



Sri Lanka  
Cricket  
Shammi Silva  
President - Sri Lanka Cricket

Private and Confidential

By Post/E-mail

06<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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

Dear Sir,

Further to our conversation today, I write concerning **alarming information released to the media today by the Ministry of Sports, that the Minister has formed an interim committee of seven persons of his choice.** A media release issued to media institutions is appended to this letter for ready reference.

Sri Lanka Cricket has yet to be informed of its suspension or the cancellation of its registration as a National Sports Association, and our only intimation of this news is through the media. We had no advance notice of this decision, nor were we afforded a hearing prior to it being made public.

The composition of the interim committee, notably by the presence of the **Minister's political and other associates**, reeks of the worst kind of political interference. The selection of Mr. Arjuna Ranatunga, an active politician, to run the affairs of Sri Lanka Cricket also speaks for itself. Mr. Ranatunga has previously been involved in other Ministry-led efforts to undermine Sri Lanka Cricket's independence. Two other members, Mr. Rakitha Rajapaksa (the son of the incumbent Minister of Justice) and Mr. Upali Dharmadasa, were members of the Minister appointed Co-ordination Committee which unsuccessfully solicited a meeting with you pursuant to being appointed by the Minister.

In previous correspondence, we replied your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023, **in which you requested guarantees of the independence and autonomy of Sri Lanka Cricket from political interference**, by assuring you that we are resolved to protect our own independence from political interference. We regret that today's developments render us unable to sustain that commitment.

This most recent replacement of the elected and independent body with an interim committee of the Minister's choice is intended to mortally wound the **independency and autonomy of Sri Lanka Cricket.**

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While our resolve is only strengthened in light of this most egregious conduct, we will take all means necessary as private citizens to restore independence to Sri Lanka Cricket including by making appropriate applications to court.

The Minister is fully aware of the grave risks that accompany his decision. His interference with the governance of Rugby and Football directly resulted in the suspension of the respective Sri Lankan associations and of the participation of Sri Lankan teams at international events. The forceful responses of the relevant international bodies eventually resulted in the Minister changing course. It is baffling, in this context, that the Minister continues down this road.

We know that you will act in the best interests of cricket in Sri Lanka, just as you have in the past, as you attempt to deal with this development and trust your exertions will cause the Minister to change course.

I wish you all the very best, expressing my utmost gratitude for your generous support of Sri Lanka Cricket and your friendship.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
SRI LANKA CRICKET



SHAMMI SILVA  
PRESIDENT

Cc - Mr. Imran Khawaja - ICC Deputy Chairman  
Mr. Geoff Allardice - Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Jay Shah - Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary  
Mr. Nazmul Hassan - Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President  
The Chairman - Cricket Australia  
The Chairman - England Cricket Board  
The Chairman - Board of Control for Cricket India  
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



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 Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

2023.11.06

Special Media Release

Under the authority granted to him by the Sports Law No 25 of 1973, Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe has formed an interim committee for Sri Lanka Cricket consisting of the following members.

- 1) Hon. S. I. Imam, Retired Supreme Court Judge
- 2) Hon. Rohini Marasinghe, Retired Supreme Court Judge
- 3) Hon. Irangani Perera, Retired High Court Judge
- 4) Mr. Arjuna Ranatunga (Chairman)
- 5) Mr. Upali Dharmadasa
- 6) Mr. Rakitha Rajapakse, Attorney-at-Law
- 7) Mr. Hisham Jamaldeen

Media Unit -  
 Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs.

කො.09, පී.එස්.එස්.එස්. මාවත, කොළඹ 07. ශ්‍රී ලංකා ක්‍රීඩා හා මහජන ක්‍රීඩා අමාත්‍යාංශය, කොළඹ 07. No.09, Philip Gunawardena Mawatha, Colombo 07.

දුරකථන දුරකථන Telephone	} 011-2584237 / 2583014	ඊ-මෙයට යම්කමක් Email	} moyamediaunit@gmail.com	වෙබ් අඩවිය Web	} www.moya.gov.lk
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