayaratne	Ms. Dinusha Lokusuriya
Panadura	Mr. Ajith P. Perera	Ms. Dulshika Fernando
Pelmadulla	Mr. Chamath Suraweera	Ms. S. R. Wickramapala
Point Pedro	Mr. M K Muthukumar	Mr. Nadarajah Rajeevan
Polonnaruwa	Mr. Chandika Thilakaratne	Mr. Lakshman Wijesiri
Pottuvil	Mr. S. A. Ahmed Munasudeen	Ms. M.A.K.S.Fahima
Pugoda	Mr. Chandrike Weerasooriya Bandara	Mr. U. L. N. Uswatte
Puttalam	Mr. A M M S A Cader	Mr. A M Samsu Raf
Ratnapura	Mr. Vasantha Weerasinghe,	Mr. Sanath Perera
Ruwanwella	Mr. Ranjith Wijesinghe	Mr. E. W. K. Samaraweera
Samanthurai	Mr. A. H Aroos	Mr. S. M. M. Musthafa
Tangalle	Mr. Ranjan Wijayasingha	Mr.Krishanth Punchihewa
Tissamaharama	Mr. Gamini Ananda	Mr. Sunil Gunasekera
Theldeniya	Mr. S. K. Amarathunga	Mr. J. M. U. W. Barnes Rambukwella
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Vavuniya	Mr. P. Anton Punithanayagan	Mr. K. Thayaparan
Valaichenai	Mr. M. M. M Razick,	Mr. M. C. M. Riyas
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Wattala	Mr. Premnath Kalahewatta	Mr. Wijeratne, Punchihewage
Welimada	Ms. Kalani P. Pathirana	Ms. Janaki Weerasinghe
Wellawaya	Mr. Bandusena Thennakoon	Mr. Ravindra Nammunna
Association Of Corporate Lawyers, Sri Lanka (Acl)	Ms. Himali Urugodawatte	Ms. Harshani Mapatuna
Government Legal Officers' Association	Ms. Maneesha Silva	Ms. Kumudu Perera

Membership of the BASL

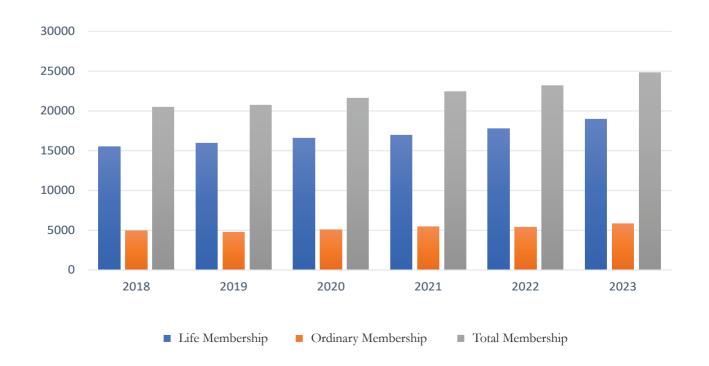
In terms of the Constitution of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka all Attorneys-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka are members of the BASL.

However, it is only "Life Members" and "Annual Paid up" members who are entitled to voting rights and other benefits of the Association.

The total number of Life Members and Ordinary Members as at 31st December, 2023

- Life Members 18961
- Ordinary Members 5848
- Total Membership 24809

Category	Summary of BASL Membership					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Life Membership	15,509	15,965	16,577	16,956	18,065	18961
Ordinary Membership	4,970	4,788	5,055	5,474	5,446	5848
Total Membership	20,479	20,753	21,632	22.430	23,511	24809
Increase	857	280	879	798	1081	1298

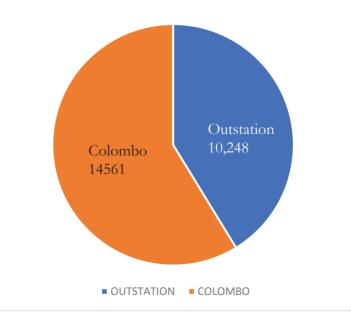




ENROLLMENT ACCORDING TO GENDER

Year	Male	Female	Total
2023	433	878	1311
2022	386	695	1081
2021	233	565	798
2020	291	609	900
2019	276	599	875
2018	88	164	252
2017	391	722	1113
2016	89	163	252
2015	217	459	676
2014	249	490	739
2013	188	418	606
2012	270	396	666
2011	314	468	782
2010	282	427	709

OUTSTATION / COLOMBO



Bench & Bar

- Bench & Bar Meeting
- Ceremonial Sittings during 2023 / 2024

Bench & Bar Meetings

During the year under review several Bench and Bar Meetings were convened which included meetings between the His Lordship the Chief Justice and the Office-bearers of the BASL, and between the Judicial Service Commission and the Office-bearers of the BASL.

These Meetings were focused on overcoming the issues faced by the Bar.

Regional Bench and Bar meetings were held in Chilaw Zone in May 2023 and in Jaffna Zones in July 2023, and in Galle Zone where the bar members shared their concerns and expressed views on matters related to the judiciary.

Ceremonial Sittings During 2023/2024

18.07.2023 - 21.07.2023 To enable the Bar to welcome the Admission of Attorneys-at-Law to the Supreme Court

31.08.2023 To enable the Bar to welcome Hon. Justice M. C. B. S. Morias as a judge of the Court of Appeal.

14.09.2023 For the swearing in of following Attorneys-at-law as President's Counsel. Mr. Ajith Milinda Pathirana,

Mrs. Samaraweera Arachchige Dilrukshi and Ms. Deepthika Damayanthi Kulasena

05.12.2023 - 08.12.2023 To enable the Bar to welcome the Admission of Attorneys-at-Law to the Supreme Court

29.01.2024 For the swearing in of the following Attorneys-at-law as President's Counsel. Ms. Chamantha Kumari

Weerakoon Unamboowe, Dr. Akurugoda Gamage Pubudu Asanga Gunawansa, Mr. Mohamed Adamaly, Mr. Colombapatabendige Harsha Udeni Fernando, Dr. John Anthony Shivaji Felix, Mr. N.M. Pushpa Prabash Kaushalya Kumara Nawaratne, Mr. K.A. Upul Indika Kumarapperuma, Mr. Srikumaradas Viran

Corea, Ms. Fathima Faiza Musthapha Markar and Mr. Eraj Arjuna Gihan de Silva

March 2024 Ceremonial sitting to bid farewell to His Lordship Justice Priyantha Jayawardena

ADDRESS BY MR. KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE, PC, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA AT THE CEREMONIAL SITTING TO ENABLE THE BAR TO WELCOME HON. JUSTICE M. C. B. S. MORIAS AS A JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEAL

My Lord the President of the Court of Appeal Your Lordship Justice Chamath Morias Hon Attorney General Your Ladyships and Lordships of the Court of Appeal Hon Solicitor General, Hon Judges of the High Courts, District Courts and the Magistrate Courts Learned President's Counsel

Learned Fresident's Counsel

Members of the Bar

Members of the family of Justice Morias,

On behalf of the members of the Bar, it is my distinct honour to welcome Your Lordship Justice Chamath Morias, the newly appointed Justice of the Court of Appeal, the 2nd Apex Court in the Island. I consider it to be a privilege to deliver my maiden speech as the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, at a ceremonial sitting to welcome Your Lordship as a Judge of the Court of Appeal, before whom I had the benefit of discharging professional duties in the District Court, Commercial High Court and the Civil Appellate High Court.

My Lords, as is known, it is a universal practice for public officials to take an oath before taking office. This is a statement of loyalty, dedication and commitment. The aim here is to remind, at the beginning, those taking office of the values they owe to protect and the manner and attitude they commit to adopt to safeguard the interests of everyone.

Your Lordship embark upon a journey of a Judge of the Court of Appeal at a time our nation is faced with many challenges, both economically and politically. Many concerns have been expressed with regard to the independence of the Judiciary at various levels. We believe that the main pillars of democracy, the Judiciary, the Executive, and the legislature shall work harmoniously and shall not endeavor to override the other. This is imperative to maintain the rule of law and to protect the basic rights of our citizens. In this context, the independence of the judiciary is important and the judges shall have the freedom to discharge the noble duties independently without any direct or indirect pressures political or otherwise.

We the Bar as done before, will and shall continue to protect the honour, dignity and the independence of the Judiciary. Whilst maintaining our independence it is also necessary for the Bar to be unbiased. My Lords, it is our pledge that the Bar will be fearless to face any challenge to protect the independence of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law whenever it is challenged. This will be done well within the realm of law without being sub-servient to any ideologies, ulterior motives political or otherwise.

My Lords, ceremonial sittings of the Apex courts have been a popular platform to express views on matters such as Laws delays, commitment to protect and respect professional ethics, importance of a vibrant relationship between the bench and the Bar etc. We have discussed these matters for decades. However, the results have not been very encouraging. Therefore, I invite all stakeholders to look into these matters objectively. It is important to embrace new developments specially in the field of technology if we are to reach and achieve the standards and to be on par and competitive with the rest of the world, as we believe, the legal fraternity

possess the potential to do so.

We the Bar wishes to emphasize the importance of maintaining the reciprocal respect between the bench and the Bar. Perhaps, the present legal education system in the country may not be good enough to produce attorneys with expected professional standards. Undoubtedly it is a matter which needs an urgent attention. However, we expect the Bench to assist and encourage the junior members to build confidence and to gain knowledge which is beneficial to the entire legal fraternity including the Judiciary. As it is our belief that the Juniors are the future of the legal profession.

My Lord, Justice Morias you are a proud product of Wesley college and the Royal College, Colombo, Your Lordship has joined the judiciary way back in March, 1996 and has served in many parts of the country as a Magistrate, an Additional District Court Judge, a District Judge, a High Court Judge and finally as a senior Judge of the Civil Appellate High Court of Colombo prior to Your Lordship's elevation as a Judge of the Court of Appeal.

Your Lordship has attended numerous workshops and seminars both locally and abroad in addition to obtaining a LLM degree on Commercial Law from a University in the United Kingdom. Therefore, we are confident that Your Lordship's knowledge and experience as a judicial officer over 25 years would be an added advantage for Your Lordship to discharge the challenging tasks as a judge of the Court of Appeal to uplift the standards of the legal profession and to ensure the rights of the citizens are well protected. I am sure that the training Your Lordship has received from your father, Hon.M.H.B.Morias, a retired District Judge too would be an immense support for your Lordship to discharge the duties as a Judge.

We the Bar, once again congratulate Your Lordship, Justice Morias on your appointment as a Judge of the Court of Appeal and wish to extend our unreserved support to Your Lordship.

May the almighty God bless Your Lordship, Justice Morias.

Thank You!



ADDRESS BY MR. KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE, PC, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA AT THE CEREMONIAL SITTING TO BID FAREWELL TO HIS LORDSHIP JUSTICE PRIYANTHA JAYAWARDENA

As we gather here today, it is with a mix of emotions that we bid farewell to a true luminary of the legal profession, a titan whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the landscape of justice in our beloved Sri Lanka. Today, we extend our deepest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to a distinguished colleague, a mentor, and a friend, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, President's Counsel, who now embarks on a new chapter of service as he retires from his esteemed position as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Justice Priyantha Jayawardena's journey in the legal arena is nothing short of remarkable, characterized by dedication, intellect, and unwavering commitment to the principles of justice. From his formative years at Nalanda College, Colombo 10, to his rigorous legal education at Sri Lanka Law College, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena has exemplified excellence at every turn. His apprenticeship with legal luminaries such as the late Eardly Perera P.C. and Ranjit Abesuriya P.C., along with his invaluable experience as a Research Assistant to the Late Justice Mark Fernando and the Late Justice P. Ramanathan, laid the foundation for a sterling career marked by integrity and expertise.

Justice Priyantha Jayawardena's journey took him across continents, where he honed his skills and expertise, obtaining a Masters Degree in Commercial Law from the University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom. His time in the UK also saw him enrolled as a Solicitor of the Courts of England and Wales, a testament to his international recognition and standing in the legal community. Upon his return to Sri Lanka, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena's contributions to the legal sector were manifold. His tenure at the Attorney General's Department, where he served as a State Counsel,

showcased his prowess in navigating complex legal landscapes with finesse and acumen. His involvement in drafting progressive legislation, including the Consumer Affairs Authority Act No.9 of 2003, demonstrated his commitment to advancing the cause of justice and protection of consumer rights.

Justice Priyantha Jayawardena's illustrious career extended beyond the realms of public service, as he made significant contributions to academia and private practice. His role as a visiting lecturer at the University of Moratuwa and his consultancy work with esteemed institutions underscored his multifaceted expertise and his ability to inspire the next generation of legal minds. As we reflect on Justice Priyantha Jayawardena's legacy, we are reminded of his tireless advocacy for the independence of the judiciary and the enhancement of legal frameworks to combat bribery and corruption. His recommendations, borne out of a deep-seated commitment to justice, have had a lasting impact on our legal system, paving the way for a more transparent and accountable judiciary.

In conclusion, as Justice Priyantha Jayawardena embarks on this new chapter of his journey, we extend our sincerest gratitude for his unparalleled service to the legal sector and his steadfast commitment to upholding the principles of justice. His legacy will continue to inspire us all, and his contributions will be remembered for generations to come.

Thank you, Justice Priyantha Jayawardena, for your invaluable service, your unwavering dedication, and your profound impact on the legal profession in Sri Lanka. May your retirement be filled with joy, fulfillment, and well-deserved rest.



ADDRESS BY MR. KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE, PC, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA AT THE FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR RETIRED JUSTICE ALUWIHARE

Today, we gather to bid farewell to a distinguished legal luminary, Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare PC. His journey through the corridors of justice has been marked by unwavering dedication, integrity, and a profound commitment to the principles that underpin our legal system. As Justice Aluwihare departs from the bench, we reflect on his illustrious career, from serving as Deputy Solicitor General to his current role as a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and Justice of Appeal of the Supreme Court of Fiji. His contributions to the legal fraternity extend beyond borders, having prosecuted for the UN's Serious Crimes Investigation Unit and the East Timor war crimes tribunal.

Beyond his legal accomplishments, Justice Aluwihare has been a guiding beacon for juniors within our legal community. Always courteous and humble, he has shared his knowledge, wisdom, and support generously with anyone who sought his guidance. His willingness to mentor and

nurture the next generation of legal minds speaks volumes about his commitment to the future of our profession. As Justice Aluwihare steps into retirement, we acknowledge that his departure creates a great vacuum in the legal fraternity. His absence will be felt not only in courtrooms but in the hearts and minds of those who have had the privilege of working alongside him. The mark he leaves is not only one of legal expertise but of a mentor who has shaped the professional journeys of many.

On behalf of the Bar Association, I extend our deepest gratitude to Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare for his invaluable service. As he embarks on the next chapter of his journey, we wish him a happy retirement filled with the joy and fulfillment he has brought to the legal profession. May his passion for justice and the rule of law resonate as a guiding light for generations to come.

Thank you, Justice Aluwihare, for your unwavering commitment to the pursuit of justice.



04

Interventions on National Issues



INTERVENTIONS ON NATIONAL ISSUES

STATEMENTS RELEASED / REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE BASL ON NATIONAL ISSUES

- Statement dated 30th March 2023 on a Lawyer's Professional Entitlement to Represent a client.
- Statement dated 5th April 2023 on BASL concerns on the New 'Anti-Terrorism Bill'
- 3. Statement dated 5th April 2023. regarding BASL reaffirming its commitment to uphold the Rule of Law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary.
- Statement dated 26th April 2023 regarding the Anti-Terrorism Bill.
- Statement dated 9th June 2023 on the Right to Peaceful Protest.
- Statement dated 14th June 2023 on Continuing Deaths in Police Custody and the Rise in Criminal Activity in the Country.
- 7. Letter dated 27th June 2023 to the President on appointment of the Inspector General of Police.
- Statement dated 10th July 2023 on upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary.
- 9. Statement dated 12th September 2023 on BASL engages in productive discussion with Hon. Speaker.
- 10. Statement dated 23rd September 2023 regarding the BASL calling upon the government to immediately withdraw the Anti Terrorism Bill and the Online Safety Bill.
- 11. Statement dated 30th September 2023 regarding the BASL calling on government to investigate sudden resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge.

- 12. Statement dated 02nd October 2023 on resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanarajah and request for inquiry on the matter.
- 13. Statement dated 6th October 2023 on the Supreme Court allowing the BASL to intervene in X-press pearl case.
- 14. Statement dated 9th November 2023 regarding the BASL being deeply concerned about court proceedings being discussed in the parliament
- Statement dated 02th December 2023 on Sri Lanka well represented at the LAWASIA 2023 conference.
- 16. Statement dated 20th December 2023 regarding the appointment of Inspector General of Police (IGP).
- Statement dated 5th January 2024 on our adherence to due process and the Rule of Law must not be compromised.
- 18. Statement dated 22th January 2024 on relating to a tragic incident in which a life was lost in Narammala area.
- Intervention on the ongoing court proceeding regarding substandard immunoglobulin in the Maligakanda Magistrate Court.
- 20. Letter dated 26th February 2024 to the President and Constitutional Council on delays in appointing Judge to the Superior Courts.
- Statement on delay in appointment of Judges to the Superior Courts issued on the 14th March 2024.



Statement dated 30th March 2023 on a Lawyer's Professional Entitlement to Represent a client

MEDIA RELEASE

A LAWYER'S PROFESSIONAL ENTITLEMENT TO REPRESENT A CLIENT

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observes that there has been a series of organized protests in Colombo, in relation to Mr. Saliya Pieris PC, the Former President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, conducting his professional duties with regard to a particular client.

We are of the view that the said protest, not only seriously hinders his right to represent a client, a professional right which has been safeguarded by law, but also an attack on the profession at large.

In the case of Wijesundara Mudiyanselage Naveen Nayantha Bandara Wijesundara v Sirwardena and Others (SCFR 13/2019), the Supreme Court observed that:

"The first piece of legislation passed by the Parliament soon after the promulgation of the 1978 Constitution was the Judicature Act No. 02 of 1978. As the administration of justic in any civilized society cannot be effectively implemented without lanyers, the legislature in its wisdom, through the Judicature Act, established the legal profession.

Thus, there is no dispute that the legal profession is a sine qua non for the due administration of justice in this country and for that matter in any civilized society. The said profession is essential for the maintenance of the Rule of Law and maintenance of law and order and its due existence is of paramount importance to the organized functioning of the society which is primarily the basis for the smooth functioning of the country as a whole."

Further, Section 41 of the Judicature Act which has clearly set out the right of representation, and, has further shed light on the above mechanism established for implementing the administration of justice in the country.

It is as follows; Section 41 of the Judicature Act (Right of Representation)

- "(1) Every attorney-at-law shall be entitled to assist and advise clients and to appear, plead or act in every court or other institution established by law for the administration of justice and every person who is a party to or has or claims to have the right to be heard in any proceeding in any such court or other such institution shall be entitled to be represented by an attorney-at-law.
- (2) Every person who is a party to any proceeding before any person or tribunal exercising quasi-judicial powers and every person who has or claims to have the right to be heard before any such person or tribunal shall unless (athernise).

Under Sri Lankan law, the right to legal representation is recognized and protected. This means that individuals have the right to be represented by a lawyer or other legal professional when facing legal proceedings.

Our constitution specifically guarantees the right to legal representation in Article 13(3), which states that every person has the right to a fair trial and the right to be represented by a lawyer of their choice.

In addition, the Code of Criminal Procedure provides for the right to legal representation in criminal cases. Section 260 of the Code states that an accused person has the right to be represented by an Attorney-at-law, and every aggrieved party shall have the right to be represented in Court by an Attorney-at-law.

Similarly, the Civil Procedure Code also provides for the right to legal representation in civil cases. Specifically, Section 24 of the Code allows parties to be represented by lawyers or other authorized representatives in court.

Overall, Sri Lankan law recognizes and protects the right to legal representation, both in criminal as well as civil cases.

Therefore, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka strongly demands that the authorities ensure that Mr. Peiris's professional duties as an Attorney-at-law, are not hindered and, ensure his safety.

Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Statement dated 5th April 2023 on BASL concerns on the New 'Anti-Terrorism Bill'

5th April 2023

Media Statement on BASL concerns on the New 'Anti Terrorism Bill' gazetted on the 22nd March 2023.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observes that the Government published an 'Anti Terrorism Bill', on the 22nd of March 2023. This Bill seeks to abolish the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and introduce an Anti-Terrorism Act.

The BASL is firmly of the view that no legislation should be introduced to curtail and/or suppress, directly or indirectly the fundamental rights of citizens, enshrined in our Constitution and that this Bill if passed into law will have far reaching effects.

The Bill has been published in the Gazette without adequate consultations with the relevant stakeholders including the BASL. Hence the BASL calls upon the Government to consider to defer the Bill until there is a wider stakeholder consultation and the concerns of stakeholders including the BASL are taken into account.

Furthermore, the BASL takes cognizance that the bill requires serious attention, and as such, has appointed a committee of senior lawyers to review the legality and the consequences of the bill, and report to the Management Committee of the BASL.

It must be noted that the BASL would not hesitate to challenge any bill that would deem to undermine the *Rule of Law* and the *Liberty of the Citizen* in our country.



Kaushalya Nawaratne
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 5th April 2023, regarding BASL re-affirming its commitment to uphold the Rule of Law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary

Media Statement

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) re- affirms its commitment to upholding the Rule of Law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary, in light of the recent trend of pressure being exerted over the Judiciary, that would potentially threaten and undermine these important principles.

The BASL is of the view that the Judiciary should be allowed to operate independently, free from external pressures, threats or any interference, for a vibrant democracy to exist. In an international view point the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, *inter alia* states:

 The independence of the judiciary shall be guaranteed by the State and enshrined in the Constitution or the law of the country. It is the duty of all governmental and other institutions to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary.

The judiciary shall decide matters before them impartially, on the basis of facts and in accordance with the law, without
any restrictions, improper influences, inducements, pressures, threats or interferences, direct or indirect, from any quarter or
for any reason

The BASL is aware that an order made by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka has been referred to the Parliamentary Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

The BASL has considered this matter and is strongly of the view that there has been no violation of the powers and the privileges of Parliament, by this order. Further, the Supreme Court being an independent institution should not be called upon to explain judicial orders to any other person or institution.

Therefore, the BASL is of the view that it is the duty of all governmental and other institutions to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary, and any interference in the judicial process, sets a dangerous precedent, which must be strongly condemned.

Kaushalya Nawarat

Kaushalya Nawaratne
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 26th April 2023 regarding the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

26th April 2023

Media Statement of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka regarding the Anti-Terrorism Bill:

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) appointed a special committee consisting of senior legal experts to review the Anti-Terrorism Bill, gazetted on the 22nd of March 2023. The said committee has observed that certain provisions, *inter alia*, clauses 3,4,10,11,13,14,15,16,28,30,31,36,82,83,84,85, and 86 of the bill infringe upon the principles of the criminal justice system and are in contravention of the legal rights of the critisens.

Further, it is the view of the Committee that the provisions stipulated in the said bill violate the fundamental rights enumerated under chapter III of the constitution of Sri Lanka, especially in light of article 14 of the constitution (i.e. freedom of speech, assembly, association, occupation, movement, etc).

In view of the recommendations of the committee, the BASL will be making representations to the Ministry of Justice, and all other stakeholders, requesting that amendments be made to the bill, in compliance with the law. Further, in order to protect the rights of the citizens, in the event the bill is placed in the order paper before parliament, in the current form, BASL will be taking steps in law to challenge the bill in the appropriate forum.



Kaushalya Nawaratne
President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 14th June 2023 on Continuing Deaths in Police Custody and the Rise in Criminal Activity in the Country

14th June 2023

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA (BASL) STATEMENT ON CONTINUING DEATHS IN POLICE CUSTODY AND THE RISE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN THE COUNTRY

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observes deep concern a rise in custodial deaths and, criminal activity in many parts of the country in recent times. BASL states that one of the worst crimes in a civilized society under the Rule of Law is custodial deaths.

Our legal system provides for investigation, inquiry, trial and punishment by proper authorities which is the base of democracy and the Rule of Law, and, the credibility and transparency of such process, must be diligently and fiercely preserved.

In terms of Article 13 (4) of the Constitution, no person shall be punished with death or imprisonment except by order of a competent court. Hence, even a convicted criminal has a right to his life. Our Superior Courts repeatedly held that the extra-judicial killing of a suspect in police custody violated the right to life, despite the absence of an explicit right to life in the Constitution of Sri Lanka.

In view of repeated violations of fundamental rights of persons in custody causing death, the Supreme Court on $3^{\rm sf}$ February 2023, directed the Inspector General of Police to formulate, issue and implement, guidelines to the police, elaborating the steps that should be taken by each officer to avoid 'encounter deaths' in the future.

In spite of such directions given by the Supreme Court, the BASL observes that custodial deaths and torture continues at an alarming rate. The BASL insists that the duty of the State is not only to safeguard the rights of citizens, but also to compensate the victims and punish the violators of law.

Thus, we are of the view that the Government together with other stakeholders should impose stricter laws and punishments on errant police officers for misuse of their power and not fulfilling their duties, and draft enforceable guidelines, to prevent the reoccurrence of custodial deaths. Further, law enforcement authorities should take immediate steps prevent criminal activity in order to protect our citizens.



Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 9th June 2023 on the Right to Peaceful Protest.

9th June 2023

STATEMENT BY THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA ON THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL PROTEST

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observes that our citizens freedom of expression is being restricted and threatened by administrative and criminal sanctions.

We believe that the right to protest, as manifested in the freedom of assembly, association, and expression, is an important feature of a democratic society. This right is vital for the healthy functioning of a democracy, and while it is recognized that the right to protest can be subjected to certain limitations, it is equally important to ensure that these limitations are not the results of arbitrary measures contrary to the rule of law, and the equal protection of the law as guaranteed by Article 12 of the Constitution.

We must ensure that, the police, who are bound to act according to the law to protect the fundamental rights cannot act arbitrarily in carrying out their responsibilities.

In the recent case of U. N. S. P. Kurukulasuriya, Convenor, Free Media Movement, and J. K. W. Jayasekara, V Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation SCFR 556/2008 and 557/2008 decided on 17.02.2021, the Supreme Court quoted with approval the following passages found in several decisions of Sri Lankan courts:

"The right to support or to criticise governments and political parties, policies and programmes is fundamental to the democratic way of life; ...and democracy requires not merely that dissent be tolerated, but that it be encouraged"

"Criticism of the Government, and of political parties and policies, is per se, a permissible exercise of the freedom of speech and expression under Article14 (1) (a)."

In the same case His Lordship Justice Buwaneka Aluwihare observed as follows:

"The danger of suppressing dissent was emphasized in Gunawardena v. Pathirana, OIC, Police Station, Elpitiya (1997) 1 Sri LR 265 stating that dissent, or disagreement manifested by conduct or action, is cornerstone of the Constitution, which should not only be tolerated but encouraged by the Executive as obligated expressly by Article 4(d), Justice Mark Fernando cited the dictum of Justice Jackson in West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barbette (1943) 319 US 624, 641; "Those who begin coercive elimination of dissent soon find themselves exterminating dissenters. Compulsory unification of opinion achieves only the unanimity of the graveyard. It seems trite but necessary to say that the First Amendment was designed to avoid these ends by avoiding these beginnings."

Therefore, we would like to remind the government that in a country with a rich history of expression through protest, it is important that people are not silenced, and their right to peaceful protest is upheld and respected.





Statement dated 10th July 2023 on Upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary

10th of July 2023

PRESS RELEASE: UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW AND SAFEGUARDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) re- affirms it's commitment to upholding the Rule of Law and safeguarding the Independence of the Judiciary, in light of the recent trend of pressure being exerted over the Judiciary, that would potentially threaten and undermine these important principles.

The BASL is deeply concerned of the growing trend of members of parliament, exploiting parliamentary privilege, by making statements in parliament, for matters which are *sub judice*. Specifically, we find the recent statement by Sarath Weerakesekera MP in Parliament, on the 7th of July 2023, currently circulating in social media platforms, as an unfounded, brazen attack on the Judiciary and, the social fabric of this Country.

The BASL is of the view that the Judiciary should be allowed to operate independently, free from external pressures, threats or any interference, for a vibrant democracy to exist. In an international view point the United Nations Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, interalia, states:

- 1. The independence of the judiciary shall be guaranteed by the State and enshrined in the Constitution or the law of the country. It is the duty of all governmental and other institutions to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary.
- 2. The judiciary shall decide matters before them impartially, on the basis of facts and in accordance with the law, without any restrictions, improper influences, inducements, pressures, threats or interferences, direct or indirect, from any quarter or for any reason

Therefore, the BASL is of the view that it is the duty of the government and the Opposition to respect and observe the independence of the judiciary, and any interference in the judicial process, sets a dangerous precedent, which must be strongly condemned.



Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 12th Septemebr 2023 on BASL engages in productive discussion with Hon. Speaker

12th September 2023

MEDIA STATEMENT

BASL ENGAGES IN PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH HON. SPEAKER

The Management Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) held a constructive discussion with the Honorable Speaker to address concerns regarding the growing trend of judicial matters being deliberated, and references being made to judges in parliament. In furtherance of this discussion, a formal letter outlining our concerns was handed over to the Hon. Speaker.

The BASL, representing the legal fraternity of Sri Lanka, is committed to upholding the principles of an independent judiciary and the separation of powers. We recognize the importance of maintaining the integrity and impartiality of the judicial system, which serves as the cornerstone of a democratic society.

During the meeting, the Management Committee of the BASL expressed its apprehensions regarding the potential implications of parliamentary discussions on ongoing judicial matters and statements made against judicial officers. We emphasized the need to preserve the sanctity of judicial proceedings and ensure that the due process is upheld without any undue influence.

The BASL remains committed to engaging in a collaborative dialogue with relevant stakeholders to address these concerns and work towards safeguarding the independence of the judiciary. We firmly believe that maintaining a strong and independent judiciary is crucial for upholding justice, protecting the rule of law, and ensuring the rights of all citizens.





Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 30th September 2023 regarding the BASL calls on government to investigate sudden resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge.

30th September 2023

PRESS RELEASE: BASL CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE SUDDEN RESIGNATION OF MULLAITIVU DISTRICT JUDGE

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expresses deep concern regarding the recent resignation of Mullativu District Judge T. Saravanarajah, it has come to our attention that his resignation letter, currently circulating in the media states that his decision to step down was purportedly prompted by the sate.

The BASL is committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the judiciary. We strongly believe in maintaining an environment where judges can discharge their duties without fear or intimidation.

In light of this, the BASL call on the government to initiate a thorough impartial investigation into the matter. It is crucial to ascertain the veracity of these threats. Such actions, if found to be true, not only undermine the independence of the judiciary but also erode public trust in the justice system. The resignation of Judge T. Saravanarajah may raise serious questions about the safety of judicial officers in Sri Lanka.

BASL vehemently condemns and discourages any type of threats and violence to members of the judiciary. We believe that safeguarding the judiciary is essential for the preservation of the rule of law and the protection of the fundamental rights of all citizens.



KAUSHALYA NAWARTNE PRESIDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Statement dated 23rd Septemebr 2023 regarding the BASL calls upon the government to immediately withdraw the Anti - Terrorism Bill and the Online Safety Bill

BASL CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW THE ANTI - TERRORISM BILL AND THE ONLINE SAFETY BILL

The Bar Council of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) calls upon the Government to immediately withdraw the Anti-Terrorism Bill and the Online Safety Bill which were published in the Gazettes issued on 15th and 18TH September 2023 respectively, and not to proceed with the said Bills.

At a meeting of the Bar Council held today, it was unanimously resolved that both Bills seriously impinge on the liberty and freedom of the people and will have a serious impact on democracy and the rule of law in the country.

It is observed that both Bills have been introduced without due consultation with the stakeholders including the BASL. Further, the BASL's observations on the previous version of the Anti-Terrorism Bill have also not been considered.

The BASL calls upon the Government to have a meaningful consultation with the relevant stakeholders including the BASL and to take into consideration their concerns prior to proceeding to Gazette such Bills, which have a serious impact on the community at large.



KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE PRESIDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Statement dated 02nd October 2023 on resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanarajah and request for inquiry on the matter.

02.10.2023

Hon. Tiran Alles, Minister of Public Security, Suhurupaya, Subhuthipura Road, Battaramulla.

Dear Sir,

Subject: Resignation of Mullaitivu District Judge T. Saravanarajah and Request for Inquiry

We write to you on behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) to express our deep concern regarding the recent resignation of Mullaithru District Judge T. Saravanarajah. It has come to our attention that his resignation letter, currently circulating in the media states that his decision to step down was purportedly prompted by threats.

The BASL is committed to upholding the rule of law and ensuring the safety and well-being of all members of the judiciary. We strongly believe in maintaining an environment where judges can discharge their duties without fear or intimidation.

In light of this, we kindly request that you initiate a thorough impartial investigation into the matter. We specifically and urgently seek clarity on, many reports that are circulating via social media that the Judge's weapons and security were withdrawn and, that the Judge was kept under SIS surveillance, leading up to his resignation.

It is crucial to ascertain the veracity of these threats and its background. Such actions not only undermine the independence of the judiciary but also erode public trust in the justice system. The resignation of Judge T. Saravanarajah may raise serious questions about the safety of judicial officers in Sri Lanka.

The BASL is ready to assist and cooperate fully with any investigative process initiated in this regard. We believe that safeguarding the judiciary is essential for the preservation of the rule of law and the protection of the fundamental rights of all citizens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 6th October 2023 on Supreme Court allows BASL to intervene in X-press Pearl Case

6th October 2023

PRESS RELEASE: SUPREME COURT ALLOWS BASI TO INTERVENE IN X-PRESS PEARL CASE

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) filed an intervention petition in the Supreme Court, seeking permission to intervene in Case No. SC/FR 168/2021, which was filed by the Centre for Environmental Justice seeking fair compensation for the victims of the XPress Pearl disaster.

Today the Supreme Court delivered its order, allowing BASI's application for intervention, considering the totality of the circumstances of the case, and the submissions made.



KAUSHALYA NAWARTNE PRESIDENT BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA



ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Statement on delay in appointment of Judges to the Superior Courts on the 14th March 2024

14th March 202

BASL statement of concern regarding the growing vacancies in the superior courts

We the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), express our deep concern over the increasing number of vacancies in the Superior Courts, which has now reached a critical point that significantly hampers the functionality and the integrity of our justice system.

The recent retirement of a judge of the Supreme Court has further exacerbated the situation by creating an additional vacancy in the Supreme Court. This comes at a time when there is already an ongoing impasse between the Constitutional Council and the Executive over the appointment to fill an existing vacancy within the same court. The delay in resolving these appointments is not only undermining the efficiency of our appellate courts but also eroding public confidence in the legal system's ability to deliver timely justice.

We fully understand that the appointment of judges to the Superior Courts is a matter of significant importance that requires careful consideration, and adherence to the procedure set out in our Constitution. However, the prolonged vacancies and the disputes over appointments have now reached a point where they are crippling the functions of the appellate courts, thus denying our citizens their right to a fair and expedient judicial process.

Therefore, we, the BASL, call upon His Excellency, the President, and the Constitutional Council to take immediate and appropriate action to resolve the ongoing disputes and to fill the vacancies in the Superior Courts as expeditiously as possible. It is imperative that these appointments are made in a manner that is transparent, merit-based, and in accordance with the highest standards of integrity and independence, as these qualities are fundamental to the preservation of public trust in our legal system.

The BASL stands ready to offer its support and assistance in any way that can facilitate a prompt resolution to these issues. We believe that through constructive dialogue and cooperation, we can overcome the current challenges facing our judiciary and ensure that it continues to function effectively and justly.



Kaushalya Nawaratne, PC President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 9th November 2023 regarding the BASL deeply concerned about court proceedings being discussed in the parliament

November 9, 2023

Media Statement

$\frac{\text{BASL DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT COURT PROCEEDINGS BEING DISCUSSED IN}{\text{THE PARLIAMENT}}$

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka is disturbed by the allegations made by a Cabinet Minister in Parliament on the 8th of November 2023, in respect of a case which relates to a matter concerning the appointment of an Interim Committee to Sri Lanka Cricket and the alleged conduct of a judge of the Court of Appeal.

The Independence of the Judiciary is a fundamental principle of the rule of law and therefore, any form of undue interference with Judicial Independence is extremely serious, and would erode public confidence in the judiciary, particularly, the matters which are subjudice, thus, should be condemned.

The BASL has always aknowledged that an Independent Judiciary is the key to upholding the rule of law in a free society, on the guarantee that judges will be free and will be perceived to be free to make impartial decisions based on the facts and the law in each case, and to exercise their role as protectors of the rule of law, without any pressure or interference from other sources, especially the Government.

The BASL strongly feels that statements being made in respect of ongoing court cases and reference to judges, purportedly taking cover on parliamentary privileges, is seen as a direct threat on the Independence of the Judiciary. The legal fraternity has continuously raised serious concerns regarding this matter.

Further, the BASL strongly believes that the Judiciary is built on a foundation of faith and confidence of the general public, and thus it is of paramount importance for judicial officers to ensure the said public trust is safeguarded.

Further, the BASL would also like to remind the relevant Hon. Members of Parliament that, the right to represent a client is a professional right which has been safeguarded by law, and any threat to the right, is an attack on the profession at large.

In the case of Wijesundara Mudiyanselage Naveen Nayantha Bandara Wijesundara v Sirwardena and Others (SCFR 13/2019), the Supreme Court observed that:

"Thus, there is no dispute that the legal profession is a sine qua non for the due administration of justice in this country and for that matter in any civilized society. The said profession is essential for the maintenance of the rule of law and maintenance of law and

order and its due existence is of paramount importance to the organized functioning of the society which is primarily the basis for the smooth functioning of the country as a whole."

Nevertheless, in view of the nature of the serious allegations made against the alleged conduct of a Judge in the well of Parliament, the BASL is of the view that independent and impartial persons should be appointed to probe in to the truth of the allegations made, and, if the said purported allegations are proved to be true, it would undermine the integrity of the judicial system, and if the said allegations are found to be baseless, the same would undermine the independence of the Judiciary and the integrity of the justice system in our country. Any allegation made against the Judiciary are found to be untrue, the same would attract penal sanctions including Contempt of Court.

