

## **Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association (SASA) was formally convened at 10.00 a.m. on 27th June 2023 at the Western Province Aesthetic Resort.

As per tradition, a two-minute silence was observed in remembrance of the deceased members and war heroes. This was followed by the singing of the SASA anthem.

Subsequently, the Hon. President of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association, Mr. Padula Sri Rohana De Silva, welcomed the members and outlined the objectives of the meeting. He expressed his sincere appreciation to all those who contributed towards the successful organization of the 40th Annual General Meeting.

He then highlighted the current use of the Association's official website as a platform for internal communication among members. He also informed the gathering that nominations had been invited in accordance with the Articles of the Association. Further, he elaborated on the availability of the online *Discussion Forum* and the *Tel SASA* platform for members. He encouraged members to maximize the use of these digital platforms to enhance communication and participation.

Mr. Rohana also addressed the concerns raised by members regarding various issues and explained the Association's approach in responding to such matters. He acknowledged the dedicated service of the Executive Committee and emphasized that the active engagement of all members is crucial for the continued progress and strengthening of the Association.

However, he noted that both the general public and peer institutions recognize the strength and credibility of SASA. Given that Executive Committee members carry out their responsibilities alongside their official and personal duties, he appealed for the continuous support and cooperation of all members. Mr. Rohana briefly reviewed the initiatives undertaken by the Executive Committee

He invited the members to collaborate with the committee that is to be appointed. He also extended his sincere apologies for any delays or miscommunication that may have occurred during his tenure as President.

Next, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Leelanath Wickrema Arachchi, presented the minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 15.11.2022. Following discussions on matters arising from the previous minutes, Mr. Priyantha Mayadunne proposed that the minutes be accepted as accurate, and Mr. Chaminda Hettiarachchi seconded the proposal. The minutes were thereby confirmed and adopted.

The Secretary presented the Annual Report, which detailed the programmes implemented by the Association during the reporting period.

Thereafter, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. M.A. Karunaratna, presented the audited Annual Financial Statements for the period from 01.04.2022 to 31.03.2023. The Financial Statements were proposed for adoption by Mr. Amila Indika and seconded by Ms. Sajeewani Athapaththu. The meeting unanimously approved the same.

The floor was then opened for member proposals as per the agenda.

Mr. Priyantha Mayadunne highlighted the possibility of future challenges and emphasized the need for collective action with SASA to address them effectively. He proposed using the current period as an opportunity to further consolidate SASA as a professional service union.

Dr. Suren Batagoda informed the gathering of a criticism made against the SLAS officers and emphasized that the most appropriate way to respond to such criticism is through collective action taken by the members of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association. He stated that there is a need to effectively utilize the skills and competencies of SLAS officers to address the current challenging economic and political context, that fulfilling this need presents a valuable opportunity for SLAS officers to ensure the stability of their service by demonstrating their capabilities, and that this challenging environment provides a platform to enhance the image of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service.

Mr. Siripala Hettiarachchi stressed the importance of strengthening SASA in preparation for future administrative reforms. He proposed the introduction of a sustainable fund-raising mechanism to support the financial stability of the Association.

Mr. Nalaka Kaluwewa highlighted common criticisms directed at both the Sri Lanka Administrative Service Association (SASA) and the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). He urged the Association to actively promote greater participation of Sri Lanka Administrative Service officers in the programmes conducted by SLIDA.

Mr. Sri Rajeevan expressed concerns over the absence of constructive dialogue, particularly concerning the available infrastructure and the potential of officers. He proposed the establishment of an official WhatsApp group to enhance communication among members.

He also suggested exploring opportunities to collaborate with Sri Lankan ambassadors and high commissioners, and encouraged active participation of senior SLAS officers serving in key institutions such as the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office in SASA's initiatives.

Subsequently, Mr. Prabath Yogachandra proposed that a fund should be established by the members to collect contributions, stating that it will enable the members to access benefits when needed. He further proposed that a special committee should be appointed for this purpose and appropriate action be taken by the next Executive Committee regarding this matter. The General Meeting unanimously approved this proposal.

Mr. Prabath Chandrakeerthi who spoke next, mentioned the necessity of taking prompt action regarding the land belonging to the SASA.

Mr. Udesch Seneviratna inquired about the use of the website for contacting members, while mentioning the availability of additional, modern communication methods. He made several proposals, including the need for swift action regarding the SASA land in Battaramulla, the appointment of a committee to address the issue of SLAS Class I and conduct further study on the matter, as well as the amendment of the current Articles of the SASA. He also emphasized the necessity of enhancing the capabilities of the SLAS officers.

Mr. Ajantha Gunawardena also addressed the issue of SLAS Class I. He pointed out that the President's claiming that the members were responsible for the delay in drafting the letter concerning this matter was a false statement. He clarified that the delay had not been on the part of the members, but had occurred at the level of the Executive Committee. He remarked that legal action should be taken if a proper response to this issue has not been received by then. In reply, the President stated that measures had been taken to resolve the matter without resorting to legal proceedings. However, he noted that there would be no objection to pursuing legal action if required. Mr. Gunawardena requested that a robust, efficient method of communication be created for the SASA.

Mrs. Srini Karunarathne extended her sincere thanks to all the retired and senior officers for their participation in the Annual General Meeting and for sharing their valuable insights.

