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இலங்கை பத்திரிகை முறைப்பாட்டு ஆணைக்குழு
Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Annual Report 2019

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka
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OBJECTIVE

To provide an effective mechanism to readers in resolving complaints fast, free and fair and to promote good professional practices.

VISION

To promote the Code of Professional Practice of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka as a means towards promoting self-regulation in the print media while emphasizing its importance towards ethical reporting in building a socially responsible press; to resolve disputes between the print media and the public through conciliation, mediation, arbitration and to advocate for a more responsible media.

MISSION

To be the leader in Self-Regulation in Sri Lanka and the South Asia region.

Message from the Chairman Board of Directors of the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) was established in 2003, based on the recommendations of an International Conference held in Colombo in 1998 and the outcome of the Conference now referred to as the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility.

At the core of our mission is our belief that only a free, independent, and accountable media can play a critical role in promoting good governance. We believe that it is only by facilitating civic participation and debate can transparency and accountability be expected from the government.

We further believe that it is the concept and principles of Self-regulation that will promote media to be responsible for the publication of news, reports, and articles. This is extremely important today, in a time of "fake news", given the speed and need for credible news on numerous platforms whether traditional or constantly developing dynamic new ones.

Our CEO has given a detailed report of the activities and impact of the Press Complaints Commission during the course of this year (2019). I would only add that it has a very trying time with two events that occurred this year. One was the suicide bombing on Easter Sunday when hundreds of worshippers at Churches and Five Star hotels lost their lives affecting the very soul of the whole country in diverse ways. The other was the Presidential election which was influenced greatly by the national security and safety factor.

In spite of these challenges, PCCSL continued with its work undaunted, with the Dispute Resolution Council meeting, deciding and resolving many issues and complaints received by the PCCSL and brought up before them. The Council members must be applauded for the time given and effort taken to resolve matters.

I must also extend my deep appreciation to my colleagues on the PCCSL Board for their advice especially the Deputy Chairman, to Sukumar Rockwood, our CEO and his able assistants for their positive contribution towards the success of the organization.

Thank you.

Mr. Kumar Nadesan
Chairman, Board of Directors
Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Message from the Chairman of the Dispute Resolution Council (DRC)

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) is a totally independent voluntary self regulatory mechanism, which was the outcome of the Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility which is now in its 16th year (founded on October 15, 2003) and continues to champion the primary objective of self regulation.

It works on the principles of conciliation, mediation and arbitration under the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995 and is modeled along the lines of similar commissions in South Africa and Scandinavian countries. The High Court of Colombo is empowered to enforce an arbitration made under the Act.

During this year the Dispute Resolution Council has met on six occasions. We have had valuable participation from the 11 members. The newspaper Editors have extended their full cooperation, and am pleased to record that the voluntary independent self regulatory system has been readily accepted by all registered national newspapers.

The 'Rights of Readers' advertisement has been published as a public service notice and the majority of newspaper editions have continued to give it wide publicity. We hope the other newspapers who have not yet printed the 'Rights of Readers' will soon follow suit.

Throughout the calendar year many important media-related events took place from January to December – around 28 to 30 events took place.

During the year, the PCCSL received 83 complaints of which 56 were relating to the Sinhala language, 12 relating to the English language and five relating to the Tamil language.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all 10 members of the Dispute Resolution Council who regularly attended the meetings and helped me in no small way in the conduct of the meetings.

A very special word of thanks to members of the PCCSL Secretariat ably headed by its vibrant CEO Sukumar Rockwood and so very ably assisted by Mr. Kamal Liyanarachchi, Complaints Officer, Sinhala Print for successfully upholding self regulation and its promotion in making the Newspaper Society (publishers) responsible.

Nihal Seneviratne
Chairman
Dispute Resolution Council

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Annual Review 2019

01. Introduction

The PCCSL is an independent, voluntary, self-regulatory mechanism set up by the newspaper industry of Sri Lanka, which comprises the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka, The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement and the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association. The PCCSL was inaugurated on October 15, 2003, as a suitable alternative following the removal in 2002 of the Criminal Defamation provisions in the Penal Code. The PCCSL is now in its 16th year championing the cause of self-regulation.

It works on the principles of conciliation, mediation and arbitration under the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995. It is modelled along the lines of similar Commissions in Scandinavian countries and South Africa. The High Court of Colombo is empowered to enforce an arbitration award made under the Act in the event a newspaper fails to publish the decision of the Dispute Resolution Council of the PCCSL, should a complainant wish to pursue a case where the editor is not abiding by the Council's decision.