Whilst reiterating its commitment to upholding the rule of law, BASL strongly calls on the stakeholders to act within the provisions laid down in our Constitution, and protect the independence of the Judiciary at any cost.



Kaushalya Nawaratne AAL



Nalinda Indatissa PC Deputy President

Kuman Kang

Chamath Kumara Jayasekera AAL Treasurer



Mehran Careem AAL

Statement dated 02th December 2023 on Sri lanka well represented at the lawasia 2023 conference.

02nd December 2023

Media Release

SRI LANKA WELL REPRESENTED AT THE LAWASIA 2023 CONFERENCE

LAWASIA is a regional association of lawyers, judges, jurists, and legal organizations that advocates for the interests and concerns of the Asia Pacific legal profession. The 36th LAWASIA Conference 2023, organized by LAWASIA and The Bar Association of India, commenced on November 24th at the Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru. The conference serves as a significant gathering of legal minds from across the globe. The highly anticipated conference officially began with a dazzling opening ceremony that set the stage for an immersive and enlightening event.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, emphasized the importance of legal professionals and representatives of lawyers' associations using their unique understanding of the international legal system to fight against human rights violations. He also expressed his privilege as a lawyer to be part of this conference, which has operated as a platform for promoting the cross-jurisdictional exchange of legal knowledge and as a voice of the legal profession for over fifty years.

Highlighting the importance of following the rule of law, he expressed that while we may not always like the rules, they are necessary for living in a civil society. Laws protect our general safety and ensure our rights as citizens against abuses by individuals, organizations, and even the government itself. Laws exist at the local, state, and national levels, binding all people living in a community.

Regarding the Indian Constitution, Siddaramaiah stated that it is the ultimate source of law and is unique in both spirit and content. The Constitution defines India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, and republican state, with the objectives of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. He emphasized that it is the duty of every citizen, especially the youth, to understand the idea of democracy and the Constitution, and to protect and uphold its principles for a life of dignity, freedom, and equality.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former Chief Scientist of WHO. She highlighted that the defining challenge of our time is not the pandemic but climate change. She emphasized the link between climate change and health equity, addressing the audience of lawyers and urging collaboration to address various injustices, including climate injustice and health injustice.

Dr. Swaminathan also pointed out that while a legal framework exists globally for tobacco control, there is currently no legal framework for other health conditions. She mentioned ongoing negotiations for a pandemic treaty or accord, which would establish rules for countries to follow in the event of another pandemic. However, it remains uncertain whether all equity and access issues will be adequately addressed in these negotiations.

Senior Advocate SS Naganand, Vice President of the Bar Association of India and Conference Cochair, described LAWASIA's annual conferences as vibrant, intellectually stimulating, informative, and a great social occasion for lawyers worldwide to connect.

Regarding the conference's events, he announced that the target of achieving 500 registrations had been surpassed. There are over 200 delegates from overseas and neighboring countries, with the rest coming from various parts of India and Bangalore itself. He also read out messages received from the Vice President and Prime Minister of India.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Gordon Hughes AM, Secretary-General of LAWASIA | Australia; Melissa K Pang BBS, MH, JP, President of LAWASIA | Hong Kong SAR; and Prashant Kumar, President of The Bar Association of India, India.

Mr. Kauashalya Nawaratna, President of the BASL, delivered a speech on the subject of "Contempt of Court: Anachronism or Necessary Bulwark?" in the session on Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

An MOU with Bar Association of india



In the backdrop of the conference, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) and the Bar Association of India (BAJ) signed a memorandum of understanding to promote greater collaboration on matters of mutual interest. Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne President BASL and Mr. Prashant Kumar President BAI signed the MOU while Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Secretary, and Mr. Mehran Careem, Assistant Secretary together with the Office Bearers of the BAI were present on this occasion.

Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri lanka

Statement dated 20th December 2023 regarding the Appointment of Inspector General of Police (IGP) on the

20th December 2023

RE: APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (IGP)

The IGP is the Head of the Police Department and has security of tenure in terms of the Removal of Officers Act No. 5 of 2002. Hence it is of utmost important that the best possible appointment be made to that office.

The BASL has now become aware via media channels that the Public Security Minister purportedly alleges that certain lawyers who opposed the appointment of the Acting Inspector General of Police, are now appearing in court for drug traffickers. In the same speech the Minister made reference justifying encounter killings of suspects at the hands of the police.

The BASL would remind the relevant Minister that, the right to represent a client is a professional right which has been safeguarded by law, and any threat to the right, is an attack on the profession at large.

In the case of <u>Wijesundara Mudiyanselage Naveen Nayantha Bandara Wijesundara v Sirwardena and</u>
Others (SCFR 13/2019), the Supreme Court observed that:

"Thus, there is no dispute that the legal profession is a sine qua non for the due administration of justice in this country and for that matter in any civilized society. The said profession is essential for the maintenance of the Rule of Law and maintenance of law and order and its due existence is of paramount importance to the organized functioning of the society which is primarily the basis for the smooth functioning of the country as a whole."

Further, our constitution specifically guarantees the right to legal representation in Article 13(3), which states that every person has the right to a fair trial, and the right to be represented by a lawyer of their choice.

During the last few decades there has been a serious erosion in the public confidence in the Police Force in Sri Lanka. The lack on independence, politicisation, police brutality, custodial deaths, lack of professionalism have all contributed to the erosion of public confidence in the Police Force. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has continually been of the view that public confidence in the Police is vital for the administration of justice and the rule of law.

In the case of Mohammed Rashid Fathima Sharmila v K.W.G. Nishantha and others SCFR 398/2008-S.C.M. 03.02.2023 the Supreme Court observed that the police has lost the credibility it ought to have, in the following manner:

"It only highlights the utterly unprofessional approach to duty by the personnel who man it and as a consequence, people are increasingly losing trust in the police. It had lost the credibility it ought to enjoy as a law enforcement agency. The incident relevant to this application had taken place in 2008,

Therefore, it is essential that the Police adhere to the Rule of Law. Encounter killings and custodial deaths are anathema to the Rule of Law and to the Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Constitution. They have a negative impact on the reputation of the country and of its police force and security establishment. Such killings also expose individual police officers to criminal sanctions. The Supreme Court has time and again strongly condemned such killings at the hands of the police.

In the aforesaid circumstances it is of utmost importance that the next permanent appointment of Inspector General of Police should be an officer whose service in the police force is exemplary and free of any blemish and able to restore public confidence in the Sri Lanka Police.

In this context, the Sri Lanka Police has had a practice that the promotions of police officers who are suspected of criminal offences or are Respondents in Fundamental Rights applications such as those relating to illegal arrests and torture are withheld during the pendency of such applications. Similarly, promotions of officers who have a blemished record in the Sri Lanka Police are regularly withheld. Matter now within the public domain.

The judgment was delivered by Justice S. Thurairaja with Justices Kumudini Wickremasinghe and Priyantha Fernando in the Supreme Court (SC) on the 14th of December, ordered Acting IGP and three other police officers to pay compensation out of their personal funds to a petitioner for violating his fundamental rights, while being detained at the Mirihana Police Station, which was under the supervision of Acting IGP.

In the aforesaid the BASL urges that no officer who has violated Fundamental Rights or criminal cases against him or any allegations of involvement in unlawful activity be appointed to the office of the Inspector General of Police.

The BASL is also of the view that prior to the approval of the appointment of the Inspector General of Police that the procedures to be followed in regard to recommendations or approvals for appointments under Article 41B or 41C should be determined by the Constitutional Council as provided for in Article 41E (6) of the Constitution.

The BASL urges that the appointment of the Inspector General of Police (and all other appointments) be done in a transparent manner so as to establish public confidence in the appointment process.

Kaushalva Nawaratne

President
Bar Association of Sri Lanka

1.

Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 5th January 2024 on our adherence to due process and the Rule of Law must not be compromised

BASL Media Statement

OUR ADHERENCE TO DUE PROCESS AND THE RULE OF LAW MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED

The Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) observes a rise in arbitrary arrests and, criminal activity in recent times.

Our legal system provides for investigation, inquiry, trial, and punishment by proper authorities which is the base of democracy and the Rule of Law, and, the credibility and transparency of such process, must be diligently and fiercely preserved.

The BASL firmly condemns the regrettable shooting incident that transpired in Weligama, resulting in the tragic demise of a Police Sergeant and the injury of a Sub Inspector from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD). This incident purportedly occurred within the context of an operation aimed at apprehending a group allegedly engaged in illicit drug activities.

BASL underscores the utmost significance of adhering to due process and upholding the rule of law. The police raids, including the demolition of property carried out without valid search warrants and/or valid search orders, whilst flagrantly violating established legal protocols, render them unlawful. Such actions not only undermine the bedrock principles of justice, but also erode public confidence in the integrity of law enforcement agencies.

In terms of Article 13 (4) of the Constitution, no person shall be punished with death or imprisonment except by order of a competent court. Hence, even a convicted criminal has a right not to be arbitrarily deprived of his life except in accordance with procedure established by law.

The prospect of extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests presents a deeply disconcerting opportunity for the abuse of power. Our collective legacy will harshly judge us if we remain silent in the face of such grave transgressions. It is imperative that the authorities act in full accordance with the law, ensuring that justice is served for both the victims and the accused parties involved.

Moreover, we express deep concern over recent statements made by the Minister of Public Security, which implicate certain lawyers as conspirators with drug offenders. The absence of police accountability and the grant of unchecked impunity create an environment where no individual can feel secure. BASL underscores the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and the protection of the rights of all individuals engaged in legal proceedings.

In light of these disconcerting developments, BASL calls upon the authorities to promptly rectify these issues, hold the responsible parties accountable, and restore public trust in the justice system. It is only by steadfastly upholding the principles of due process and ensuring the primacy of the rule of law that we can establish a society that is equitable and just for all lits members.



Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Statement dated 22th January 2024 on related to a tragic incident in which a life was lost in Narammala area

22nd January 2024

PRESS RELEASE : RELATED TO A TRAGIC INCIDENT IN WHICH A LIFE WAS LOST IN NARAMMALA AREA

On Thursday (18), at approximately 6:30 p.m., a tragic incident occurred in Narammala resulting in the loss of a life following a police pursuit. Reports indicate that the incident took place in the Dampelessa area, where a lorry driver, allegedly failing to comply with a police officer, in civil attire. Subsequently, a firearm discharge by a police officer led to the driver's untimely death.

We call on the authorities to independently inquire into the recent surge in fatalities involving the police.

Furthermore, the Minister of Public Security, Tiran Alles, has expressed determination to persist with the ongoing anti-crime operations despite escalating criticism regarding their execution. While BASL acknowledges the necessity of law enforcement action against individuals engaged in drug-related activities, it emphasizes that such operations must strictly adhere to legal protocols.

During a recent press conference, Minister Alles announced his intent to publish a list of individuals purportedly obstructing the operation, hinting at potential public backlash against them. Additionally, he suggested that a select group of NGO operators and lawyers correspond with overseas entities, triggering subsequent public statements.

It is evident that these statements, among others, made by a Government Minister, are irresponsibly misleading and detrimental to the crucial role lawyers play in serving public interest. Legal professionals, in accordance with statutory rights, execute their duties without aligning with criminal activities. They are essential in enabling individuals to exercise their lawful rights

The justice system provides a vital check and balance and should not be attacked for the sake of political point-scoring. We vehemently denounce the use of divisive and deceptive rhetoric that undermines the rule of law and those dedicated to upholding it.



Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka



Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter to President and Constitutional Council on delays in appointing Judge to the Superior Courts on the 26th February 2024

26.02.2024

His Exellency Ranil Wickremesinghe President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Presidential Secretariat

Subject: Urgent Resolution Required for the Growing Vacancies in Superior Courts

Your Excellency.

We the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), write to express our deep concern over the increasing number of vacancies in the Superior Courts, which has now reached a critical point that significantly hampers the functionality and the integrity of our justice system.

The impending retirement of Justice Priyantha Jayawardene next week will further exacerbate the situation by creating an additional vacancy in the Supreme Court. This comes at a time when there is already an ongoing dispute between the Constitutional Council and the Executive over the appointment to fill an existing vacancy within the same court. The delay in resolving these appointments is not only undermining the efficiency of our appellate courts but also eroding public confidence in the legal system's ability to deliver timely justice.

We fully understand that the appointment of judges to the Superior Courts is a matter of significant importance that requires careful consideration, and adherence to the procedure set out in our Constitution. However, the prolonged vacancies and the disputes over appointments have now reached a point where they are crippling the functions of the appellate courts, thus denying our citizens their right to a fair and expedient judicial process.

Therefore, we, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, respectfully call upon Your Excellency and the Constitutional Council to take immediate and appropriate action to resolve the ongoing disputes and to fill the vacancies in the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal as expeditiously as possible. It is imperative that these appointments are made in a manner that is transparent, merit-based, and in accordance with the highest standards of integrity and independence, as these qualities are fundamental to the preservation of public trust in our legal system.

The BASL stands ready to offer its support and assistance in any way that can facilitate a prompt resolution to these issues. We believe that through constructive dialogue and cooperation, we can overcome the current challenges facing our judiciary and ensure that it continues to function effectively and justly.

We trust that Your Excellency will give this matter your urgent attention and we look forward to seeing positive steps being taken to address this issue.

Yours respectfully,

Subject: Urgent Resolution Required for the Growing Vacancies in Superior Courts

Dear Sirs/Madam,

We the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), write to express our deep concern over the increasing number of vacancies in the Superior Courts, which has now reached a critical point that significantly hampers the functionality and the integrity of our justice system.

The impending retirement of Justice Priyantha Jayawardene next week will further exacerbate the situation by creating an additional vacancy in the Supreme Court. This comes at a time when there is already an ongoing dispute between the Constitutional Council and the Executive over the appointment to fill an existing vacancy within the same court. The delay in resolving these appointments is not only undermining the efficiency of our appellate courts but also eroding public confidence in the legal system's ability to deliver timely justice.

We fully understand that the appointment of judges to the Superior Courts is a matter of significant importance that requires careful consideration, and adherence to the procedure set out in our Constitution. However, the prolonged vacancies and the disputes over appointments have now reached a point where they are crippling the functions of the appellate courts, thus denying our citizens their right to a fair and expedient judicial process.

Therefore, we, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, respectfully call upon His Excellency, the President, and the Constitutional Council to take immediate and appropriate action to resolve the ongoing disputes and to fill the vacancies in the Superior Courts as expeditiously as possible. It is imperative that these appointments are made in a manner that is transparent, merit-based, and in accordance with the highest standards of integrity and independence, as these qualities are fundamental to the preservation of public trust in our legal system.

The BASL stands ready to offer its support and assistance in any way that can facilitate a prompt resolution to these issues. We believe that through constructive dialogue and cooperation, we can overcome the current challenges facing our judiciary and ensure that it continues to function effectively and justly.

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention and we look forward to seeing positive steps being taken to address this issue.

Yours respectfully,

Kaushalya Nawaratne President Bar Association of Sri Lanka Isuru Balapatabendi Secretary Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Letter dated 27th June 2023 to the President on appointment of the inspector geneal of police.

27th June 2023

Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe President, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Presidential Secretariat, Colombo 1.

Your Excellency,

APPOINTMENT OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is now aware that the office of the Inspector General of Police has fallen vacant on 26th of June 2023. The IGP is the Head of the Police Department and has security of tenure in terms of the Removal of Officers Act No. 5 of 2002. The BASL is of the view that public confidence in the Police is vital for the administration of justice and the rule of law. Hence, it is of utmost important that the best possible appointment be made to that office.

In recent time we have witnessed serious erosion in the public confidence in the Police. The BASI, has previously highlighted the lack on independence, politicisation, police brutality, custodial deaths, lack of professionalism, have all contributed to the erosion of public confidence in the Police. Further, we are of the view that the Easter Sunday attacks is a clear example of the grave ramifications of incompetent individuals holding such high office.

In the case of Mohammed Rashid Fathima Sharmila v.K.W.G. Nishantha and others SCFR 398/2008- S.C.M. 03.02.2023 the Supreme Court observed that the police have lost the credibility it ought to have, in the following manner:

"It only highlights the utterly unprofessional approach to duty by the personnel who man it and as a consequence, people are increasingly losing trust in the police. It had lost the credibility it ought to enjoy as a law enforcement agency. The incident relevant to this application had taken place in 2008, however, this court observes that instances of death of suspects in police custody are continuing to happen, even today." [Allowibser 1]

Further, the BASL is also of the view that prior to the approval of the appointment of the inspector General of Police that the procedures to be followed in regard to recommendations or approvals for appointments under Article 41B or 41C should be determined by the Constitutional Council as provided for in Article 41E(6) of the Constitution.

In the aforesaid the BASL urges that it is of utmost important that the next inspector General of Police should be an officer whose service in the police force is exemplory and unblemished and able to restore public confidence in the Sri Lanka Police.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

Kaushalya Nawaratne

Bar Association of Sri Lanks

Isuru Balapatabendi

Secretary

Bar Association of Sri Lanka



International Relations with other Jurisdictions

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF INDIA AND BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA





In the backdrop of the conference, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) and the Bar Association of India (BAI) signed a memorandum of understanding to promote greater collaboration on matters of mutual interest. Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne President BASL and Mr. Prashant Kumar President BAI signed the MOU while Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Secretary, and Mr. Mehran Careem, Assistant Secretary together with the Office Bearers of the BAI were present on this occasion.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF INDIA and BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA





MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between
THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
and
BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

WHEREAS

- A. In recognition of the growing level of interest in our Bar Associations and among our members, and the respective developments and challenges that we face, the BAI and the BASL wish to enter a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) so promote and maintain close cooperation between their respective organizations for the benefit of the lawyers they represent and to promote the rule of law.
- B. The BAI and the BASL hope that this MOU will provide a framework through which they can deepen the mutual knowledge and understanding of our professions and professional bodies and continue to develop a positive and mutually beneficial relationship.

AGREEMENT

1. The BAI and the BASL will seek to cooperate with each other in the following areas:

Information Exchange

- to provide each other with relevant information, advice or contacts that will assist the performance of their responsibilities as Bar Associations more effectively;
- to provide each other with updates on recent developments in law in their respective jurisdiction that would be of interest to their members;
- to advise each other on local issues which might be of significance, relevance or interest;

Page 1 of 3

Exchange Visits

- to encourage regular exchange of legal professionals between their jurisdictions;
- to make every effort to undertake at least one Presidential exchange visit in either direction during the life of this MOU;

Seminars

 (f) to endeavour to hold a joint event in India or Sri Lanka in order to assist their members and Bar Association executives to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the legal concepts and issues affecting their respective jurisdictions;

Regulation of Foreign Lawyers

 (g) to exchange information on the regulations of foreign lawyers in their respective jurisdictions and support members of both organizations in complying with the regulations;

Promotion of Events

 to endeavour to provide promotional support for each organization's conferences or events through email distribution of relevant materials to their members or appropriate notice on the website or otherwise;

Publication

 to work together to provide their members with opportunities to publish articles in the other party's relevant publications; and

Other Activities

- to undertake any other activities under this MOU as both parties to this MOU see fit.
- The BAI and the BASL, recognizing their mutual interest in the promotion of cooperation between lawyers in both countries and the role that each organization can play in maintaining harmony and respect for the rule of law in the region, agree to work closely towards promoting the rule of law in the region.
- The parties will each appoint a liaison person to the other party, who will act as the primary point of contact between each other.

Page 2 of 3

- This MOU is valid for an initial period of three (3) years. It may be extended by mutual
 agreement for the same period.
- This Agreement imposes no financial or legal obligations on the Bar Associations or individuals involved.

Signed in Bengaluru, India, in duplicate on the $\frac{\mathcal{J}_{F} + \frac{1}{N}}{2}$ of November 2023.

On behalf of the The Bar Association of India

On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka President Prashant Kumar

President Kaushalya Nawaratne



SRI LANKA WELL REPRESENTED AT THE LAWASIA 2023 CONFERENCE



LAWASIA is a regional association of lawyers, judges, jurists, and legal organizations that advocates for the interests and concerns of the Asia Pacific legal profession. The 36th LAWASIA Conference 2023, organized by LAWASIA and The Bar Association of India, commenced on November 24th at the Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru. The conference serves as a significant gathering of legal minds from across the globe. The highly anticipated conference officially began with a dazzling opening ceremony that set the stage for an immersive and enlightening event.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Chief Minister of Karnataka, Siddaramaiah, emphasized the importance of legal professionals and representatives of lawyers' associations using their unique understanding of the international legal system to fight against human rights violations. He also expressed his privilege as a lawyer to be part of this conference, which has operated as a platform for promoting the cross-jurisdictional exchange of legal knowledge and as a voice of the legal profession for over fifty years.

Highlighting the importance of following the rule of law, he expressed that while we may not always like the rules, they are necessary for living in a civil society. Laws protect our general safety and ensure our rights as citizens against abuses by individuals, organizations, and even the government itself. Laws exist at the local, state, and national levels, binding all people living in a community.

Regarding the Indian Constitution, Siddaramaiah stated that it is the ultimate source of law and is unique in both spirit and content. The Constitution defines India as a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, and republican state, with the objectives of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. He emphasized that it is the duty of every citizen, especially the youth, to understand the idea of democracy and the Constitution, and to protect and uphold its principles for a life of dignity, freedom, and equality.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former Chief Scientist of WHO. She highlighted that the defining challenge of our time is not the pandemic but climate change. She emphasized the link between climate change and health equity, addressing the audience of lawyers and urging collaboration to address various injustices, including climate injustice and health injustice.

Dr. Swaminathan also pointed out that while a legal framework exists globally for tobacco control, there is currently no legal framework for other health conditions. She mentioned ongoing negotiations for a pandemic treaty or accord, which would establish rules for countries to follow in the event of another pandemic. However, it remains uncertain whether all equity and access issues will be adequately addressed in these negotiations.

Senior Advocate SS Naganand, Vice President of the Bar Association of India and Conference Co-chair, described LAWASIA's annual conferences as vibrant, intellectually stimulating, informative, and a great social occasion for lawyers worldwide to connect.

Regarding the conference's events, he announced that the target of achieving 500 registrations had been surpassed. There are over 200 delegates from overseas and neighboring countries, with the rest coming from various parts of India and Bangalore itself. He also read out messages received from the Vice President and Prime Minister of India.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. Gordon Hughes AM, Secretary-General of LAWASIA | Australia; Melissa K Pang BBS, MH, JP, President of LAWASIA | Hong Kong SAR; and Prashant Kumar, President of The Bar Association of India, India.

Mr. Kauashalya Nawaratna, President of the BASL, delivered a speech on the subject of "Contempt of Court: Anachronism or Necessary Bulwark?" in the session on Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

Address by Mr Kaushalya Nawaratne, President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka

Honourable Justice Aravind Kumar, Judge, Supreme Court of India

Mr Richard Naidu

Ms Meenakshi Arora

Mr Gan Chong Chieh

Mr Saroj K Ghimire

Mr Shamik Sanjanwala

Fellow legal practitioners, and esteemed members of the Law Asia community,

It is both an honor and a privilege to stand before you today as the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to address a topic of profound significance at the 36th Law Asia Conference in, India. Our theme, "Contempt of Court: Anachronism or Necessary Bulwark?" under the stream of Human Rights and Rule of Law, is a timely and pressing issue that demands our collective attention.

The Sri Lankan Penal Code defines the offence of contempt of court as one where "whoever by words, either spoken or intended to be read, excites or attempts to excite hatred to or contempt of the administration of justice." Such provisions were entered into 19th-century statutes to ensure the smooth functioning of the judiciary. Yet, most democracies, including those in our region, have evolved from those archaic days to ensure that the judiciary is also subject to robust democratic discourse.

Sri Lanka however lags very far behind many of its democratic counterparts where contempt of court provisions are sparingly used allowing for a debate, analysis and even outright criticism of judicial decisions. The time has long passed for Sri Lanka to carefully address this anomaly and change the laws governing contempt of court.

What Is The Historic Foundations Of Contempt Of Court Provisions?

Let us embark on a journey through history, recognizing the deep-seated reasons behind the establishment of contempt of court provisions. Rooted in the imperative to preserve the sanctity and authority of the judicial process, these provisions have been crucial for maintaining order within the courts. Historically, they emerged as a shield against external interference, ensuring the unimpeded administration of justice. We must appreciate that the origins of contempt laws lie in the fundamental need to protect the integrity of the judicial system.

Promotion of Trust in the Judiciary and Enforcement of Judicial Orders

Contempt of court provisions play a dual role in our legal landscape. On one hand, they serve as a guardian of the public's trust in the judiciary. By discouraging attempts to undermine the authority of the court, these provisions contribute significantly to instilling confidence in the fairness and impartiality of our justice system. Moreover, they are instrumental in enforcing judicial orders, providing a necessary mechanism to address disobedience or disrespect toward the court's directives. This enforcement capability is indispensable for upholding the rule of law, ensuring that court decisions are not rendered mere pieces of paper.

Is There A Social Cost On Freedom Of Speech?

However, as we appreciate the historic foundations and contemporary utility of contempt laws, we must also confront the social costs they impose on the freedom of speech. Our commitment to human rights demands that we carefully examine the potential chilling effect on free expression. Overly broad or aggressive enforcement of contempt laws can dampen public discourse, stifle investigative journalism, and hinder the robust exchange of ideas. It is our responsibility to strike an important and, delicate balance between maintaining respect for the court and safeguarding our fundamental right to free speech.

Does The Power Conferred By Contempt Of Court Provisions Render Unlimited Authority To The Judiciary?

This brings us to the crucial question. While we acknowledge the necessity of empowering the courts to maintain order, we must remain vigilant against the risk of abuse. Striking the right balance between providing the judiciary with the tools it needs and preventing the concentration of unchecked power is a challenge that requires our continual attention and refinement of legal frameworks.



Are Laws Related to Contempt of Court, Outdated?

In our exploration of contempt of court, we grapple with the fundamental question of where the court lies in being a bulwark or anachronism. Does it stand as an essential fortress safeguarding the pillars of justice, or does it risk becoming a relic of a bygone era, incompatible with the evolving landscape of human rights and rule of law?

In the context of contempt of court, the question arises whether the application of these provisions remains relevant and justified in our contemporary legal landscape. Critics argue that contempt laws may be viewed as anachronistic, given the evolving nature of societies, the advancement of technology, and the increasing emphasis on protecting fundamental rights.

The concern here is that contempt laws, rooted in historical necessity to maintain order and respect for the judiciary, might clash with modern principles of free speech and open discourse. Critics often question whether these laws, conceived in a different era, are still apt for a society that values the free exchange of ideas and robust public scrutiny of institutions, including the judiciary. The risk is that the enforcement of contempt of court could be perceived as heavy-handed or suppressive, stifling legitimate criticism and inhibiting the public's right to question authority.

Looking at the Sri Lankan context, it is pertinent to note that from time to time the allegations on attempts to interfere with the Judiciary, or the Independence of the Judiciary by the Executive and the members of the Legislature, has raised serious concerns as it is said such attempts clearly undermine the authority of Court and the Rule of Law. I am happy to place on record, that at all times material the Bar has taken a proactive role in taking all protective measures to safeguard the Independence of the Judiciary and the Rule of Law. In fact, the jurisdiction of the Apex Court has now been invoked by way of Contempt of Court against some members of the Parliament wherein we intend to obtain a pronouncement with regard to the limitations and boundaries of parliamentary privileges and the extent of the immunity which can be claimed by Parliamentarians regarding

statements made in the well of Parliament regarding the Judiciary and the matters which are sub judice.

Contempt Of Court as a Protective Barrier?

On the contrary, proponents argue that contempt of court provisions remain a necessary bulwark, serving as a critical defense against forces that could erode the foundational principles of justice. In this view, these provisions act as a protective barrier, fortifying the judiciary against undue influence, external pressures, and attempts to undermine its authority. The historical context of these laws, often born out of the need to shield the judiciary from political interference or public outrage, underscores their importance in preserving the core values of an independent and impartial legal system.

From this perspective, contempt of court is not an anachronism but a necessary bulwark that upholds the sanctity of judicial proceedings. It is argued that without these provisions, the judiciary could be susceptible to external pressures that may compromise its ability to dispense justice objectively. The enforcement of contempt laws is seen as a means to maintain order within the court, protect the administration of justice, and safeguard the integrity of the legal system.

In summary, the debate around contempt of court revolves around the tension between viewing these provisions as outdated relics or essential safeguards. Determining whether contempt of court is an anachronism or a necessary bulwark requires a nuanced examination of the historical roots, the evolving social and legal landscape, and a careful consideration of how these provisions impact fundamental rights and the rule of law in the present day. This complex interplay will be a central focus of our discussions.

I am confident that our deliberations will lead to insights that contribute to the advancement of human rights and the rule of law, not just in our respective nations but globally.

Thank you for your attention, and I eagerly anticipate the fruitful discussions that will follow.



JICA Programme - "Data collection Survey to promote Transparent and Competitive Business Climate in Sri Lanka – Anti-Corruption Component"

In October 2023 the Japan International Cooperation Agency ('JICA') requested for proposals for Consultants from the BASL for one of their programmes titled the 'Data collection Survey to promote Transparent and Competitive Business Climate in Sri Lanka – Anti-Corruption Component'. Subsequently, after the submission of technical and financial proposals by the BASL, a contract was entered into between the parties with the BASL providing consultancy services for the programme. The team of consultants from the BASL included Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne, PC (President, BASL) as the Team Lead, Mr. Sahvindra Fernando, PC and Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC (Deputy President, BASL) as Legal Advisors and Ms. Rashmini Indatissa and Mr. Nuwan D'Alwis as Researchers.

According to the Terms of Reference for Consulting Services provided by JICA the purpose of the assignment was primarily to support Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption ('CIABOC') to understand the domestic legislative provisions especially in light of the enactment of the Anti-Corruption Act (ACA) and to draw lessons from international jurisdictions with regard to 3 specific areas, namely, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Corruption, Whistleblower Protection and Deferred Prosecution Agreements.

To this end, the workshops on Whistleblower Protection and Deferred Prosecution Agreements were held on 19th and 20th February 2024 and the Anti- Money Laundering and Proceeds of Corruption workshop was held over 3 days from 23rd to 25th February 2024. The participants included prosecutors and investigators of CIABOC, the judiciary, the Attorney General's Department, members of the Private Bar, Financial Intelligence Unit and the Central Bank.

All workshops were conducted by international resource persons together with domestic resource persons.

International resource persons included prosecutors from the United States Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Agency, UK, Asia-Pacific Group and from Japan. Domestic resource persons included Hon. Justice Aluwihare, Hon. Justice Kodagoda, Mr. Kalinga Indatissa, PC, Ms. Ayesha Jinasena, PC (SASG), Ms. Disna Gurusinghe (CIABOC), Ms. Subhani Keerthiratne – Director, FIU and Dr. Ayesh Ariyasinghe Additional Director -FIU.

The workshops included group exercises where all justice sector participants and key stakeholders were required to identify their roles, duties and obligations within the new Anti-Corruption regime. Specific emphasis was placed on the enhanced role, duties and responsibilities of the CIABOC under the new legislation and the importance of executing their functions in a timely and efficient manner in order to meet the national development goals, specifically in light of the Sri Lanka's 3rd Mutual Evaluation. During the workshops it was also highlighted that Attorneys-at-Law and Notaries are at a medium level vulnerability when it comes to money laundering practices and therefore, adequate awareness



and measures must be taken in order to combat such vulnerabilities.

One of the primary concerns raised by members of the Private Bar and the domestic resource persons was the protection of individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and adherence to due process when enacting the new provisions under the ACA and when exercising the broad powers granted to CIABOC under the new Act.

The President of the BASL in his closing remarks highlighted that whilst all persons should be committed to combatting bribery and corruption and that therefore, it was important to have an effective system to combat bribery and corruption in the country, he also emphasized that any action taken should respect individual rights and due process. He concluded his remarks by extending the support of the BASL to CIABOC and any other justice sector participants and key stakeholders in the effort to train, educate and spread awareness about combatting bribery and corruption.





Visits by Diplomats

The President and Management Committee held discussions with the British High Commissioner HE Mr. Andrew Patrick, HE Ms. Siri Walt, Ambassador of Switzerland to Sri Lanka and HE Ms. Julie Chang, US Ambassador to Sri Lanka on matters of mutual interest during the year.



Activities reported in the Press on BASL

BASL COMPLAINS TO SPEAKER

- BASL President handed over written request to Speaker
- The speaker stated it is expected to draw the attention of members in this regard

The BASL briefed the Speaker that some MPs were making statements inside and outside the chamber regarding the judiciary, the cases in the court and the judges, during the recent past, which has affected the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

The MPs expressed their displeasure when a group of BASL members including its President Attorney at Law Kaushalya Navaratne met the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena in Parliament yesterday.

The BASL said that the Bar Association expresses its regret over this situation as it was also seen that statements were issued mentioning the names of currently serving judges.

The President of the Bar Association requested the Speaker to pay attention to this matter and handed over a written request to the Speaker.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena assured that he will always stand to protect the honor of the judiciary including the judges. Therefore, the speaker stated that it is expected to draw the attention of members in this regard.

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අධිකරණයේ පවතින නඩු සහ විනිසුරුවරුන් සම්බන්ධයෙන් පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්තීුවරුන් පුකාශ නිකුත් කිරීමෙන්, නීතියේ ආධිපතනයට සහ අධිකරණයේ ස්වාධීනත්වයට බලපෑමක් වන බව, නීතිඥ සංගමය, කතානායක මහින්ද යාපා අබේවර්ධන මහතා පෙරේදා (11 වැනිදා) හමු වී දැනුම් දුන්නේය.

නීතිඥ සංගමයේ සභාපති, නීතිඥ කෞෂලා නවරත්න මහතා ඇතුළු සාමාජිකයෝ කතානායක මහින්ද යාපා අබේවර්ධන මහතා පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේදී හමු වී මෙම දැනුම්දීම කළහ.

සේවයේ නිරත විනිසුරුවරුගේ නම් සඳහන් කරමින්, පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්තුීවරුන් පුකාශ නිකුත් කිරීම දකින්නට ලැබුණු බවත්, මෙවැනි තත්ත්වයක් ඇති වීම කනගාටුවට කරුණක් බවත්, ඔවුහු කතානායකවරයා හමුවේ පුකාශ කළහ.

එහිදී අදහස් දක්වමින් කතානායක මහින්ද යාපා අබේවර්ධන මහතා පැවැසුවේ, විනිසුරුවරුන් ඇතුළු අධිකරණයේ ගෞරවය ආරක්ෂා කිරීමට තමා නිරතුරුව පෙනී සිටින බවයි.

මේ සම්බන්ධව ඉදිරියේදී මන්නීවරුන්ගේ අවධානය යොමු කරන බව ද කතානායකවරයා කීය.

නීතිඥ සංගමයේ නියෝජා සභාපති, නීතිඥ නලින්ද ඉන්දුනිස්ස, ලේකම්, නීතිඥ ඉසුරු බාලපටබැදි, භාණඩාගාරික, නීතිඥ වමත් ජයසේකර, සහකාර ලේකම්, නීතිඥ මෙහෙරාන් කරීම් යන මහත්වරු ද මෙම අවස්ථාවට එක්ව සිටියහ.

ලංකාදීප - 13-09-2023

Daily Mirror - 13-09-2023

September 2023.

近回 知思謝什》

MPs' statements affecting rule of law, independence of judiciary

BASL complains to Speaker

 Bar Association concerned over statements mentioning names of currently serving judges

3Y AJITH SIRIWARDANA

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) complained to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena claiming that the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary are being affected by the statements made by certain Members of Parliament.

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Daily Mirror - 13-09-2023



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මව්බිම - 13-09-2023





வீடுகளுக்கு நேரடியாக **விநியோகிக்கப்படும்** ஐ ஸ்கேன் செய்து



: 04, இதழ்: 17 சோபகிருது வருடம், ஆனி மாதம் 29ஆம் திகதி செ

alma 5.50 (14.07.2023) ஹிஜ்சி 1444, துல்ஹஜ் - 25, 0115 886187 - பக்கங்கள் 12



இப்பாதத்தக்காக இரண்டாவது பாடிய எதிர்வரும் 18ஆம் திகதிமுதல் 21ஆம் திகதிவண **>> 02 பக்கம்**



EASTER COMPENSATION BALANCE OF RS. 277 MN

BY BUDDHIKA SAMARAWEERA hile emphasising that compliance with Supreme Court (SC) judgements is mandatory, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has stated that the failure by the relevant respondents to settle the total compensation amounts to the victims and families of the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks could be considered contempt of court **BASL President** and therefore, the petitioners Kaushalya Nawaratne intend to make appropriate **PHOTO ESHAN DASANAYAKA** applications to the SC.

Petitioners to make applications on SC deadline non-compliance The Office for Reparations maintained the fund to which the respondents were required

to deposit the relevant

sums of compensation by Wednesday (12), as ordered by the SC. There were six respondents and two of them have already made the complete payment of the compensation amounts ordered to be paid.

CONTD. ON PAGE 2

The Daily Morning - 14-07-2023

BASL meets Speaker to discuss threats to judicial independence

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has expressed its serious concerns to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena over controversial declarations pertaining to judicial matters.

The meeting took place on 11 Sept., close on the heels of a section of the lawyers accusing President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena of undermining the independence of the judiciary.

The delegation was led by BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne. The following is the text of BASL statement: "The Management Committee of the Bar Association held a constructive discussion with the Speaker to address concerns regarding the growing trend of judicial matters being deliberated, and references being made to judges in Parliament.

"In furtherance of this discussion, a formal letter outlining our concerns was handed over to the Speaker. The



BASL Chief Nawaratne explains a point after handing over a formal letter to Speaker Abeywardena

(pic courtesy Parliament)

BASL, representing the legal fraternity of Sri Lanka, is committed to upholding the principles of an independent judiciary and the separation of powers. We recognize the importance of maintaining the integrity and impartiality of the judicial system, which serves as the

The Island - 13-09-2023

BASL COMPLAINS TO SPEAKER

- BASL President handed over written request to Speaker
- The speaker stated it is expected to draw the attention of members in this regard

The BASL briefed the Speaker that some MPs were making statements inside and outside the chamber regarding the judiciary, the cases in the court and the judges, during the recent past, which has affected the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

The MPs expressed their displeasure when a group of BASL members including its President Attorney at Law Kaushalya Navaratne met the Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena in Parliament yesterday.

