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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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PART IV (A) — PROVINCIAL COUNCILS

Provincial Councils Notifications

NORTHERN PROVINCE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

Notice of Governor of the Northern Province

1. Inquiry conducting under Section 184 of Chapter 255 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No.61 of 1939, to be read together with Section 2 of the Provincial Councils (Consequential Provisions) Act, No.12 of 1989.
2. I, Nagalingam Vethanayahan, Governor of the Northern Province, in terms of the power vested in me under Section 184 of Chapter 255 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No.61 of 1939, to be read together with Section 2 of the Provincial Councils (Consequential Provisions) Act, No. 12 of 1989, hereby appoint retired District Court Judge Mr. Kandiah Ariyanayagam as an individual inquiry commission under Sub-section (1A) of Section 184 of Chapter 184 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, to investigate, examine and inquire into the matters/charges specified below regarding the operations of the Mannar Urban Council and to submit a report within three months.
3. Matters/Charges to be inquired into
 - 3.1
 - (a) Acting in violation of Section 196 of Chapter 255 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939, by refusing to provide relevant files and documents for inspection to the Investigative Officer from the Mannar Regional



Assistant Commissioner of Local Government Office who visited the Mannar Urban Council to examine files and documents and report on the drain construction works carried out by the Mannar Urban Council and the removal of the sports ground wall to create an access route through main streets to the canteen located at the Mannar Public Sports Ground and by expelling him from the Urban Council Premises. [184 (1) (b)];

(b) The Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council maintaining communications with the Mannar Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government in an improper manner. [184 (1) (b)].

3.2 Failing to provide proper responses, tearing and resending the observations issued by the National Audit Office to the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council, in violation of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 and Section 181 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, No. 61 of 1939. (Audit Query number NPLG/MN/A/UC/MN/AQ/2025/01 dated 2025.11.03) [184(1) (b, d)]

3.3 Acting in violation of the provisions of Circular No.1977/23 issued by the Commissioner of Local Government regarding the leasing of properties of Local Authorities by demanding for public tenders for Moor Street beef stalls not belonging to the Mannar Urban Council. [184 (1) (b)]

3.4 Passing resolutions during the council meetings of the Mannar Urban Council that do not fall within the scope of the Council's authority, administrative matters and against By-laws, or financial regulations in violation of Section 26 (2) of Chapter 255 of the Urban Councils Ordinance. No.61 of 1939. [184(1) (b)]

Passing resolution MN/UC/2025/11/97 to make payments to the procurement committee in violation of the Financial Regulations and the Establishments Code provisions. In addition to this, deciding to grant holiday pay and overtime pay to The Secretary and Accountant of the Council, and passing resolution MN/UC/2025/11/111 to appeal to the Honorable Governor to transfer the Mannar Assistant Commissioner of Local Government on the grounds that he engages in activities that disrupt the Council.

3.5 Although 9 resolutions were passed at the meeting of the Mannar Urban Council held on 17.07.2025 all those 09 resolutions were passed without following the matters specified in Section 17 of the standard By-laws on the conduct of Urban Council meeting business. [184 (1) (b)]

3.6 The 2nd General Meeting of the Mannar Urban Council held on 09.07.2025, the postponed meeting held on 17.07.2025 which was postponed from 09.07.2025 and the special meeting of the Mannar Urban Council held on 25.07.2025 were conducted in a manner contrary to the provisions of the Standard By-laws on the conduct of council meeting business, published in *Extraordinary Gazette* No. 1952/ 15 dated 02.02.2016, which was framed by the Minister in charge of Local government in the Northern Provincial Council, and adopted by the Mannar Urban Council. [184 (1) (b)] -

(a) Conducting Council meetings without a quorum, in violation of Section 4 (v) (a) of the Standard By-laws;

(b) The particular Council meeting being conducted without the Chairman, in violation of Section 24 of the Urban Councils Ordinance, yet the Chairman of the Council has signed the minutes of the day as the person who presided over the meeting;

(c) The notice for the special meeting not being sent out with sufficient advance notice as required by Standard By-laws 4(iii) regarding the conduct of Urban Council meeting business;

(d) The attendance register being maintained in a manner contrary to the provisions of Section 4(vii) of the Standard By-laws on the conduct of Urban Council meeting business;

- (e) Failing to maintain order during the Council meeting in accordance with Section 7 of the Standard By-laws on the conduct of urban council meeting business;
- (f) Minutes of the meetings not being recorded in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Standard By-laws, and the Secretary of the Council walking out of the meeting during the proceedings.

3.7 Since conflicts existed between the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council and the Mannar Regional Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, various accusations were made by both parties. In order to investigate the accusations leveled against the Chairman and to examine the accuracy of the accusations raised by the Chairman against the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, the following matters must be subjected to investigation. [184 (1) (d)] -

- (a) Matters relating to the conflicts between the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council and the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government, Mannar.

The chairman of the Mannar Urban Council requesting disciplinary action to be taken against the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government of Mannar who is a Sri Lanka Administrative Service Officer and the supervisory officer of the Local authorities in the Mannar District by citing the following reasons :-

- I. Acting with bias;
 - II. Failing to provide proper clarification regarding some members acting in a manner that disrupts Council proceedings by claiming that a new budget needs to be prepared;
 - III. Working behind the scenes to conduct a biased investigation regarding the allocation of spaces for festive seasonal shops during 2021-2022 period;
 - IV. Failing to take timely action regarding the irregular utilization of China Bazaar shops in the year 2021 without following procurement procedures;
 - V. Instructing to transfer the ownership of the Urban Council shop No.BS 56 in violation of Circular No. 46/1980;
 - VI . Acting in a manner that disrupts the Administration of the Mannar Urban Council and supporting;
 - VII. Failing to act to prevent frauds in the direct supervision office based on the Provincial Internal Audit observations of 2023;
 - VIII. Failing to take action regarding the demolition of the old Meteorology Department buildings for a new residency expansion in 2022 and the theft of wooden furniture;
 - IX. Compelling the Council Secretary to report that the council meeting proceedings were conducted in violation of legal provisions;
 - X. The secretary of the Mannar Urban council requesting a transfer for themselves due to the actions carried out by the Mannar Assistant Commissioner of Local Government using his position as a Supervisory Officer.
- (b) Matters brought forward by the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government Mannar regarding the actions of the Chairman of the Mannar Urban Council -

I. Obstructing the Assistant Commissioner of Local Government from executing his duties;

II. Engaging in power abuse in violation to the Urban Council Ordinance;

III. Carrying out works in violation of the procurement procedures, conducting Council meeting proceedings contrary to the provisions of the Standard By-laws and passing resolutions in violation of legal provisions.

3.8 Mannar Urban Council members Mr.Gnanapragasam Antony Davidson and Mr. Somanathan Prasath Shobanathan acting in violation of Sections 9(1) and 8 of the By-laws by disregarding the Chairman's announcement and acting in a manner causing disruption to the council proceedings and behave in a way that erupts the discipline of the meeting. [184 (1) (e)]

The Tamil language shall be take precedence unless it is not aligned or it is contrasted with other languages of this *Gazette* notification.

NAGALINGAM VETHANAYAHAN,
Governor of the Northern Province.

Governor's Secretariat,
Old Park, Chundukuli,
Jaffna.
2026 June 26.

ECG 07-0007