The Editors' Code, which is implemented by the PCCSL, provides for conditional third party complaints. Third party complaints are entertained from environmental groups, animal welfare groups, adults on behalf of minors, an immediate family member of an accident victim, an immediate family member of a person in custody and anyone complaining on behalf of another provided the prior written permission of the person personally affected is obtained.

Reporters without Borders has ranked Sri Lanka at number 126 in the World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries in the world for 2019. Sri Lanka ranked 141 in 2017 and 131 in 2018.

The Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility, which was the foundation of the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL), celebrated its 20th anniversary in September 2018. The Colombo Declaration was an outcome of an international seminar held in Colombo, organized by the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka, The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka and the Free Media Movement in association with the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, the World Association of Newspapers, the Commonwealth Press Union, the International Press Institute, Article 19 and the Media Institute of Southern Africa.

02. Executive summary

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) continued building on the positive growth made in the previous year and successfully held 30 meetings attended by 595 publishers, editors, sub-editors, desk heads, journalists, provincial correspondents and members of civil society, which comprise non journalists. During the meetings, the importance of self-regulation and the Editors' Code of Professional Practice were discussed along with the PCCSL process in resolving complaints.

The voluntary independent self-regulatory system is accepted by all registered National newspapers printed and published in the country. This can be measured in many ways:

(a) The number of valid complaints received, i.e. complaints received falling within the mandate of the PCCSL. However, complainants remain sluggish in following up on their initial (informal) complaint, while editors are eager to resolve them when informed.

(b) The number of complaints resolved directly by editors or 'instant complaints' has maintained stability indicating that editors continue to follow the self-regulatory process. The increased number of 'Right of Reply' responses in the form of corrections, clarifications, apologies published by Sri Lankan

newspapers without formally involving the PCCSL indicates that the advocacy work done by the Commission has made readers write direct to editors and have their 'Right of Reply' published without the PCCSL getting involved.

(c) The PCCSL also observes violations of the Code and these are brought to the notice of the respective editors who respond positively by introducing positive steps in their newspapers which help reach the objective of a professional and responsible media.

(d) The PCCSL has been informed by several publishing houses that because of the intervention of the PCCSL in resolving complaints and training journalists, as to the application of the Editors' Code to guide them to be more professional and socially responsible when writing stories, they have been able to avoid going to court and facing hefty legal fees.

(e) The publication of the public notice 'Rights of Readers'. Although, some newspapers do not publish the public notice, they adhere by the PCCSL requirements in resolving complaints.

2.1: Responsibilities of Media Institutions and Personnel

All media institutions/personnel in the print media presently adhere to the Code of Professional Practice of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka and enforced by the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka and adopted by the Sri Lanka Press Institute, the Sri Lanka College of Journalism, the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement, the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, the Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance, the Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum, the Federation of Media Employees Trade Union, and the South Asian Free Media Association – Sri Lanka Chapter. All media institutions/personnel co-operate with the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka and adhere to the communications of the Commission's Secretariat and the adjudications of the Commission's Dispute Resolution Council.

2.2: Press Council issues:

On May 17, 2019, the Press Council published an advertisement calling for applications to recruit a 'News Investigator – English,' to inquire and receive complaints against defamation or false news statements as per the Sri Lanka Press Council Act No. 05 of 1973.

The new Council appointed in July 2018, continued into 2019 without change. They are: Advocate Koggala Wellala Bandula, Chairman; Prof. Emeritus Sunanda Mahendra; Ariyananda Dombagahawatte (Senior Journalist – Editor, Irida Lankadeepa); Muditha Kariyakarawana (Senior Journalist – President, Sri Lanka Press Association) and Mr. S. Thillainathan (Senior Journalist – former Editor, Thinakaran). Following Mr. Thillainathan's death in 2019, veteran journalist Thevathasan Senthilvelavar was appointed on September 30. He was former Editor of Thinakaran; Mr. Somaweera Chandrasiri (trade union activist) and on his death in 2019, Mr. M. D. P. Kumara Dharmarathna was appointed. Attorney-at-Law Sudarshana Gunawardana (Director General, Govt. Information) was replaced in 2019 by Mr. Nalaka Kaluhewa and Mr. Niroshan Thambawita, Press Commissioner. The new Board was appointed for three years (2018-2020).

The Sri Lanka Press Council continues to register the first publication of a newspaper under the Sri Lanka Press Council Law No. 5 of 1973 and as amended in 1994 and 2013.