Parliament yesterday.
The BASL said that the Bar
Association expresses its regret

over this situation as it was also seen that statements were issued mentioning the names of currently serving judges.

The President of the Bar Association requested the Speaker to pay attention to this matter and handed over a written request to the Speaker.

Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena assured that he will always stand to protect the honor of the judiciary including the judges. Therefore, the speaker stated that it is expected to draw the attention of members in this regard.

Bar Association would always remain independent, no party politics: New BASL President



Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam congratulates new BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne. Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya (extreme R) looks on. (Pix by M D Nissanka)

Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya yesterday explained that the Bar Association is vital in guiding the process of the legal profession.

He was speaking at the 49th Annual Convocation of the BASL where Kaushalya Nawaratne was inducted as the new President of the BASL. The event was held at the BMICH. "The Bar Association creates an environment that provides and promotes justice with the dignity that the profession deserves," the Chief Justice explained.

He emphasised the role of the new Council taking the responsibility for the legacy of the legal profession, while ensuring the responsibilities for society be protected and not compromised.

He explained the requirement for lawyers developing necessary skills instead of confining themselves in a growing environment of globalisation, and helping law students acquire such skills.

The Chief Justice pointed out the importance of the lawyer's role in society, especially in the last few years with the pandemic and the economic crisis, where lawyers should help society to overcome these challenges.

"Keep the interest of the profession in the forefront and continue with the legacy of the bar," he concluded.

BASL new President, Mr Nawaratne, addressing the gathering, pledged to the members of the Bar that the Association would always remain independent, uphold the Constitution and protect the rule of law.

"Any interference to the judiciary would have zero tolerance," he said, adding that protecting the independence of the judiciary is important to democracy, and that the Bar would always defend human rights as set out in the Constitution in an endeavour to have a society with equal rights.



Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya



BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne

Mr Nawaratne said that legal education should be revisited and opportunities should be created for young members of the Bar, including extending measures to raise legal education standards to be on par with global counterparts.

"Members with party politics would be vehemently discouraged under my jurisdiction," he added.

Incumbent Secretary Isuru Balapatabendige was re-elected unanimously.

Solicitor General Indika Demuni de Silva announced the results of the election concerning the Executive Committee of the Bar Association.

The Sunday Times - 26-03-2023

BASL signs MOUs with its British and Indian counterparts

The Bar Association of Sri lanka (BASL) has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the UK Bar Council and the Bar Council of India to facilitate collaborative activities in emerging areas of expertise such as the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence in legal procedures, commercial mediation, and arbitration. This is meant to stay abreast of global trends, the BASL said in a statement that dealt with their Golden Jubilee celebrations and other planned activities.

The text of the BASL statement: The year 2024 signifies the 50th anniversary of the BASL, a momentous occasion for the legal community in Sri Lanka. To commemorate this significant milestone and raise awareness among the general public, the Bar Association's Executive Committee has diligently organised a wide array of events and activities throughout the entirety of the year. The primary goal of these endeavours is to foster closer ties among legal professionals within Sri Lanka and their counterparts in foreign jurisdictions.

The Golden Jubilee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka calls for a series of meaningful and impactful events that honour this historic milestone in Sri Lankan society. To this end, the Bar Association has meticulously planned a range of programmes. The festivities will commence with religious observances encompassing all faiths.

Additional initiatives include the release of a commemorative stamp and first-day cover, an international conference with the participation of esteemed delegates from Law Asia, IBA, the UK Bar Council, the American Bar Association, and the Commonwealth Law Association, as well as various regional bar associations.

Furthermore, a series of seminars and workshops are scheduled to enhance the professional capabilities of lawyers, with a particular focus on young lawyers who are regarded as the future of the legal community.

The first event in this celebratory programme will be a Pirith ceremony, which is set to take place on January 13, 2024, starting at 7 pm. This will be followed by a Heel Dane on the morning of January 14, 2024, at the BASL Secretariat.

The Bar Association's leadership is currently entrusted to President's Counsel Kaushalya Nawaratna as the 49th President, supported by President's Counsel Nalinda Indatissa as Deputy President. Additionally, Isuru Balapatabendi serves as the Secretary, Chamath Jayasekara as the Treasurer, and Mehran Careem as the Assistant Secretary."

The Island - 2024/01/8

BASL meets Speaker to discuss threats to judicial independence

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has expressed its serious concerns to Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena over controversial declarations pertaining to judicial matters.

The meeting took place on 11 Sept., close on the heels of a section of the lawyers accusing President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena of undermining the independence of the judiciary.

The delegation was led by BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne. The following is the text of BASL statement: "The Management Committee of the Bar Association held a constructive discussion with the Speaker to address concerns regarding the growing trend of judicial matters being deliberated, and references being made to judges in Parliament. "In furtherance of this discussion, a formal letter outlining our concerns was handed over to the Speaker. The BASL, representing the legal fraternity of Sri Lanka, is committed to upholding the principles of an independent judiciary and the separation of powers. We recognize the importance of maintaining the integrity and impartiality of the judicial system, which serves as the cornerstone of a democratic society.



BASL Chief Nawaratne explains a point after handing

over a formal letter to Speaker Abeywardena (pic courtesy Parliament)

"During the meeting, the Management Committee of the BASL expressed its apprehensions regarding the potential implications of parliamentary discussions on ongoing judicial matters and statements made against judicial officers. We emphasized the need to preserve the sanctity of judicial proceedings and ensure that the due process is upheld without any undue influence. The BASL remains committed to engaging in a collaborative dialogue with relevant stakeholders to address these concerns and work towards safeguarding the independence of the judiciary. We firmly believe that maintaining a strong and independent judiciary is crucial for upholding justice, protecting the rule of law, and ensuring the rights of all citizens."

The Island - 2023/09/13

BASL deeply concerned about court proceedings being discussed in parliament

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) says it is 'disturbed' by the allegations made by a Minister of Cabinet in parliament on November 08, 2023, in respect of a case relating to a matter concerning the appointment of an Interim Committee to Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) and the alleged conduct of a judge of the Court of Appeal.

In a media statement, the association said impartial individuals should be appointed to investigate the truth of the allegations made against the judge.

"If the said purported allegations are proved to be true, it would undermine the integrity of the judicial system, and if the said allegations are found to be baseless, the same would undermine the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of the justice system in our country. Any allegation made against the judiciary is found to be untrue, the same would attract penal sanctions including Contempt of Court."

The BASL 'strongly' called on the stakeholders to act within the provisions laid down in the Constitution and to protect the independence of the judiciary at any cost. Commenting further on the matter, the BASL said the independence of the judiciary is a fundamental principle of the rule of law, noting that any form of undue interference with judicial independence is 'extremely serious' and would erode public confidence in the judiciary.

The association further emphasized that statements being made in respect of ongoing court cases and reference to judges, purportedly taking cover on parliamentary privileges, are seen as a direct threat to the independence of the judiciary. "The legal fraternity has continuously raised serious concerns regarding this matter."

The BASL also reminded the relevant Members of Parliament that the right to represent a client is a professional right that has been safeguarded by law, and any threat to the right, is an attack on the profession at large.

ADA Derana - November 9, 2023

BASL calls for independent probe into recent surge in fatalities involving police

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has raised concerns pertaining to the recent surge in fatalities in the country involving the police.

In a statement issued on Monday (22 Jan.), the BASL called on the relevant authorities to conduct an independent inquiry into the matter.

The BASL urged for the said investigation, recalling the recent death of a lorry driver in the Damepelessa area in Narammala, after a Police Sub-Inspector's firearm had allegedly 'accidentally' discharged during a vehicle inspection, after the lorry driver had failed to comply with a police checkpoint.

Further, the BASL also highlighted that the Minister of Public Security Tiran Alles has 'expressed determination to persist with the ongoing anti-crime operations' despite the escalating criticism regarding their execution.

While acknowledging the necessity of law enforcement action

against individuals engaged in drug-related activities, the BASL urged that such operations be conducted in manner strictly adherent to legal protocols.

With regards to the Minister's statements suggesting that certain Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and lawyers had corresponded with overseas entities and triggered subsequent public statements, the BASL accused the Minister of making statements that are 'irresponsible', 'misleading' and 'detrimental to the crucial role lawyers play in serving public interest'.

"The justice system provides a vital check and balance and should not be attacked for the sake of political pointscoring", the statement reads.

Attached is the full statement released by the BASL in this regard:

ADA Derana - January 22, 2024

IGP & Minister: BAR Association questions several statements

The BAR Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has raised concerns over the recent statement of Minister of Public Security Tiran Alles concerning lawyers and the appointment of the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

Minister Alles recently claimed that several prominent lawyers had opposed the appointment of Acting IGP Deshabandu Tennakoon who is involved in tackling illegal drug activities in Sri Lanka.

The Public Security Minister further claimed that the lawyers were opposing the appointment as they were representing drug peddlers in court for large sums of money.

Responding to the claims made pertaining to lawyers, the BASL pointed out that the right to represent a client is a professional right which has been safeguarded by law, and any threat to the right, is an attack on the profession at large.

On Acting IGP Deshabandu Tennakoon's appointment, the BASL said the IGP is the Head of the Police Department and has security of tenure in terms of the Removal of Officers Act No. 5 of 2002, due to which it is of utmost importance that the best possible appointment be made to that office.

Issuing a statement, the BASL said it is of utmost importance that the next permanent appointment of Inspector General of Police should be an officer whose service in the police force is exemplary and free of any blemish and able to restore public confidence in the Sri Lanka Police. (NewsWire)

Newswire - December 20, 2023

BASL to caution Alles on crime crackdown

- Notes need for operations to be within legal framework, for proper probes and presentation of arrestees before courts
- Critical of media spectacles
- To respond to Alles' claims on lawyers opposing Deshabandu while representing drug suspects for filthy lucre

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is planning to write to the Minister of Public Security Tiran Alles on the ongoing Islandwide operations conducted by the Police to eliminate drugs and organised crime, and a recent statement made by Alles regarding lawyers, The Daily Morning learns.

Speaking to The Daily Morning yesterday (19), BASL President Kaushalya Nawaratne said that they were currently in the process of finalising a letter to be sent to Alles regarding the Islandwide operations carried out by the Police. "What we are going to indicate is that these things must be done well within the framework of the law. The matters must be properly investigated and the arrestees must be properly brought before courts. We hope to explain these matters with the letter, and media shows are not something that we condone," he said.

He also said that the BASL would also respond to the recent statement made by Alles, claiming that certain lawyers who opposed the appointment of Deshabandu Tennakoon as the Acting Inspector General of Police (IGP) were now appearing for notorious drug traffickers in related cases, and are earning large sums of money.

"The Minister's statement is about the rights of the lawyers. That is also a matter which we will be addressing in the coming days," said Nawaratne.

The Islandwide operation, which was announced a day in advance, was implemented on the instructions of Alles and Tennakoon. The operation was initiated Islandwide on 17 December with the support of other security forces such as the Army and the Police Special Task Force. During the raids conducted in several provinces, particularly the Western and Southern Provinces, thousands of suspects had been arrested for the possession of drugs, and their involvement in various crimes.

Following the retirement of former IGP Chandana D. Wickramaratne, Tennakoon and Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police Nilantha Jayawardena were tipped to be appointed as the IGP, and the possible appointment of one of them as the IGP saw great criticism from several parties including religious leaders, civil organisations, and political parties. The criticisms were due to allegations against Jayawardena over the Easter Sunday terror attacks of 21 April 2019, and those against Tennakoon were against the said terror attacks, an attack carried out by the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna Government supporters on two protest sites on 9 May 2022, and various other matters.

The Morning - 19 Dec 2023

Yukthiya' operation: BASL to apprise Prez & Alles of grave concerns



SL not a Police State: BASL Prez Nawaratne

Claiming that they are seriously concerned about the way the Police works in the case of the islandwide operation "Yukthiya" (Justice) aimed at eliminating drug trafficking and organised crime, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) stated that they would be taking up the issue with all stakeholders including President and Defence Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Public Security Minister Tiran Alles.

The islandwide operation "Yukthiya", which was announced a day in advance, was first launched on 17 December 2023 on the instructions of Alles and Acting Inspector General of Police Deshabandu Tennakoon. It is being launched with the support of other security forces such as the Police Special Task Force and the Army. During raids conducted throughout the country, thousands of suspects have been arrested for possession of drugs and their alleged involvement in various crimes.

Speaking to The Daily Morning yesterday (3), the BASL President, President's Counsel (PC) Kaushalya Nawaratne said that they were concerned about the way the Police works in the case of this operation. "The Police is taking hundreds and thousands of suspects into custody, remanding them, getting detention orders (DO) issued, demolishing properties, and taking over properties. Basically, it is the Police that decides what to do. They cannot do it. This is not a Police State."

Emphasising that there is a process and law to be followed, he said that the operation must go through the legal system. "There are judges in the country and this must go through the legal procedure. We have raised our concerns regarding this not once but many times. But they have escalated this now. We are currently in the process of finalising certain communications to be made with regard to this matter. We will take up these issues not only with the Minister (Alles) but with all other stakeholders including the President."

According to the Public Security Ministry, more than 20,797 suspects have been arrested during the first 14 days of the operation, from 17 to 31 December 2023. As of 31 December 2023, investigations on 1,018 of them were being conducted on DOs while another 1,298 suspects had been referred for rehabilitation programmes.

The Police had commenced investigations on 189 suspects on charges related to illegal assets. A total of 1,625 suspects who had been on the lists of wanted suspects by the Police Narcotics Bureau and the Special Crime Investigation Branch have also been arrested. In addition, the Police had seized properties belonging to suspected drug dealers including houses and vehicles as of the said date, and the approximate value of such was said to be over Rs. 558.5 million.

The morning - 03 Jan 2024

Bar Association complains of spike in arbitrary acts by authorities

The Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), on Friday (05) observed a rise in arbitrary arrests and criminal activity in recent times. The BASL, in a statement, said the legal system provides for investigation, inquiry, trial, and punishment by proper authorities which is the base of democracy and the Rule of Law, and the credibility and transparency of such process must be diligently and fiercely preserved.

Given below is the statement in full: "The BASL firmly condemns the regrettable shooting incident that transpired in Weligama, resulting in the tragic demise of a Police Sergeant and the injury caused to a Sub Inspector from the Colombo

Crimes Division (CCD).

"This incident purportedly occurred within the context of an operation aimed at apprehending a group allegedly engaged in illicit drug activities.

BASL underscores the utmost significance of adhering to due process and upholding the rule of law.

"The police raids, including the demolition of property carried out without valid search warrants and/or valid search orders, whilst flagrantly violating established legal protocols, render them unlawful.

"Such actions not only undermine the bedrock principles of justice, but also erode public confidence in the integrity of law enforcement agencies.

"In terms of Article 13 (4) of the Constitution, no person shall be punished with death or imprisonment except by order of a competent court.

"Hence, even a convicted criminal has a right not to be arbitrarily deprived of his life except in accordance with procedure established by law. "The prospect of extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests presents a deeply disconcerting opportunity for the abuse of power.

"Our collective legacy will harshly judge us if we remain silent in the face of such grave transgressions. It is imperative that the authorities act in full accordance with the law, ensuring that justice is served for both the victims and the accused parties involved. "Moreover, we express deep concern over recent statements made by the Minister of Public Security, which implicate certain lawyers as conspirators with drug offenders.

"The absence of police accountability and the grant of unchecked impunity create an environment where no individual can feel secure. BASL underscores the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and the protection of the rights of all individuals engaged in legal proceedings.

"In light of these disconcerting developments, BASL calls upon the authorities to promptly rectify these issues, hold the responsible parties accountable, and restore public trust in the justice system.

It is only by steadfastly upholding the principles of due process and ensuring the primacy of the rule of law that we can establish a society that is equitable and just for all its members."

The Island - 2024/01/6

BASL lashes out at arbitrary arrests, property demolition

The Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), in a statement on Friday (05) observed a rise in arbitrary arrests and criminal activity in recent times.

It said the legal system provides for investigation, inquiry, trial, and punishment by proper authorities which is the base of democracy and the Rule of Law, and, the credibility and transparency of such process, must be diligently and fiercely preserved.

Given below is the statement in full: "The BASL firmly condemns the regrettable shooting incident that transpired in Weligama, resulting in the tragic demise of a Police Sergeant and the injury caused to a Sub Inspector from the Colombo Crimes Division (CCD).

"This incident purportedly occurred within the context of an operation aimed at apprehending a group allegedly engaged in illicit drug activities.

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"Moreover, we express deep concern over recent statements made by the Minister of Public Security, which implicate certain lawyers as conspirators with drug offenders.

"The absence of police accountability and the grant of unchecked impunity create an environment where no individual can feel secure. BASL underscores the urgent need for transparency, accountability, and the protection of the rights of all individuals engaged in legal proceedings.

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"It is only by steadfastly upholding the principles of due process and ensuring the primacy of the rule of law that we can establish a society that is equitable and just for all its members."

The Island - 2024/01/7

BASL concerned with IGP appointment



The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) expressed grave concerns about the appointment of the new Inspector General of Police (IGP) Deshabandu Tennakoon.

According to the BASL President, President's Counsel Kaushalya Nawaratne, the main issue is the fact that

Tennakoon is a person who has been found guilty by the Supreme Court (SC) of Police torture. Nawaratne told The Daily Morning that in such a context, appointing Tennakoon to the position is a deeply concerning situation. He added that merely because Tennakoon has been appointed as the IGP, opposition against the appointment does not have to come to an end.

"It seems that the SC's decision has been completely ignored (when making the appointment). Making such an appointment when the SC has given such a decision is a very serious matter," he opined, adding that the BASL is in the process of looking into what sort of actions, including legal ones, that can be taken with regard to the appointment against the relevant parties.

The morning - 04 Mar 2024

BASL slams lack of consultation on new laws

To push for post-enactment judicial review of legislation and 'progressive' OSA amendments

Accusing the Government of not properly consulting the relevant stakeholders when new pieces of legislations are introduced, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) stated that they would continue to work towards a post-legislation enactment judicial review process so that any legislation could be challenged or amended even after they are passed in the Parliament.

Speaking to The Daily Morning, the BASL President, President's Counsel (PC) Kaushalya Nawaratne said that the Government should follow proper procedures and consult all stakeholders when a new piece of legislation is introduced, emphasising: "They never consult all stakeholders when they draft new legislation. There are these mushroom committees that make related decisions at their own will, and the Government is introducing new laws. That is one of the main concerns that we have, and we cannot simply ignore it. The Government should consult all stakeholders including the BASL." He also said that the BASL would continue to fight against such shortcomings: "In terms of our law, we don't have a post-legislation enactment judicial review process where a piece of legislation can be challenged before the respective court. Once it is passed, it is passed. We are concerned about it. We will continue to work to have a system in our legal system which enables us to challenge the validity of a certain piece of legislation even after they are passed in the Parliament". Commenting on the Online Safety Act (OSA), No. 09 of 2024, the passage of which has attracted criticism from various parties, Nawaratne PC said that the Parliamentarians themselves had opined that it had not been passed by following the due procedures. "The Supreme Court's (SC) determination on the relevant Bill has not been followed either. These are the reasons as to why it was challenged before the SC (Opposition MP, M.A. Sumanthiran PC challenged the passage of the OSA before the SC). The SC has ruled that it lacks jurisdiction. However, the public agitation against it will not go away. We will certainly take it forward to put pressure on the Government at least to bring progressive amendments to this Act," he said.

Speaking to the media recently, the Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs. and Constitutional Reforms, Dr. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe PC said that 35 Acts had been passed in the years 2022 and 2023 (last year) with the aim of updating laws related to various fields. He added that the legislative updates would continue this year, with 60 Bills expected to be passed. Several such Acts that have been enacted and are to be enacted by the Government such as the OSA and the Anti-Terrorism Bill have attracted criticism from various parties.

The morning - 07 Mar 2024

Minister Rambukwella remanded, admitted to prison hospital

Magistrate orders full probe on one of the biggest scandals in health sector

By Manrpriya Gunasekara

Former Health Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, currently Environment Minister, was yesterday remanded until February 15 over his alleged involvement in the procurement of counterfeit intravenous human immunoglobulin, as the magistrate ordered a string of investigations into the scandal. Soon after the minister was escorted to prisons, he was admitted to the prison hospital.

Maligakanda Magistrate Lochani Abeywickrema issued the order to remand Minister Rambukwella at the Welikada prison. She directed that an investigation be held into persons affected in state hospitals due to the use of substandard medical supplies and that suitable steps be taken. She also ordered a full inquiry into all the drugs imported under the Indian credit line.

All payments by the Health Ministry to the first suspect, Isolez Biotech Pharma AG chairman Hewage Sudath Janaka Fernando, for the supply of medical supplies from May 2022 also must be probed separately, in addition to the inconvenience caused to medical personnel by the use of substandard medical supplies, the Magistrate said.

She ordered that an inquiry be held into whether a forged number had been used for the file or whether the relevant file had been hidden. Also, the manner in which the payments were made should be investigated, the magistrate said.

She observed that the minister could not evade responsibility, saying he was not aware or could not remember.

Minister Rambukwella, in handcuffs, was accompanied by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) officials after being held overnight. On Friday, he provided a statement to the CID for more than nine hours. The CID's Special Investigation Unit Chief, Inspector Jayantha Payagala, submitted a seven-page report to the court with 13 annexures.

Deputy Solicitor General Lakmini Girihagama, making submissions yesterday, told the court that although Minister Rambukwella assumed duties as the health minister taking a pledge to create healthy people, plain water had been provided to the patients as medicine.

The DSG pointed out that a false sense of fear had been created among the Cabinet of Ministers by Minister Rambukwella that the country was facing a severe shortage of medical supplies and that the health system would collapse in the event of a failure to provide supplies in time. She said that

the Cabinet had been compelled by the minister to purchase medicines from unregistered suppliers.

The DSG told the court that Minister Rambukwella had been questioned why the imports had been made at a time when the World Health Organisation (WHO) was due to supply 7,600 vials of immunoglobulin. The response had been that there was doubt about the supplies. However, he had failed to give reasons for the doubt. She said the minister could not get away from the allegations that the taxpayers' money had been misused.

The magistrate inquired as to how the imports took place without a waiver of registration from the National Medicines Regulatory Authority. DSG Girihagama told the court that the former Health Secretary had issued orders to the National Blood Transfusion Services to provide blood plasma and that some bottles had been contaminated with bacteria, thereby affecting several patients.

The DSG also revealed that, while payments should have been made under the Indian credit line, it was Health Ministry funds that had been used.

Attorney Nalinda Indatissa, appearing on behalf of a group campaigning against corruption, said that the disappearance of files was a dangerous trend.

Kaushalya Nawaratna, representing the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, said that an investigation should be carried out on the impact on the people due to the use of substandard immunoglobulin.

Attorney Anuja Premaratne, PC, appearing on behalf of Minister Rambukwella, responded to a question from the magistrate as to why all the information was not included in the Cabinet paper. He said that all information was not usually included in a Cabinet paper.

He said that in September 2022, the country was going through a crisis and that it was the Cabinet that approved the purchases based on a list prepared by the Deputy Director of the Medical Supplies Division. He added that the purchase through the Indian credit line was approved by the then Finance Minister Basil Rajapaksa.

Mr. Premaratne urged the magistrate to take into consideration the medical status of Minister Rambukwella and grant bail. The magistrate observed that it was a decision to be taken by the prison authorities.

The Sunday Times - February 04, 2024

Members who completed 50 years at the Bar

Recognition of Members who completed 50 years at the Bar at the Felicitation Ceremony held on Saturday, 15th March 2024 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED 50 & 60 YEARS AT THE BAR

Chairman : Mr. Faizer Musthapha, PC
Deputy Chairman : Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara
Convenor : Ms. Manoda Mohotti
Members : Mr. Harshana de Silva

Ms. Thiyumi Abeysinghe

It has been the tradition that every year the BASL recognises senior members who have completed 50 years at the Bar at a Felicitation Ceremony.

To achieve 50 years at the Bar is an unparalleled achievement. In order to acknowledge their contribution to the legal profession the BASL recognised these senior members at a Felicitation Ceremony held on 15^h March 2024. 69 members who had completed 50 years during the period 15th March 2023 to 15th March 2024 attended felicitated on this day.

A felicitation dinner was held at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo on 15th March 2024. The evening programmes included the recognition of the members who completed 50 years, with a presantation of a plaque to each of them, cultural items by the S.L. Police Cultural troupe. Cocktails with music by the Police Beat Group and Dinner.

The Chief Guest at the ceremony was His Lordship Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, PC, the Guest of Honor was Hon. Sanjaya Rajaratnam, PC. The Chairman of the committee

Mr. Faizer Musthapha, PC, welcomed all participants and congratulated the recipients.

Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne, PC, President of the BASL and Guest of Honor Hon. Sanjaya Rajaratnam, PC addressed the large gathering of over 300. Mr. xxxxxxxxxx proposed the Vote of thanks.



Members : Mr. Imaz Imthiyaz

Ms. Ridmi Beneragama Ms. Umayangi Indatissa Ms. Amandi Perera Ms. Sierra Amarasiri Mr. Prayeen Wijayaweera

Members who attended the ceremony -

1.	Mr. Chellappah Ambikaipalan	1972-12-11
2.	Mr. Vijayanayake Premasiri Thillekeratne	1973-03-25
3.	Mr. Antony Srinath Manohan Perera, Pc	1973-06-01
4.	Mr. Garumuni Hector Indrapala De Zoysa	1973-06-07
5.	Dr. Dayanath C Jayasuriya, Pc	1973-06-21
6.	Mr. Jayantha Bandujee.l De Silva	1973-06-21
7.	Mr. Sunil Jayantha Gunasekara	1973-06-22
8.	Mr. Asoka Weera Somaratne	1973-06-23
9.	Mr. Basil Nelson De Silva	1973-07-02
10.	Mr. Sithamparapillai Ruthiramoorthy.	1973-07-02
11.	Mr. Jacob Joseph	1973-07-03
12.	Mr. W. D. Dulsanthi Weerasinghe	1973-07-03
13.	Mr.mapriya Naomal Goonewardena	1973-07-09
14.	Ms. Sreema Kumari Perera	1973-07-09
15.	Ms. Puvanam Nadarasa	1973-07-11
16.	Ms. Manohari Ramanathan	1973-07-13
17.	Mr. Wilbert De Silva Ratnaweera	1973-07-26
18.	Mr. Joseph Charles	1973-08-01
19.	Mr. Vijitha Gamini De Alwis	1973-08-03
20.	Mr. Jpum Murugesu Suntharalingam	1973-09-14
21.	Ms. Shirani Edna Weeraratna	1973-10-03
22.	Mr. Aluthge Don Francis	1973-10-08
23.	Mr. Selliah Punniamoorthy	1973-11-01
24.	Mr. W.h.p.n.punniamoorthy	1973-11-26
25.	Ms. Lakshi Abeyasekera	1973-12-01
26.	Mr. Janaka Ruwanpura	1973-12-01
27.	Mr. Sepala Tilak Amarasuriya	1973-12-03
28.	Ms. Sunethra Preethimali Seneviratne	1973-12-03
29.	Ms. Dharani Shirantha Wijayatilake	1973-12-03
30.	Mr. Upali Samaraweera	1973-12-04
31.	Mr. S. Mandaleswaran	1973-12-05
32.	Mr. S. Mitrakrishnan	1973-12-05
33.	Ms. C. R. Mitrakrishnan	1973-12-05
34.	Mr. Dhamsiri Fonseka	1973-12-05
35.	Mr. V. S. Satchithanandam	1973-12-07
36.	Mr. Shanmuganathan Bagirathan	1973-12-08
37.	Mr. Upali De Almeida	1973-12-10
38.	Mr. H. A. Seneviratne	1973-12-10
39.	Mr. Kirthi Sanath Abeyratne	1973-12-11
40.	Mr. Piyadasa Liyanasekara	1973-12-13
41.	Mr. Thillaiambalam Jegatheesan	1973-12-14



42.	Mr. Mohamed Firouz Hussain	1973-12-14	59.	Mr. George Palitha Ajithkumara De Silva	1974-01-01
43.	Ms. Lilamani Lakshmi Dharmaratne	1973-12-16	60.	Mr. Lal D. Wijegoonawardana	1974-01-01
44.	Mr. Gananathan Jeyakumar	1973-12-18	61.	Mr. Mahindasena Salpitikorala	1974-01-03
45.	Mr. K. Nadesan	1973-12-19	62.	Mr. L. B. Kiriella	1974-01-31
46.	Mr. Chandrasena Tudor Dharmadasa	1973-12-20	63.	Mr. W. A. Nandadeva	1974-02-14
47.	Ms. Gita Ramani Rajapakse	1973-12-21	64.	Mr. Ignatiun Robin N. Fernandopulle	1974-02-19
48.	Mr. Upali Samaraweera	1973-12-04	65.	Ms. Charmaine Kiriella	1974-02-21
49.	Mr. Sarath D. Wijesinghe, PC	1973-12-21	66.	Ms. Shanthakumari Devadasan	1974-02-28
50.	Ms. Srimathi Gajaweera	1973-12-06	67.	Mr. Prathiraj Paranawithana	1974-03-11
51.	Ms. Mangalambikai Kanapathipillai	1973-07-09	68.	Mr. Nallathamby Srikantha	1974-03-27
52.	Ms. Preethimali Abeysekera	1973-12-03	69.	Mr. P. G. Charitha Nanayakkara	1974-03-29
53.	Ms. M. Celine Swarnamalie Vilathgamuwa	1973-07-09		·	
54.	Ms. Nimalini Ambikaipalan	1973-12-11	70.	Mr. Dassooki Mohamed Mohamed	1964-01-20
55.	Ms. Dulcie Kalyani Abeygunawardena	1974-01-01	71.	Mr. Indunil Senani De Silva	1964-03-26
56.	Mr. Dijean Lea De Saram	1974-01-01	72.	Mr. M. Faisz Musthapha, PC	1965-06-01
57.	Ms. Prashanthi Seneviratne (Mendis)	1974-01-01	73.	Dr. Jayantha M. Swaminathan	1964-12-09
58.	Mr. Harischandra Wijayatunga	1974-01-01	74.	Mr. R. C. Gooneratne	1964-11-09
			75.	Mr. Mary Winston Perera, PC	1965-10-17

































Continuing Legal Education

- BASL Webinars
- BASL Online Certificate Courses
 - Certificate Course in Intellectual Property Law
 - Certificate Course in Cross Examination
 - Certificate Course in Para Legal Activists
 - Certificate Course in Company Secretarial Practice
 - Certificate Course in Taxation
 - Certificate Course in Forensic Medicine And Science
- National Law Conference 2024
- Seminars and Workshops

BASL Webinars

2023/2024 Webinar Series

A series of webinars were also conducted on zoom organized by the BASL Seminars Committee of 2023/2024, headed by Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Secretary BASL. It covered many topics from laws relating to presidential pardon to recent developments to land law. The episodes were conducted in all languages. Distinguished guests from many areas of law shared their knowledge in these Webinars and added immeasurable value for members of the BASL.















BASL ORC WEBINAR



All BASL Webinars can be accessed and viewed anytime through the BASL **Youtube** Channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/BARASSOCIATIONOFSRILANKA and also through the Members Area of the BASL **Website**: www.basklk

BASL invites and encourage members to make use of this opportunity for Continuous Professional Development.



BASL Certificate Courses - Online

The following Certificate Courses was conducted by the BASL

- Certificate Course in Intellectual Property Law
- Certificate Course in Cross Examination
- Certificate Course In Para Legal Activists
- Certificate Course In Company Secretaryial Practice

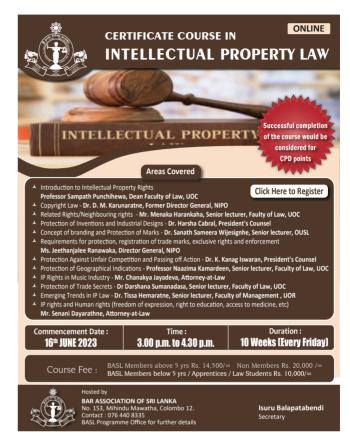
Online Certificate Course In INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

The BASL online Certificate Course in Intellectual Property Law commenced on the 16th of June, 2023 with over 104 participants and generated revenue of approximately LKR 1.2 million. The duration of the course was 10 weeks.

The eminent resource persons were Professor Sampath Punchihewa, Dean Faculty of Law, UOC, Dr. D. M. Karunaratne, former Director General, NIPO, Mr. Menaka Harankaha, Senior lecturer – Faulty of Law, UOC, Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC, Dr. Sanath Sameera Wijesignhe, Senior lecturer, OUSL, Ms. Jeethanjalee Ranawaka, Director General, NIPO, Dr. K. Kanag Iswaran, PC, Professor Naazima Kamardeen, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UOC, Mr. Chanakya Jayadeva, AAL, Dr. Darshana Sumandasa, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UOC, Dr. Tissa Hemaratne, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Management, UOR, Mr. Senani Dayarathne, AAL.

Online Certificate Course In CROSS EXAMINATION

Bar Association of Sri Lanka to meet the expectations of practical knowledge introduce a third practical course on criminal aspects of Cross-Examination. Due to the practical nature of the course, participant was limited allowing everyone to address the courts. Every participant was allowed to express their views and Mr. U R De Silva, President Counsel who conducted the entire course using. The total number of participants was 33. Cross-examination course started on 30th June 2023 and concluded by 25th August 2023.





- සහභාගී වන නීතිඥ මහත්ම මහත්මීන්ට හරස් පුශ්න ඇසීමට අවස්ථාවක් ලබාදීම.
- ඌනතාවයන් ගරු අධිකරණයේ අවධානයට ලක්කරන ආකාරය.
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- විත්තිවාචකයන් ගොඩනැගීම.

යනාදී අංශයන් කෙරෙහි අවධානය යොමු කරමින් හරස් පුශ්න ඇසීමේ හැකියාවන් උසස් මට්ටමකට ගෙන ඒමට දරන ලබන පුයන්නයකි.



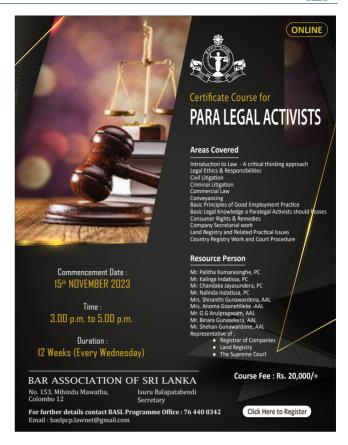
suru Balapatabendi (Secretary) baslı Bar Association of Sri Lanka or registration please contact - 076 4 408 342/ 0112 447 134

baslpck.lawnet@gmail.com www.basl.lk

Online Certificate Course In PARA LEGAL ACTIVISTS

The online Certificate course for Paralegal Activists commenced on the 16th of November 2023 with 35 participants and generated revenue of LKR 700,500. The duration of the course is 12 weeks.

The resource persons are Mr.Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC, Mr.Kalinga Indatissa, PC, Mr. Rehan Almeida, AAL, Mr.Nalinda Indatissa, PC, Mrs. Shiranthi Gunawardena, AAL, Mrs. Anoma Goonetilleke, AAL, Mr. G G Arulpragasam, AAL, Mr. Binara Gunasekera, AAL, Mr. Shehan Gunawardene, AAL, Mrs. L K S Dharamakeerthi, AAL, Land Registry & Registrar of Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.



Online Certificate Course In COMPANY SECRETARIAL PRACTICE

Online Certificate Course in Company Secretarial Practice commenced on the 17th November 2023 with over 153 participants and generated revenue of approximately LKR 1.8 million. The duration of the course is 10 weeks.

The resource persons are Mr. Chandaka Jayasundere, PC, Ms. Vinodini Amarasekera, AAL, Mr. Paul Ratnayeke, AAL, Ms. Dilki Gunawardena, AAL, Ms. Dinusha Mirihana, AAL, Mrs. L. K. S. Dharmakeerthi, AAL, Ms. Geetani Athurupana, AAL, Mr. Sumith Rathnayake, AAL, Mr. Pramith Rajapaksha, Company Secretary, Commercial Bank.



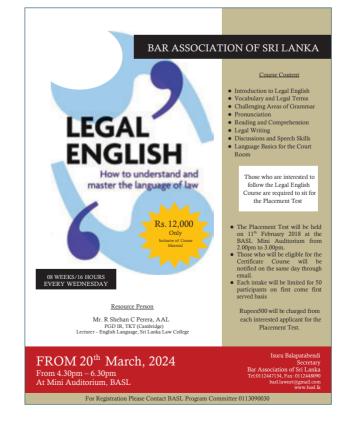
Online Certificate Course In TAXATION



Online Certificate Course In FORENSIC MEDICINE AND SCIENCE - 2024 Schedule



Online Certificate Course In LEGAL ENGLISH





National Law Conference 2023

Chairman : Mr. Faiszer Mustapha PC, PC

Deputy Chairperson: Ms. Sandamali Chandrasekera

Convenor : Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara

Members : Ms. Navoda Wijeratne

Ms. Shaheeda Barrie Ms. Lakshika Rathnayake Mr. Randika Mudanayake

Mr. Vishwa de Livera Tennakoon

Mr. Imaz Imthiyaz Ms. Puimi Hullugalle Mr. Pandula Wanniarchchi

Mr. Ramla Mohamed

The National Law Conference (NLC), organized under the auspices of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, forming the largest formal assembly of legal practitioners (approximately 300 participants) in Sri Lanka was held on 2nd to the 4th of June, 2023 at the Grand Hotel Nuwara Eliya.

His Excellency the President, Hon. Ranil Wickremesinghe was the Chief Guest for the NLC 2023/2024.

The Conference had five sessions, with speakers and panels comprising of business leaders, international legal luminaries, members of the judiciary, president's counsel, senior legal practitioners and academics.

