

Performance Report –01st Quarter

January to March 2017

Introduction

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRC) was established in 1996 by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996. The Act sets out the legal basis and operational principles of the HRC. The HRC is referred to in the Constitution of Sri Lanka but it is not formally established by the Constitution. The Chairperson and Members of the Commission are appointed under Constitutional provisions.

The Act defines the HRCSL's jurisdiction in terms of fundamental rights and human rights. Fundamental rights are certain civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed in Chapter III of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Human rights are defined in international law.

The statutory functions of the Commission are:

- to inquire into, and investigate, complaints relating to procedures, or infringements or imminent infringements of fundamental rights to ensure compliance with the provisions of Constitution and to provide for resolution through conciliation and mediation
- to advise and assist the government in formulating legislation and administrative directives and procedures to promote and protect fundamental rights
- to make recommendations to the Government to ensure that national laws and administrative practices are in accordance with international human rights norms and standards
- to make recommendations to Government on the subscribing or acceding to treaties and other international human rights instruments
- to promote awareness of, and provide education in relation to, human rights.
(Section.10 of Act No. 21 of 1996)

The Commission functions with 156 staff members. The Commission consists of Inquiries & Investigations, Education & Special Programmes, Research & Monitoring and Administration & Finance Divisions and 10 regional offices (Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kalmunai, Kandy, Matara, Trincomalee and Vavuniya) to carry out its functions. Each Division is headed by a Director and each Regional Office is headed by a Regional Coordinator. The Chairperson and /or a Commissioner/ Commissioners supervise each Division and Regional Offices.

Special Activities

- The Commission initiated the uploading of its recommendations on the HRCSL website.
- To mark the International Women's Day 2017 a roundtable discussion on "The lived realities of women engaged in informal labour and similar sectors" was held on 08 March 2017 at the BCIS Auditorium, BMICH, Colombo 07. The discussion was held with the participation of women leaders representing various sectors such as agriculture, plantation, migrant workers, etc. Former President Madam Chandrika Kumaranatunge participated as the Chief Guest of the programme. Parallel programmes were also conducted by the Commission's Regional Offices.
- The Commission conducted a training workshop on "National Inquiries" supported by the Asia Pacific Forum and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of University of Lund, Sweden from 27th February to 02nd March 2017 with the participation of Commissioners, Senior Management, Inquiry and Investigations staff from Head Office and Regional Offices of HRCSL and selected Civil Society Members.
- Two days training on "Disability Access Rights" was conducted in collaboration with the Australian Human Rights Commission from 27 – 28 March 2017 at Colombo. This training was mainly targeted on the persons who work for rights of the persons with disabilities. Government officers, civil society members who work for the rights of persons with disabilities and disabled and HRCSL relevant Regional and Head Office staff were the participants of the programme.
- The Chairperson and the Commissioner in charge of Regional Office visited Anuradhapura and Kandy Regional Offices on 06th March and 31st March 2017 respectively and conducted meetings with Regional Coordinating Committees and Civil Society Committees organized by the Regional Offices.
- To create public awareness on Human Rights "Human Rights snippet campaign" broadcast via Commercial Service and all regional services of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in Sinhala and Tamil languages.
- The Commission called applications for the HRCSL internship programme from under graduates and recent graduates to serve on voluntary basis for the 3rd phase 2017.
- The Commission continued collecting details from Divisional Secretariat on Indigenous People in Sri Lanka for the purpose of monitoring protection of their rights.

Recommendation to the Government

Human Rights Commission conveyed its deep concern to Hon. Prime Minister by letter dated 14.03.2017 regarding the proposed amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure (Special Provisions) Act No 2 of 2013 which effects rights of detainees in police custody to have unimpeded access to lawyers and sets out its recommendation to ensure legislative compliance with human rights standards.

Summary of Complaints

Head Office – (01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017)

No. of Complaints Received by the Head Office		1228	
No. of Complaints within the mandate of HRCSL		839	
No. of Complaints not within the mandate of HRC (Cannot Proceed)		203	
Complaints pending for more information		186	
Concluded cases			
Categorization of the concluded cases	Concluded Cases registered in 2017	Concluded cases registered before 2017	Total (During this Quarter)
No FR Violation	-	05	05
Not Interested	-	106	106
Recommendation issued on Fundamental Rights violation	-	21	21
Settlement by parties to resolve complaint	-	37	37
Relief Granted by the respondent to the issue in the complaint	-	35	35
Withdrawn	04	91	91
Refer to other Authorities	-	05	05
Directives given	-	01	01
Pending Court Cases and therefore cannot proceed	-	36	36
Not within mandate	-	14	14
Time bar	-	-	-
Total	04	351	355