Meanwhile, media organisations at a meeting in the SLPI Board Room, unanimously reiterated their support for the SLPI going to Courts against the Press Council since it is not a properly constituted body. The SLPI in 2019, along with its constituent parties held consultations with its lawyers on a further challenge to the legality of the Press Council. This is in keeping with the commitment to the principles and values articulated in the Colombo Declaration of 2018, which includes reforms to media laws and in so doing calls for repealing the Press Council Law of 1973 in view of the self-regulatory initiatives currently in force, namely the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka.

On Nov. 04, Elections Commission Department, Research and Planning Director Channa P. de Silva forwarded the Press Council Code to Editors of all newspapers. The PCCSL which had also received a copy, shared with him the Editors' Code, which all journalists adhere to, which was accepted through a letter from them thanking the PCCSL.

2.3: Proposed Media Authority Act:

Following the seminar held to mark the 20th anniversary of the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility in September 2018, Mr. Dieter Loraine, Managing Director, Albany Associates Limited, UK was tasked with outlining a draft Act including concerns, articulated at the 20th anniversary of the Colombo Declaration. Mr. Loraine together with Ms. Lindsay Ross of the Commonwealth Media Trust held informal discussions with representatives of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka (TEGOSL), the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka (NSSL), the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA), the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) on a proposed draft. The draft made suggestions for a proposed Sri Lanka Media Authority Act which would replace the Sri Lanka Press Council Act. The Sri Lanka Press Institute consulted an Attorney conversant in the field of media law to prepare a draft Act.

However, the sudden change of the Prime Minister in October 2018, the Easter Sunday bombing and the unsettled political atmosphere that followed leading up to the Presidential Election of December 2019 and thereafter, has stalled the process.

2.4: Gender issues

Amidst the predominantly male-dominated editors, there were four women editors (Ms. Pushpa Rowel, Editor, *Dinamina* newspaper, Ms. Hana Ibrahim, Editor, *Daily/Weekend Express*, Ms. Dharisha Bastians, Editor, *Sunday Observer* and Ms. Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema, Editor, the *Sunday Morning*) and quite a few women deputy editors, news editors, features editors, sub-editors and supplement editors. Ms. Dharisha Bastians resigned from the *Sunday Observer* in mid-December 2019 and Ms. Pushpa Rowel retired on December 31, 2019 after 43 years of service in the *Dinamina*.

03: Total number of newspapers monitored and their frequency

The total number of dailies and weeklies published by the end of the year in the three language streams was 41 newspapers (see below).

List of newspapers published and their frequency (Daily/Weekly):

- Sinhala language

Dailies: *Lankadeepa*, *Dinamina*, *Divaina*, *Ada* and *Maubima*.

Weeklies: *Irida Lankadeepa*, *Silumina*, *Irida Divaina*, *Deshaya*, *Irida Maubima*, *Lanka*, *Ravaya*, *Anidda* and *Sathi Aga Auna*.

Total: dailies 05 + weeklies – 09 = 14 – 34.14%

- Tamil language

Dailies: *Virakesari*, *Thinakaran*, *Thinakkural*, *Uthayan*, *Metro News*, *Navamani*, *Vidivelli* and *Tamil Mirror*.

Weeklies: *Virakesari Weekly*, *Thinakaran Varamanjari*, *Thinakural Weekly*, *Uthayan Weekly*, *Navamani Weekly*, *Vidivelli Weekly* and *Valampuri*.

Total: dailies 08 + weeklies – 07 = 15 – 36.58%

- English language

Dailies: *Daily Mirror*, *Daily FT*, *Daily News*, *The Island*, *Ceylon Today* and *Daily Express*.

Weeklies: *The Sunday Times*, *Sunday Observer*, *Sunday Island*, *Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)*, *Weekend Express* and *The Sunday Morning*.

Total: dailies 06 + weeklies – 06 = 12 – 29.26%

04. Complaints

During the period under review (January to December 2019), the PCCSL received **83** complaints. The following is a breakdown of the complaints as against the different language newspapers.

- * Sinhala language press: **56** complaints.
- * Tamil language press: **05** complaints.
- * English language press: **12** complaints.
- * Not against the print media: **10** complaints

04.01. Position of complaints received:

Valid complaints: 54

- * Resolved: **20** complaints.
- * Complainant did not proceed: **29** complaints.
- * No response from Editor: **05** complaints – Name of newspaper: Divaina (01), Irida Divaina (01), Dinamina (01), Sathi Aga Aruna (01) Ceylon Today (01).