THE FOCUS OF THE NLC 2023/2024

In view of the current situation of Sri Lanka, the NLC 2023/2024 focused primarily on striking a balance between economic stability and democracy. The sessions highlighted the following areas:

- Ease of Doing Business and the legal obstacles faced by the principal business sectors in Sri Lanka.
- Public Law and the Right to Information.
- · Gender Equality and related rights.
- Alternative Dispute Resolution and Commercial Mediation.
- · Criminal Law and its developments.

The sessions consisted of plenary sessions and parallel sessions, with the first session, the session on the Ease of Doing Business within a conducive Legal Environment, being chaired by His Excellency the President Ranil Wickremesinghe and was opened to the Business Sector Leaders as a platform to highlight the issues/obstacles faced by the respective business sectors in conducting

Members : Ms. Ridmi Beneragama

Ms. Dilhara Jayasekera Ms. Raneshnie Perera Mr. Harshana Nanayakkara

Ms. Ornella Silva Mr. Amila Perera

Mr. Kunchana Samarakoon

Ms. Manoda Mohotti

Mr. Eshan Sandungahawatte

Ms. Lilani Ganegama Ms. Nikini Mapitigama Ms. Deshani Bandara Ms. Sierra Amarasiri

and developing their business and to identify and propose solutions to increase the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka.

The other sessions focused on the Right to Information, Public Law, Gender Equality, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law and its developments.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Check in- 2nd June, 2023 after 2 pm at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya. Inauguration – Commenced from 7pm with Cocktails, followed by dinner.

Sessions commenced from 10 am on 3rd June, 2023 with the inaugural session (Ease of Doing Business in Sri Lanka) presided over by HE the President and members of the business community on the way forward for Sri Lanka.

The above session was followed by lunch. Thereafter, two parallel sessions commenced from 2.30 pm to 4.30pm, which was followed by tea. The Gala Dinner commenced from 7.30pm with the entertainment provided by the prominent band, "Black". Sessions for Sunday the 4th of June, 2023 commenced from 9.30am onwards and was followed by lunch at 12.30pm

Check out: 1.30pm.

HOTEL DETAILS

The Grand Hotel Nuwara Eliya was reserved entirely for the Conference with a booking for 300 pax, for two days on full board basis.

THE SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES THAT WERE OFFERED TO THE SPONSORS:

Participation at the Inauguration and the Ease of Doing Business session in Sri Lanka within a conducive legal framework.



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CONCLUSION

With a surplus of Rs. 19,448,520.98, the NLC 2022/23 was one of the most successful events conducted by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

ADDRESS BY MR. KAUSHALYA NAWARATNE, PC, PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA AT THE NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE 2024

Your Excellency the President

Your Lordship the Chief Justice,

Hon. Minister of Justice,

Members of the Diplomatic community,

Hon. Attorney-General,

Your Lordships and ladyships of the Supreme Court Your Lordship the President of the Court of Appeal, Your Lordships and ladyships of the Court of Appeal,

Hon. Judges of the High courts, District courts and the Magistrates courts,

President's Counsels,

Members of the Management Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka,

Conference Chairman Mr. Faizer Musthapha President's Counsel

My colleagues at the Bar

Distinguished invitees,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, I warmly welcome all of you present here. It's an honor to be graced by the presence of such an accomplished distinguished gathering.

The National Law Conference is an annual event of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, which is much sought after event by many.

Traditionally the National Law Conference is dedicated to discuss topics which are prelevant to the day today legal practice. However, this time, the National Law Conference 2023/2024 has taken a different approach. As you can see, we

have dedicated the conference to discuss the national interest of the country and the role of the legal community for a better future. In this endeavor we have engaged with several stakeholders.

Furthermore, you may have experienced the approach adopted by the Bar Association in reaching the Conference venue, which we organized with the intention of preparing the mindset of the participants and the resource persons from different spheres to have a novel approach, re-build networking and to meet complex challenges in different challenging environments.

As I mentioned earlier, it is the need of the hour that the legal community is bounded with an undeniable obligation to take a pivotal role to direct the country through this challenging times.

It is no secret, that our country is facing many challenges politically and economically as never before. Therefore, it is imperative to have a vibrant legal system and an independent Judiciary devoid of any interference for the maintenance of the Rule of Law and to take the country to the expected direction. It is also imperative to have a visionary disciplined leadership which respects democracy and ensure the protection of the rights of the citizens of this country.

The alleged bribery and corruption, lack of transparency and accountability, inefficient government service, archaic laws and failure to identify and embrace the new developments in other parts of the world including new technology, are only a few matters which have hindered the progression of our country. Though the economy of our country is now based on investments, tourism etc. it would be prudent at this

juncture to consider whether the environment of our country is conducive for investments and investors. The arbitrary imposition of rules, regulations, including the introduction of laws, without a proper consultative process, has raised serious concerns, which in our opinion, has no place in a progressive system.

It is in this context, we the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, decided to facilitate a consultative process amongst all stake holders, including the political leadership and leaders of the Business community, and spearhead the efforts to create a well-designed strategy based on a vibrant legal system, to achieve the development targets of our country. The laws which will fulfil the needs of the current requirements of our country and are in keeping with international obligations and standards would be necessary for us to be competitive in an ever-evolving global landscape.

Therefore, perhaps for the 1st time in the history of our profession, we have dedicated the national law conference to discuss and identify, amongst all stake-holders, the areas of law which should be revamped or modified, and to assist and, where necessary, pressurize the law makers to introduce to our legal system laws which would ensure the sustainable development of our country and move Sri Lanka forward from a developing nation to a developed nation.

Looking at the topics to be discussed at the conference, I am confident that the conference will undoubtedly bring a positive outcome for the benefit of the country and to our legal system.

I invite all of you especially the non legal participants to actively participate the programs lined up at the conference.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the organizing committee of the National Law Conference, headed by its vibrant chairman Mr. Mustapha PC and his committee for their splendid efforts in curating and coordinating this event. Further I wish to thank the deputy president, the Secretary, the treasurer and the Asst.Secretary of the Bar Association for the instinct support given to the conference committee to organize a conference to this magnitude.

I have no doubt that you will find the sessions to be extremely enlightening and educational and that you will thoroughly enjoy the times of fellowship the committee have put in place for you.

Have an enjoyable and pleasant evening, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you.



IMPROVING THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN SRI LANKA: LEGAL, POLICY, AND PROCEDURAL SOLUTIONS - compiled pursuant to the NLC 2023



IMPROVING THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN SRI LANKA: LEGAL, POLICY, AND PROCEDURAL SOLUTIONS

NLC 2023/24

6/3/23

Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya

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- 1 Background
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- 5 Existing Responses/ solutions
- 6 Suggested approaches for improvement
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INTRODUCTION

The ease of doing business in a country is dependent on a conducive legal and regulatory environment to establish and operate a business in the country. The *Business Ready* project of the World Bank 2023 (which replaced the Doing Business index) requires governments to be more responsive in enabling a dynamic private sector in order to improve the investment climate of a country. By making their economies business-ready, Responsive Governments are better able to move towards sustainable development.

This Paper examines the legal, policy, and procedural challenges that impede improved productivity, and a progressive, investor-friendly business climate in Sri Lanka and offer suggestions for improving the business climate, based on discussions which transpired during Plenary Session of the National Law Conference (NLC) 2023/24 titled "Ease of Doing Business Within a Conducive Legal Framework".

The National Law Conference 2023/24 was held at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka from 02-04 June 2023. This Conference, organized under the auspices of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, stands as the largest formal assembly of legal practitioners in Sri Lanka. With its rich tradition and esteemed reputation, the conference brings together legal professionals from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange knowledge, and shape the future of the legal profession. With a focus on fostering knowledge exchange, stimulating intellectual discourse, and promoting collaboration, the conference serves as a platform for exploring and addressing critical issues in the legal field. The Plenary Session comprised speeches by distinguished judicial and legal professionals and sectoral views (from industry leaders representing sectors such as banking and

financial services, telecommunication, petroleum and energy, apparel, hospitality and leisure, retail, transportation, property and construction, and tea export) on necessary legal, policy, and procedural changes for economic recovery and business vitality.

BACKGROUND

Economic mismanagement which has marked the entire history of Post-independent Sri Lanka led to the unprecedented economic challenges Sri Lanka faced in the recent past and the resultant loss of capital and business closures. In light of these circumstances, it is necessary to attract investments, including foreign investments in order for the country to revive itself. At the same time, Sri Lanka's strategic geo-political location offers attractive opportunities as a commercial and financial hub, which are yet to be fully explored. However, foreign investors appear to be reluctant to invest in Sri Lanka, due to the lack of an investor-friendly environment. Further, local businesses are also impacted by various obstacles to doing business such as lack of incentives, which have resulted in them moving some of their business overseas. In order for investments to deliver economic benefits it is also necessary to create a vibrant export market and move away from the production of goods to a service driven economy.

While many factors impact creating an investor-friendly business environment, legal and regulatory frameworks which offer certainty, simplicity of procedure, expeditiousness, and efficacy are crucial in reassuring investors and attracting much needed investments. Similarly, effective and expeditious dispute resolution mechanisms, and lawyers and adjudicators with expertise in commercial law and attuned to business realities are critical to ensure a business-friendly environment in Sri Lanka. It is noted that the legal and regulatory framework and relevant institutions in Sri Lanka pose several challenges to creating a business-friendly environment in the country, as highlighted by the distinguished speakers and participants of the Plenary Session.

LEGAL, POLICY, AND PROCEDURAL CHALLENGES

Legislative and regulatory challenges

The legislative and regulatory environment in Sri Lanka poses challenges, which are either sector specific or of general applicability. Accordingly, some laws are archaic and do not reflect changes to society. Other laws, and even more recent amendments are complex and not reflective of practicalities or ground realities pertaining to the commercial sector. Further, the law-making process including drafting of laws and regulations, encounter significant delays. The following examples were offered by sectoral representatives who shared

their views at the plenary session of the NLC.

- Section 3D of the Powers of Attorney Ordinance, inserted by way of Powers of Attorney (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 2022 hinders Banking businesses as it permits only state institutions to execute irrevocable powers of attorney (PoA). Ordinarily, banks obtain irrevocable PoAs from customers as protection against default. Taking away this precautionary measure adversely impacts the recovery powers of banks.
- Even though registered companies have perpetual succession, single shareholder companies with only that shareholder as the sole director registered under the Companies Act No.07 of 2007 cause issues to banks when the sole shareholder passes away. Banks face delays in the recovery of monies owed to them as they have to wait for the successful conclusion of testamentary proceedings. This has an impact on the liquidity of bank assets.
- the ceiling of land referred to in the Land Reform Law limits collateral-based lending of banks, especially in relation to lands owned by companies and used for commercial purposes.
- The Local Treasury Bills Ordinance does not provide for nominations in the event of the demise of the holder, which hampers the efficiency and effectiveness of the government securities market.
- As the Mortgage Act does not require obtaining the consent of the first mortgagee bank at the time of obtaining a secondary mortgage with another bank, mortgagors double finance themselves on the same property, despite not having the required repayment capacity. This practice results in banks being unable to speedily replenish their capital when the mortgagor defaults payment as it requires lengthy negotiations with the other bank/s.
- Even though the Debt Recovery (Special Provisions) Act provides a summary procedure for the recovery of debts, it does not require mandatory compliance. Therefore, debt recovery actions take an excessive amount of time to conclude. Therefore, it is necessary to amend the legislation to require mandatory following of summary procedure, to expedite the proceedings.
- The 17-step process included in the Land Acquisition
 Act for the acquisition of privately held property for
 development projects is unnecessarily lengthy and may
 even result in the expiration of proposed projects.
- Delays in promulgation of the regulations of the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Act No.11 of 2021.
- Monopolistic conduct of building material suppliers has resulted in excessive increases in construction costs, in the face of which the Consumer Affairs Authority (CAA) Act has proved to be ineffective.
- Archaic and restrictive labour laws adversely impact investments. Existing labour laws restrict women's

- participation in the workforce by limiting the number of hours of work and times of work etc. These laws also do not encompass new and emerging working arrangements such as the gig economy. Labour laws do not permit termination even in instances of non-performance, even outside the blue-collar strata, which takes a toll on the efficiency and productivity of businesses. Protectionist laws prevent the issuance of work visas to foreign nationals, which are especially necessary for growth industries such as tourism.
- Certain laws relating to land ownership are also outdated or restrictive. Laws restrictive foreign ownership of property should be revisited. At the same time, recent amendments to the notarial laws requiring fingerprints and photographs should be revisited in the context of the digital age.
- Requiring local construction contracts to adhere to Construction Industry Development Authority (CIDA) requirements have made the contracting process cumbersome and results in delays.
- The lack of regulatory guidelines for Radio Access Frequencies have prevented national radio access sharing among network operators. This necessitates individual purchases of RAN Equipment, which are expensive and individual service providers incur high costs of maintenance of equipment.
- Export promotional campaigns conducted via overseas agents are not entitled to tax deductions, as the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) does not recognize the direct overseas agent as an independent third party to whom the promotional expenses are being paid. Such third parties are considered direct customers and as such, disallows the deduction of export promotional expenses from the tax. This results in exporters losing the benefit of creating that particular export revenue.
- The risk allocation in the standard Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) of the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) has rendered the energy sector virtually un-investable. For illustrative purposes, the following risk transfer table compares the Standard Risk Allocation to that of the Risk Allocation in the PPA of the CEB:

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PPA) & RISK TRANSFER

The current PPA for renewable energy investment does not appropriate allocate & share risks to the power generator and the contracting entity (CEB/Govt). This is highlighted in the table below:

Power Purchase Agreement		Standard Risk Allocation		St. Power Purchase Agreement		
		Project Off-Take		Project Off-Taker Company		
Construc	tion Risks	1	×	-	×	
Operational Risks	Currency Risk	×	-	~	×	
	Payment Risk	×	1	-	×	
	Operation Risk	1	×	-	×	
Common Asks	Change in Law	×	~	4	×	
	Political Force Majeure	×	~	~	×	
	Expropriation Termination	×	4	~	×	

Source: IFC, 2019, Sri Lanka Energy InfraSAI



Accordingly, foreign investors are expected to bear a disproportionate portion of the risk, which unfortunately no foreign investor will accept, especially when there are alternative investment destinations.

Policy challenges

Lack of consistency and certainty of policies was an overarching theme, presented by the participants at the plenary session, in relation to policy challenges impacting the ease of doing business in Sri Lanka. Most importantly, the absence of a cohesive national development policy which transcends partisan politics and ensures continuity even in times of political instability was highlighted. Both foreign and local investors necessarily expect certainty and continuity of policy, which ensures the safety of their investments and guarantees the safety of returns despite regime changes. Sudden tax policy changes and frequent interest policy changes have led to uncertainty in these policies. Changing interest rates have also led to market volatility. However, the Governor of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka was of the view that stability in the interest policy or the economy cannot be expected in the near future as such changes are necessary to maintain the economy. In addition, lack of consistency and certainty in relation to policies of individual government entities also inconveniences the business sector which may lead to loss of revenue, loss of profits, business relationships and such other issues.

Procedural challenges

Even where the legal and regulatory framework is conducive, procedural factors pose challenges to businesses in Sri Lanka. Law's delays, lack of expertise in commercial law, bureaucratic red-tape, and corruption were some of the key concerns.

The Judiciary and dispute resolution processes

Several challenges identified at the Plenary Session, relate to the judiciary and the dispute resolution processes in Sri Lanka. Those are:

The enforcement of a contract in Sri Lanka takes approximately 1300 days, which also entails cumbersome procedures and considerable costs. This raises concerns regarding the utility of the Commercial High Court (CHC) and the Arbitration procedure. It transpired that around 6000 cases are currently pending before the CHC despite the establishment of 04 Courts to adjudicate on commercial matters. Delays in CHC procedures have resulted in delays in the dispensation of justice thus defeating the objective of establishing the CHC. This perhaps could be attributed to the fact that during the early days of the CHC, the judges appointed to the court very well conversant in commercial law. At the same time, increasing the

threshold of disputes which could be filed in the CHC has undermined the policy of the then government in introducing the Commercial High Courts. Moreover, it has resulted in such cases being heard before the District Court by judges who do not have sufficient expertise in commercial matters.

- Further, the arbitration process has also proved unsuccessful due to extreme delays and costs involved in the process.
- Virtual court hearings have proved to be less than successful due to the fact that it has not assisted in reducing the cost of and time spent on litigation.
- Inordinate delays in dispute resolution in relation to land disputes have affected many industries including construction, tourism etc.
- Disputes relating to the infringement of Trademarks can take up to 10 years before final resolution.
- Appointment of judges to political positions, such as diplomatic postings, immediately after retirement raises concerns regarding the independence of the judiciary. An independent judiciary is an important factor in attracting investor confidence.

- Bureaucratic issues and corruption

In addition to the above, bureaucratic processes, delays, lack of expertise, and corruption at different levels of governance also create obstacles to a business-friendly environment. Following is a list of such issues identified during deliberations:

- In relation to tenders, it is a known fact that many legal errors in the tender guidelines have led to litigation. This is due to tender guidelines been drafted and evaluations being carried out by technical evaluation committees comprising persons well conversant in the subject but are not lawyers. Such litigation may even bring projects to a standstill. The appeals process regarding tenders is also ineffective.
- Bureaucratic processes in relation to obtaining licenses and approvals necessary to commence businesses which officials are sometimes reluctant to deviate from, leads to inordinate delays. Delays also occur due to the absence of initiative in employing technology to expedite government processes and to introduce paper-less procedures. For instance, an application for a Trade Mark, which is a manual process takes between 4-6 years to register, while the registration of a company takes only 2 weeks, facilitated by the introduction of the electronic application process. Further, the lack of requisite training, knowledge, and expertise of officials in the subject matter has

also resulted in delays. Complex documentation and processes

- While the business community is equally culpable for facilitating public sector corruption, the expectation of some form of gratification in tender procedures, licensing, registration, and permits have become commonplace. High levels of bribery and corruption in the country acts as a disincentive for Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).
- Personal interests of individuals occupying decisionmaking positions in regulatory bodies lead to conflicts of interest. However, no formal process exists for the declaration of potential or actual conflicts of interest.
- Minimal coordination between government departments such as the IRD, Sri Lanka Customs, and the Central Bank of Sri Lanka etc. responsible for facilitating a business and investment-friendly environment has caused delays, duplication, and high costs in relation to doing business for the commercial sector. The lack of Standard Operating Procedures (SoP), integrated electronic information sharing systems, or guidelines for inter-agency coordination and information sharing has adversely affected businesses. For instance, it transpired that there is a 5-year backlog in clearing VAT deferment returns and issuing VAT credit vouchers to exporters to clear their liability at Sri Lanka Customs due to the lack of formal information-sharing between the IRD and Sri Lanka Customs.
- Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Corporation (SLECIC) has denied export insurance coverage to numerous legitimate exporters in the recent past, only granting coverage to a limited number of companies. SLECIC has thus failed to fulfil its objective of supporting and promoting Sri Lankan exports.

EXISTING RESPONSES/ SOLUTIONS

The government and certain entities have already responded to some of the challenges identified above through various measures. Some examples are:

- In the absence of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and a vibrant virtual economic centre in South Asia, the establishment of the Port City and introducing necessary legislation to operationalize certain aspects of the project, affords a multitude of opportunities for Sri Lanka to attract foreign investments.
- Ability to enable economic expansion and revival through the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, which provides several avenues. For instance, compromise with creditors, even though a rarely used provision, provides for a meeting of creditors to strategize on how to revive a business.

- Utilizing such provisions will dispense with the need for litigation.
- Use of alternative debt instruments such as Sukuks will optimize available assets of the state through a mechanism of disciplined debt, without impacting the ownership of such assets. Having already recognized the principles of Islamic Banking through the Banking Act, Sri Lanka has the requisite legal foundation to introduce these instruments. Alternative bonds is a hybrid solution which brings together the features of debt and equity in the form of an asset-based security.
- Changes to the immigration policy which introduced the 10-year resident visa scheme for foreign nationals will have a positive impact on the economy including the construction market, healthcare sector, and investments. However, this visa category should be further promoted in foreign destinations.
- The Bank of Ceylon (BOC) has contributed to the restoration of the economy by way of reviving businesses through a novel approach. Instead of attempting recovery of mortgages, the bank has provided support through its Business Revival and Rehabilitation unit for companies to sustain viability. Companies supported by the bank have revived successfully and are currently contributing to the economy.
- The SLECIC was established under the Sri Lanka Export Credit Insurance Act No.15 of 1978 as a statutory body that falls under the purview of the Ministry of Finance. The purpose of the Corporation is to provide export credit insurance for Sri Lankan exporters which protects them against export related risks.

However, it is necessary to appreciate that the above identified measures are in various stages of development and implementation. Hence, these require further improvement in order to contribute meaningfully to a business and investorfriendly environment.

SUGGESTED APPROACHES FOR IMPROVE-MENT

This paper identifies an extensive list of suggestions proposed by the participants of the Plenary Session to improve the legal, policy, and institutional landscape in order to make the country more business and investment-friendly, which in turn is expected to improve the economic climate of Sri Lanka. The suggestions are categorized thematically.

Improving the Legal and regulatory framework

Several suggestions for the improvement of the legal and regulatory framework are noted. Those are:

 Introduce legislation to regulate government tender procedures. Cabinet memoranda pertaining to tenders are

- proposed to be vetted by a panel of legal experts to avoid errors in tenders and ensuing delays in tender procedures.
- Provide for a "cooling off period" for retired judges before
 which they cannot accept any political appointments postretirement. Accepting such positions immediately after
 retirement is detrimental to the public perception about
 the independence of the judiciary.
- Introduce bankruptcy laws to give businesses which are not viable or sustainable an opportunity to liquidate assets and pay as much debt as possible.
- Streamline the legal framework pertaining to investment in consultation with the judiciary and the bar.
- Publish Papers for comment before drafting laws in relation to fiscal matters.
- Introduce civil law procedures which are clearer, as more and more common law countries currently do.
- Explore the feasibility of introducing specialist legislation to deal exclusively with investors, with restrictive judicial access.
- Legislate for an exception to the Powers of Attorney (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 2022 which will permit banks to continue obtaining irrevocable PoA from customers in favour of the bank as a precautionary measure.
- Amend labour laws to:
 - Enable more women to join the workforce such as removing the restrictions placed on the number of hours of work and times of work, introducing provisions in relation to safe transportation and childcare.
 - Permit termination of white-collar employees on grounds of non-performance in order to preserve efficiency and productivity in the work place.
 - Provide for new and emerging work arrangements such as gig work.
- Repeal protectionist laws which restrict the issuance of work visas to foreign nationals, which are especially necessary for growth industries such as tourism.
- Amend land related laws to:
 - Remove restrictions placed on foreign ownership of immovable property in Sri Lanka.
 - Revisit the recent amendments to the Notaries Ordinance which require fingerprints and photographs, in light of the digital age.
 - Remove CIDA requirements for local formats of construction contracts.
- Introduce a proper Social Security net for employees through an amendment to the Employees' Trust Fund Act No.46 of 1980, which would allow employees to claim their benefits whenever they have the most need for it.
- Amend the Registered Stocks and Securities Ordinance in order to enable alternative debt instruments. The

- amendment required is simple, namely the inclusion of the words "Premium or any other returns" immediately after the word "interest" and the inclusion of the term "Asset backed securities" in addition to general obligation bonds. These amendments will help Sri Lanka access many Middle Eastern countries with excess liquidity, thus expanding the avenues of investment in Sri Lanka which would otherwise be confined to traditional interest based avenues. Following the UK experience of the London urban regeneration project' which raised funds through Alternative Bonds, Sri Lanka too could focus on prioritized infrastructure development projects through this means.
- Enact legislation, including provisions similar to the "Singapore Clause", in order to provide for commercial mediation for commercial disputes as an Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism.
- Enact a National Cyber Security Act and operationalize the Personal Data Protection Act in order to begin the digitization of the economy. Further, establish the National Cyber Security Authority to protect personal data of consumers.
- Draft laws to prohibit anti-competitive business practices.
- Ensure updated Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism legislation, which are vital prerequisites of an economic climate open to foreign investments.
- Devise industry specific Custom regulations to deal with different cargo separately.
- Abolish the Municipal Tax levied for the display of hoardings within the premises of the business if the hoardings display their own product or services.
- Adopt guidelines for national radio access sharing among network operators.
- Prescribe regulations to ensure investors that the foreign currency brought into the country can be taken out freely.
- Provide specialist legislation for Public- Private Partnerships (PPP) to establish a clear institutional framework for developing, procuring, and implementing PPPs.

Enhancing the efficacy of dispute resolution mechanisms

The following measures were proposed to enhance the efficacy of dispute resolution mechanisms:

- As the independence, transparency, and efficiency of the judiciary are important for the revival of the economy, it is necessary to ensure these characteristics of the judiciary, with appropriate checks and balances.
- Revert to the old practice of training judges who are experienced in commercial law to hear commercial cases in the DC.
- Revise recruitment criteria for judicial positions. IQ and EQ tests for judicial appointments are necessary to ensure

- well-balanced individuals are recruited.
- Appointment of judges with requisite knowledge of commercial law to the Court of Appeal and to the Supreme Court to preside over appeals emanating from commercial disputes.
- Ensure legal assistance is obtained in the preparation of tender documents to avoid challenges and legal loopholes.
- Enhance the capacity of the Sri Lanka Law college and the Judges Training Institute, as institutions vital to produce competent lawyers and judges.
- Hold Bench and bar meetings to give lawyers the opportunity to discuss issues with the Chief Justice.
- Modernize the dispute resolution mechanisms, including the court system through the introduction of paperless transactions; use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for electronic-filing and collection of statutory dues and payments in matters such as maintenance; and strict case management controls.
- Consider increasing the number of judges and/ or establishing more courts to clear the backlog of cases and expedite the disposal of recent cases. It is also necessary to consider the utility of appointing specialist judges or separate judicial bodies for the adjudication of commercial disputes.
- As the main expectations of investors viz-a-viz the legal system are certainty of outcomes and expeditiousness, consider limiting adjournments and setting timelines for the disposal of cases. For instance, Singapore concludes matters within 18 months.

Strengthening the institutional framework and capacity

A business- ready environment requires a strong institutional framework and adequate capacity to perform necessary functions. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to:

- Set up an institution as an alternative to the Board of Investment (BoI) by law to handle matters relating to investments, which will be responsible to Parliament and will report back to Parliament on progress of projects etc.
- Explore means of expediting decision-making processes, such as through simplifying procedures and delegation of powers.
- Train institutions to leverage technology and move towards digitization which will improve the efficacy and effectiveness of institutions. Digitization will also remove the human interface from many transactions, which will be of value in eradicating corruption.
- Establish a simplified, single-window system for exports; importation of material for value-addition and re-export; and importation of raw material for the export industry, with adequate precautionary measures against misuse. This will enhance revenue for the country while fostering a conducive environment for exporters.

- Creation of a Tax Ombudsperson/Independent Panel to inquire into the unfair treatment of the corporate tax payer.
- Establishment of an entity such as an Arbitration Centre or a Mediation Board singularly concentrating on PPP related disputes. This will assist in avoiding loss of feasibility of projects, of revenue generation, and of business partners due to delays in dispute resolution mechanisms.

Ensuring progressive and consistent Policies

Consistency and certainty in policy, interpretation, and implementation are important aspects of assuring a business and investment friendly environment. This requires:

- Adopting a cohesive national development policy which transcends partisan politics and ensures continuity even in times of political instability. In order to ensure this, it is necessary to designate Parliament as the entity responsible for national policy-making and remove such powers from the Cabinet.
- The simplification of tax policy and the enhancement of tax relief for entities which bring in foreign exchange.
- Unbundling the Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
- Adopting zero-tolerance policies regarding corruption and encouraging the private sector to adopt such policies at sectoral or institutional level.
- Providing incentives for cashless and paperless transactions.
- Diversifying the export market by utilizing the services trade surplus to promote the exportation of modern services, i.e. Human capital, which will also address the issue of brain-drain in the country.
- Providing long term incentives for export industries and export revenues based on level of value-addition. A set of 20-30 year long, guaranteed and irreversible benefits can be granted to any domestic or foreign investor who is committed to building exports. This will increase Sri Lanka's credibility as a consistent policymaker that supports the export industry.
- Adopting a policy of promoting local manufacturing by discouraging the importation of finished products, which will also reduce the trade deficit and encourage local employment.
- Easing import restrictions to allow raw material necessary for exports to be imported.
- Adopting a policy of diversifying Sri Lanka's Trade ties by exploring avenues to strengthen trade ties with such countries as the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and South Korea.

Enabling FDI and restructuring

FDI allows access to foreign markets and therefore growth of the economy; to cutting-edge technology; and internationally accepted practices in relation to

compliance, infrastructure development in line with Climate change technology etc. There is a strong positive correlation between FDI inflows and GDP growth rates, indicating that FDI can contribute to increased economic output such as new job opportunities, reduced unemployment, improved living standards, upskilling, and future employability. At present, there are FDI opportunities in a large number of fields in Sri Lanka such as, Energy, Technology, Automotive, Transportation, Shipping, Oil & Gas, Tourism, Telecom, Commodities, Entertainment, Retail, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Mining & Minerals, BPO/ BPM, and Real Estate. At the same time, restructuring or privatization, which may also attract FDI, increases competition in the market which paves way for better products, better wages, better purchasing power, and better pride and self-respect. It does not leave space for complacency and strives to better utilize resources. It also reduces unemployment. Therefore, in addition to the relevant suggestions in the above sections, this calls for the:

- Provision of an enabling environment by way of ensuring consistency and predictability of the legal, policy, and regulatory framework, and ease of dispute resolution (See sections above for suggestions in relation to improving consistency and dispute resolution mechanisms).
- Introduction through appropriate regulations, a simple

- Hard Currency indexed tariff even payable in LKR to assist investors mitigate currency risk.
- Establishment of an appropriate framework to ensure FDI adhere to sustainable practices and respect local communities and the environment.
- Revision of the tilted risk allocation in the PPA of the CEB in favour of investors.

CONCLUSION

Despite many challenges, Sri Lanka has a vibrant and thriving business community. They play a pivotal role in generating tax revenue and fostering innovative technological advancements, infrastructure development, and improving standards of living. However, traditionally, the legal community has viewed the corporate sector with suspicion. Moving forward, a symbiotic relationship between the legal and business communities is necessary in order to achieve economic prosperity and social advancement. This requires the legal community to be attuned to business realities and consider the business community equal partners, and for the corporate sector to strictly adhere to the Rule of Law. The legal community and legislators must also be responsive to the needs of the business community and provide legal, policy, regulatory, and institutional solutions necessary for a business and investment- friendly economic climate.













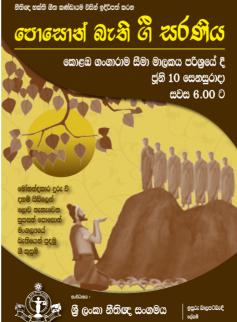






Religious observances during Poson Poya









Seminars and Workshops

LEGAL WORKSHOP SERIES

The following Legal Workshops were conducted during the year organised by the BASL Seminars Committee.













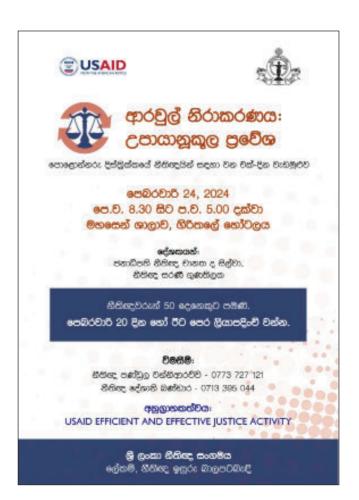






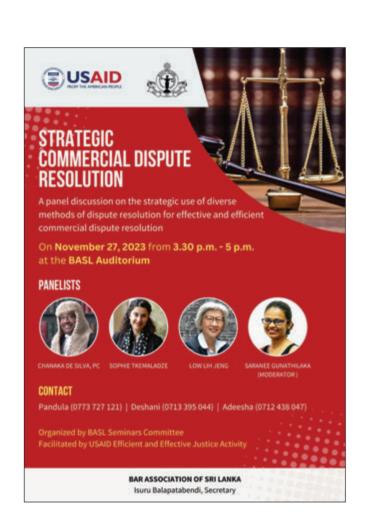


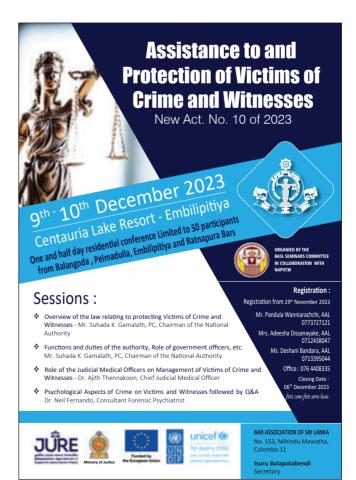












"ගුරුදා සාර සභාව" SEMINAR SERIES

Conducted by Continuing Legal Education Committee







බදු ගිවිසුම් මත භුක්තිය ලබා ගැනීමේ සහ සුලු හිමිකම් නඩු කටයුතු වල උත්තරවාද සැකසීම හා නඩුකර මෙහෙය වීම





කම්කරු විනිශ්චය සභා පුතිපාදන, ගෘහස්ථ විනය පරීක්ෂණ සහ සේවය අවසන් කිරීම





පස්වන _{අත්ත}ර් කිුයාකාරී සැසිය

Rs. 1,000/-

එකම කරුණක් පිළිබඳ විවිධ දෘෂ්ටි කෝණයන්...

අධිකරණයකදී චිත්තියේ නීතිඥවරු කුමක් කළ යුතුද?

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේතු

නීතිඥවරුන්ට සිදුවන වැරැදීම්

සාක්ෂිකරුවන් හඳුනා ගැනීම

වගන්තීන්හී නොමැති නීතිය



දේශකයන්

- නීතිඥ ගාමිණි අල්විස්
- නීතිඥ නිව්මන් හෙන්රි
- නීතිඥ නලින් වීරකෝන්
- නිකිඥ නලින් චන්දික ද සිල්වා

BASL අඛණ්ඩ නීති අධතපන කම්ටුව විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලදී

සම-සභාපති - බිනර ඒ. ගුණසේකර සම-සභාපති - අමල් ඒ. රන්දෙනිය උප සභාපති - ලසිත කණුවනආරච්චි උප සභාපති - ජගත් හාල්පන්දෙනිය

විමසීම් : 0112387477 (Ext. 106) (කාර්යාලය) 077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ) info@basl.lk

හපදිංචිය : https://bit.ly/3RyB58n

ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය

ගුරුදා සාර සභාව දැනුමෙන් පෝෂිත නීතිඥ පුජාවක් උදෙසා **්**ශවන අන්තර් මුගකාරී සැසිය

ණය ආපස අය කර ගැනීමේ පනත ආශිතව සිවිල් සහ අපරාධ නීතියේ භාවිතය

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේත

- 1990 අංක 2 පනත යටතේ නඩ
- පැමිණිලි පාර්ශවයේ සහ විත්ති පාර්ශවයේ
- ණය ආපසු අය කීරිමේ පනත යටතේ මහේස්තාත් අධිකරණ හා මහාධිකරණ වල නඩු පැවරිය හැකිද ?
- 1990 අංක 4 පනතේ මූලික අංග සහ භාවිතය
- පරාටේ කියාදාමයට එරෙහිව පාර්ශ්වයන්ට පවතින පුතික්ර්ම

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

- නීතිඥ කෞෂලා<mark>ය නවරත්න මහතා</mark>
- නීතිඥ චතුර ගල්හේන මහතා
- නීතිඥ ප්‍රියන්ත අලගියවන්න මහතා
- නීතිඥ අමිල පල්ලියගේ මහතා

Rs. 1,000/-

2023 ඔක්තෝම්බර් 05 වන බුහස්පතින්දා

3.9. 2.30 - 3.9. 5.00

ශුී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ශුවණාගාරයේදී

සම සභාපති - විතර ඒ ගණසේතර සම-සභාපති - අමල් ඒ. රන්දෙනිය උප සභාපති - ලසිත කණුවනආරච්චි උප සභාපති - ජගත් භාල්පන්දෙනිය

0112387477 (Ext. 106) (කාර්යාලය) 077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ)



ශී් ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය



ගුරුදා සාර සභාව

දැනුමෙන් පෝෂිත නීතිඥ පුජාවක් උදෙසා

7 වන අන්තර් මු්යාකාරී සැසියු

කම්කරු විනිශ්චය සභා පුතිපාදන, ගෘහස්ථ විනය පරීක්ෂණ සහ සේවය අවසන් කිරීම

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේත

- කම්කරු සභාවක අධිකරණ බලය
- උත්තරවාද
- සාක්ෂි ආඥා පනතෙහි බලපෑම
- ඉලෙක්ටුානික පටිගත කිරීම්
- විදාුත් තැපැල් පණිවුඩ සහ කෙටි පණිවිඩ සාක්ෂි ලෙස ආවේගා කිරීම
- හේතු විමසීමේ සිට විතය පරික්ෂණයක අවසානය දක්වා ගමන
- සේවකයන්ගේ සේවය අවසන් කිරීම

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

- ගරු කුසුම් පතිරණ මැතිනිය
- ෯෯ඤ ඉසුරු ලක්පුර මහතා
- නිසිකු පුදීප් සිල්වා මහතා
- _{නිතිඥ} පසිඳු සිල්වා මහතා

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2023 ඔක්තෝම්බර් 12 වන බුහස්පතින්දා

<u>ප.ව. 2.00 - ප.ව. 5.00</u>

ශී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ශුවණාගාරයේදී

BASL අබණ්ඩ නීති අධතපන කමිටුව විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලදී

සම-සභාපති - බිනර ඒ. ගුණසේකර සම-සභාපති - අමල් ඒ. රන්දෙනිය

උප සභාපති - ලසිත කණවනආරච්චි

සම-කැදවුම්කරු - රජිත හතුරුසිංහ සම-කැදවුම්කරු - යුවින් මතුගම

සහකාර - පියුම් හුලුගල්ල කැදවුම්කරුවන් නිකිනි මාපිටිගම්

077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ)

<u>ශී්</u> ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය

0112387477 (Ext. 106) (කාර්යාලය)

ගුරුදා සාර සභාව

8 වන අන්තර් මුයාකාරී සැසියු

ඉඩම්වල අයිතිය පැවරීමේ නීතිය සහ ඉන් පැන නඟින ඇතැම් නෛතික ගැටළු

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේතු

- පවතින නීති රාමව තළ ඉඩම් වංචා වැලැක්වීම හෝ අවම කිරීම කෙසේ කලහැකිද?
- ඉඩම් වංචාව මත පවරන නඩුකරවල පාර්ශවකරුවන්ගේ ඔප්පු කිරීමේ භාරය

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

- ජනාධ්පති නිතිඥ ජගත් විකුමනායක මහතා
- නිතිඥ ලසිත කණුවනආරච්චි මහතා
- යිස්කු චමත් ජයසේකර මහතා

Rs. 1,000/-

2023 ඔක්තෝම්බර් 26 වන බුහස්පතින්දා

3.8. 2.30 - **3.8. 5.00**

ශී් ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ශුවණාගාරයේදී

ති - බිනර ඒ. ගුණසේකර ි - අමල් ඒ. රන්දෙනිය

ති - ජගත් හාල්පන්දෙනිය

- රජිත හතුරුසිංහ - යවින් මතගම

0112387477 (Ext. 106) (කාර්යාලය) 077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ)

ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය

ගුරුදා සාර සභාව

දැනුමෙන් පෝෂිත නීතිඥ පුජාවක් උදෙසා

9 වන අන්තර් කියාකාරී සැසියු

අපරාධ නඩු හා අදාල නීතිමය කරුණු

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේතු

මහේස්තුාත් සහ මහාධිකරණ නඩුවල දී...