Summary of Complaints - Regional Offices(01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017)

Summary of Complaints 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017	Ampara.	Anuradapura.	Badulla	Batticloa	Jaffna	Kalmunai	Kandy	Matara	Trincomalee	Vavuniya
No. of Complaints received	44	167	56	79	48	78	245	211	30	62
No. of Complaints within the mandate	38	163	52	78	46	78	225	197	28	62
No. of Complaints not within the mandate	6	4	4	1	2	-	20	14	4	-
No. of Complaints settled	29	9	5	14	47	97	277	154	2	54
No. of Complaints referred to Head office for recommendations	2	14	-	1	-	1	5	4	-	5
No. of persons who consulted the Regional Offices	99	342	128	79	141	101	395	323	134	300

Summary of Visits to places of Detention (01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017)

Head Office	Police Stations	Prisons
	156	04

Regional Offices	Ampara	Anuradhapura	Badulla	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Kalmunai	Kandy	Matara	Trincomalee	Vavuniya
Place										
Police Stations	32	76	25	36	42	24	109	115	86	33
Prisons	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	5	1	06
TID Visits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	03
Child Care Homes Visits	3	6	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	03
Gazetted Places of Detention	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Rehabilitation Cent.	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	02
Elders Home	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Women's Home	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meetings/Discussions/Programs held with External Stakeholders

02.01.2017	Participated in the Inauguration Ceremony of President's Vision for a Sustainable Era based on the United Nations concept of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda
09.01.2017	Meeting with the Chief Judicial Medical Officer, Colombo
10.01.2017	Meeting with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
11.01.2017	Meeting with Prof. Gameela Samarasinghe and Mr. Ananda Galappatti on Mental Health Issues in Sri Lanka
17.01.2017	Meeting with UNDP
18.01.2017	Meeting with the Asia Foundation
19.01.2017	Meeting with Refugee Advocates
23.01.2017	Meeting with Amnesty International
23.01.2017	Meeting with Associate Director of the International Law and Organizations Forum at John Hopkins University
23.01.2017	Participated in a discussion with H E the President
23.01.2017	Meeting with duty bearers on "HRCSL Study Report of Children Deprived of Liberty"
24.01.2017	Meeting with the American Bar Association Rule of Law initiative
24.01.2017	Participated in the meeting on Migrant Workers organized by UNDP
25.01.2017	Meeting with the representatives of the Australian High Commission
26.01.2017	Meeting with UNDP
30.01.2017 31.01.2017	Participated in the workshop on "Participation of Children & Youth in Reconciliation mechanisms" organized by the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms
01.02.2017	Discussion with the students of the Master of Human Rights and Democratization Programme organized by Center for the Study of Human Rights on Role & Functions of HRCSL
03.02.2016	Meeting with the officers of the Ministry of Education and Department of Examination to discuss difficulties encountered by transgender persons when attempting to change their names in their educational certificates
03.02.2107	Participated a meeting in dialogue with religious leaders and religious school teachers to institutionalize National Integration and Reconciliation in the systems of Sri Lankan religious schools organized by the Ministry of national integration and reconciliation
06.02.2017	Meeting with the National Police Commission
08.02.2017	Meeting with Human Rights Advisor and Freedom of Religion Officer of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK
09.02.2017	Participated in the workshop on Victim and Witness Protection organized by South Asian Centre for Legal Studies
15.02.2017	Consultation meeting with the Psychiatrists on Mental Health Issues in Sri Lanka
16.02.2017	Meeting with the Regional Director (South Asia) for Amnesty International
16.02.2017	Meeting with the Representatives of the Controller of Immigration
20.02.2017	Participated in the National Anti-Trafficking Task Force meeting organized by the Ministry of Justice
21.02.2017	Meeting with the Co-CEO of Miloda Academy of Financial Studies - The training arm of the Ministry of Finance.
22.02.2017	Meeting with the Ambassador of Brazil
22.02.2017	Meeting with the Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership and other

	visiting members for the United States Congress on the invitation of the Ambassador of the United State of America
23.02.2017	Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs
27.02.2017	Meeting with the Vice President for Global Growth on the request of the Counterpart International
01.03.2017	Meeting with the High Commissioner of Canada
08.03.2017	Participated in a Lecture, Question and Answer (LQA) session to mark International Women's Day organized by Bandaranayake Centre for International Studies (BCIS) at BMICH
08.03.2017	Participated in Women's Day celebration organized by Equal Ground
13.03.2017	Participated in a programme organized by March 12 Movement at the Independence Square, Colombo
14.03.2017	Meeting with the mission from the European Union Headquarters
15.03.2017	Meeting with the Consumer Affairs Authority
22.03.2017	Meeting with Bikkuni Dr. Suvimalee
22.03.2017	Meeting with National School Principals on disciplinary matters in schools
24.03.2017	Participated in the celebration of the 60 th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, establishing the European Economic Community on the invitation of Ambassador of the European Union and Ambassador of Italy
24.03.2017	Participated in a celebration of 15 years of partnership between the Ministry of National Co-existence, Dialogue and Official Language and the German International Cooperation (GIZ)
27.03.2017	Participated in the occasion of the 26 th anniversary of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh organized of High Commissioner of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
28.03.2017	Participated in a Launch of National Child Protection Policy organized National Child Protection Authority

