



Sri Lanka  
Cricket

Shammi Silva

President - Sri Lanka Cricket

By Post/E-mail

28<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Mr. Greg Barclay  
Chairman  
International Cricket Council (ICC)  
Street 69, Dubai Sports City Dubai,  
Sh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road,  
Dubai, PO Box 500 070, UAE

Dear Sir,

Government Interference and Political Meddling in Sri Lanka Cricket

I write to you on behalf of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to bring to your attention a matter of utmost concern that directly impacts the governance and administration of SLC. This is our second communication to the ICC regarding the same issue, as we continue to face challenges stemming from government interference that threatens the very foundation of our organization.

As previously communicated in our letters dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023, SLC formally raised concerns about unwarranted government interference that has been persistently encroaching upon the governance and administration of SLC.

Article 2.4D of the Articles of Association of ICC is unequivocal in its mandate that every member is obliged to conduct its affairs autonomously and prevent government interference in its governance, regulation, and administration of cricket. This provision is fundamental to maintaining the independence and integrity of cricket administration in each member's respective playing country.

We regret to inform you that Sri Lanka Cricket has been facing unprecedented and alarming instances of government interference in the recent past, which directly contravene the essence of Article 2.4D, in that:

1. The Director General of sports by his letter dated 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, informed the secretary of SLC that the Appeals advisory committee appointed by the Minister of Sports in pursuance of an appeal lodged by one of the disgruntled non-voting member (not being qualified to take part), has decided that tournament rules applicable to domestic tournaments, which had been unanimously approved by the membership of Sri Lanka Cricket during an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) conducted in terms of the constitutional provisions of SLC on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023, cannot be given effect without the approval of the Hon. Minister of Sports.

As the ongoing domestic cricket tournaments are being conducted on the tournament structure that was adopted and approved at the said EGM, the said decision communicated

35, Mailland Place Colombo 7, Sri Lanka  
Mobile: +94 777312018 Direct: +94 2679570 Fax: +94 114718730  
Email: president@srilankacricket.lk  
Website: www.srilankacricket.lk

by the Director General, has compelled SLC to suspend all ongoing cricket tournaments, causing grave injustice, harm and substantial loss to all stakeholders including payers, coaches, match officials and the member clubs of SLC. The suspension has disrupted and caused grave inconvenience to the carefully planned schedules, time tables, commitments, and preparations that have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the said tournaments

2. Recently, the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports, through a letter dated August 11, 2023, requested detailed information regarding the salaries and allowances of SLC office bearers. While the request is prima facie illegal and/or *ultra vires*, We have reasons to believe that the said request was made to further the Minister's agenda of Government Interference and undue influence on our internal matters thus by letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023 SLC declined to submit our autonomy to the authority of bureaucrats,
3. Further, the Honorable Minister of Sports in a public statement to create the impression among the world cricketing community at large that the LPL cricket tournament conducted by SLC is illegal proceeded to state that SLC had not sought his approval for the conduct of the LPL T20 cricket tournament, which commenced from 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, implying that his consent was necessary for the event to take place. In fact SLC is advised that there is no such requirement in terms of Sports Law no 25 of 1973 and regulations promulgated thereunder; thus, such remarks undermine the established protocols and decision-making processes within SLC and are unequivocally a breach of Article 2.4D and directly interfere with the operational affairs of SLC.
4. Moreover, during a media interview on July 31, 2023, the Minister of Sports revealed that he had unilaterally drafted a constitution for Sri Lanka Cricket. It is crucial to note that such actions lie well beyond the scope of the Minister's authority and constitute nothing short of Government Interference. It is alarming that SLC was not consulted or involved in the drafting process of the proposed constitution, further underscoring the violation of our autonomy.
5. In another disconcerting incident, a confidential draft audit report, compiled by the Auditor General of Sri Lanka purportedly pertaining to the internal affairs of SLC, was leaked to the general public by the officials attached to the Ministry of Sports/of by the Minister himself. We have reasons to believe that The said incident was evidently intended to tarnish the reputation of our organization and destabilize our operations. It is important to highlight that SLC has already responded to the said draft audit report by submitting a comprehensive response running into 250 pages, emphasizing and pointing out several erroneous conclusions arrived in the said draft.

In light of these distressing developments, Sri Lanka Cricket has legitimate reasons to suspect a larger conspiracy aimed at dismantling our organization and compromising our autonomy. In fact the current Minister of Sports has gone onto state that SLC should contribute 20% of SLC's income for the National Sports Fund and the refusal by SLC seems to have an impact on the increased interference by the Minister of Sports.

We believe that these actions are part of a concerted effort to gain undue control of SLC by the Minister of Sports, thereby eroding the principles of independence and impartiality that are integral to the governance of cricket.

We respectfully request the ICC's intervention and guidance in addressing these grave concerns. It is imperative that the ICC upholds the principles of autonomy and independence for all members. We urge the ICC to engage with the relevant authorities to ensure that the spirit of Article 2.4D is respected and upheld in Sri Lanka.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We trust that the ICC will take appropriate measures to safeguard the autonomy and integrity of Sri Lanka Cricket. We remain committed to the principles of fair play, transparency, and responsible governance in our pursuit of promoting and nurturing the great game of cricket.

Thanking You

Yours faithfully,  
SRI LANKA CRICKET



SHAMMI SILVA  
PRESIDENT

Cc: - Mr. Jay Shah - Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary  
 Mr. Imran Khawaja - ICC Deputy Chairman  
 Mr. Nazmul Hassan - Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president  
 The Chairman - Cricket Australia  
 The Chairman - Bangladesh Cricket Board  
 The Chairman - England Cricket Board  
 The Chairman - Board of Control for Cricket India  
 The Chairman - New Zealand Cricket Board  
 The Chairman - Pakistan Cricket Board  
 The Chairman - Cricket South Africa  
 The Chairman - Cricket West Indies  
 The Chairman - Zimbabwe Cricket  
 The Chairman - Cricket Ireland  
 The Chairman - Afghanistan Cricket Board