- වුදිනයකු විත්තිකුඩුවේදී හදුනා ගැනීම සහ නඩුවකදී හදුනා ගැනීමේ පෙරෙට්ට සටහන් වල අදාලක්වය.
- පෙරෙපු පහත පල අදලකය. පොදු වේකත්ව හා පොදු අරමුණ සහ පැමිණිල්ලේ ඔප්පු කිරීමේ හාරය මෙන්ව විත්තියේ කාර්යභාරය අපරාධ නඩුවක මුලික පුශ්ත සහ හරස් පුශ්ත ඇසීමේදී විත්තියේ නීතිඥ කාර්යභාරය
- චෝදනාවක අඩු වරදක් සදහා වන විත්තිචාචක ලිංගික වැරදී හා සම්බන්දයෙන් වන කැමැත්ත සහ වශංගයෙන්
- ලියෙක වෙලද යා කත්තෙල්කෙන් චෝදි ඇති කැම්මන්ති මන්දුවා හා සම්බන්ධ වැරදි වලට අදාල තනි හා අනනා සන්තකය මෙන්ම මානයික අංශය මන ඇති වන බලපෑම

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

- විශාමක ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණ විනිසුරු සිසිර ද ආඛෲ මහතා
- ජනාධිපති නිතිඥ අනුජ පේමරත්න මහතා
- අප්‍රයේ අප්‍‍ය අප්‍‍ය අප්‍ය අප්‍ය
- . _{අතිශ} අමිල පල්ලියගේ මහතා



2023 නොවැම්බර් 16 වන බුහස්පතින්දා

5.8. 2.30 - 5.8. 5.00

ශී් ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ශුවණාගාරයේදී

BASL අබණ්ඩ නීති අධතාපන කම්ටුව විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලදී

සම-සභාපති - බිනර ඒ. ගුණසේකර

සම-සභාපති - අමල් ඒ. රන්දෙනිය

උප සභාපති **- ලසිත කණවනහරච්චි** උප සභාපති - ජගත් හාල්පන්දෙනිය

සම-කැදවුම්කරු - රජිත හතුරුසිංහ

සම-කැදවුම්කරු - යුවින් මතුගම සහකාර - පියුම් හුලුගල්ල කැදවුම්කරුවන් නිකිණි මාපිටිගම

0112387477 (Ext. 106) (කාර්යාලය) 077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ) info@basl.lk ලියාපදිංචිය> https://bit.ly/3SoptF6





2023 අංක. 29 දරන සිවිල් නඩු විධාන සංගුහය (සංශෝධන) පනත පූර්ව නඩු විභාග නව පුතිපාදන

2023 දෙසැම්බර් 05 වන අඟහරුවාදා ප.ව. 2.00 - ප.ව. 5.00

ී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ ශුවණාගාරයේදී

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේතු

CLE - SPECIAL SEMINAR 01

- . 2023 අංක 29 දරණ පනත මගින් සිවිල් නඩු කාර්ය පටිපාටියට
- පූර්ව නඩු විභාගයට පෙර ගතයුතු පියවර
- ඉලෙක්ටොනික ආකාරයෙන් වන ලේඛන ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම
- ඉලෙක්ටොනික ලේඛන සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම, ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම, හෙළිදරවු කිරීම පිලිබඳව ඉදිරිපත් කරන ඉල්ලීම
- ලේඛන සම්බන්ධ ආරක්ෂක ආඥා
- පූර්ව නඩ විභාග සම්මන්තුණය

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

- හිටපු අභියාචනාධිකරණ විනිසුරු
 ආචාර්ය රුවන් පනාන්ද මහතා
- නීතීඥ කෞපලාය නවරත්න මහතා (සභාපති ශී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය)
- නීතීඥ රසික දිසානායක මහතා
- නීතීඥ ලසිත කණුවනආරච්චි මහත

ශීු ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය

Rs. 2,000/-

https://bit.ly/47P8aBt

BASL අඛණ්ඩ නීති අධහපන කම්ටුව (CLE) විසින් සංවිධානය කරන ලදී

සම සභාපති - හිතර ඒ. ගුණසේකර සම සභාපති - අමල් ඒ. රත්දෙනිය උප සභාපති - ලසිත කණුවනඇරවීවී උප සභාපති - ජනත් හාල්පන්දෙනිය සම කැදුවුම්කරු - රජන හතුරුසිංහ

සම-කැදවුම්කරු - යුවින් මතුගම සහතාර - පියුම් නුලුගල්ල කැදවුම්කරුවන් - නිකිණි මාපිරිගම

විමසීම් :

076 4408335 (කාර්යාලය) 077 207 5864 (නීතිඥ රජිත හතුරුසිංහ) info@basl.lk



මහේස්තාත් සහ මහාධිකරණ නඩුවකදී දැනසිටිය යුතු පොදු නීතී සිද්ධාන්ත සහ සිවිල් නඩු විධාන සංගුහයේ මෑත කාලීන සංශෝධන පිළිබඳ කතිකාවත

ශනිදා සාර සභාව 🚍

දැනුමෙන් පෝෂිත නීතිඥ පුජාවක් උදෙසා

2024 ජනවාරි 20 වන සෙනසුරාදා මාරවිල Moon light Hotel හිදී

අපරාධ සැසිය - පෙ.ව. 9.00 - ප.ව. 12.30 සිව්ල් සැසිය - ප.ව. 2.00 - ප.ව. 5.00

ආවරණය කරන ක්ෂේතු

- . අපරාධ නීති සැසිය : ~~ මහාධිකරණ නඩුවකදී දැනසිටිය මහේස්තුාත් සහ යුතු පොදු නීතී සිද්ධාන්ත
- සිවිල් තීති සැසිය : සිවිල් නඩු විධාන සංගුහයේ මෑත කාලීන සංශෝධන පිළිබද කතිකාවත

විද්වත් මණ්ඩලය

සිවිල් නීති සැසිය :

- සවල නාන සැසය :
 ජනාධිපති නීතිඥ කෞලෙසය නවරත්න මහතා (සභාපති ශුී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමය)
 ජනාධිපති නීතිඥ වසන්න ගජනායක මහතා

නීතීඥ ලසිත කණුවනආරච්චි මහතා

අපරාධ නීති සැසිය :

- අපටාධ නින සැසය : = විනිසුරු සිසිර ද ආබෲ මහතා (ව්ශුාවෙන් ශ්‍රේෂ්ඨාධිකරණ විනිසුරු) = ජනාධිපති නීතිඥ අනුජ ජෙවරකින මහතා = නීතිඥ අම්ල පල්ලීයගේ මහතා = නීතිඥ අම්ල පල්ලීයගේ මහතා

<mark>ශී ලංකා නීතිඥ සං</mark>ගමය

නො. 153, මිහිදු මාවත, කොළඹ 12

ඉසුරු බාලපටබැඳි ලේකම්

Rs. 4,000/-

2024 ජනවාරි 15 සඳුදා

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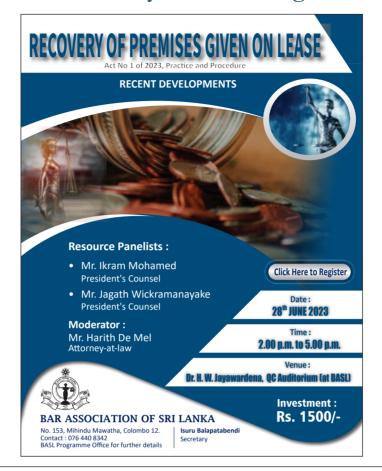
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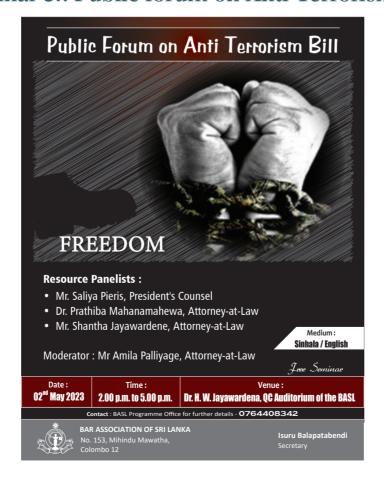
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Seminar on Recovery of Premises given on Lease



Seminar on Public forum on Anti Terrorism Bill



BASL Publications in 2023/2024

BASL PUBLICATIONS IN 2023/2024

BASL Diary



BASL Calendar

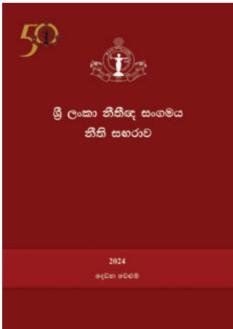


BASL Newsletter (E-version)

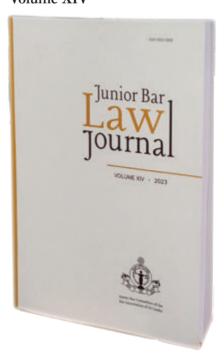


BASL Law Magazine - Sinhala (E-version)





Junior Bar Law Journal Volume XIV





PROGRAMMES IN OUTSTATIONS

Legal awareness programmes were conducted in several outstations bars at which the President and the management committee participated as resource persons. These programmes wear mainly held for the public, government officials and school children. The most recent was held at the Tissamaharama Provincial Council where the Divisional Secretariat staff were addressed. Similar programmes were held in Jafna, Badulla, Matale, Marawila and Galagedara. The President and management committee in participated in sports and welfare programmes at the Law Faculty of Colombo and Law College Sri Lanka. The following are noteworthy events - In Panadura and Kandy, at the Workshops on Civil Procedures were held; in Badulla, for the Launch of the Uva Law Journal and the Uva Sports Festival ; in Galle for the Launch of Galle Law Journal Vol. 7 and for the Felicitation of Mr. Ananda Wickramasekera PC who completed 60 years in practice; and in Ratnapura for the Felicitation of Mr. Sanath Abeyratne who completed 50 years in practice.

Out station Bar Committee meetings were held every month prior to the Bar Council meeting where Branch Presidents and Secretaries raised their concerns and requests to the BASL. Most of the issues were resolve with the intervention of the BASL with His Lordship the Chef Justice, the Judicial Services Commission and the Ministry of Justice.

Legal awareness programme - Tissamaharama 13th March 2024





Donations of New Law Reports

Branch	Quantity		
Galle	80 Books		
Matale	81 Books		
Polonnaruwa	80 Books		
Mawanella	80 Books		
Kalutara	80 Books		
Gampaha	80 Books		
Matara	81 Books		
Nugegoda	81 Books		
Wellawaya	81 Books		
Deheathakandiya	81 Books		
Welimada	81 Books		
Bandarawela	81 Books		
Bibile	81 Books		
Jaffna	81 Books		
Mallakam	81 Books		
Samanthurai	81 Books		
Kebathigollawa	81 Books		
Kandy	81 Books		
Maho	81 Books		
Ampara	76 Books		
Vavuniya	65 Books		
Monaragala	76 Books		
Dambulla	16 Books		
Point Pedro	16 Books		
Navula	16 Books		

Donations of Chairs

Branch	Quantity
Matara	25 Chairs
Hettipola	20 Chairs
Anuradhapura (Kebithigollewa Law Library)	10 Chairs
Valachchena	15 Chairs
Mawanella	20 Chairs
Bibila	15 Chairs
Aththanagalla	15 Chairs

හෙට්ට්පොල නිතිදෙ, සංගමය HETTIPOLA BAR ASSOCIATION

2024-01-23

මු ලංකා සිහිදෙ සංගමය අංක-153, මිහිදු මාවත, **തെത്ര** 12.

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30/01/2024



KANDY BAR ASSOCIATION

හෙතුවර නීතිඥ සංගමය

கள்டி சட்டத்தரளிகள் சங்கம் LAW LIBRARY, Court Complex, William Gopallawa Mawatha, Kandy.

Hon. Secretary, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, No.153, No.153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12.

We are grateful for the following sets of the NLRs that you have provided to the Kandy Bar Association Earlier, we received NLR 1 - 16, and now we have an additional 65 NLRs.

The list is provided below.

17.	N.L.R.	34.	N.L.R	51.	N.L.R	68.	N.L.R
18.	N.L.R	35.	N.L.R	52.	N.L.R.	69.	N.L.R
19.	N.L.R	36.	N.L.R	53.	N.L.R.	70.	N.L.R
20.	N.L.R.	37.	N.L.R	54.	N.L.R.	71.	N.L.R
21.	N.L.R	38.	N.L.R	55.	N.L.R.	72.	N.L.R
22.	N.L.R	39.	N.L.R	56.	N.L.R	73.	N.L.R
23.	N.L.R	40.	N.L.R	57.	N.L.R	74.	N.L.R
24.	N.L.R	41.	N.L.R	58.	N.L.R.	75.	N.L.R
25.	N.L.R	42.	N.L.R	59.	N.L.R.	76.	N.L.R
26.	N.L.R	43.	N.L.R	60.	N.L.R	77.	N.L.R
27.	N.L.R	44.	N.L.R	61.	N.L.R	78.	N.L.R
28.	N.L.R	45.	N.L.R	62.	N.L.R.	79 (1)	N.L.R
29.	N.L.R	46.	N.L.R	63.	N.L.R.	79 (2)	N.L.R
30.	N.L.R	47.	N.L.R	64.	N.L.R.	80.	N.L.R
31.	N.L.R	48.	N.L.R	65.	N.L.R.		
32.	N.L.R	49.	N.L.R	66.	N.L.R.		
33.	N.L.R	50.	N.L.R.	67.	N.L.R		

Once again, we are extremely grateful for providing these NLRs and extend our heartfelt gratitude to you

TICENSEM!

Mr. Sunanda Udalagama T.P. 077-4747961

W.M.S.D. Weerakoon Hon. President BAR ASSINCTATT Hon. Secretaryly Bar As Mr. W.M.S.D.W

> T.P. 0777-833996 sunilweerakoon222@gmail.com

KANDY BAR ASSOCIATION T.P. 0777-861272

lawyersoffice443@gmail.com



මාතර නීතිඥ සංගමය Matara Law Society

மாத்தறை சட்டத்தரணிகள் சங்கம் The Law Library, Court Complex., Labeema, Kotawila.

2024.02.02 මාගේ අංකය:- PE/2024/02/SIN/92

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ඒ සම්බන්ධව කඩිනමින් මැදිහත් වී නියා කර ඔබතුමා ඇතුළු නිළධාරී මණ්ඩලය විසින් ලබා දුන් එක් පුටු 25 අප වෙත ලැබුනු බවක්, එය අපගේ සාමාජිකයන් විසින් ඔවුනට අනයවනයට පැවති පුටු නිතය පියවා ගනිමින් එය භාවිතා කරන බවක් ඔබතුමාගේ ගෞරවණීය අවධානය ඒ වෙත යොමු කිරීම කෙරෙහි අපගේ ගෞරවණිය ස්තුතිය මෙලෙස පුද කර සිටිමු

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Patrons Tina Dinanayake haritha Nanayakkara dvin Vidanapathiran President

Secretary

Treasurer

නීති පුස්තකාලය Law Library

දිසා/මහේස්තුාත් අධිකරණය - කැබිතිගොල්ලැව District /Magistrate Court Kebithigollewa

Kaushalya Nawarathna PC President, Bar Association of Sri Lanka, Mihindu Mawatha,

2024-01-30

Heartfelt Appreciation for the Donation of Visitor's Chairs to Kebithigollewa Law Library

We extend our sincere gratitude to you and the entire management committee for the generous donation of visitor's chairs to the Kebithigollewa Law Library. Your support is a significant contribution to the advancement of legal education in our legal community.

The addition of these chairs enhances the comfort and accessibility of our library space, creating an inviting atmosphere for all who visit. Your commitment to providing resources for members of Kebibligollewa Bar is truly commendable and greatly appreciated.

We want to express our appreciation to President Kaushalva Nawarathna PC, Secretary Isuru Balapatabedi AAL and each member of the BASL Management Committee for your dedication to supporting educational initiatives. Your generosity makes a lasting impact on our ability to serve the legal community.

Thank you once again for your thoughtful donation, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in promoting legal education in Kebithlgoilewa Bar. And also we hope your grateful future contribution & support for our professional progress. Thank you.

Sunta. ka Indrajith AAL ibrarian obithigoflawa Law Library

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Librarian - Januka Indralith AAL - 071 0877633

Assistant Librarian - Thilini Hasamali AAL - 678 3424116

BASL Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The year 2024 signifies the 50th anniversary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), a momentous occasion for the legal community in Sri Lanka. To commemorate this significant milestone and raise awareness among the general public, the Bar Association's Executive Committee has diligently organized a wide array of events and activities throughout the entirety of the year. The primary goal of these endeavors is to foster closer ties among legal professionals within Sri Lanka and their counterparts in foreign jurisdictions.

The Golden Jubilee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka calls for a series of meaningful and impactful events that honor this historic milestone in Sri Lankan society. To this end, the Bar Association has meticulously planned a range of programs. The festivities will commence with religious observances encompassing all faiths.

Additional initiatives include the release of a commemorative stamp and first-day cover, an international conference with the participation of esteemed delegates from Law Asia, IBA, the UK Bar Council, the American Bar Association, and the Commonwealth Law Association, as well as various regional bar associations. Furthermore, a series of seminars and workshops are scheduled to enhance the professional capabilities of lawyers, with a particular focus on young lawyers who are regarded as the future of the legal community. Embracing emerging areas of expertise such as the utilization of Artificial Intelligence in legal procedures, commercial mediation, and arbitration will be addressed to stay abreast of global trends. The Bar Association has also established Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the UK Bar Council and the Bar Council of India to facilitate collaborative activities in these domains.



BASL Post Office and Bookshop



Dr. H. W. Jayawardena QC Auditorium







English Tea Shop

A Tea Kiosk was set up at the secretariat under the sponsorship of the English Tea Shop together with Equipment and Supplies of a variety of tea flavors. This facility is greatly appreciated by the members and the public who visit the secretariat and enjoy a refreshing cup of flavored tea.



BASL Staff Members



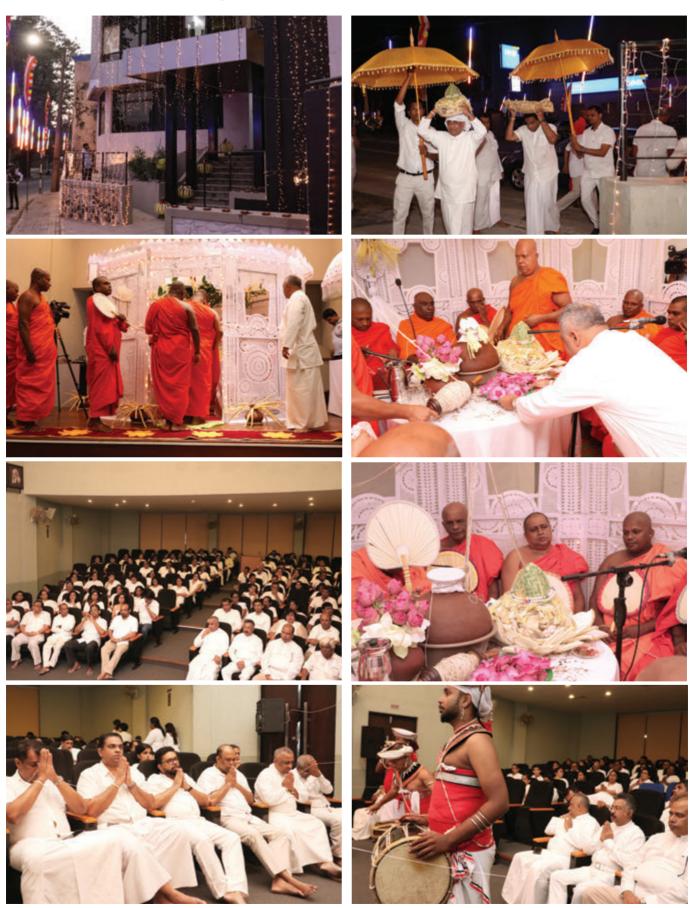
Renovations in prograss





BASL Pirith Ceremony

13th January 2024 at the Main Auditorium followed by Alms-giving to Mahasanga on 14th January 2024 at the Mini Auditorium organised to coincide with the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the BASL







BASL Multi-Religious activity

For blessings on the BASL and all of its'members at the BASL auditorium 2nd March 2024





















Issue of First day cover and stamp

First day cover and stamp will be issued on 23rd March 2024 at the Bar Council Meeting.



Commemorative stamp



First day cover

Golden Jubilee Memorabilia



National Law Week 2023



National Law Week and Legal Awareness

FOSTERING A LEGAL COMMUNITY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAW ABIDING SOCIETY

Chairman: Mr. U. R. De Silva, PC

Deputy Chairmen: Mr. Shehan Goonawardena

Convenors: Mr. Piyumal Herath

Asst. Convenors: Mr. Eshan Sandungahawatta

Executive Summary:

National Law Week 2023, an annual event dedicated to promoting public awareness and understanding of the legal system, unfolded as a pivotal platform for legal professionals, policymakers, and the general public to engage in discussions, workshops, and activities aimed at fostering a better understanding of the law. This comprehensive legal report delves into the key themes, events, and impacts of National Law Week 2023, providing a detailed analysis of its significance in the legal landscape.

Introduction:

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) is the apex professional body of the legal fraternity in Sri Lanka, with a membership of approximately 23,000 Attorneys-at-Law. The National Law Week is one of the main events in Bar Association which is considering the importance of the development of legal awareness and the knowledge of various stakeholders such as general public, state service and government departments, school children and other professional bodies in Sri Lanka. The National Law Week, a highly anticipated event is organized annually by the BASL as a legal awareness program and legal aid clinics sharing platform between the general public and the legal sector and also develop the professional skills and knowledge of the members of the legal fraternity.

National Law Week, celebrated annually, serves as a beacon for legal education and awareness. In 2023, the event took place from 25th of September to 01st of October and witnessed an array of activities spanning seminars, panel discussions, and community outreach programs. The overarching goal was to demystify legal concepts, empower citizens with legal knowledge, and facilitate a deeper connection between the legal system and the community it serves.

The objective of this year's National Law Week is to raise awareness amongst citizens of their rights, privileges, and remedies and to create a law-abiding society for sustainable development. In a society where many citizens are excluded from seeking justice due to nurturing respect for justice and the rule of law among our citizens. The Law Week 2023 will include various services to the public and the highlight

Supported by: Ms. Nadee Sarathchandra, Ms. Pradeepa Kaluarachchi, Hiruni Ruberu, Ms. Malki Hennadige, Ms. Maneka Wickramanayake, Mr. M.A.A.M Behshad, Adithya Weerasekara, Ms. Rehani Chandrasiri, Ms. Chawindya Weerasinghe, Nipun Mudalige

of the week's program is the free legal clinic intended to be held at Hultsdorp and at several locations island-wide where members of the BAR will provide free legal advice on a wide range of legal issues to the public. The legal clinics are designed to increase access to justice among ordinary citizens and motivate citizens to seek redress through credible, quality, and free legal advice.



Key Themes:

National Law Week 2023 centered around several key themes, reflecting contemporary legal challenges and developments. These themes included:

 Access to Justice: Discussions revolved around enhancing accessibility to legal services, addressing barriers to justice, and promoting inclusivity within the legal system.

- Technological Advancements in Law: The impact
 of technology on legal processes, from e-filing to
 artificial intelligence in legal research, was a focal point.
 Experts explored the benefits, challenges, and ethical
 considerations of integrating technology into legal
 practice.
- Environmental Law and Sustainability: In response
 to growing environmental concerns, National Law
 Week featured discussions on legal frameworks for
 environmental protection, climate change litigation, and
 the role of law in fostering sustainability.
- Legal Education and Professional Development: The week-long event also emphasized the importance of ongoing legal education, professional development, and the evolving nature of legal careers.

Events and Activities:

National Law Week 2023 boasted an array of events designed to cater to various audiences. Some notable activities included:

Legal Clinics:

Law firms and legal aid organizations organized pro bono legal clinics, offering free legal advice to the community. This initiative aimed to bridge the gap between legal professionals and those who may not have access to legal services.



Mock Trials and Moot Court Competitions:

Educational institutions organized mock trials and moot court competitions, providing students with practical experience and insight into courtroom procedures.



Public Lectures:

Renowned legal scholars and practitioners delivered public lectures on topics ranging from constitutional law to emerging areas such as space law, captivating audiences and encouraging discourse.



Community Outreach Programs:

Legal organizations collaborated with community groups to conduct outreach programs, educating the public on their legal rights and responsibilities.

1. Legal Awareness Program for all Army Officers in Sri Lanka























2. Legal Awareness Program for all State Servants in Ratnapura District



3. Legal Awareness Program in Kurunagala for School Children









4. Debating Program for School Children in Matara







5. Legal Aid Clinic in Colombo for all Citizens





















6. Workshop on Commercial Mediation for the Corporate sector. This workshop was attended by representatives, both legal and executive (non legal), from many esteemed corporate establishments in the metropolis. The session was sponsored by the Asia Foundation in Sri Lanka





7. Military Forum. A forum for Military and Police personnel was organized at the BASL Secretariat, in conjunction with National Law Week, as part of the BASL outreach programmes. The Forum was conducted in conversational style where the Tri-forces and Police personnel could talk to and exchange ideas with the eminent President's Counsel such as Dr. Romesh De Silva PC, Mr. Suhada Gamlath PC, Mr. Shavindra





Fernando PC, Mr. Anuja Premaratne PC and Mr. Sampath Mendis PC. The President of the Bar was also a panelist at the Forum, which was coordinated by Mr. Shehan Gunawardene AAL



Impact on Legal Education:

National Law Week played a pivotal role in enhancing legal education by fostering a dynamic learning environment. The events facilitated networking opportunities for law students, provided exposure to real-world legal issues, and promoted interdisciplinary collaboration.

Policy Implications:

The discussions during National Law Week 2023 generated valuable insights into legal challenges and opportunities. Policymakers gained a nuanced understanding of public concerns, contributing to informed decision-making in areas such as legal aid funding, environmental legislation, and technology integration in the legal sector.

Public Engagement and Awareness:

Through a variety of events and activities, National Law Week succeeded in engaging the public in conversations about the law. The increased awareness of legal rights and responsibilities served as a catalyst for a more informed and empowered citizenry.

Challenges and Recommendations:

While National Law Week 2023 achieved considerable success, challenges such as limited resources and outreach to marginalized communities persist. Recommendations include increased funding for legal aid programs, targeted outreach efforts, and the incorporation of diverse perspectives in event planning.

Conclusion:

National Law Week 2023 emerged as a cornerstone in promoting legal awareness, education, and engagement. By addressing key legal themes and involving diverse stakeholders, the event contributed significantly to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the law's role in shaping societies. As we reflect on the successes and challenges of this year, the groundwork has been laid for an even more impactful National Law Week in the future



Standing Committees & Special Committees

- Standing Committees 2023 / 2024
- BASL representation at the Ministry of Justice Advisory Committees
- BASL Special Committees 2023/2024
- Reports of the Standing Committees
- Signing MOU with Bar Association of India



BASL Standing Committees and Special Committees

During the period between March 2023to March 2024, the BASL constituted several ad hoc and special committees in addition to the BASL Standing Committees.

The said Committees were entrusted with the task of advising the BASL as well as representing the legal community before the respective for together with the Exco and the Management Committee in order to address urgent issues which demanded immediate resolution.

The BASL thanks and appreciates the services rendered by the members of the said Committees.

Below: Chairpersons & Convenors of Standing Committees for the year 2023 / 2024





Standing Committees 2023/2024

	Committee	Chairperson	Deputy Chairman	Convenor	Asst. Convenor
01	Bench and Bar	Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne	Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC	Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi	Mr. Mehran Careem
02	Apprenticeship Training	Mr. Razik Zarook, PC	Dr. W D Rodrigo, PC	Mr. Amila Palliyage	Mr. Kunchana Samarakoon
03	BASL Diary	Mr. Nalin De Silva	Mr. Janaka Basuriya	Ms. Hansi Athukorala Mr. Nalin Samarakoon	Mr. Thaveesha Abeygunawardena Ms. Nadeeshani Gunawardena
04	BASL Law Journal	Mr. Eraj De Silva	Mr. Saravanan Neelakandan	Mr. Pulasthi Rupasinghe Ms. Sarani Gunathilake	Mr. Daminda Wijeratne
05	Court Infrastructure	Mr. Rasika Dissanayake	Mr.Dasun Nagashena	Mr. Rakitha Rajapakse	Mr. Madhawa Jayawardena
06	Media	Mr. Lilan Amarakoon	Mr. Anura Dhanaratne Ms. Kalani Dharmasiri	Ms. Subashini Pathiranage	
07	Civil Law	Mr. Ikram Mohamed, PC	Mr. Senaka De Saram	Mr. Sanjay Fonseka	Mr. Shamith Fernando
08	Commercial Law	Mr. Nihal Fernando, PC	Mr. Suren De Silva	Mr. Rajindra Jayasinghe Mr. Nishan Premithiratne	Mrs. Ereshan Kumburulanda Ms. Radeena De Alwis
09	Continuing Legal Education	Mr. Binara A Gunasekera Mr. Amal Randeniya	Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanarachchi Mr. Jagath Halpandeniya	Mr. Rajitha Hathurusinghe Mr. Yuwin Matugama	Ms. Piyumi Hulugalla
10	Environment	Mr. Ravindranath Dabare	Mr. Revan Weerasinghe	Mr. Charaka Jayaratne	Ms. Pasiduni Fernando
11	Court Automation and Digitization	Mr. Naveen Marapana, PC	Mr. Chamath Jayasekera	Mr. Nishan Premithiratne	Mr. Chameera Dinesh Gallearachchi
12	Criminal Law	Mr. Upali A Gooneratne, PC	Mr. Dimuthu Senarath Bandara	Mr. Senal Matugama	Mr. Chamara Wannisekera
13	Finance	Mr. Naomal Gunawardena	Mr. Rajindra Jayasinghe	Mr. Chamath Jayasekera	
14	Organization of Professional Associations	Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC	Mr. Sarath Wijesinghe, PC Mr. Mahinda Lokuge	Mr. Vijitha Manamperi	Mr. Sandun Nagahawatte
15	Lawyers' Office Development	Mr. Dilshan Jayasuriya	Mr. Chanaka Manawadu	Mr. Sampatha sudeshpriya	Mr. Dulanjana Gamage
16	Junior Bar	Mr. Jagath Wickremanayakke, PC	Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna	Ms. Niranjala Gunathilake	Mr. Ramzi Bacha
17	Law Firms & Instructing Attorneys	Ms. Anoma Gunatilleke	Ms. Manjula Katugampola	Ms. Sanja Gomes	Ms. Lakshika Ratnayake
18	Law Net and Law Reports	Mr. Felician Fernandopulle	Mr. M. M. Riyaz	Mr. Charitha Jayawickrema	Mr. Imaz Imthiyaz
19	Lawyer- Police and Prisons Relations	Mr. Sanjaya Gamage	Dr. Ajith Rohana	Ms. Priyani Rathnayake	Mr. Harith Hettiarachchi
20	Lawyers' Social Health and Welfare		Mr. Chandima Atapattu Mr. Manoj Nanayakkara	Mr. Lahiru Welgama	Mr. Buddhika Thilakaratne

	Committee	Chairperson	Deputy Chairman	Convenor	Asst. Convenor
21	Lawyers' Sports Development	Mr. Amila Palliyage	Mr. Newman Henry Mr.Dhanya Gunawardena	Mr. Sampath Perera MR. Ganisha Jagoda Arachchi	Mr. Eric Balasuriya Ms. Thilini Hewawitharana
22	Legal Aid	Mr. Shehan Goonwardena Mr. Nalin De Silva	Mr. Harith De Mel	Mr. Sanjaya Marambe	Mr. Sandun Yapa Karunaratne
23	Legal Education in Sri Lanka	Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC Dr. Athula Pathinayaka	Mr. Ayendra Wickremesekera	Mr. Harshana M. Silva	Mr. Yuwin Mathugama
24	National Law Conference	Mr. Faizer Musthapha, PC	Ms. Sandamali Chandrasekera	Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara	Ms. Manoda Mohotti
25	National Law Week and Legal Awareness	Mr. U. R. De Silva, PC	Mr. Shehan Goonawardena	Mr. Gayen Salwatura Mr. Piyumal Herath	Mr. Eshan Sandungahawatta
26	Neethi Ranga	Mr. Nandapala Wickramasooriya	Mr. Sugath Hadunge Ms. Vindica Subasinghe	Mr. Kelum Kumarasinghe	Mr. Atheek Inan
27	Notarial Practice	Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena	Mr. Felician Fernandupulle	Ms. Nirodha Kalansooriya	Ms. Mayomi Ranawaka
28	Outstation Bar	Ms. Ranjani Herath	Mr. Dhammika Hettihewage Ms. Nalini Manatunga	Ms. Virendra Kanankege Ms. Dasni Piyasiri	Mr. Sujeewan Hendewitharana Mr. Jaliya Gunaratne
29	Overseas Relations	Dr. Asanga Gunawansa	Ms. Champika Amarasekera Mr. Manjuka Fernandopulle	Mr. Janaka Basuriya	Ms. Ridama Wanninayake
30	Procurement	Mr. Chanaka de Silva PC	Mr. Malinga Bandara		
31	Professional Purpose and Ethics	Mr. Kalinga Indatissa, PC Mr. G G Arulpragasam	Mr.Chandana Liyanapatabendi, PC Mr. Binara A Gunasekera	Mr. Harith de Mel Ms. Suranee Samarasekera	
32	Public Law	Mr. Senany Dayaratne	Mr. Shantha Jayawardena	Mr. Suren Fernando Mr. Pulasthi Hewamanne	Mr. Chathura Amaratunga
33	Publications	Mr. Gamini Alwis	Mr. Saravanan Neelakandan	Ms. Manoda Mohotti	Mr. Amila Perera
34	Rule of Law and Human Rights	Dr. Faisz Musthapha	Mr. Kushan De Alwis	Mr. Prasanna De Silva Ms. Achala Seneviratne Mr. Pulasthi Rupasinghe	Mr. Oshada Rodrigo Ms. Ishara Jayasena
35	Seminars (Including Webinars)	Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi	Mr. Pandula Wanniaarachchi	Mr. Sampath Perera Ms. Deshani Bandara Ms. Nikini Mapitigama	Ms. Adeesha Dissanayake Ms. Dilhara Jayaskera
36	State Sector Legal Officers'	Mr. K G Kumarasinghe	Mr. K B G Premadasa	Ms. Gayani Premathilaka	Ms. A M N Silva
37	Lawyers Employed in State Institutions (Non- Legal Officers)	Mr. Chandana Rajapakshe			
38	Superior Courts	Mr. Manohara de Silva, PC	Ms. Lilanthi De Silva Mr. Viran Corea	Mr. Sanjeewa Kaluarachchi Mr. Yuwin Matugama	Ms. Hariththriya Kumarasinghe
39	Tax	Mr. Suresh Perera	Mr. Laknath Peiris	Mr. Niranjan Arulpragasam Mr. Adeesh Thurairaja	Ms. Samanthi Dias
40	The Members' Benevolent Society	Mr. Samantha Ratwatte, PC	Mr. Nuwan Jayawardena	Mr. Ruwantha Coorey	Mr. Vishwa Widanagamage
41	Women Lawyers	Dr. Ramani Jayasundera	Ms. Renuka Jayathilaka	Ms. Mokshini Jayamane Ms. Lakshika Ratnayake	Ms. Anne Devananda Ms. Selyna Peiris