Invalid complaints: 29

- * Out of mandate: **13** complaints (Complaints that do not fall within the purview of the PCCSL).
- * Sub-judice: **09** complaints (Complaints pending in courts).
- * Dismissed: **07** complaints (Not a valid complaint)

Total: 83 complaints (please see attached for details of complaints)

04.02. Complaints were received against the following newspapers:

- The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited: ANCL (Lake House) Newspapers: *Silumina*, *Daily News*, *Dinamina* and *Resa*.
- Wijeya Newspapers Limited: *The Sunday Times*, *Irida Lankadeepa*, *Daily Mirror*, *Lankadeepa*, *Ada* and *Deshaya*.
- Upali Newspapers Limited: *Divaina* and *Irida Divaina*.
- Lakbima Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited: *Irida Lakbima*.
- Kalaikathir publishers Limited: *Kalaikathir*.
- Valampuri Publishers Limited: *Valampuri*.
- Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Limited: *Metro News* and *Virakesari*.
- Ravaya Publishers (Guarantee) Company Ltd: *Ravaya*.
- Anidda Publishers Guaranteed Limited: *Anidda*.
- Ceylon Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited: *Maubima* and *Irida Maubima*.
- Liberty Publishers Private Limited: *Sathi Aga Aruna*.

04.03. Other complaints:

The PCCSL also received complaints of non-payment of prize-money for crossword puzzles, purportedly misleading advertisements published in newspapers, advertorials (paid Editorial content), articles sent for publication that were not published, as well as complaints against the electronic media. These were forwarded to the concerned authorities. There were also complaints of a personal nature which could not be addressed by the PCCSL.

Most of the complaints were made over the telephone and email. It is mandatory that before the complaint process commences, all complainants have to fill in a Complaint Form and after signing it forward it to the PCCSL along with the incorrect article or copy and a letter stating the inaccuracy.

04.04. Complaints resolved outside of the PCCSL process (direct complaints):

The PCCSL monitors the daily progress made by Editors in resolving complaints without involving the PCCSL (direct complaints) and has observed that a total of 300 complaints have been resolved during the year with the publication of a clarification, correction, apology or Right of Reply. This includes 210 concerning Sinhala newspapers, 00 Tamil and 90 English. (please see attached chart)

04.05. Violations of the Code monitored by the PCCSL:

The PCCSL, during the year, monitored violations of the Code in 19 instances in 12 newspapers; (*Daily News (1), Divaina (2), Irida Divaina (2), Virakesari (1), Metro News (1), Daily Thanthi (2), Daily Mirror (2), Lankadeepa (1), Ada (1), Ceylon Today (1), Maubima (4) and Thinakkural (1).* (please see attached chart.)

05. Rights of Readers

The 'Rights of Readers' advertisement was published as a public service notice and was sent to all newspapers for publication. The following newspapers carried the public notice on a regular basis while some publish it on and off.

They are:

1. ***Wijeya Newspapers Limited:*** Daily Mirror, the Sunday Times, Daily FT, Ada, Deshaya and Tamil Mirror.
2. ***Associated Newspapers Ceylon Limited (Lake House):*** Sunday Observer, Daily News, Dinamina and Thinakaran.
3. ***Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Limited:*** Virakesari daily/weekly, Metro News, Daily Express and Weekly Express.
4. ***Free Lanka Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited:*** Navamani.
5. ***Asian Media Publications (Pvt.) Limited:*** Thinakkural daily.
6. ***Ravaya Publishers (Guarantee) Company Limited:*** Ravaya
7. ***Upali Newspapers (Private) Limited:*** The Island and Sunday Island.
8. ***Anidda Publishers (Guarantee) Company Limited:*** Anidda

Meanwhile, the Ceylon Today (Daily Edition), Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition), Maubima (Daily Edition) and Maubima (Sunday Edition), Divaina, Irida Divaina and Silumina continue to comply with the PCCSL process, although they do not publish the 'Right of Readers' public notice.

06. Dispute Resolution Council

The Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) met on six occasions (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Chairman of the 11-member Dispute Resolution Council is former Secretary General of Parliament and Attorney Nihal Seneviratne. The other members are: Dr. Devanesan Nesiiah, Mrs. Gnana Moonesinghe, Mr. Lucille Wijewardene, Mr. Javid Yusuf and Mr. Dion Schoorman, who are non-journalist members of the Council totalling six. Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Mr. Pramod de Silva, Mrs. Vijita Fernando, Mr. Daya Lankapura and Mr. P. Balasingham, are the journalist members on the Council totalling five. Mrs. Vijita Fernando stepped down due to poor health early in the year. Ms. Malini Govinnage was nominated to replace her but also resigned due to poor health at the end of the year she was replaced by Mrs. Rajitha Weerakoon.