After a discussion on the above proposals, it was unanimously decided to forward the same to the relevant divisions.

Subsequently, the 39<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee expressed its appreciation of the cooperation extended by the members during its tenure and announced its resignation. Accordingly, Mr. Priyantha Mayadunne was appointed as Pro Tem President to oversee the election of the new office bearers. He informed the members that the nominations received by the final date of 19 June 2023, had been accepted. Afterwards, the nominations were presented to the General Meeting by the Pro Tem President.

Editor	- Ms. W.M. Dharanee Upeka Weerasekara
Assistant Editor	- Mr. W.W. Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando
Committee Member	- Mrs. K.L.M.C. Kularatne
Committee Member	- Mr. M.A.D. Gunawardane
Committee Member	- Mr. B.A. Pradeep Lakshantha
Committee Member	- Mr. M.M. Noufal

Mr. K.R. Pathmapriya had submitted a nomination for the position of Deputy President; however, as he was absent at the time of the General Meeting, his nomination was rejected.

Subsequently, members were elected to all positions of the Executive Committee through proposals seconded by the General Meeting.

<b>Executive Committee Position</b>	<b>Name of Member</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>
Hon. Secretary	Mr. W.W. Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando	Mrs. Sajeewani Athapaththu	Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna
Hon. President	Mr. Mahesh Lasantha Gammampila	Mr. Nalaka Kaluwewa	Mr. B.A. PradeepLakshantha
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. M.A. Karunarathna	Mrs. Priyangani Hewapathirana	Mr. B.A. Pradeep Lakshantha
Deputy Secretary	Mr. A. Saarrankan	Mr. M.M. Noufal	Mrs. Srini Karunarathne
Deputy President	Mr. Padula Sri Rohana De Silva	Mr. Harsha Vithanaarachchi	Mr. M.A.S. Madusanka
Deputy President	Mr. P.B.W.S. Prasad	Mr. Sachith Thewarapperuma	Mr. W.G. AmilaIndika
Deputy President	Mr. W.G. AmilaIndika	Mr. Sachith Thewarapperuma	Mr. M.A.S. Madusanka
Deputy President	Mrs. H.W.S.P. Karunarathna	Mr. A. Saarrankan	Mr. Prabath Yogachandra
Deputy President	Mr. Sachith Thewarapperuma	Mr. B.A. Pradeep Lakshantha	Mr. P.B.W.S. Prasad
Deputy President	Mr. W.G.M. Hemantha Kumara	The proposals were seconded and forwarded by the Divisional Secretaries' Association in Sri Lanka in accordance with the Articles of the association.	
Deputy President	Mr. Ranjan P. Perera		
Assistant Secretary	Mr. W.W.L.L.T. Wijewickrama	Mr. B.A. Pradeep Lakshantha	Ms. W.M. Dharanee Upeka Weerasekara

Assistant Treasurer	Mr. M.A.S. Madusanka	Mrs. Sanjeewani Weerasekara	Mrs. Jayamali Gunarathna
Assistant Editor	Mrs. G.D. Induka Madumali	Mr. W.G.W. Gnanathayalan	Mrs. Chathurika De Alwis
National Organizer	Mr. A.M.M.N. Amarasinghe	Mr. Ajantha Gunawardena	Mr. Chandana Rathnayaka
Committee Member	Mr. Harsha Vithanaarachchi	Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna	Mr. Udesch Seneviratne
Committee Member	Mrs. J.G.D. Tharaka	Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna	Mr. A. Saarrankan
Committee Member	Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna	Mrs. Sajeewani Athapaththu	Mrs. Vajira Damayanthi
Committee Member	Mr. Viraj Thilakarathna	Ms. Tharaka Dissanayake	Mrs. Priyangani Hewarathna
Committee Member	Mr. Rajitha Gunathilaka	Mrs. Sajeewani Athapaththu	Mrs. Vajira Damayanthi

Mr. W.W. Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando, who had previously been elected as Assistant Editor, resigned from that position to assume the duties of Secretary.

Mr. P.R. Samaraweera was elected as Auditor, as proposed by Mr. Kamal Amarasinghe and seconded by Mr. Mahinda Ekanayake.

The following officers were elected to the Advisory Board of SASA, as proposed by Mr. Padula Sri Rohana De Silva and seconded by Mr. B.A. Pradeep Lakshantha.

1. Mr. Priyantha Mayadunne
2. Mr. Siripala Hettiarachchi
3. Mr. Nalaka Kaluwewa
4. Mr. M.N. Ranasinghe
5. Mr. Mahinda Madihahewa
6. Dr. Suren Batagoda
7. Mr. Prabath Chandrakeerthi
8. Mrs. J.M. Thilaka Jayasundara

Additionally, Mr. Mahesh Lasantha Gammampila (Hon. President) and Mr. W.W. Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando (Hon. Secretary) were elected to the Advisory Board *ex officio*.

Following the appointment of the new Office Bearers, the Hon. President, Mr. Mahesh Lasantha Gammampila, expressed his gratitude on being elected and requested the full cooperation of the members for the association's future activities.

Thereafter, the vote of thanks was delivered by the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W.W. Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the successful continuation of the 40th Annual General Meeting. He also invited all members to attend the luncheon and dinner. The National Anthem was then sung, marking the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

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Hon. Secretary

Kalindra Jayaweera Fernando

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Hon. President

Mahesh Lasantha Gammampila