	Committee	Chairperson	Deputy Chairman	Convenor	Asst. Convenor
42	Women Lawyers Professional and Career Development	Ms. Saumya Amarasekera, PC Ms. Dilrukshi De Alwis	Ms. Nalalni Manathunge	Ms. Thilini Perere	Ms. Ridmi Benaragama Ms. Shahila Wijewardena
43	Training of Lawyers for Services in Port City / International Legal Services	Mr. Kushan De Alwis, PC	Mr. Chandaka Jayasundara, PC	Mr. Hiran Jayasuriya Mr. Mehran Careem	Mr. Chinthaka Fernando Ms. Shamali Jayatunga
44	Labour Law	Mr. Mohamed Adamaly Ms. Manoli Jinadasa	Mr. Piyal Munasinghe Mr. Isuru Lakpura	Mr. Chamil Perera Ms. Bhagya Herath	Mr. Jeewan Jayatilaka
45	Lawyers' – Aesthetic Activities	Mr. Prashantha Lal De Alwis, PC	Mr. Amal Randeniya	Ms. Danushki Liyanapatabendi	Mr. Thishya Weragoda
46	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanaarachchi	Mr. Shehan Goonawardena	Mr.Sanjeewa Leelaratne	Mr. Rasika Jayasinghe Mr. Rajindra Kandegedara
47	Magistrate Court Practitioners	Mr. Neville Abeyratne, PC Mr. Niroshan Perera	Mr. Manoj Nanayakkara Mr. Sampath Gamage	Mr. Pradeep Gamage Mr. Rasika Sanjeewa	Mr. Nipuna Wimalasekera Mr. Thusharaka Perera
48	District Court Practitioners	Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC	Ms. Kumari Abeyratne Mr. Chandima Muthukumarana	Mr. Pasindu Bandara Mr. Samith Fernnado Mr. Eshan Sandungahawattage Mr. Krishan Fernandopulle	
49	High Court Practitioners	Mr. Anuja Premaratne, PC	Mr. Newman Henry Mr. Nalin Weerakoon	Mr. Tenny Fernando Mr. Chathura Amarathunga	Mr. Nalinda Jayakody Mr. Thiwanka Artigala Mr. Shamith Wedasinghe Mr. Nuwan De Alwis
50	Academic & Bar Relasionship	Prof. Savithri Gunasekera Dr. Athula Pathinayake	Mr. Seevali Amithirigala, PC Prof. Samapth Punchihewa	Mr. Pulasthi Hewamanna Mr. Buddhika Serasinghe Mr. Chamara Wannisekera	Mr. Dineth Kaushalya Mr. Shamith Wedisinghe
51	Professionals Relationship	Mr. Kuvera De Zoysa, PC	Mr. Shabry Mohamed Haleemdeen Mr. Senaka De Saram	Mr. Naamiq Nafath	Mr. Nipun Samaratunga
52	Law Reforms	Dr. K. Kanag-Isvaran, PC Mr. Rienzie Arsecularatne, PC	Mr. Shanaka Coorey	Ms. Dilumi De Alwis Mr. Shehan Perera	
53	Legal Process Outsourcing	Mr. Faizer Musthapha, PC	Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi	Mr. Nirmal Poornajith	Ms. Chathuri Samarasinghe
54	Parliamentary Relations	Mr.Kalinga Indatissa, PC	Mr. Upali Mohotti, PC Mr. Vishara Thennakoon	Mr. Dinesh Vidanapathirana	Ms. Rasana Saliah Ms. Rashmi Indatissa
55	Special Projects	Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne	Mr. Chamath Jayasekera Mr. Chatura Galhena	Mr. Harin Saddasena Mr. Navin Jayamanne Mr. Hirantha Iddamalgoda	Mr. Aquib Mohamed Ms. Peshala Herath
56	Law Journal Committee in Sinhala Medium	Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya	Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara		
57	ICT Law	Dr. Sunil Abeyratne	Dr. Thisara Gunatillake	Ms. Aparajitha Ariyadasa Ms. Piumi Hulugalla	Mr. Rakitha Rajapakse



Special Committees Appointed by the BASL

NAME	MEMBERS		
Notarial Practice Committee	Ms. Shiranthi Gunawardena (Chairperson) Mr. Felecian Fernandopulle (Co-Chairman) Ms. Nirodha Kalasooriya (Convener) Ms. Mayomi Ranawaka (Assist Convener)		
Special Committee to Review the Anti – Terrorism Bill Gazetted on 28th of March 2023 & Witness Protection Bill Gazetted on 27th of March 2023.	Mr. Palitha Fernando, PC (Chairman) Mr. Shavindra Fernando, PC Mr. Neville Abeyratne, PC Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC Mr. Amila Palliyage (Convener)		
Labour Law Reforms Committee	Mr. Mohamed Adamaly Ms. Manoli Jinadasa Mr. Kanishka Weerasinghe Mr. Binara Gunasekera Mr. Isuru Lakpura		
Special Committee to Propose Guidelines for the Appointment of High Court Judges	Mr. Romesh de Silva, PC Dr. Faisz Musthapha, PC Dr. K. Kanag - Isvaran, PC Mr. Ikram Mohamed, PC Mr. Razik Zarook, PC Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC Mr. Rohan Sahabandu,PC Mr. Nalinda Indatissa, PC Mr. Mehran Careem (Convener)		
Special Committee to review the draft of the High Court of the Republic of Sri Lanka (Investment Disputes)Bill	Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC Dr. Harsha Cabral, PC Mr. Chandaka Jayasundara, PC Ms. Shamali Jayatunga (Convener)		
Expert Committee to study statement made by President Ranil Wickremesinghe on matters related to the restructuring of Debt at the AGM of the Coconut Growers Association on 04th August 2023.	Mr. Ikram Mohamed, PC Mr. Palitha Fernando, PC Mr. Harsha Amarasekera, PC Mr. Mehran Careem (Convener)		
Special Committee on Ruling of the Speaker regarding the Courts having no Jurisdiction on Domestic Debt Restructuring Matters	Dr. Jayampathy Wickramaratne, PC Mr. Razick Zarook, PC Mr. Palitha Kumarasinghe, PC Mr. Chandana Liyanapatabendy, PC Mr.Chandaka Jayasundera, PC Proff. Savithri Gunasekera Dr. Sunil Coorey Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi (Convener)		

BASL Representatives on Ministry of Justice and other Advisory Committees

NAME	MEMBERS
BASL Representation at the Postponement of the Project Steering Committee Meeting for the Support to Justice Sector Project (JURE)	Mr. Nalinda Indatissa,PC
BASL Representation at the Committee on organization of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the High Court of the Republic of Sri Lanka	President and Secretary
Virtual Court Systems and Digitalization to Improve Access to Justice Requesting nomination for UNODC: Prison/Judiciary visit to Singapore - March 2024	Ms. Rashmini Indatissa, AAL



Reports of the Standing Committees

REPORT OF THE OVERSEAS RELATIONS COMMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr. Asanga Gunawansa

Deputy Chairmen: Ms. Champika Amarasekera

Mr. Manjuka Fernandopulle

Inaugural meeting

We write with reference to the aforementioned matter and forward herewith the summarized report on the activities carried out by the Overseas Relations Committee for the year 2023/2024.

Webinars:

1. Current Challenges to Aviation and Legal Problems in International Civil Aviation

The webinar was organized on the 23rd of September, 2023 with the participation of Dr. Ruwantissa Abeyratne, the President/CEO of Global Aviation Consultancies Inc., Montreal, and Senior Associate, Air Law and Policy, Aviation Strategies International; and Dr. Lasantha Hettiarachchi, Attorney-at-Law, who has over 33 years of experience as a legal counsel and widely regarded as a leading expert in aviation law.

The event was moderated by Mrs. Anusha Wickramasinghe, Attorney-at-Law, who serves as a lecturer in aviation law in several public and private universities. With over, 150 participants joining in, this webinar was an immense success.

Hybrid Panel Discussion

2. Institutional Arbitration and Mediation in the SAARC Region

This hybrid Panel Discussion was held on the 16th of November, 2023 at the CCC-ICLP ADR Centre. Some of the speakers and participants participated via Zoom. The keynote speaker for the event was Prof. Gary Born, who is the Chair of the International Arbitration Group at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. The other panelists included, Mr. Inbavijayan Veeraraghavan (B.L., PAP-KFCRI, FICA,

FPIArb, FAIADR, FCIArb (U.K)), Partner, Kove Global LLP;Mr. Chanaka De Silva, PC, Senior Partner – Nithya Partners; Mr. Ganesh Chandru, Partner - Dua Associates, New Delhi / Chennai; and Mr. Vyapak Desai, Lead International Disputes & Investigations, Nishith Desai Associates. The webinar was moderated by Dr. Asanga Gunawansa, the Chair of the ORC.

Other Activities

Convenor: Mr. Janaka Basuriya

3. Meeting with DeHeng Law Offices, China

Asst. Convenor: Ms. Ridama Wanninayake

The Overseas Relations Committee has had several rounds of discussions with DeHeng Law Firm, China and officials of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in China. The matters discussed included the possibility of conducting an Online Conference organised by parties covering economic, investment and mediation (ADR) related Laws of the respective countries. The exchange of delegations consisting of lawyers from the two countries were also looked into while it was proposed that regional and islandwide legal awareness programmes targeting lawyers, trade chambers and other stakeholders be conducted with the participation of both countries. Another focal point of the meeting was the discussion on prompting commercial Mediation as an ADR tool.

4. BASL President's Visit to India

The President of the Bar Association, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne paid a visit to the Indian Bar Association, wherein he had a fruitful discussion with the officials of the Indian Bar regarding several points of interest to the Overseas Relations Committee.

The matters discussed included;

- Entering into a bilateral cooperation MOU between the Bar Association of India and BASL to exchange knowledge, research on areas of interest i.e:- bilateral trade, energy etc.
- Inviting a high-level delegation of lawyers from India to visit Sri Lanka over the next year and organizing a conference, workshop/s etc., in line with such a visit, to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of BASL or the 150th Anniversary of the Law College.
- Delegation of Sri Lankan Lawyers to visit India. We thank the President of the BASL, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne, the Secretary of the BASL, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, and the members of the Executive Committee for their support and for trusting us to carry on the significant tasks of the Overseas Relations Committee. We wholeheartedly commit our support to the activities undertaken by the committee in fostering international relations and promoting legal cooperation on a global scale.



REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Ravindranath Dabare Deputy Chairman: Mr. Revan Weerasinghe

Convenor: Mr. Charaka Jayaratne

Asst. Convenor: Ms. Pasiduni Fernando

Inaugural meeting

On 08th June 2023 the inaugural meeting of the committee was held with the participation of its members. Pressing environmental concerns in the country were discussed and how the BASL could intervene. Among the many proposals that were put forward by the members it was decided that BASL should intervene in the fundamental rights application filed by the Center for environmental Justice with regard to the Xpress pearl disaster. Furthermore, it was decided to hold training programs for the lawyers on how to contribute for environmental protection and it was decided to intervene in deforestation issues in the country.

On the 8th of June 2023, the inaugural meeting of the committee took place with the active participation of its members. The session focused on addressing pressing environmental concerns within the country and formulating strategies for intervention by the BASL. Various proposals were deliberated upon by the committee members, a consensus was reached that the BASL should actively intervene in the fundamental rights application instituted by the Center for Environmental Justice concerning the Xpress Pearl disaster.

Moreover, the committee resolved to organize training programs for lawyers, aimed at equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute effectively to environmental protection initiatives. Additionally, it was unanimously agreed to extend BASL's involvement to address deforestation issues prevalent in the country.

Meeting between the President BASL and the Standing Committee

A meeting convened between the members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Interest Litigation and the President of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) aimed to provide a comprehensive briefing on significant environmental issues. Among these concerns, particular emphasis was placed on the alarming number of reported elephant deaths in Sri Lanka throughout the year. The necessity of advocating for legislative reforms was underscored, specifically to enhance penalties related

to environmental offenses within the Fauna and Flora Ordinance, National Environmental Act, and Forest Conservation Ordinance. The discussion highlighted BASL's potential contributions to resolving these pressing environmental issues.

Intervention in SCFR 168/21 -X-Press Pearl Disaster.

In a proactive stance, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) demonstrated its commitment to justice and environmental protection by intervening in the Fundamental Rights Application SCFR 168/21 at the Supreme Court, filed by the Centre for Environment Justice in response to the X-Press Pearl Disaster. In upholding its constitutional obligations, the BASL, through its President and Secretary, actively participated in the public interest, championing the Rule of Law and Administration of Justice. A five-member bench of the Supreme Court issued an order allowing the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to intervene. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka was represented by President's Counsel Mr. Jeoffrey Alagarathnam, instructed by Ms. Samali Sudasinghe.

Charting a Green Future: BASL's Partnership with WNPS for Environmental Conservation and Legal Advocacy

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) has solidified its commitment to environmental stewardship through a strategic partnership. The BASL entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the 15th of November 2023 with the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), the oldest environmental protection organization in the country. This collaboration aims to bolster the enforcement of environmental law in Sri Lanka, fostering the conservation of its rich fauna and flora. The MOU outlines a roadmap for joint projects focusing on increasing awareness, education, and interest in environmental law among lawyers. By addressing prevalent environmental issues, this partnership aspires to contribute to a sustainable future for generations to come.





Exchanging of the MoU at the BASL office: BASL
Environmental Law Committee Member/Secretary Miss,
Savanthi Ponnamperuma AAL, BASL Environmental Law
Committee Chairman Dr. Ravindranath Dabare AAL,
WNPS Past President Mr. Sriyan De Silva Wijeratne, WNPS
Immediate Past President Mr. Spencer Manuelpillai, WNPS
Vice President Mr. Graham Marshall, BASL Secretary Mr.
Isuru Balapatabendi AAL, WNPS Legal Subcommittee
Chairman and BASL Environmental Law Committee
Deputy Chairman Mr. Revan Weerasinghe AAL, and BASL
Environmental Law Committee Convenor Mr. Charaka
Jayaratne AAL

REPORT OF THE LAW FIRMS & INSTRUCTING ATTORNEYS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Ms. Anoma Gunatilleke

Deputy Chairman: Ms. Manjula Katugampola

Convenor: Ms. Sanja Gomes

Asst. Convenor : Ms. Lakshika Ratnayake

Ms. Lakshika Ratnayake

Initially met on 06th June 2023 at the BASL Committee Room and decided to call a meeting of all the Law Firms to discuss the issues that they face in Court Registries and at the Land Registries.

A meeting was fixed for the 14th July 2023 and the notice was sent through the Bar Association to all the Law Firms.

On the 14th of July 2023 the meeting was held Ms Anoma Goonathileke chairing the meeting with 35 participants from various law firms. The President of the Bar Association Mr. Kaushal ya Navaratne too participated at this meeting.

At the said meetings the following issues were brought to the notice of the committee.

 District Court, Commercial High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court

- a. Issues with the photocopy machines and toner
- b. Not receiving proceedings on time
- c. No uniformity in the Testamentary Branch. Whenever the Registrars and the Subject Clerks are changed they bring their own procedures where the Lawyers faced with difficulties.
- d. Unable to check the DMR records.
- e. Commercial High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court though the parties file the notices at the time of filing the case the Subject Clerks wont issue the marked documents along with the notice. Only the notice is been sent. Therefore, the Lawyers will have to file again the notice sets spending money. The marked documents sets filed at the beginning are kept somewhere in the Registry. This has become a big issue for the instructing Attorneys.

- f. In the Supreme Court when its mentioned specially not to mention the case before particular Judges again the same mistake will be done due to the carelessness of the Registry.
- 2. Conveyancing/Land Registries
 - Whether registering a Lease Agreement is a must -According to the new laws it is a must
 - No uniformity with all the Land Registries regarding registering the Deeds and issuing copies, reported Deeds etc.
 - c. Certified Copy of a Power of Attorney and the extracts takes 07 days to issue.
 - d. To mention the recent prior registration is a issue
 - e. In some of the extracts when land refers to the title registration the last extract is not closed and mentioned that the title has been carried over to the title registration section.
 - f. And various other issues were discussed.

Issues at the Land Registries:

Few of the issues mentioned were:

- No specific uniformity with the Land Registries.
 Every Land Registry have their own practices where the Lawyers find it difficult to work.
- 2. The time duration to issue a certified copy of the Power of Attorney and the Extract.
- Registering Trust Deeds take a longer period for registration.
- 4. One Day Service If there are more than one vendor refuse to accept for one day service registration.
- 5. The Deeds reported are not informed to the Lawyers by a letter or a phone call.
- Though the duplicates have been submitted to the Land Registries duplicates are not available when requested.
- When a mistake is done by the Land Registries the Land Registry informs us to do the corrections under Section 35 which takes a longer period.

The steps taken by the committee with regard to the issues faced by the members:

District Court of Colombo

- (A) The Chairperson Ms. Anoma Goonathileke, Deputy Chairperson Ms. Manjula Katugampola and the Convenor Ms. Sanja Gomes of the Committee met with the District Judge and discussed the issues with the District Court Registries mainly:
 - a. changing of the time of checking the records
 - The Hon. District Judge agreed to change the time allocated for the applying of Case Records.

- b. delay in giving the proceedings
- The Hon. District Judge informed that he will speak with the person in charge of Stenographers Branch and make arrangements to have the proceedings available at least 02 weeks prior to the Case.

 As a result of which we now observe that the proceedings can be obtained within 24 hours if it is brought to the notice of the Stenographer of the urgency.
- delay in obtaining photocopies of the documents when applied
- With regard to the photocopies that there was an issue with regard to the toner as sufficient toner have not been provided with and however the
 Hon. District Judge informed the members that he was able to influence certain District Court in the suburbs and obtained toner.
- However it was observed that the Colombo Law Society also has indicated to the Hon. District Judge that they will assist Court by providing a photo copy machine or two for which JSC sanction was required. Already a letter was given from the Hon. District Judge to the JSC and from JSC to the Ministry requesting necessary permission.
- d. unable to locate the records
- With regard to locating of records the Hon. District
 Judge informed the members that there was lack of
 staff specially Record Room Staff and that was the
 reason for the records not been available for perusal.
 He said the Ministry is in the process of recruiting
 new persons in the near future.

The Chairperson requested the Learned District Judge for a meeting with the Additional District Judge Court No. 08 and the Registrars of the Testamentary/Divorce Branch.

A letter has been already prepared and sent under the direction of the Secretary of the BASL and the Chairperson requesting for a meeting to the Registrar General and Ms. Jagodaarachchie requesting for a meeting to discuss the matters mentioned therein.

The Law Firms Committee members too met twice prior to the meeting on the 10th August 2023 and discussed the steps that we should take on the issues faced by the Law Firms.



REPORT OF THE PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Kalinga Indatissa, PC

Mr. G G Arulpragasam

Deputy Chairmen: Mr. Chandana Liyanapatabendi, PC

Mr. Binara A Gunasekera

Convenor : Mr. Harith de Mel

Ms. Suranee Samarasekera

For the period under review, this Committee met and discussed certain issues arising within the mandate of the Committee.

As an initial step, observations were received from the CEO of the BASL as to the number of pending complaints and inquiries as at the beginning of the working period of this Committee. It was identified that there were 34 matters fixed for inquiry whilst other Complaints received were at various stages of the disciplinary process prior to inquiry.

It was informed that the BASL was in receipt of approximately 60 complaints a month of varying types and there was a large administrative workload involved in receiving and dealing with complaints including communication. The Committee was of the view that it would be prudent to devise a set of draft rules and a Standard Complaint Form as to how a complaint is to be made to streamline the process and reduce the administrative backlog on the BASL. The Committee took the view that this would inform the public as to what elements and content were necessary to make a complaint.

It was also decided that draft rules should be made so that respondent Attorneys at Law can also be informed of the steps and process to be adopted in the event that observations are called for as there was varying discrepancy in the types of responses and at times a lack of response leading to further administrative backlog.

This issue was resulting in complications between the time period of receiving a complaint and subsequent steps prior to inquiry if any. It was identified that having such rules may assist the process overall and establish structure. On the same the Committee is in the process of forming Draft Rules and Draft Observation Forms for clarity and adoption in the future by the BASL if approved by the Executive Committee.

There were 7 Panels Disciplinary Panel's consisting of three Attorneys at Law each presided by a Chairperson. The said Panels were established in the previous year for the purposes of inquiry which continued to function. It was brought to the attention of the Committee that that there were concerns as to the continuation of some disciplinary inquiries primarily due to absence of either a party or one or more of the members for several reasons which resulted in a general slowing down of the process of inquiry. The Members have deliberated at meetings options to address this concern.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of assisting the Administration of the BASL by setting up a better system for registration and tracking of the progress of complaints for ease of administration.

Observations were also made by Senior Members of the Committee as to the number of inquiries pending for observation by the Committee prior to the decision to proceed with an inquiry which was a time consuming process but deservedly so.

Another concern raised was as to the exact mandate of the inquiries by the Bar Association on complaints received which was now sometimes being carried out parallel to the inquiries by the Panel of Attorneys at Law appointed by the Supreme Court under the Judicature Act. Members had expressed concern as to the necessity to ensure that there was peer review in any such matter when the Supreme Court would take up inquiries. The senior membership of the Committee through the Executive Committee of the BASL made representations on this matter at Bench and Bar meetings and this is a matter to be clarified in the future. One issue included duplication of proceedings when complaints were made simultaneously to the Supreme Court as well as the Bar Association in regard to which there was no procedure to know whether such has taken place. Secondly the duplication of an inquiry in both forums on the same matter after the Disciplinary Committee had forwarded its report to the Supreme Court was an issue concerning the Committee as members as well as complainants would be subject to a duplication of inquiry process.

The Committee has also deliberated on issues brought before the Committee such as advertising services through Social Media and matters brought to the attention of the Committee in other means which was swiftly dealt by the Senior Members of the Committee with the able assistance of the Secretary of the BASL Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi. The Committee also identified that there needs to be a clearer understanding within the membership as to matters concerning attire as there had been several instances where matters had been brought to the attention of the Committee. The Committee's attention was also drawn to the need to ensure sufficient awareness programmes for Juniors Members of the Bar pertaining to ethics of the profession.



REPORT OF THE JUNIOR BAR COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC Deputy Chairman : Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, AAL

Convenor : Ms. Niranjala Gunatilake, AAL Asst. Convenor : Mr. Ramzi Bacha, AAL

The Junior Bar Committee of the BASL under the leadership and guidance of Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC and Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, AAL as his deputy had a very successful year with many programmes being conducted for the betterment of the Young Legal Fraternity this year.

1. JUNIOR NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE



The Junior National
Law Conference was
successfully held with
utmost grandeur at
Shangri-La, Hambantota
on the 13th, 14th,
and 15th of October
2023 under the theme
"Legal Mosaic: Blending
Tradition with Progress".
This esteemed occasion
witnessed the participation
of over 340 legal

professionals including delegates, speakers and special invitees. Hon. Chief Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, PC was the chief Guest of the inauguration. Notably, this conference aligned with the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.

The conference featured a diverse range of activities designed to enrich the learning experience of the participants. It includes interactive sessions, thought-provoking presentations, and engaging workshops led by renowned judges, legal experts and experienced practitioners including President's Counsel sharing their expertise, insights, and practical knowledge. Participants were provided the opportunity to ask questions, seek clarification, and engage in meaningful discussions on the intricacies of different legal subjects.

These sessions covered a wide spectrum of legal subjects, allowing participants to explore new areas of law, deepen their understanding of existing concepts, and stay updated on the latest legal developments.

The ethos of Junior National Law Conference 2023 held was to empower junior legal professionals to become their own. The conference embraced the theme "Legal Mosaic: Blending Tradition with Progress" to provide young lawyers with the necessary tools, knowledge, and inspiration to carve their unique paths in the

legal profession while embracing the innovations and advancements of the modern era.

The Junior National Law Conference 2023 was committed to ensuring diverse representation among its delegates. While the promotions, campaigns, learnings and final outcome would reach over 23,000 lawyers across Sri Lanka, the conference hosted a delegation of approximately 350 participants, including representatives from the official and unofficial bar, as well as delegates from various sectors such as the corporate sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and legal practitioners across Sri Lanka in addition to the distinguished invitees and experts.







2. A PATHWAY FOR YOUNG ASPIRING FEMALE COUNSEL IN THE FIELD OF FAMILY LAW- A SIX WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME



Over the years, women in law have gradually shattered glass ceilings and achieved remarkable milestones in various legal domains. However, the domain of litigation still remains predominantly malecentric, with fewer women assuming the role of counsel.

It remains undisputed that the diverse and

unique perspectives and skills that female lawyers bring to the table can significantly impact outcome which could result in more compassionate, equitable resolutions. By welcoming more women into the domain of litigation, the legal community can foster a climate of inclusivity and multidimensional problem-solving. In light of this, overcoming the obstacle of underrepresentation of female counsel in court, is crucial, particularly when it comes to Family Law cases.

Recognizing this gender disparity and gap in the field of Family Law, the Junior Bar Committee on a concept by its Chairman, Mr. Jagath Wickramanayake, PC and able guidance of him and Mr. Priyantha Alagiyawanna, has taken the initiative to train and empower carefully selected 35 junior female counsel in the field of Family Law. This meticulously crafted program, being the brainchild of Mr. Wickramanayake, aims to support junior female counsel in the field of Family Law while reshaping societal stereotypes and paving the way for a more inclusive legal profession.

This comprehensive six-weekend residential programme which is financially supported by the USAID consists of lectures, panel discussions and interactive sessions with a view to empower the 35 meticulously chosen junior female counsel, with a practical and theoretical knowledge on various spheres of Family Law as well as essential tools and techniques to thrive in their legal career as counsel. The programme was commenced on 13th January at Galadari Hotel, Colombo with the participation of the Emeritus Professor Savitri Goonesekere, who delivered the inaugural Guest Lecture. The remaining sessions of the Programme is scheduled to have on 27th and 28th January, 10th, 11th,17th and 18th of February and 2nd, 3rd, 16th and 17th March 2024.











3. WORKSHOP ON JUVENILE JUSTICE

A workshop on Juvenile Justice for the junior practitioners below 10 years in practice in Colombo, Kalutara and Gampaha was held on 23rd September 2023 at Galadari Hotel Colombo. This workshop, a joint project of the Junior Bar Committee and LEADS Sri Lanka was organized with the objective of raising awareness and building up the capacity of the Junior attorneys- at – law on Child Protection and Child Rights in Sri Lanka. The Workshop consisted of four sessions covering a set of selected core areas of discussion in the sphere of Child Protection and Child Rights in Sri Lanka, served the purposes of dissemination of knowledge by the senior members in the profession as well as creating a discussion platform for the participants.

Junior Bar Committee organized a similar programme on Juvenile Justice at the request of the Attorney General's Department for the attorneys at law attached to the Child Protection Unit of the Department. This Workshop was specially tailored for the lawyers at the Attorney General's Department and was held on 7th December at Marino Beach Hotel.



4. WORKSHOP ON GENDERED ONLINE HATE SPEECH & CYBER SEXUAL & GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



This two-day residential Workshop was organized by the **Junior Bar Committee** in collaboration with the "Caught in the Web" project of Common Grounds Sri Lanka in order to empower the junior practitioners in the North Central and Northwestern Provinces. 35 junior lawyers participated for this workshop

which was held on 2nd and 3rd December 2023 in Dambulla. The primary objective of this highly successful residential programme is to raise awareness and build up the capacity of the junior practitioners, on laws related to Gender-Based Violence and Cyber Sexual Harassments in Sri Lanka. The 2nd workshop of this programme is scheduled to be held in February 2024 for the Junior lawyers in the Northern and Eastern provinces.





5. ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR ATTORNEYS AT LAW CALLED TO THE BAR IN JULY 2023

An orientation programme organized by the Junior Bar Committee in collaboration with the USAID, for the new attorneys at law who were called to the bar on 18th,19th, 20th and 21st of July 2023 was held on 18th November 2023 at the Ramada Colombo. His Lordships Hon. Justice Yasantha Kodagoa,



His Lordships Hon. Justice Sobhitha Rajakaruna and



many distinguished senior members of the Bar conducted informative sessions during this programme.

The primary objective of this event is to

welcome the newly enrolled Attorneys-at-Law into the legal profession which aims to provide essential insights and knowledge to our budding legal professionals and to introduce the aspiring lawyers to the intricacies of our noble profession.

The second programme for the attorneys at law who were called to the bar in December 2023 is scheduled to be held in February 2024.





6. INTRODUCTORY TRAINING IN LEGAL RESEARCH FOR THE JUNIOR PRACTITIONER

This is a foundation level training programme on legal research tailored for the junior practitioners organized by the **USAID** Efficient and effective Justice Activity in collaboration with the Junior Bar Committee. The initial programme was held on 16th December 2023 at the Courtyard by Marriot with the participation



of 35 junior attorneys at law. Due to the high demand had for the first Programme, the committee has scheduled the 2nd Programme expanding over two days for the junior practitioners in the Kandy District and was held on 20th and 21st January 2024 at the Grand Kandyan Hotel.

7. WORKSHOP ON "INTRODUCTION TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION"

A residential workshop on "Introduction to Alternative Dispute Resolution" for the junior practitioners in the Galle and Matara districts was held on 4th to 6th August 2023 at Radisson Blu, Galle. This workshop was facilitated by the USAID's Efficient and Effective Justice Activity.



8. JUNIOR BAR LAW JOURNAL

The Junior Bar Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka launches an annual publication to offer Junior members of the Bar a forum to publish their most deserving legal literary work. This Journal also contains Articles of some distinguished Senior members of Bar who have, amidst their demanding careers and professional



commitments - taken the time to impart their knowledge, analysis and recommendation on contemporary legal matters, for the benefit of the Junior members of the Bar. The Junior Bar Law Journal 2023 (Volume XIV) is intended to be launched in February 2024.











9. RESEARCH ARTICLE COMPETITION

The Junior Bar Committee is organising a Research Competition, first of its kind, to the junior members of the Bar in celebration of the 50th year anniversary of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka. The Competition is

being held on wide scale, in number of research areas such as Alternative Dispute Resolution, Commercial law, Criminal law, Environmental law, Family law, Human Rights, Labour law and Land law. The winners are to be awarded with medals and valuable prizes and the winning articles are



to be published. The abstracts were called on or before 21st October 2023 and the final research articles are due on 31st January 2024. The Organising Committee understands the importance of Research for legal professionals and academics, and is confident that this Competition will encourage the young members of the Bar to explore their research skills in any, given research area, of their choice, which will in return enhance their knowledge and capabilities.

10. COFFEE TABLE BOOK

As the Bar Association of Sri Lanka will be celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2024, the Junior Bar Committee of the BASL has chosen to commemorate this momentous occasion through the publication of an exclusive Coffee Table Book celebrating the rich legal heritage of Sri Lanka.

The purpose of the Coffee Table Book is not only to educate legal professionals but also the general public of the rich legal history of Sri Lanka including the individuals who have contributed to the development of it throughout the centuries.

The primary aim of the Committee is to celebrate the legal history of the Island whilst also emphasizing the need to preserve, conserve and protect our heritage for future generations. The Book will draw attention to our vibrant history, important places, literature, the personalities and other factors which have contributed to the development of the legal profession in Sri Lanka.

The Coffee Table Book Committee, which was appointed by the Junior Bar Committee, has undertaken this ambitious project to compile a comprehensive book which will serve as a valuable resource for legal scholars, practitioners, and the general public, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for the legal foundations upon which our society is built.



REPORT OF THE SEMINARS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi

Deputy Chairman: Mr. Pandula Wanniaarachchi

Convenors : Mr. Sampath Perera Ms. Deshani Bandara

Ms. Nikini Mapitigama

Summary

The Seminars committee was able to commence its work around May 2023. Between March 2023 and March 2024 , the Seminars committee organized four residential legal workshops, five one day workshops and eleven webinars as part of the main objectives of the seminars committee. The residential legal workshops were organized jointly by the seminar committee in collaboration with EEI Activity of USAID, in an effort to disseminate legal knowledge among lawyers practicing all over the Island, concentrating on several timely. Addition to above mentioned workshops and webinars, the seminars committee successfully organized two residential programs and two day workshops for senior practitioners on strategic Commercial dispute Resolution in Negombo and Kandy covering western province and central province Bars. Due to the high demand on developing negotiation strategies and alternative dispute resolution areas, the seminars committee Asst. Convenor : Ms. Adeesha Dissanayake Ms. Dilhara Jayaskera

decided to expand the program to every lawyer without considering the seniority. As a result, the seminars committee has successfully organized two day programs in Ratnapura and Polonnaruwa respectively.

Residential legal workshops

Four residential legal workshops were organized by the seminars committee, covering areas such as, Conveyancing, Partition law, Pre-trial procedures ,Ethics and Gender equality, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Art of cross examination, Civil drafting, Bail application, Role of defense lawyer, money recovery and small claim.

Summary of the legal workshops organized by the seminars committee are as follows with flyers.

REPORT OF THE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING COMMITTEE

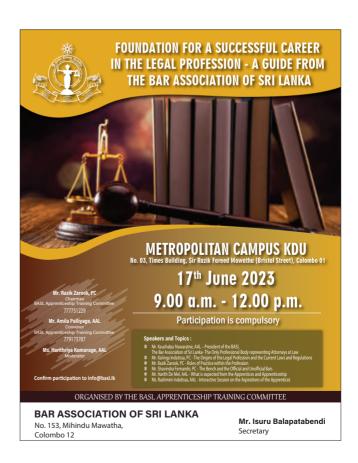
Chairperson : Mr. Razik Zarook, PC Deputy Chairman : Dr. W D Rodrigo, PC

Convenor: Mr. Amila Palliyage

Asst. Convenor: Mr. Kunchana Samarakoon

The Apprenticeship Training Committee conducted programs for Apprentices and young Lawyers during the year. A o e day workshop on "Foundation to a successful career in the Legal profession was conducted in June where over 450 participated.

The committee also coordinated programs for Law Students including visits to the court houses in Hulfstdorp.



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Day legal workshops

Since the seminars committee must have to limit the residential workshop participant count to 50 and in order to enhance the opportunity of learning new developments in law, seminars committee decided to organize six day workshops that can accommodate 100 participants. Summary of the day workshops organized by the seminars committee are as follows with flyers.

ASSISTANCE TO AND PROTECTION OF

REPORT OF THE SINHALA LAW JOURNAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya Deputy Chairman : Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara

Convenor: Mr. Manoj Nanayakkara

Editorial Board

Editor: Mr. Rajeev Amarasuriya

Editorial Committee: Mr. Tharaka Nanayakkara,

Mr. Manoj Nanayakkara, Mr. Kasun Chamara Munasinghe,

Ms. Shashikala Kumari, Mr. Buddhika Thilakaratne, Ms. Shehani Ranasinghe, Ms. Tharukshi Tennakoon, Ms. Gayasha Wickramasinghe, Ms. Yohani Yoharajah

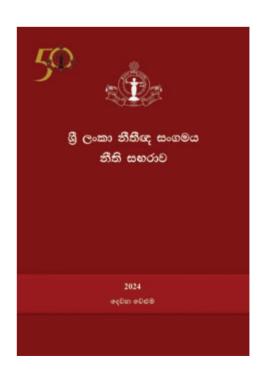
and Mr. Chathura Dasanayake.

The Inaugural Sinhala Law Journal of the Bar Association for the year 2022 was launched in March 2023.

In view of the objective to reach out to as many of the membership as practically feasible, the Committee decided that this year too, the publication will be in digital format, which enables the BASL to disseminate the Journal to the Membership through the various channels of communication.

The 2nd Volume of the Sinhala Law Journal comprises of 18 Articles and an appendix comprising of all the Acts of 2023.

The Second Volume of the Sinhala Law Journal, like its first Volume is also accessible to all interested through the website of the BASL.





REPORT OF THE ICT LAW COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Dr Sunil Abeyaratne

Deputy Chairman: Dr Thashira Gunatilleke

Convenor: Ms Aparajitha Ariyadasa

Co-Convenor: Ms Piumi Randima Hulugalla

Members : Prof Sampath Punchihewa Mr Ajith Rohana, SDIG

Ms Lakshma Priyani Ratnayake

It appears that the legal community in Sri Lanka is recognizing the importance of keeping pace with advancements in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and related legal frameworks. The committee has been actively engaging in discussions on law reforms necessary for Electronic Transactions, Computer Crime, Online Security, and Personal Data Protection.

These discussions are significant as they address the evolving landscape of technology and the need for corresponding legal frameworks to ensure efficacy and relevance in the digital era.

The symposium organized by the committee on the proposed Online Safety Law reflects a proactive approach to engaging various stakeholders, including legal professionals, law enforcement authorities, and journalists. The participation of esteemed personalities such as Mr Kaushalya Nawaratne PC, Mr Kolitha Dharmawadena PC, Mr Upul Jayasuriya PC, Mr Saliya Peiris, PC, Prof.Sampath Punchihewa, Dr Prathibha Mahanamahewa, DIG Ajith Rohana, Mr Chanakya Jayadeva and Mr Jayantha Kovilage and others signifies the importance attached to this legal development. The insights shared during the symposium would likely contribute to shaping discussions and potential legislation in this area. Dr Sunil Abeyaratne (Chairman of the Committee moderated the session). Video recording of the program is available at the BASL for your future reference.

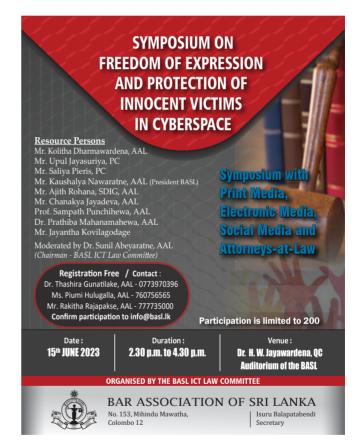
Furthermore, the organization of ICT Law workshops on the Admissibility of Electronic Evidence in different regions indicates a concerted effort to educate and empower legal professionals on handling digital evidence in court proceedings. The participation of Honorable High Court Judges, District Court Judges, Magistrates, Labour Tribunal Presidents and legal professionals from different Bars in these workshops underscores the commitment to enhancing knowledge and skills in adapting to technological advancements within the legal domain.

Overall, these educational initiatives highlight a collaborative effort between the Committee and Branch Associations to foster continuous learning, exchange of expertise, and capacity-building within the legal community concerning ICT law and its practical implications. Such programs not only

Members: Ms Kalani Medagoda
Ms Manouri Fernndo
Ms Buddhika Alagiyawanna
Ms Mihiri Kudakolawa
Mr Kaushalya Nawaratne PC,
President BASL (Ex-offcio)
Mr Isuru Balapatabendi,

enhance the professional competencies of legal practitioners but also promote a deeper understanding of the evolving legal landscape in the digital age, enabling more effective responses to emerging legal challenges and ensuring justice in the digital realm.