Regional Coordinating Committee and Civil Society Meetings

(01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017)

Ampara	-
Anuradapura	2
Badulla	-
Batticaloa	1
Jaffna	1
Kandy	2
Kalmunai	1
Matara	-
Trincomalee	-
Vavuniya	-

Meetings (Internal)

Meetings	January	February	March
Board Meetings	16 th	20 th	27 th
Commissioners' Meetings	09 th & 23 rd	15 th	13 th
Senior Managers Meetings	19 th		20 th
Staff Meeting			23 rd
Staff Union Meeting	24 th		

Functioned as resource persons

Date	Topic	Organizers	Target Group
27.01.2017	Human Rights	Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sri Lanka Army	Army Personnel Kukuleganga Training School
13.02.2017	Human Rights	Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Sri Lanka Army	Army Personnel Kukuleganga Training School
22.02.2017	Human Rights & Child Rights	Prison Department	Prison Officers
10.03.2017	Human Rights & HR Concepts	Prison Department	Prison Officers
15.03.2017	Human Rights / Role of the HRCSL/Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Monitoring Committee Members	Disability Organization Joint Front
31.03.2017	Human Rights / Role of the HRCSL/Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Members	Disability Organization Joint Front

Staff Capacity Building

Date	Programme	Resource Person/s
03/04.01.2017	Training on Mediation for Regional Co-ordinators, Legal Officers and Investigating Officers	Ms. Anne Fernando – Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute Mr. Yasapala Silva – Ministry of Justice Mr. John Philip – Centre for Mediation and Mediation Training Mr. M T Mubaris - Centre for Mediation and Mediation Training
08.02.2017	Special lecture for staff on "Equal Rights for All".	Mr. W M D Ratnasekera, General Secretary, Disability Organization Joint Front

Monitoring Activities

Date	Activity
09.03.2017	Visit to Mirihana National Holding Centre

Thematic Sub Committee Meetings

Date	Sub Committee
26.01.2017	Migrant Workers Sub-Committee Meeting
01.02.2017	Gender Sub Committee Meeting
02.02.2017	Torture Sub Committee Meeting
07.02.2017	Elders Sub Committee Meeting
22.02.2017	Education Sub Committee Meeting
15.03.2017	Disability Rights Sub-Committee Meeting
22.03.2017	Economic Social and Cultural Rights Sub-Committee Meeting

Assistance to Mobile Series Programme of Ministry of National Co-Existence, Dialogue and Official Languages

The Ministry of National Co-Existence, Dialogue and Official Languages organized mobile services for marginalized groups in urban areas in Colombo district. The HRCSL provided resources for mobile services.

Date	Venue
28.01.2017	Puwakpitiya C C Tamil Vidyalaya.

Put up a staff at the National Law Week Exhibition which was organized by Bar Association of Sri Lanka in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Aid Commission

Date	Venue
03/04.03.2017	Court Complex, Hulftsdorp, Colombo 12.

Media Programmes

Date	TV / Radio Programme & Paper Article	Channel/ Paper	HRCSL Participation
08.03.2017	“Ayubowan Sri Lanka” TV Programme	Rupavahini	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson

Number of Human Rights awareness programs conducted and lecture assistances provided by Regional Offices from 01.01.2017 to 31.03.2017.

Ampara	-
Anuradapura	-
Badulla	-
Batticaloa	-
Jaffna	5
Kandy	-
Kalmunai	3
Matara	6
Trincomalee	2
Vavuniya	-

Financial Report (01.01.2017 - 31.03.2017)

Opening Balance		0.00
Imprest Received from Treasury		
Recurrent		39,050,000.00
Capital		1,500,000.00
Other Revenue		141,287.62
Total		40,691,287.62
Expenditure		
Personnel Emoluments		24,506,937.19
Travelling Expenses		153,705.00
Supplies		1,005,467.70
Maintenance Expenditure		682,001.92
Services		10,049,276.45
Transfers		364,577.37
Rehab. & Impr. of Capital Assets		-
Acquisition of Capital Assets		239,000.00
Capacity Building		165,860.00
Total Expenditure		37,166,825.63