Secretary BASL (Ex-officio)



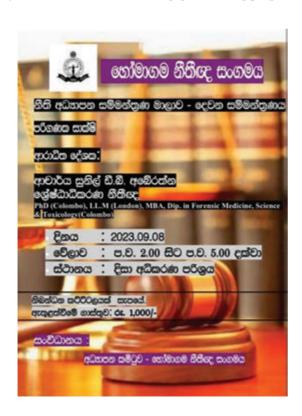


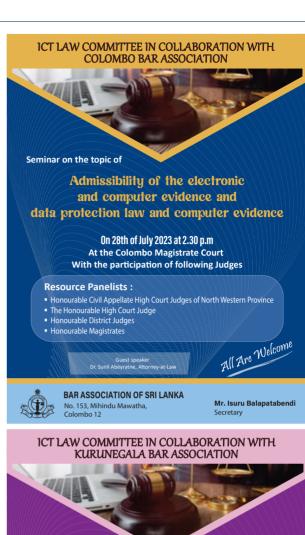
Educational Programs Organized by the Committee with Branch Associations

- The 1st workshop in Kandy organized by the Kandy Bar Association on 7.7.2023.
- The 2nd workshop in Kurunegala organized by the Bar association of Kurunegala on 28.7.2023.
- The 3rd workshop in Maho organized by the Bar Association of Maho on 31.8.2023.
- The 4th workshop in Gampaha organized by the Bar Association of Gampaha on 9.9.2023.
- The 5th workshop in Mawanella organized by the branch Bar Association of Mawanella on 7.9.2023.
- The 6th workshop in Homagama organized by the Homagama Bar on 8.9.2023.
- The 7th workshop in Matara organized by the Bar Association of Matara on 14.9.2023.
- The 8th workshop organized in Colombo by the Colombo Magistrate Court Lawyers' Association on 22.9.2023.
- The 9 th workshop organized in Kegalle by the Kegalle Lawyers' Association on 10.11.2023.
- The 10 th workshop organized in Ratnapura by the Ratnapura Bar Association on 21.11.2023.
- The 11th workshop organized in Galle by the Galle Bar Association on 19.3.2024.

Training programs were conducted by Dr Sunil Abeyaratne (Chairman), ASP Ms Chandima Ariyapperuma, Ms Priyani Ratnayake and Ms Kalani Medagoda.

The Committee's decision to collaborate with the policelawyer relations committee and engage in training programs









for law enforcement officers, specifically on combating cybercrimes, represents a notable effort towards enhancing collaboration between legal professionals and the police in addressing contemporary legal challenges. The invitation extended by DIG Ajith Rohana to the members of the Committee to participate in future seminars and workshops for the police underscores the importance of fostering mutual understanding, dialogue, and cooperation between legal practitioners and law enforcement agencies. Such collaboration can lead to improved knowledge sharing, capacity building, and better coordination in tackling cybercrimes effectively.

The decision of the Committee to draft guidelines on various legal aspects, including orders against Internet Service Providers (ISPs), Mutual Assistance in Civil and Commercial Matters (Convention), Recording of Remote Witnesses, and Practice Directions, underscores a proactive approach towards addressing critical issues in the legal domain. Emphasizing the importance of having legal and technical experts to ensure the effective implementation of judicial directions, fair trial procedures, safeguards during evidence via video link, and access to court transcripts highlights a commitment to upholding procedural fairness and efficiency in legal proceedings.

The involvement of the Chairman of the Committee in representing the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL) at the THULAWA program of ITN to discuss the Online Safety Act of Sri Lanka on 8.2.2024 indicates a commitment to engaging with the public and media platforms to raise awareness and facilitate discussions on important legal developments related to online safety and cybersecurity.

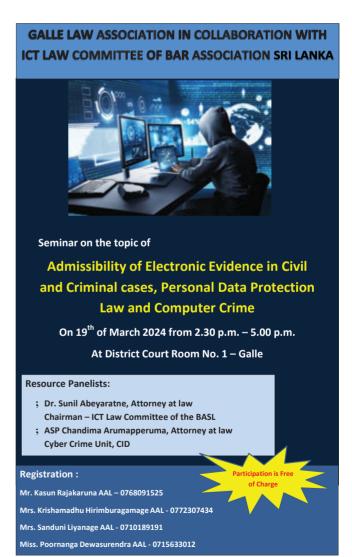
Furthermore, the Committee's proposal to conduct an international webinar on Data Protection Law with





LAWASIA in June/July 2024 showcases a forward-thinking approach towards engaging in global dialogues on legal developments. The preliminary discussions held in Bangaluru between key stakeholders, including Dr. Gordon Hughes, Secretary-General of LAWASIA, Mr. Kaushalya Nawaratne PC, President of BASL, Mr. Isuru Balapatabendi, Secretary of BASL, and Dr. Sunil Abeyaratne, Chairman of the ICT Law Committees of BASL and LAWASIA, reflect a collaborative effort to promote knowledge sharing and best practices in the area of data protection.

Overall, these initiatives demonstrate the Committee's dedication to driving substantive legal reforms, promoting international cooperation, and fostering dialogue on crucial legal issues such as online safety, data protection, and procedural fairness. By engaging with diverse stakeholders and international partners, the Committee aims to contribute to creating a robust legal framework that aligns with global standards and addresses emerging challenges in the digital age.



REPORT OF THE CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman : Mr. Binara A. Gunasekera Co-Chairman : Mr. Amal A. Randeniya

Deputy-Chairman : Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanaarachchi Deputy-Chairman : Mr. Jagath Halpandeniya

Project - 'GURUDA SAARA SABHAWA" (ගුරුදා සාර සභාව)

In June 2023, the Committee undertook the auspicious task of initiating a Legal seminar series under the name and style "GURUDA SAARA SABHAWA" (නුරුදා සාර සභාව), meticulously crafted to provide a more practical and interactive platform for participants. Each seminar featured a minimum of three distinguished resource persons, each one an expert in their respective fields of expertise. Extensive meetings and discussions were convened among the resource persons and organizers in preparation for each seminar, reflecting the commitment and dedication invested in ensuring the success of the series. The organizational efforts extended beyond the norm, aiming to secure the participation of highly skilled resource persons who could enrich the seminars with their profound insights and knowledge.

The seminar series took place every other Thursday at the BASL auditorium, and quickly garnered attention from both junior and senior lawyers from its inception. Drawing considerable interest, each seminar attracted a minimum attendance of 150 participants, indicative of its widespread appeal and relevance. Embracing an interactive format, participants actively engaged in discussions, posing questions, and exploring topics pertaining to the practical challenges encountered by legal practitioners in their day-to-day endeavours. In total, nine such seminars were held under this series.





Co-Convenor: Mr. Rajitha Hathurusinghe Co-Convener: Mr. Yuwin Mathugama Assistant Convenor: Ms. Piumi Hulugalla Assistant Convenor: Ms. Nikini Mapitigama

Building upon the success of the ""GURUDA SAARA SABHAWA" (ຜູວາຊາ ພາວ ພອກນຶ) series, an extended version, under the name and style "SHANIDA SAARA SABHAWA" (ຜູວາຊາ ພາວ ພອກນຶ), was collaboratively organized with the Marawila Bar Association. This collaboration was made possible through the generous financial support provided by the CLE committee itself.

Further, a seminar series named "CLE SPECIAL SEMINAR SERIES" was conducted to delve into the intricacies of recent developments and amendments in civil law. This platform facilitated comprehensive discussions on procedural and methodological approaches, and pertinent.

Additionally, a two-days' non-residential symposium on contract law (Colombo Forum) was held at Ramada Colombo. This event was organized by the CLE committee facilitated by USAID's Efficient and Effective Justice Activity. The symposium delved into the impacts of Artificial Intelligence on copyrights, construction contracts, virtual contracts, shipping aviation and logistics contracts, and Arbitration clauses.

In total, eleven such seminars and two-days' symposium was conducted under these initiatives. Notably, these initiatives resulted in significant financial gains. This distinguishes this Seminar series as the only seminar series to generate a substantial income, exceeding Rs. 1.5 Million for the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.





















REPORT OF THE LEGAL AID COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Shehan Goonawardena

Mr. Nalin De Silva

Deputy Chairman : Mr. Harith De Mel Convenor : Mr. Sanjaya Marambe

Program Title: Anti-Torture Program

Introduction:

The Anti-Torture Program of the Legal Aid Unit (the Unit) under the Bar Association of Sri Lanka was established in collaboration with funding support from the Embassy of Switzerland. Since its inception in August 2021, the program has been dedicated to addressing critical gaps in legal aid provision for victims of custodial torture, intimidation, and police harassment. With an emphasis on victim support and advocacy, the Unit operates a 24-hour hotline to offer crucial assistance to those in need.

Complaint Handling and Action:

The Unit's proactive approach has yielded tangible results. Complaints are received through the hotline and in-person visits. Each complaint is treated with urgency and care. The Unit's actions included verifying facts by directly communicating with police stations, consulting members of the Legal Aid Committee for informed advice, guiding complainants on suitable actions, and supporting legal proceedings when disputes could not be resolved through discussions with authorities and police stations.

Legal Aid During 'Aragalaya' Protest Movement:

A significant escalation of human rights violations accompanied the 'Aragalaya' protest movement since March 2022. During this period, the Unit's hotline gained prominence, receiving a total of 41 complaints related to the protests. These complaints encompassed a range of issues, from unlawful arrests to police violence against protestors and incidents of harassment and torture under police custody.

The Anti-Torture Program of the Legal Aid Unit remains dedicated to its mission of providing support, guidance, and legal assistance to victims of custodial torture, intimidation, and police harassment. With a strong commitment to justice and human rights, the program's achievements and actions underscore its pivotal role in advancing the cause of justice in Sri Lanka.

Networking and Coordination Practices Among Stakeholders

The Legal Aid Unit is committed to fostering collaboration and synergy among a diverse array of stakeholders, including government organizations, non-governmental organizations Co-Convenor : Mr. Sandun Yapa Karunaratne Project Coordinator Consultant : Ms. Aysha Irshad

(NGOs), INGOs, lawyers, and other entities. This commitment is geared towards advancing human rights, legal aid, and the provision of effective legal advice to individuals in need.

- Government and Non-Government Organizations:
- Key Collaborative Relationships:

Human Rights Commission (HRCSL) Legal Aid Commission NGOs and INGOs Lawyers as Resource Personnel

Awareness Workshops for Lawyers on Arrest, Detention and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka

• Orientation Programme Date: 19 February 2022

The Legal Aid Committee successfully organized an orientation programme aimed at attorneys-at-law who displayed a keen interest in supporting the efforts of the Legal Aid Unit (LAU). The session provided participants with valuable insights into the functions and processes of the LAU, fostering a comprehensive understanding of its operations.

Distinguished legal and professional experts, including Mr Prasantha Lal de Silva PC, Mr Gaminie Alwis AAL, Mr Thishya Weragoda AAL, Mr Upul Kumarapperuma AAL, and Ms Ermiza Tegal AAL, shared their insights during the programme. These experts delved into various subjects, notably covering legal frameworks, and presenting practitioner perspectives on the issue of torture in Sri Lanka.

• Awareness Workshops

Workshop – 1

Date: 20 November 2022

The Legal Aid Unit successfully organized a workshop that catered to the professional development of 50 attorneys-at-law. In collaboration with the Colombo Magistrate's Court Lawyers' Association, the workshop took place on 20 November 2022 at the prestigious Galle Face Hotel in Colombo. This initiative was meticulously designed to address the critical topic of 'Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka,' providing legal professionals with a comprehensive understanding of these issues.

Esteemed legal figures, including Mr Saliya Peiris PC, the President of the Bar Association, and resource persons





such as Mr Anuja Premarathne PC, Mr Tishya Weragoda AAL, and Deputy Solicitor General Mr Janaka Bandara, led engaging sessions. These sessions covered both criminal and civil aspects related to arrest and detention, along with an insightful exploration of the law pertaining to Bail applications.









Workshop – 2 Date: 08 January 2023

Introduction:

Continuing its commitment to enhancing legal awareness and expertise, the Legal Aid Unit conducted the second workshop focusing on the critical theme of 'Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka.' With collaboration from the Bar Association of Avissawella, this workshop aimed to empower attorneys practising in the area with comprehensive insights into both international and local legal frameworks concerning custodial torture and related legal matters.

Esteemed resource persons lent their expertise to the event, including Mr Saliya Peiris PC, the President of the Bar Association, Mr Nalin Chandika De Silva AAL, Co-chair of the Legal Aid Committee, Mr Darshana Kuruppu AAL, Mr Tishya Weragoda AAL, and Ms Ayanthi Shoromani from the Human Rights Commission. Their collective knowledge ensured a well-rounded and comprehensive learning experience for the participants.

Workshop - 3 Date: 11 March 2023

Continuing its mission to enhance legal awareness and promote justice, the Legal Aid Unit successfully conducted the third workshop focusing on the vital topic of 'Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka.' This workshop, supported by the Bar Association

of Anuradhapura, aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of both criminal and civil aspects of arrest, detention, and torture to legal professionals.

Workshop - 4 Date: 17 June 2023

Introduction:

Continuing its mission to advance legal awareness and uphold human rights, the Legal Aid Sub-Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka orchestrated the fourth workshop centred on 'Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka.' With the invaluable support of the Maho Bar Association, this workshop aimed to foster a comprehensive understanding of legal frameworks among legal practitioners.



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මහව - සංජීවනී ආරියරත්න

ශී ලංකා නීතිඥ සංගමයේ නීති ආධාර අනුකම්ටුවේ සහාය ඇතිව ශී ලංකාව තුළ අත්අඩංගුවට ගැනීම, රඳවා තබා ගැනීම සහ වද හිංසා පැමිණවීම වැළැක්වීම පිළිබඳව නීතිඥවරුන් දැනුම්වත් කිරීමේ වැඩසටහනක් ඉකුත්දා මහව යාපහුව පැරඩ-යිස් හෝටලයේදී පැවැත්විණි. මෙම වැඩසටහන මහව නීතිඥ සංගමයේ මුලිකත්වයෙන් සංවිධානය කර තිබිණි.



Workshop - 5 Date: 22 July 2023

Introduction:

Continuing its vital mission to educate and empower legal professionals, the Legal Aid Unit orchestrated the fifth workshop, focusing on 'Arrest, Detention, and Prevention of Torture in Sri Lanka.' Supported by the Bar Association of Ampara, this workshop aimed to provide legal practitioners with a comprehensive understanding of the legal aspects surrounding custodial torture.





Workshop – 6 Date: 16 September 2023

Esteemed legal luminaries, including Mr Kaushalya Nawarathne AAL, President of the Bar Association, Mr Kalinga Indathissa President's Counsel, Mr Tishya Weragoda AAL, and Mr Shaminda Wickrema, Senior State Counsel from the Attorney General's Department, conducted enlightening sessions. These sessions provided an in-depth exploration of both criminal and civil aspects concerning arrest and detention.



Workshop – 7 Date: 27 September 2023

The Legal Aid Unit conducted a workshop under the theme "Forum on Wrongful Arrest, Custodial Torture and the Rights of The Citizen" Armed Forces Personnel and the Police. This event, held on the 27th of September 2023 from 3pm to 6pm at the H.W. Jayawardena QC Auditorium of the BASL, was a part of National Law Week 2023. We were honoured to host high-ranking officers from the Tri-forces and the Police. The workshop was designed to provide police





officers within the criminal division with a comprehensive understanding of arrest, detention, and the prevention of torture, all while emphasizing the importance of adherence to legal frameworks and human rights principles. Our aim was to empower these officers to carry out their duties with the utmost adherence to ethical standards. This event marked a significant step in our ongoing efforts to enhance the knowledge and expertise of those responsible for upholding the law and protecting the rights of citizens.

Legal Aid Unit Representation at Regional Conference

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka's (BASL) Legal Aid Unit was represented at the first regional conference on Access to Legal Aid, held in New Delhi, India, on 27 and 28 November, 2023. The conference was jointly organized by the National Legal Services Authority, India (NALSA), the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Mr. Nalin De Silva, Chairperson of the BASL Legal Aid Committee, attended the conference. This historic gathering aimed to address challenges related to accessing quality legal aid services in countries of the Global South. The conference also aimed to initiate, facilitate, and support partnerships that could increase access to legal aid across the Africa, Asia, and Pacific subregions.

Enhancing Accessibility at the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL)

In collaboration with the Disability Inclusive Elections in Sri Lanka's technical working group, the Legal Aid Unit (LAU) undertook an accessibility audit of the entire BASL premises. This initiative aims to improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities and ensure inclusivity within BASL.



REPORT OF THE POLICE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson : Mr. Sanjaya Gamage, AAL

Deputy Chairman: Ms. Priyani Ratnayake, AAL

Dr. Ajith Rohana, SDIG

Convenors: Mr. Harith Hettiarachchi, AAL

Mr. Sunil Shantha Herath, AAL Mr. Rangajeewa Gamage, AAL

Mr. Thilanka Chinthaka Blok, AAL

Mr. Amarathunga, AAL

The Lawyer – Police and Prisons relations Committee has mainly concentrated on enhancing the mutual understanding and connection among the three main institutions; The BASL, Sri Lankan Police and the Prison which should work hand in hand for the uplitiment of Justice in the Country.

In order to fulfill the aforesaid mission following criteria were considered as the major Concerns of the Committee;

- Regulate AAL legal representations at police stations.
- Eradicate well-organized touting activities.
- Take measures in regard to petitions/complaints received by the Committee.

Under this perspective, number of complaints forwarded by atorneys with regard to breakdown of mutual understandings were discussed and addressed. Convenors: Mr. T. C. J. Peiris, AAL

Mr. Vijayantha Liyanage, AAL

Mr. Subhash Maduranga Fernando, AAL

Assistant Convenors:

Mr. Namal Madhusanka, AAL Mr. Ashen Indika Premasiri, AAL Mr. Kasun Shyamith Wedisinghe, AAL

Apart from the above, the Committee had a chance to organize two workshops. On 2023.7.30 a workshop for the police officers in Ampara district was organized and the photographs of the event has been annexed as Annexure 10.

On 2023.9.20 a workshop was conducted for army officers at Panagoda army camp and the photographs of the event has been annexed as Annexure 11.

These workshops would place the next committee in the task of widening the spectrum island wide with the gracious assistance of the members of the Branch Associations.

The Committee wishes to thank the President, Vice President, the Secretary, Treasurer and all the executive Committee members of the BASL for their support and encouragement.









2023.10.1 workshop conducted in collaboration with Batticaloa bar association for lawyers and police officers in the law week





2023.9.20 workshop conducted for army officers at Panagoda army camp









2023.9.20 workshop conducted for army officers at Panagoda army camp





2023.10.22 workshop for police officers in Ambilipitiya division









2023.7.30 A workshop could for police officers in Ampara

REPORT OF THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Lasitha Kanuwanaarachchi, AAL Deputy Chairman: Mr. Shehan Gunawardena, AAL

Convenor : Mr. Sanjeewa Leelaratne, AAL Co-Convenors : Mr. Rasika Jayasinghe, AAL

Mr. Rajinda Kandegedara, AAL

Committee Members: Mr. Sanjeewa Dasanayaka, AAL

Mr. Chathura Galhena, AAL Mr. Ruwantha Cooray, AAL Mr. Jagath Haalpandeniya, AAL Mr. Harith De Mel, AAL Mr. Buddhika Serasinghe, AAL

Mr. Sachintha Kahandage, AAL

Ms Shehani Alwis, AAL Ms Jessica Mathiez, AAL Committee Members: Mrs. Dulani Pieris, AAL

Mrs. Hasini Rupasinghe, AAL Ms. Nipunika Rajakaruna, AAL Mr. Devaka Malshayan, AAL Mr. Aaddhes Thureraja, AAL Ms. Vipuni Peiris, AAL Mr. Sajuna Abeyrathne, AAL Mr. Shane Foster, AAL Mr. Vihitha Lekamge, AAL Ms Iranthi Walgama, AAL

Ms. Heshika Rupasinghe, AAL

INTRODUCTION

The Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Committee was formed with the core objective of ensuring the on-going competence and developing the skills and knowledge among legal professionals.

The Committee recognized that a scheme of CPD is mandatory in order to protect and maintain the dignity, professionalism and creditworthiness of the Bar.

In realizing its objectives and mandate, it was agreed that the scheme was to be implemented in two phases; the voluntary and mandatory phase.

VOLUNTARY PHASE

As part of the voluntary phase which was launched in 2023, a number of successful projects and programmes have been completed by the Committee

1. Regional Conferences

Regional CPD Conferences are an island-wide conference series covering all Branch Associations of the BASL. These workshops are conducted to raise awareness on various topics relevant to the practitioner.

Matale

The first of this conference series was held in Matale for the Central Province Bar in July 2023.

Bandarawela

The Second conference was held in Bandarawela for the Uva Province Bar in October 2023.

Jaffna

The next conference was held in Jaffna for the Northern Province Bar on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2024 with a participation of over 100 members. The sessions are curated around highly relevant themes and delivered by the most eminent practitioners in the profession.

2. Certificate Course On Land Law

Identifying the need to enhance and update the knowledge on pertinent areas of land law, an online Certificate course with a focus on the new developments in Land Law, was introduced and conducted successfully



3. Quarterly Law Update

A webinar series was launched covering the developments in the law as seen in Superior Court Judgments and legislation passed during the select period under review. Two such webinars have already been completed covering the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2024.

4. Webinars

In addition to the above, webinars on important and thematic areas of law were conducted to fulfill timely needs of the Bar. The 'CPD Webinar on the Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act No. 29 of 2023' and the 'CPD Webinar on How to Address Your Tax Issues' were two such webinars

In addition to the above projects, the Committee has been continuously working on launching the Mandatory Phase of the CPD Scheme soon. Towards this end, the Implementation Plan has been submitted to the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka for its approval. While the BASL gives the approval for the mandatory CPD scheme, the committee decided to commence the voluntary phase of CPD programme .Moreover with the objective of ultimately launching the CPD Scheme, a pilot project is underway with over 700 members already registered for this programme. The CPD database containing the details of the registrants is currently in progress. The CPD Email and the YouTube channel is also functional. The Secretariat is presently being constructed within the BASL premises, to enable the next steps of the scheme.

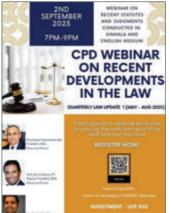
The committee is focused on continuing the current programmes, while also working on obtaining the necessary legislative and administrative changes, required to launch the mandatory CPD.

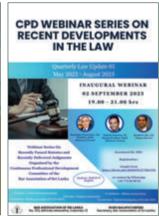
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Chairman, Co-Chairman and the Committee thank the Management Committee of the BASL and members for the support throughout last year.



















REPORT OF THE LABOUR LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Mohamed Adamaly, PC
Members: Ms. Manoli Jinadasa, AAL
Mr. Kanishka Weerasinghe, AAL

Mr. Isuru Lakpura, AAL

At the request of the Ministry of Labour, the Bar Association of Sri Lanka constituted a "Labour Law Reform Committee" to represent the views of the BASL and assist the Ministry and Department of Labour in the reformulation and revamping of Labour Laws in Sri Lanka. The Committee comprised the following:

It was the objective of the Department of Labour that 13 Statutes presently applicable in the area of Labour Law be consolidated into a single statute titled the "Employment Act", and that in the course of doing so, the Laws be reformed in a manner that would while fundamentally provide a safety net for employees, be also better tuned towards promoting entrepreneurship and attracting greater local and foreign investment in business activity.

The aforesaid BASL Committee had numerous rounds of meetings and deliberations (including on weekends), extending in excess of 35 hours, with the Hon. Minister of Labour, the officials of the Department of Labour,

representatives of the Attorney General's Department and of the Legal Draftsman Department, coordinated by the Commissioner General of Labour. The initial meetings were dedicated to identifying and discussing conceptual changes required, while subsequently work was done towards modifying and amending a base document that had previously been prepared by the Department of Labour amalgamating the 13 Statutes. The working committee on these reforms went through the sections and chapters of the draft Law prepared by the Department of Labour and presented their inputs and suggestions. The sessions ended on 3rd February 2024, and the modified document was taken over by the Legal Draftsman's Department for final re-drafting. It is hoped that the final draft that is being developed by the Legal Draftsman's Department would carry the suggestions and inputs of the Labour Law Reforms Committee and that the said final draft would be made available to the BASL Committee for perusal, prior to same being submitted as a Bill to Parliament.

REPORT OF THE DIARY COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Mr. Nalin De Silva Convenor: Ms. Hansi Athukorala

Asst. Convenor : Ms. Piumi Randima Hulugalla Ms. Peshala Herath Hulugalla

Launch of the Diary being a main annual event of the BASL as well as one of the main income sources of the BASL, the Diary Committee launched 2024 BASL Diary officially on theSeptember 2023. In addition to the Diary, we launched the official Calendar of the BASL for the year 2024.

Whilst successfully encountering numerous difficulties owing to the current economic crisis as a result of which most of the companies and other institutions had cut down their marketing budget, the Committee managed to cater to the demands of the BASL membership by continuing with the hard cover limited edition of the Slim Diary along with the soft cover version, Pocket Diary and the Desk Diary.

Although the printing cost had increased drastically in comparison to the previous years, Committee was persistent in their decision to alter the unit price by a considerably low rate same as the last year, which indeed was quite a challenge. So was choosing a reliable printing partner and addressing the exigent demands of the Management Committee. Nevertheless, the premium quality and the standards of the Diary remained the same despite all the obstacles.

Diary Committee printed 9,459 copies in total and the total revenue of the diary sales as at 31-12-2023 was Rs. 6,802,333.42 This year marked a considerable increase in the total profit through sponsorships for the Desk Diary alone, which exceeded Rs. 1,550,000.00.

PRINTEC printed all versions of the BASL Diary except the Desk Diary which was handled by ANCL this year providing an excellent service in delivering the diaries at their earliest possible in finest quality.

REPORT OF THE BASL TOASTMASTERS CLUB



Communication is one of the essential key components found in the legal fraternity. Toastmasters is an International arena that caters specifically

to improve communication skills and leadership. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club that was chartered on 26th June 2020 with Toastmasters International, USA stands as proof of the commitment lawyers have towards developing their communication skills. Toastmasters International which is a non profit educational organization has extended their helping hands to its members from diverse backgrounds to become moreconfident speakers, communicators, and leaders.

What makes the Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club stand out from the rest of the Toastmasters Clubs is that it is the first and only Toastmasters Club established exclusively for members of the legal fraternity. The Club has helped its members to develop and enhance their communication, public speaking and leadership skills in a comfortable, inspiring and professional environment among fellow members of the legal profession.

During its Charter year the Club was confidently under the leadership of TM Chamath Fernando, Attorney-at-Law. The Club achieved President's Distinguished Club Status, the highest recognition from the Toastmasters International by achieving 10 DCP points. The Club further received four Hall of Fame awards at the Ovation 2021 - the District 82 Annual Conference, viz., Silver Eagle Award, Triple Star Award, Rising St ar Award, and Publicity Star Award - Bronze. During its next tenor under the leadership of TM Shenali Dias, Attorney-at-Law, the Club secured the President's Distinguished Club Status in its the 2nd year and also achieved the Golden Club Award, the most prestigious award in District 82. The Club further secured the Early Bird Renewal and Publicity Star - Silver Award. The 3rd year under the leadership and guidance of TM Stephanie Fa'Rouk, the Club secured the President's Distinguished Club Status yet again together with Gloden Club Award, Smedley and Talk Up Toastmasters Awards.

The present Executive Committee for the tenure 2023/2024 consists of TM Amanda Alwis (President), TM Zahara Hassim (Vice President Education), TM Kaushalya Rasnayake (Vice President Membership), TM Arshad Hamza (Vice President Public Relations), TM Mahilini Maiyuran (Secretary), TM Jayanath Ranathunga (Treasurer) and TM Janaka Botheju

(Sergeant-at-Arms). TM Stephanie Fa'Rouk holds the position of Immediate Past President.

The Club continues to deliver quality content to members at every club meeting while providing an enjoyable environment through themed meetings and joint meetings. The outbreak of the pandemic compelled the activities of the club to be conducted on a virtual platform for a period exceeding a year. The Club has



now taken steps to engage in club activities and meetings inperson whenever possible while continuing to hold some of its meetings online for the benefit of its members residing in distant parts of the Island as well as overseas.

The Club is active in the wider Toastmaster fraternity where for the first time the Bar As sociation of Sri Lanka Toastmasters Club represented by TM Amanda secured the 1st runner up in the Division G Area 1 Humourous Speech Contest and represented Area 1 in the Division G Humorous Speech Contest 2023. TM Chamath Fernando and TM Jayanath Ranathunga represented the Club in the Division G Area 1 Humour and Evaluation Speech Contest, along with several other Club members supporting role players.

Toastmasters has always been the ideal forum to improve one's communication and leadership skills; the soft skills which are essential in becoming a persuasive lawyer. With the continued support of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, the Executive Committee of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka Toastmaster's Club for the tenure 2023/2024 will continue to positively influence its members and thereby have a great impact on the legal fraternity and society at large.



In Remembrance of Members who passed away during the period February 2023 to February 2024



IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024





IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

1.	MR. S. M. IMITHIAZ, AAL	28-01-2023
2.	MS. ANUSHA NAVARATNE, PC	30-01-2023
3.	MR. HITLER JAYAWEERA PEIRIS, AAL	09-02-2023
4.	MR. MUDIYAPPU REMADIOUS, AAL	11-02-2023
5.	MR. SOMAPALA GAMAGE, AAL	11-02-2023
6.	MR. UPALI SENARATNE, PC	19-02-2023
7.	MR. SAMSON RUWANPURA, AAL	20-02-2023
8.	MR. N. P. SARATH, AAL	05-03-2023
9.	MR. SIRISENA VITHANAGE, AAL	17-03-2023
10.	MS. DUSHMANTHI SUJATHA ABEYRATNE, AAL	02-04-2023
11.	MR. ANANDA ABEYWARDANA, AAL	06-04-2023
12.	MR. D. P. B. MAHADIVULWEWA, AAL	27-04-2023
13.	MRS. SENANI HURIKADUWA, AAL	05-05-2023
14.	MR. NIHAL WICKRAMASINGHE, AAL	11-05-2023
15.	MR. AMILA KIRIPITIGE, AAL	15-05-2023
16.	MR. H. K. C. DE ALWIS, AAL	16-05-2023
17.	MR. T. B. UDAGEDARA, AAL	16-05-2023
18.	MR. REGINOLD SHANAKA PERERA, AAL	18-05-2023
19.	MR. W. K. SAMARAPALA, AAL	26-05-2023
20.	MR. M. J. WIMALARATNE, AAL	30-05-2023
21.	MS. VISAKHA K. GIRIHAGAMA, AAL	31-05-2023
22.	MR. AMARASENA K HETTIGE, AAL	05-06-2023
23.	MR. SIRIPALA RANATHUNGA, AAL	09-06-2023
24.	MR. GUNARAT BANDA BANNEHEKA, AAL	10-06-2023
25.	MR. TRINI GORDON RAYEN, AAL	14-06-2023
26.	MS. SHANTHA ABHIMANASINGHAM, PC	19-06-2023
27.	MR. K. T. SHANMUGAM, AAL	28-06-2023
28.	MR. MURUGESU SITTAMPALAM, PC	29-06-2023
29.	MR. HERBERT JAYASEKARA, AAL	09-07-2023
30.	MR. K. A. GAMINI PREMATILAKE, AAL	21-07-2023
31.	MR. PRIYARATHNA BALASINGHE, AAL	02-07-2023
32.	MR. SUJEEVA JAYASINGHE, AAL	29-08-2023
33.	MR. SIRISENA AKURUGODA, AAL	10-09-2023



IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024

34.	MR. LAKSHMAN GALHENA, AAL	28-09-2023
35.	MR. UPALI WELARATHNA, AAL	30-09-2023
36.	MR. SHIRLEY WANNIARACHCHI, AAL	02-10-2023
37.	MR. T. M. A. BANDARA, AAL	11-10-2023
38.	MR. HENNAYAKE MUDIYANSELAGE JINADASA, AAL	13-10-2023
39.	MR. DEEPTHI HIKKADUWE LIYANAGE, AAL	16-10-2023
40.	DR. W. D. RODRIGO, P.C.	16-10-2023
41.	MR. MERCY MUNINDRADASA, AAL	26-10-2023
42.	MR. JAYANTHA KAHAWANDALA, AAL	28-10-2023
43.	MR. KUSALA CHANDRA JAYATHILAKA, AAL	06-11-2023
44.	MRS. PRIYADARSHANI FERNANDOPULLE, AAL	08-11-2023
45.	MR. M. T. M. BAFIQ, AAL	14-11-2023
46.	MR. KOLITHA INDRAJITH DHARMAWARDENA, AAL	06-12-2023
47.	MR. SAMARAKOON BANDA, AAL	06-12-2023
48.	HON. KALHARI K. LIYANAGE, DISTRICT JUDGE	13-12-2023
49.	MR. SHANTHILAL WIJESINGHE, AAL	13-12-2023
50.	MR. OVEN DE MEL, AAL	16-12-2023
51.	MR. J. JAYAWICKRAMA, AAL	17-12-2023
52.	MR. BUDDHADASA VITHANAGE, AAL	20-12-2023
53.	MR. DAYA FERDINANDEZ, AAL	23-12-2023
54.	MR. D.M. GUNATHILAKE BANDA, AAL	25-12-2023
55.	MR. PARAKRAMA KULADASA RAJAPAKHSA, AAL	27-12-2023
56.	MR. SATHISCHANDRA DHARMASIRI, AAL	28-12-2023
57.	MRS. MAUREEN SENEVIRATNE, PC	29-12-2023
58.	MR. ALBERT MUNASINGHE, AAL	31-12-2023
59.	MRS. F. HANNAH MARIKAR THASSIM, AAL	08-01-2024
60.	MR. KRISHAN INDIKA FERNANDO, AAL	20-01-2024
61.	MR. KAVEESHWARA RAJAPAKSHA	20-01-2024
62.	MR. PRABHATH ILLANGANTHILAKE, AAL	1-02-2024
63.	MR. DUDLEY A. KARUNARATNE, RETIRED HIGH COURT JUDGE	06-02-2024
64.	MR. JAGATH CHANDIMAL PREMARATHNA, AAL	13-02-2024
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BASL Election 2024/2025



NOTICE

12th January 2024

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. GALHENA CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 10TH JANUARY 2024. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY

- 1. MR. RAZIK ZAROOK, PC
- 2. MR. GEOFFREY J.T. ALAGARATNAM, PC
- 3. MR. ROHAN SAHABANDU, PC
- 4. MR. KALINGA N. INDATISSA, PC
- 5. MR. ANURA MEDDEGODA, PC
- 6. MR. SALIYA KITHSIRI M. PIERIS, PC

SECONDED BY

- MR. CHAMATH DILEEPA PIERIS
- MR. PRABODA RATHNAWARDENE
- MR. GUNARATNE WANNINAYAKE
- MR. AMAL ASIRI RANDENIYA
- MR. SAPUMAL BANDARA
- MR. SANJEEWA DASANAYAKE

AS MR. GALHENA CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE DULY NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY, THE RETURNING OFFICER HON. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 10TH JANUARY 2024, DECLARED THAT:

MR. GALHENA CHATHURA ASIRI NISSANKA, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF SECRETARY OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025.

ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Website: www.basl.lk | E-mail: info@basl.lk | f www.facebook.com/groups/baslgroup



NOTICE

12th January 2024

BASL ELECTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024/ 2025

BASL ELECTION FOR THE POSTOF PRESIDENT FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025

1. THE NOMINATION PAPERS OF MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE, PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT WERE ACCEPTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER, HON. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 10TH JANUARY 2024. THE SIX NOMINATION PAPERS WERE PROPOSED AND SECONDED AS FOLLOWS:

PROPOSED BY

SECONDED BY

1. MR. FAISZ MUSTHAPHA, PC	MR. S.V.J. ANIL SILVA, PC
2. DR. K. KANAG ISVARAN, PC	MR. SANJEEWA PRANEETH JAYAWARDENE, PC
3. DR. J. ROMESH DE SILVA, PC	MR. CHANDAKA JAYASUNDERE, PC
4. MR. IKRAM MOHAMED, PC	MR. FARMAN J. CASSIM, PC
5. MR. S.M. KUSHAN D' ALWIS, PC	MR. NALINDA D. INDATISSA, PC
6. MR. KALINGA N. INDATISSA, PO	MR. JAGATH S. WICKRAMANAYAKE, PC

AS MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE, PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL, WAS THE ONLY CANDIDATE DULY NOMINATED FOR THE POST OF PRESIDENT, THE RETURNING OFFICER HON. INDIKA DEMUNI DE SILVA PC, HON. SOLICTOR GENERAL, ON 10TH JANUARY 2024, DECLARED THAT:

MR. NAWARATNE MUDIYANSELAGE PUSHPA PRABASH KAUSHALYA KUMARA NAWARATNE, PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL WAS DULY ELECTED TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA FOR THE YEAR 2024/2025.

ISURU BALAPATABENDI SECRETARY BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

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BASL Nomination 2024/2025



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Treasurer's Report 2023-2024



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Bar Association of Sri Lanka ("the Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31st December 2023, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in reserves and funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, except for the matters stated in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the accompanying Financial Statements give a true and fair view of, the financial position of the association as at 31st December 2023, and of its Financial Performance and its Cash Flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs).

Basis for Qualified Opinion

(a) Association has not registered for Income Tax with the Department of Inland Revenue. Further, a provision has not been provided for income tax payable for past financial years and current financial year.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (*SLAuSs*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are Independent of the Association in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountant issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Executive Committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards for Small and Medium-sized Entities ("SLFRS for SMEs"), and for such internal control as committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of Financial Statements that are free form material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Partners = N.S.C.De Silva FCA, FCMA (UK), L.C.Piyasena FCA, L.L.S.Wickremasinghe FCA, S.M.S.S.Bandara MBA, FCA, D.S.De Silva LLLB, Attorney = at -Law ACA, ACMA (UK)

Partner (Kandy) W.L.L. Perera FCA.

22 /4 , Vijaya Kumaranatunga Mw., Colombo 05,

Sri Lanka. Telephone: +94 112 513 420 - 22

+94 114 510 268
Fax : +94 114 512 404
E-mail : brds@eureka.lk
Web : www.brdesilva.com

In preparing the Financial Statements, committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to Going Concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our Objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is an assurance of high level, but not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located at Sri Lanka Accounting and Auditing website at: http://www.slaasc.lk/auditing/auditorsresponsibility.php. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

B.R. Oa Slina

B. R. DE SILVA & CO. Chartered Accountants Colombo 05.

Date. 20 - 3 - 2024

DS/ms/(1)





BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

		2023	2022
	<u>Notes</u>	Rs. Cts.	Rs.
Income	(03)	20,127,614.02	16,887,018
Other Income	(04)	77,925,469.66	44,671,276
Expenses	(05)	(57,270,800.41)	(45,857,976)
Surplus before Taxation		40,704,283.27	15,700,318
Taxation		-	* /
Net Surplus for the year		40,704,283.27	15,700,318

The Accounting Policies and Notes from (05) to (19) form an integral part of these Financial Statements.





BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	31.12.2023 Rs. Cts.	31.12.2022 Rs.
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	(06)	54,023,269.36	54,017,438
Work In Progress	(06)	3,579,308.38	-
Investments	(07)	181,016,640.88	157,451,678
	, ,	238,619,218.62	211,469,116
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories	(08)	4,772,658.36	6,996,509
Trade & Other Receivables	(09)	7,930,137.36	6,574,318
Deposits & Advances	(10)	1,040,316.00	1,040,316
Cash & Cash Equivalents	(11)	53,828,343.57	31,496,004
	, ,	67,571,455.29	46,107,147
Total Assets		306,190,673.91	257,576,263
FUNDS & LIABILITIES			
Capital & Reserves			
Accumulated Fund		98,206,954.18	72,536,053
Capital Reserves		163,640,952.81	148,607,570
Revaluation Reserve		4,322,415.00	4,322,415
Total Equity		266,170,321.99	225,466,038
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	y "m.		
Non-Current Financial Liabilities	(12)	7,050,000.00	
Specific Funds	(13)	2,822,443.80	5,911,208
Post Employment Benefits	(14)	11,907,922.97	10,918,245
		21,780,366.77	16,829,453
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade & Other Payables	(15)	16,439,985.15	13,688,772
Current Financial Liabilities	(12)	1,800,000.00	1,592,000
Total Current Liabilities		18,239,985.15	15,280,772
Total Liabilities		40,020,351.92	32,110,225
Total Equity & Liabilities		306,190,673.91	257,576,263

The Executive committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these Financial Statements.

Approved by the Executive Committee:

Name

Signature

PRESIDENT

(1) Kaushalya Nawaratne, pc

SECRETARY

(2) Isura Balapatabendi, AAL

TREASURER

(3) Chamath Tayasekera, AAL

DATE OF APPROVAL BY
THE EXECUTIVE

20/03/2024

COMMITTE

The Accounting Policies and Notes to the financial statements on pages (05) to (19) form an integral part of these Financial Statements.



BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS & RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023

	<u>Capit</u> <u>Reser</u>		Revaluation Reserve							nulated nd	To	tal
	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.				
Balance as at 31.12.2021	134,797,4	34,797,446.76 4,3		4,322,415.00		4,322,415.00		,859.36	209,765	,721.12		
Transfer - Life Membership	13,810,123.55		-		- (13,810,123.55			-				
Net Surplus for the year		-	-		15,700,317.60		15,700	,317.60				
								-				
Balance as at 31.12.2022	148,607,5	70.31	4,322,41	15.00	72,536	.053.41	225,466	,038.72				
Transfer - Life Membership	15,033,3	82.50		-	(15,033)	.382.50)		-				
Net Surplus for the year	Jet Surplus for the year -			-	40,704,	283.27	40,704,	283.27				
Balance as at 31.12.2023	163,640,952.81 4,32		4,322,41	4,322,415.00		98,206,954.18		321.99				

[&]quot;Capital Reserve" represents the fund which is established due to the subscriptions received in respect of life membership. (Refer Note 03).

The Accounting Policies and Notes from (05) to (19) form an integral part of these Financial Statements.





BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST DECEMBER, 2023

	<u>Notes</u>	2023 Rs.	2022 Rs.
Cash Flows from/(Used in) Operating Activities			
Surplus before Income Tax Expenses		40,704,283	15,700,318
Adjustments for:			
Interest Income	(04.2)	(25,619,460)	(10,538,389)
Interest on Loans	(05)	239,369	264,473
Gratuity Provision	(14)	989,678	1,645,259
(Profit)/Loss on Disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment	(04)	-	(47,400)
Bad Debts Written Off		-	332,682
Withholding Tax		1,283,639	-
Depreciation	(06)	3,989,353	3,928,066
Surplus/(Deficit) before Working Capital Chang	es	21,586,862	11,285,009
Adjustment for Working Capital Changes			
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventories		2,223,851	(194,493)
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade & Other Receivables		(384,168)	2,758,303
(Increase)/Decrease in Deposits & Advances			-
Increase/(Decrease) in Trade and Other Payables		2,751,214	(3,249,327)
Cash Generated from Operations		26,177,759	10,599,492
WHT Paid		(1,283,639)	-
Interest paid		(239,369)	(264,473)
Gratuity Paid		-	-
Net Cash Flows from/(Used in) Operating Activit	ies	24,654,751	10,335,019
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Acquisition of Property, Plant & Equipment		(3,995,185)	(462,200)
Buildings Work In Progress		(3,579,308)	-
Insurance Claim Received for the Disposal of Asset	S	-	81,000
Interest Income		24,647,809	10,538,389
Additions/(Withdrawals) of Financial Assets Net Cash Flows from/(Used in) Investing Activities	2.0	(23,564,963)	(15,465,116)
	es	(6,491,647)	(5,307,927)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities Net Movements in Funds		(3,088,764)	(2.420.202)
Loans Granted/(Repayments)		7,258,000	(2,420,292) (1,602,000)
Net Cash Flow from/(Used in) Financing Activitie	s	4,169,236	(4,022,292)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the second	TIPS	22,332,340	
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the	DE SILVA	31,496,004	1,004,800 30,491,204
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the end of the year	100	53,828,344	31,496,004
Cash at Bank) !	53,828,344	31,496,004
Cash & Cash Equivalents at the end of the year	Od Accountants	53,828,344	31,496,004
	Account		02,120,001

The Accounting Policies and Notes to the financial statements on pages (05) to (19) form an integral part of these Financial Statements.

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

NOTES TO FINANCAIL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31⁵^T DECEMBER 2023

1. General Information

The principal place of the business of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (The Association") is located at No.153, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 12.

The objective of the Association is to maintain the Honour and Independence of the lawyers in Sri Lanka, promotion of good relationships and co-operating for consideration of matters of national importance, maintenance of the standards of professional conduct of the Bar.

The financial statements of the association for the year ended 31st December 2023 were authorized for issued by the Executive Committee on

2. Basis of Preparation and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and in compliance with the Sri Lanka Accounting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (SLFRS for SMEs) laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. All values presented in the financial statements are in Sri Lanka Rupees (Rs.) rounded to the nearest rupee. The measurement basis used is the historical cost basis except where otherwise stated in the accounting policies stated below.

2.1. Income and Expenditure Recognition

2.1.1. Income Recognition

Membership Fees/Subscriptions

Subscription income is accounted on a cash basis.

Total Income from the life membership fee transferred to capital reserve account.

Income from Activities/Projects

Income from various other activities is recognized on an accrual basis.

Investment Income

Investment income consists of interest received from fixed deposits recognized on an accrual basis.

Rental Income

Rental income from the premises is recognized on a straight-line basis over the respective lease terms and is included in "other income".



Contd..6

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

NOTES TO FINANCAIL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31⁵T DECEMBER, 2023

2.1.2 Expenditure Recognition

Expenses are recognized in the statement of comprehensive income on the basis of a direct association between the cost incurred and the earning of specific items of income. All expenditure incurred in the running of the Association and in maintaining the property, plant and equipment in a state of efficiency has been charged to income in arriving at the net income for the year.

2.2 Income Taxes

The Association has not provided for the income tax liability as required by the Act No.24 of 2017 and amendments thereto.

2.3 Property, plant and equipment including investment property measured at cost

Furniture and equipment are stated in the statement of financial position at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation. Any revaluation increase arising on the revaluation of furniture and equipment is credited to equity.

Upon disposal of a revalued property and equipment, any corresponding revaluation surplus remaining is transferred to retained earnings.

Land given by the Government of Sri Lanka has not been valued and considered in financial statements.

Building is not depreciated. For all other assets depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method at 15% per annum. Depreciation is charged on all assets in the year of disposal, but no depreciation will be charged in the year of purchase.

2.4 Financial Instruments

2.4.1 Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially recognized at the transaction price. All income is made on the basis of normal credit terms, and the receivables do not bear interest. At the end of each reporting period, the carrying amounts of trade and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. If so, an impairment loss is recognized immediately in profit or loss.

Financial liabilities are initially recognized at the transaction price (including transaction costs). Trade payables are obligations on the basis of normal credit terms and do not bear interest.

Contd..07

BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRILANKA

NOTES TO FINANCAIL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31⁵T DECEMBER 2023

2.4.2 Inventories

Inventories are stated at cost or net realizable value whichever is lower. Net realizable value is the price at which inventories can be sold in the ordinary course of the business less estimated costs of sales.

2.5 Defined Benefit Plan - Gratuity

Gratuity is a defined benefit plan. In order to meet this liability, a provision is carried forward in the statement of financial position. The provision is calculated considering half month salary in to the number of completed years.

However, as per the Payment of Gratuity Act No. 12 of 1983, the liability arises only upon the completion of five years of continuous service.

2.6 Defined Contribution Plans - EPF & ETF

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognized as an employee benefit expense in the income statement as in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Employees' Provident Fund

The association and employees contribute 12% and 8% respectively on the salary of each employee to the approved Provident Fund.

Employees' Trust Fund

The association contributes 3% of the salary of each employee to the Employees' Trust Fund.

2.7 Significant accounting judgments estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements of the Association require management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that effect the reported amounts of revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent liabilities at the reporting date. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Commitments and Contingencies

There were no material commitments and contingencies as at the date of the statement of financial position.

2.8 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

There were no significant events after the reporting date that require adjustments to or disclosure in the interim financial statements.



		N	lotes	20	23	20)22
				Rs.	Cts.	R	s.
(03)	INCOME						
	Ordinary Membership Fees			1,329,	231.52	1,16	5,899
	Life Time Membership Fees			15,033,			0,124
	Delegates' Fees				000.00		0,995
				20,127,			7,018
						-	
(04)	OTHER INCOME						
	Net Income from Other Activities	(4.1)	30,846,	627.03	13,13	7,032
	Investment Income	(4	4.2)	25,619,	459.79	11,78	5,772
	Profit from Book Shop		A	927,	792.09	71	0,709
	Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Lawyers' Director	ies 2017	C	13,	760.00	4	1,000
	Profit/(Loss) from Sale of Law Journals		D	338,5	536.32	5	6,446
	Profit from Unreported Judgments & BAS Publications 2007-2019	L	E	232,1	165.40	(23)	5,921)
	Profit from Identity Cards		G	5,901,0	61.75	4,874	1,9 00
	Profit from Car Passes	,	H	3,400,5	30.00	3,349	9,240
	Profit from Sale of Diaries		L	6,802,3	33.42	4,993	3,920
	Profit from Sale of Appellate Court 2017 V	oll I (393)	O		-		710
	Other Income	(4	l.3) _	3,843,2	.03.86	5,958	3,468
			_	77,925,4	69.66	44,671	,276
(04.1)	NET INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITY ONLINE COURSES	<u>IES</u>					
	Certificate Course in Company Secretarial	Practice 202	3	1,739,6	50.00		-
	Legal Work Shops 2023			1,693,13	39.00		-
	Junior National Law Conference (JNLC) 20 Hambantota	23 -		2,121,36	52.69		-
	Junior National Law Conference (JNLC) 202	23 - Kalutar	a	(1,527,92	29.31)		-
	Contract Drafting 2023			2,727,05	50.00		-
	Certificate Course in Cross Examination Co	ourse 2023		595,40	2.00		-
	National Law Week			(1,168,02	.9.46)		-
	Para Legal Activists 2023			561,15	0.00		-
	Recovery of Premises 2023			83,50	0.00		-
	National Law Conference 2023 - Nuwara El	iya]	19,448,52			-
	National Law Conference 2023 - Colombo	Q. DE	SILVA	667,08	1.13		-
	*	(6) 9			Court	,

Contd...



	20	023	2022
	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
(04.1) NET INCOME FROM OTHER ACTIVITIES (Contd)			
Certificate Course in IP Law (Intellectual Property) 2023	1,105	,425.00	_
Certificate Course in Land Law		,500.00	-
50 Years Appreciation Night 2023	526	,800.00	-
Seminar - Arbitration 2023		2,000.00	_
Seminar - Hire Purchase Leasing Action		,000.00	_
Seminar - C P D Webinar 2023		,650.00	_
Seminar - Kamkaru Neethiya - 1		,650.00	_
Seminar - Aparada Nadu - Adala Neethiya		,080.00	_
Seminar - Aparada Naduwa - 1	65	,960.00	-
Seminar - Badu Givisum	142	,000.00	-
Seminar - Dikkasada Neethiya	128	,560.00	-
Seminar - Idam Aythiya	99	,025.00	-
Seminar - Kamkaru Neethiya - 2	75,	,025.00	-
Seminar - Naya Apasu Aya Karaganima	134,	275.00	_
Seminar - Special Seminar	312,	505.00	-
Seminar - Waganthi Nomethi Neethi	59,	275.00	-
Certificate Course in Company Secretarial Practice 2022		-	2,627,200
Certificate Course in Compliance 2022		_	1,143,935
Legal Work Shops 2022		-	1,256,627
One day Programme in Data Protection 2022		-	367,780
Certificate Course in Taxation 2022		-	700,900
One day Programme in Security Exchange 2022		-	539,505
Certificate course in Forensic Science 2022		-	(112,500)
Junior National Law Conference (JNLC) 2022		**	101,707
Negambo Women Lawyers		-	72,600
Legal Symposium - Polonnaruwa 2022		-	(65,411)
Workshop - Professional Career Development		-	(55,154)
National Law Conference 2022		-	2,730,023
Certificate Course in Constitution Law 2022		-	(11,000)
Seminar - Arbitration and Public Interest		~	971,500
Seminar - Conveyancing		~	1,364,350
Seminar - I C T Law Seminar 2022		-	1,504,970
	30,846,6		13,137,032
	A DES	TA CO	

Contd...



		2023	2022
		Rs. Cts.	Rs.
(04.2) <u>INVESTMENT INCOME</u>			
Interest on Fixed Deposits		25,479,959.57	11,345,441
Interest on Savings Deposits		139,500.22	440,331
		25,619,459.79	11,785,772
(04.3) <u>OTHER INCOME</u>			
Auditorium Hall Hire		90,000.00	70,5 00
Credit Card Commission - Sampath Bank		2,238,418.29	2,032,299
Membership Subs . Law & Society		375.00	375
Miscellaneous Income		158,022.65	17,770
Insurance Claim		117,350.00	-
Processing Fee - Union Assurance		265,678.90	330,428
Advertisement - Bar Reports		-	825,000
Donations		62,185.00	2,000,000
Electricity Grant Income		75,255.65	<i>75,</i> 973
Exchange Gain		-	17,198
Disposal gain on fixed assets		-	47,400
Profit from Sale of Ties	В	(9,502.50)	4,950
Profit from Sale of Lapel Pins and Tie Pins	F	34,027.97	26,024
Profit from Duplo Bureau	I	14,100.00	17,639
Profit from Hand Book	J	41,645.90	5,942
Profit from Supreme Court Rules	K	52,597.0 0	103,270
Profit from Sale of Stamps (APO)	M	579,610.00	361,655
Profit from Sale of Calendars	N	123,440.00	23,788
Profit from Sale of Year Planner	P		(1,743)
		3,843,203.86	5,958,468





		2023		2022	
		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	
(5)	PROFIT BEFORE TAX IS STATED AFTER				
(3)	CHARGING ALL EXPENSES INCLUDING THE				
	FOLLOWING			10.400.047	
	Salaries & Wages	•	1,983.24	18,490,846	
	EPF - 12%	,	7,797.74	2,218,901	
	ETF - 3%		1,784.43	554,725	
	Allowances & Overtime	•	5,469.28	1,202,514	
	Staff Bonus	•	3,685.37	1,485,865	
	Staff Welfare		00.000,000	120,070	
	Labour Charges		5,500.00	43,135	
	Professional Fee		5,097.00	185,432	
	Annual Audit Fee		00.000,000	200,000	
	Purchases - Library Books		00.000,00	5,250	
	Depreciation	•	,352.80	3,928,066	
	Maintenance - Fixed Assets	•	,648.87	434,033	
	Computer Maintenance		750.00	79,420	
	Maintenance - Building		,848.50	147,650	
	Electricity - BASL & Library		,581.95	489,052	
	Water Bills - BASL		,919.00	186,941	
	Telephone & Internet Bills		,895.00	767,543	
	Rates & Taxes - BASL		,304.40	290,544	
	Service Agreement Charges		,091.35	263,548	
	Building Insurance -Fire		,365.00	64,097	
	Travelling		,146.05	307,739	
	Donations		,049.58	25,000	
	Courier Charges		,640.00	65,680	
	SMS - Gateway - E- Arrow		,000.00	104,000	
	SMS Charges - Mobitel		,156.72	2,597,882	
	SMS Charges - Dialog		,040.92	20,133	
	Zoom Online Payments		,423.33	746,526	
	Domain - Name Renewal		,000.00	3,000	
	Advertisements	14,	100.00	8,249	
	Website Maintenance - Hosting and Renewals	902,	094.31	73,200	
	BASL 50 Years Anniversary	135,	465.00		
	Bank Charges and Debit Tax	79,	699.79	86,998	
	Interest on Loans	239,	368.56	264,473	
	Continued Legal Education Seminar	140,	.000.00	728,050	
	Action Files on Easter Sunday Attack	73,	00.000	30,000	
	A Prog Aecourted			Contd	



		2023	2022
		Rs. Cts.	Rs.
(5)	PROFIT BEFORE TAX IS STATED AFT	ER	
	CHARGING ALL EXPENSES INCLUDI	ING THE	
	FOLLOWING (CONTD)		
	Printing Bar News Letters	-	637,500
,	Bar Council and Convocation	3,628,634.84	3,689,460
	News Papers and Periodicals	57,380.00	49,570
	Miscellaneous Expenses	155,750.73	42,880
	IBA Membership	235,277.70	243,297
	Postage Charges	506,338.00	439,526
	OPA - Rates, Electricity & Taxes	171,629.66	132,618
	Stationery and Printing	1,213,636.00	946,127
	Refreshments - BC & Exco	403,070.00	171,640
	Refreshments - Others	863,403.85	338,111
	Withholding Tax	1,283,638.66	-
(Gratuity Provision	989,678.08	1,645,259
1	Website Development	316,800.00	44,205
I	Photographs	16,500.00	69,750
F	Hiring Charges	325,250.00	264,950
E	ETF Surcharges	12,052.74	3,236
	Common Wealth Member Subscription	128,627.81	-
F	Poson Festival	387,240.00	-
P	urchase of Office Equipment	61,482.00	43,740
	eminar Expenses	525,263.00	
	ponsorship Program/ Ceremonial	55,200.00	97,400
E	xchange Loss	4,689.15	
	ad Debts Written Off	=	332,682
	tocks Written Off	-	447,463
		57,270,800.41	45,857,976



ASSET CATEGORY			COST			DEPRECIATION	ATION		WRITTEN DOWN VALUE	OWN VALUE
	Balance as at 01.01.2022	Additions during the year	Disposals during the year	Balance as at 31.12.2023	Balance as at 01.01.2022	Charge for the year	Disposals during the	Balance as at 31.12.2023	Balance as at	Balance as at 31.12.2022
	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cts.	Rs. Cfs.	Re
Buildings	42,947,438.98	,		42,947,438,98						
Furniture and Fittings	6.016.535.00	010 000 00		07.005, 15.72	•	ŀ			42,947,438.98	42,947,439
	2,012,000.00	710,000.00		6,926,535.00	5,135,412.10	902,480.25		6,037,892.35	888,642.65	881,123
Lietural Equipment	1,951,205.00	2,798,635.00		4,749,840.00	1,628,183.75	292,680.75		1,920,864.50	2,828,975.50	323,021
Air Conditioners	1,327,066.00	ı		1,327,066.00	639,333.60	199,059.90	•	838,393.50	488,672.50	687.732
Computer Equipment	4,601,081.28	168,000.00		4,769,081.28	2,100,317.38	690,162.19		2,790,479.57	1.978.601.71	2.500.764
Software	122,429.00		c	122,429.00	104,064.30	18,364.70	1	122.429.00	1	18.365
Generator	2,689,925.00			2,689,925.00	1,210,466.25	403,488.75		1.613.955.00	1 075 970 00	1 479 459
Solar Power System	7,950,000.00	118,550.00	t	8,068,550.00	3,577,500.00	1.192.500.00	,	4 770 000 00	3 298 550 00	4 377 500
Lighting, Equipment &	55,954.00	•		55 05/1 00	34 106 45			00.000,000,000	0,000,000,00	4,7/2,700
sgimils				22,724.00	54,190.45	8,393.10	, ³	42,589.55	13,364.45	21,758
Restaurant Tables & Chairs	60	1	el	380,000.00	228,000.00	57,000.00	- 1	285,000.00	95,000.00	152,000
Duplo Machine	13,500.00	•	,	13,500.00	12,319.00	1,181.00		13,500.00		1.181
Other Fixed Assets	1,493,614.39	×	•	1,493,614.39	861,518.66	224,042.16		1,085,560.82	408.053.57	632.096
47 - 1. T. D.	69,548,748.65	3,995,185.00	1	73,543,933.65	15,531,311.49	3,989,352.80		19,520,664.29	54,023,269.36	54.017.438
Work in Progress BASL Building Renovation	•	3,579,308.38	334	3,579,308.38	,				3 570 308 38	
	•	3,579,308.38		3,579,308.38	4		a		3,579,308.38	
Grand Total	69,548,748.65	7,574,493.38		77,123,242,03	15 531 311 49	3 989 357 RO		10 500 664 20	AT 773 CO 2 773	0 0 4 7 7 0 0 0

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		31.12	2023	31.12.2022
(7	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
	Investment of Fixed Deposits			
	Hatton National Bank PLC	25,03	7,760.37	25,037,760
	National Savings Bank	21,50	0,000.00	21,500,000
	People's Merchant Bank PLC	1,50	0,000.00	1,500,000
	Bank of Ceylon	28,89	0,652.49	28,848,929
	State Mortgage & Investment Bank PLC	6,10	0,000.00	6,100,000
	Nations Trust Bank PLC	1,90	0,000.00	1,900,000
	Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC	53,76	3,063.64	48,452,989
	People's Bank	13,11	2,000.00	13,112,000
	People's Leasing & Finance PLC	6,000	00.000,0	6,000,000
	Sanasa Development Bank PLC	5,000	00.000,0	5,000,000
	National Development Bank	8,213	3,164.38	-
	Sampath bank PLC	10,000	0,000.00	-
		181,016	6,640.88	157,451,678
(0)	TA WIED WORKER			
(8)	INVENTORIES			
	Law Journals	227	7,272.00	531,068
	Directory 2017	626	5,000.00	685,000
	Hand Books	171	,143.60	232,274
	Tie Pins	27	,425.00	83,100
	Ties	305	,100.00	324,600
	Diaries 2024	13	,951.58	-
	Diaries 2023	326	,400.00	1,361,595
	Diaries 2022	136	,503.85	136,324
	Stamps APO	111,	.742.00	183,548
	Stationery - Bookshop	32,	763.47	33,482
	Publications	836,	071.69	1,260,871
	Stationery APO	33,	210.00	10,565
	Supreme Court Rules	218,	450.00	246,620
	Car Passes 2023		250.00	90,375
	Car Passes 2024	11,	210.00	-
	Consignment Law Books	1,695,	165.17	1,817,087
	1 u	4,772,	658.36	6,996,509
(0)	TDADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
(9)	TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES			
	Accounts Receivable	3,845,	143.19	3,606,759
	Interest Receivable	971,	651.30	1,247,382
	Staff Loans	3,113,3	342.87	1,720,177
	* Per Accountant	7,930,1	137.36	6,574,318



	N	lotes	31.12	2.2023	31.12.2022
(10)	DEPOSITS & ADVANCES		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
()					
	<u>Deposits</u> Deposits		66	,650.00	66,650
	Deposits			,650.00	66,650
				,000.000	
	Advances				
	Foot Ball Tournament 2016		562	,866.00	562,866
	Neethi Ranga		65,	,500.00	65,500
	Advance - Printing of Law Journals			,300.00	345,300
				,666.00	973,666
			1,040,	316.00	1,040,316
(11)	CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS				
(11)					
		1.1)		620.00	41,320
	Cash at Bank (1	1.2)	53,801,		31,454,684
			53,828,	343.57	31,496,004
(11.1)	CASH IN HAND				
	Petty Cash		8,3	120.00	39,820
	Cash In Hand-1188		18,	500.00	-
	Cash In Hand-9753			-	1,500
		•	26,6	520.00	41,320
(11.2)	CASH AT BANK				
	Current Accounts				
	Bank of Ceylon, Mihindu Mawatha, Colombo 1	2			
	A/C 9753	reads	6,217,7	13.91	4,308,474
	A/C 9763		4,904,0		1,249,366
	A/C 0180		538,1	98.85	266,293
	A/C 9768		9,653,5	54.58	9,520,231
	<u> Hatton National Bank - Hulftsdorp Street, Col</u>	ombo 12			
	A/C 1188		7,747,4	59.88	1,045,115
	A/C 4105		2,607,3		7,015,719
	A/C 17253		2 200 0	70 57	75,681
	1		1	DE SILLA	- ,
			10		
			16) ()	Contd
			11 3	15/	

Accountants



		31.12	.2023	31.12.2022
(11)	CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS (Contd)	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
(11.2)	CASH AT BANK			
	Peoples' Bank			
	A/C No.297-1003-7-001293	6,270,	471.63	2,392,211
	A/C No.297-1001-9-001293	3,088,	096.28	2,096,428
	Savings Accounts Hatton National Bank · Hulftsdorp Street, Colombo 12			
	A/C 83040	1,682,9	924.25	2,143,137
	A/C 28625	7,182,9		339,849
	A/C 6604	564,6	555.71	963,712
	A/C 63910033070	34,3	384.47	38,468
		53,801,7	23.57	31,454,684





(12) FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

(12.1) INTEREST BEARING BORROWINGS

		as	ance 8 at 2.2023	Repa	ount yable 1 1 year		ount yable 1 year	To	<u>otal</u>	Balance as at 31.12.2022
		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
<u>Loans</u>										
Term Loan - Hatton National Bank PLC	(A)		-		-		-		ю	1,592,000
Term Loan - Hatton National Bank PLC	(B)	8,850,	.000.00	1,800,	000.00	7,050,	000.00	8,850,	000.00	
		8,850,	000.00	1,800,	000.00	7,050,0	000.00	8,850,	000.00	1,592,000

(A) Long Term Loan Facility - Hatton National Bank PLC

Amount

: Rs. 8,000,000.00

Facility No

: 63040051396

Purpose

: Working Capital Requirements

Interest Rate: 3% above the deposit rate

: Repayable over a period of 60 months

Repayment: Rs. 133,500/-x 59 months + Interest

: Rs. 123,500/-x 01 month + Interest

Security

: Lien over Fixed Deposit A/C No: 063030019503 for Rs. 10,037,760.37/-

(B) Long Term Loan Facility - Hatton National Bank PLC

Amount

: Rs. 9,000,000.00

Facility No

: 63040060622

Purpose

: Building Renovation

Interest Rate: 9.1% + 2.5% above the deposit

Repayment : Repayable over a period of 60 months

: Rs. 150,000/-x 60 months + Interest

Security

: Lien over Fixed Deposit A/C No: 063030019503 for Rs. 10,037,760.37/-





		Not	<u>es</u> <u>31.1</u>	2.2023	31.12.2022
(13)	SPECIFIC FUNDS		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
	National Defense Fund		1	0,074.00	10,074
	Transfer of Funds			-	(1,319,535)
	UNHCR		•	9,374.11	9,374
	Legal Aid Unit		2,44	4,303.48	6,852,603
	Kind Hand Project		35	5,000.51	35,000
	UK Lawyers' Fund		27	7,762.55	27,763
	JNLC Distress Fund		295	5,929.15	295,929
			2,822	2,443.80	5,911,208
(14)	POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS				
	Balance at the beginning of the year		10.918	3,245.00	9,272,986
	Provision for the year			9,677.97	1,645,259
	Payments during the year		,,,		-
	Balance at the end of the year		11,907	,922.97	10,918,245
(15)	TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES				
	Accounts Payable	(15.1	5.094	,887.61	6,097,839
	Advances Received	(15.2		,401.00	4,107,262
	Consignment Vendor	(====		,090.87	2,000,270
	Accruals			,605.67	1,483,401
			16,439,	985.15	13,688,772
(15.1)	ACCOUNTS PAYABLE				
1	Benevolent Trust Fund - Interest		1 100	275.42	966,889
	Thiwanka Wickramasinghe Fund - Inter	'est		651.44	398,454
	Other	CDL	3,752,		4,732,496
			5,094,		6,097,839
(150)	DVANGEO BEGENVED				
(15.2) <u>F</u>	ADVANCES RECEIVED				
P	Advance Received for SHE Claim		150,0	00.00	150,000
A	Advance Received for Lawyers' Books		4,476,8	307.55	4,164,594
A	Advance Received - NLR set		1,666,5	593.45	(207,332)
			6,293,4		4,107,262
				12.0E	SILVA
				10	100



(16) EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There were no material events occurring after the reporting date as at 31st December, 2023 that require adjustments to or disclosure in the Financial Statements.

(17) CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There were no significant contingent liabilities and capital commitments as at 31st December 2023.





			20)23	2022
(A)	Profit from Book Shop		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
	Income - Sales Commission		850,	627.77	684,394
	Sales - Stationery and SLR Publication	ns	90,	182.00	26,315
			940,8	809.77	710,709
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year		33,4	182.36	33,482
	Purchases		12,2	298.79	-
	Stock as at the end of the year		(32,7	763.47)	(33,482)
			13,0)17.68	_
	Net Income/(Loss)		927,7	792.09	710,709
(B)	Profit from Sale of Ties				
(D)	TIOIR HOM Sale of Ties				
	Sales		8,6	597.50	19,250
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year		324,6	00.00	338,900
	Stock Adjustments		(1,3	00.00)	-
	Stock as at the end of the year			00.00)	(324,600)
			18,2	00.00	14,300
	Net Income/(Loss)		(9,5	02.50)	4,950
(C)	Profit from Sale of Lawyers' Directori	es 2017			
	Sales		72,76	60.00	82,000
			72,76	60.00	82,000
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year		685,00	00.00	726,000
	Purchases			-	
	Stock as at the end of the year		_(626,00	0.00)	(685,000)
			59,00	0.00	41,000
	Net Income/(Loss)		13,76	0.00	41,000



Contd...



			20	023	2022
(D)	Profit from Sale of Law Journals		Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
(D1)	LJ Volume 2017 (396)				
	Sales		93,	034.01	15,940
	Cost of Sales Stock as at the beginning of the year Purchases		217,	872.00 -	226,416
	Stock as at the end of the year	82		548.00)	(217,872)
	Net Income/(Loss)			324.00 289.99)	8,544 7,396
(D2)	Law Journal 2018 (314)				
	Sales		93,0	025.50	16,000
	Cost of Sales Stock as at the beginning of the year Purchases		212,9	976.00	222,768
	Stock as at the end of the year			896.00) 280.00	<u>(212,976)</u> <u>9,792</u>
	Net Income/(Loss)			254.50)	6,208
(D3)	LJ Volume 2020 (325)				
	Sales		125,9	65.50	89,820
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year Purchases		100,2	19.56	147,198
	Stock as at the end of the year	-	100.5	10.54	(100,220)
	Net Income/(Loss)	-	100,21 25,7 4		46,978 42,842





(D)	Profit on Sale of Law Journals (Contd)	Rs.	023 Cts.	<u>2022</u> Rs.
(D4	LJ Volume 2023 (338)			
	Sales	3,337	,306.87	-
	Cost of Sales Stock as at the beginning of the year Purchases Stock as at the end of the year Net Income/(Loss) Total Income from Sale of Law Journals (D1+D2+D3+D4)	(12, 2,994, 342,	,000.00 ,028.00) ,972.00 ,334.87 536.32	56,446
(E)	Profit on Unreported Judgment and BASL Publication Sales - LJ Vol Vi & Vii	ns 2007-2	019	
	Sales	991,	860.43	252,281
	Cost of Sales Stock as at the beginning of the year Purchases Stock as at the end of the year Net Income/(Loss)	(779,6 759,6	870.69 496.03 671.69) 695.03	1,561,208 188,865 (1,260,871) 489,202 (236,921)
(F)	Profit from Sale of Lapel Pins and Tie Pins			
	Sales	91,0	02.97	95,049
	Cost of Sales Stock as at the beginning of the year Stock Adjustments Stock as at the end of the year Net Income/(Loss)	1,3 (27,4) 56,9	00.00 00.00 25.00) 75.00 27.97	152,125 - (83,100) 69,025 26,024





		<u>20</u>	2022
(G)	Profit from Identity Cards	Rs.	Cts. Rs.
	Sales	6 943.	261.75 5,368,800
			300.00 217,900
	Photography Processing		561.75 5,586,700
	Cost of Sales	7,370,	3,300,700
	PVC Cords and Ribbons	1 460	500.00 711,800
	1 VC Cords and Moboris	1,469,	
	Net Income/(Loss)	5,901,	
	Net filcome/ (Loss)	3,901,	4,074,300
(H)	Profit from Car Passes		
	Sales	3,624,3	395.00 3,553,865
	Cost of Sales		
	Stock as at the beginning of the year	90,3	375.00 41,440
	Purchases	144,9	950.00 297,320
	Stocks Written Off		- (43,760)
	Stock as at the end of the year	(11,4	(90,375)
		223,8	65.00 204,625
	Net Income/(Loss)	3,400,5	30.00 3,349,240
(I)	Profit from Duplo Bureau		
	Sales	214,10	65.00 184,239
	Cost of Color		
	Cost of Sales	200.0	/# 00
	Purchases	200,00	
	NT / T //T	200,06	
	Net Income/(Loss)	14,1(00.00 17,639
(J)	Profit From Hand Book		
	Sales	102,77	76.28 38,373
	Cost of Sales		
	Stock as at the beginning of the year	232,27	3.98 264,705
	Purchases		
	Stock as at the end of the year	(171,14	3 60) (232 274)
		OE SILVA 61,13	
,	Net Income/(Loss)	41,64	
	,	6 18	5,742
		Sa Joseph Aesoundary	Contd



			202	23	2022
			Rs.	Cts.	Rs.
(K	S) Profit from Supreme Court Rules				
	Sales		62,9	917.00	135,910
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year		246,6	520.00	301,785
	Stock Adjustments		(17,8	350.00)	(22,525)
	Stock as at the end of the year		(218,4	150.00)	(246,620)
	Net Income/(Loss)			320.00 597.00	32,640 103,270
(L	Profit from Sale of Diaries				
(L1) Diaries 2020				
	Sales			-	-
	Advertisements			-	-
				-	-
	Cost of Sales				
	Stock as at the beginning of the year				22,566
	Printing of Diaries			-	-
	Stocks Written Off			-	(22,566)
	Stock as at the end of the year			7	-
				-	-
	Net Income/(Loss)			121	49
(L2)	Diaries 2021				
	Sales			_	
	Advertisements			~	
					-
	Cost of Sales	*			
	Stock as at the beginning of the year			~	187,432
	Stocks Written Off				(187,432)
	Stock as at the end of the year	_			-
				-	-
	Net Income/(Loss)			_	-
			Q.DES	ILVA	
			B. Charles).6	Contd

Accountant



		2023	2022
		Rs. Cts.	Rs.
(L3)	Diaries 2022		
	Sales	-	654,700
	Advertisements	2	2
	1 tay cittocitcito	-	654,700
	Cost of Sales		
	Stock as at the beginning of the year	136,324.35	409,032
	Stock Adjustments	179.50	-
	Stock as at the end of the year	(136,503.85)	(136,324)
	Stock as at the cha of the year	(130,003.00)	272,708
	Net Income/(Loss)		381,992
	ret meome/ (1933)		001,75
(L4)	Diaries 2023	×.	
(L4)	Diaries 2025		
	Sales	1,748,934.84	7,866,082.00
	Advertisements	1)/ 10//01.01	1,100,000.00
	Nevertisements	1,748,934.84	8,966,082.00
	Carl (Calla	17/ 10/50 110 1	0,700,000.00
	Cost of Sales	1.0/1.505.00	
	Stock as at the beginning of the year	1,361,595.00	-
	Printing of Diaries	(22 (402 02)	5,715,749.00
	Stock as at the end of the year	(326,400.00)	(1,361,595.00)
	Not Income //I age)	1,035,195.00	4,354,154.00
	Net Income/(Loss)	713,739.84	4,611,928.00
(L5)	Diaries 2024		
()	All and the state of the state		
	Sales	9,337,112.00	_
	Advertisements	1,550,000.00	-
		10,887,112.00	-
	Cost of Sales		
	Stock as at the beginning of the year		-
	Printing of Diaries	4,812,470.00	-
	Stock as at the end of the year	(13,951.58)	-
	,	4,798,518.42	(-
	Net Income/(Loss)	6,088,593.58	-
	Total Income from Sale of Diaries		
	(L1+L2+L3+L4+L5)	6,802,333.42	4,993,920
		C SI	