07. Membership of PCCSL

Membership of the PCCSL stands at 41 members as of December 31, 2019. Nine vacancies arose with members ceasing to be working journalists.

08. Publicity, awareness and promotional programmes

08.01: Publicity of the PCCSL

08.01(i): Publicity of the PCCSL in the print media

- January 24 to February 03, The PCCSL forwarded a Press Release to newspaper editors concerning complaints recorded in 2018. It was published in 12 newspapers.
- March 05, the PCCSL was invited by 'Sharda TV,' a private Buddhist Channel, based in Kaduwela for an interview that lasted one-hour. It was about PCCSL and how it works. PCCSL's Sinhala Complaints Officer Kamal Liyanaarachchi did the interview.
- May 19, *the Sunday Morning* newspaper featured an interview of the PCCSL CEO concerning racial discrimination reporting.
- June 09, *The Sunday Observer* newspaper had quotes from the CEO on the Editors' Code, PCCSL process and self-regulation in an article 'Media: A circus running lives?'
- July: The ANCL (Lake House) Group Sinhala daily newspaper published an interview of Sinhala Print, Complaint Officer Kamal Liyanaarachchi concerning the PCCSL and the Editors' Code.
- August 02, *The Daily FT* newspaper published a ¾ page article on the UN-FAO/PCCSL Seminar titled: 'Balance in food intake essential to prevent malnutrition.' This event was organised by the PCCSL.
- Sept. 06 to 14, a Press Release of the Annual General Meeting was published in 12 newspapers.
- Oct. 16, caption and photograph appears in Daily Mirror of an event the PCCSL was involved in along with the Sri Lanka Press Association at the SLPI. Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi along with Mr. Lakshman Gunasekera and Mr. Bennette Rupasinghe were the resource persons.
- November, Elections Commissioner acknowledges the PCCSL Editors' Code with a letter of appreciation and says it will be used along with the Elections Guidelines with reference to reporting in the print and electronic media before, during and after elections.

08.01(ii): Publicity of the PCCSL in the digital media

- January 17, Mr. Dharmasiri Lankapeli, President, Federation of Media Employees Trade Union (FMETU) complaint No: PCCSL/03/12/2018 against Irida Divaina was resolved. Clarification published on Facebook page with thanks to PCCSL.
- Over the last two weeks in January a debate took place with PCCSL participation on social media concerning media practice and ethical reporting of print and electronic media.
- Some citizens discussed the Editors' Code and self-regulation on and off on Facebook.
- Two Members of Parliament, MP Jayampathi Wickramaratne (UNF) said in Parliament and Dayasiri Jayasekara (UPFA) at a press conference mentioned the importance of the PCCSL and Self-Regulation. It was published in Dinamina on Jan. 25, 2019.

08.02: PCCSL and RTI

- The PCCSL continued to assist the SLPI to promote the Right to Information (RTI) in the Provinces by conducting awareness programmes. These programmes were assisted by Mr. Kamal Liyanarachchi, Complaints Officer, Sinhala Print of the PCCSL.
- Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi left for New Delhi, India on Sunday, November 24 to attend a Right To Information event.

08.03. Web Page

- The web page – www.pccsl.lk – was updated. A new web page was launched since the earlier one was not compatible with the new server. It has most of the features of the previous web page.

08.04. Programmes with publishers, editors, journalists and provincial correspondents

The PCCSL conducted a total of 17 meetings for 252 people comprising publishers, Editors, Desk Heads, sub editors and journalists. (Please see awareness chart).

08.05. Awareness programmes with civil society

The PCCSL also made positive headway by meeting 343 members representing various sections of civil society at 13 meetings. The role of the PCCSL, Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and the Editors' Code were explained. These programmes were well attended by government officials, officials from local government institutions, academics, doctors and heads of institutions. They were eager to know more about the PCCSL and how it works. (Please see awareness chart).

09: Closure/change of hands of newspapers and new publications:

January 21, 2019: '*Thinathanthi*' - the largest selling Tamil-language newspaper in India selling 1.8 million copies a day signed an agreement with the publishers of Virakesari – Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Ltd – the largest selling Tamil-language newspaper in Sri Lanka to publish an insert of the *Thinathanthi* in their Monday and Saturday versions. The Agreement was signed by Mr. Hari Selvanathan, Chairman, Express Newspapers and Mr. S. Balasubramaniam Adityan, Group Chairman Thanthi Group in the presence of Mr. Kumar Nadesan, MD, Express Newspapers.

June 09, 2019: The *Irida Lakbima*, Sinhala weekly ceased publication.

August 01, 2019: The *Sathi Aga Aruna*, a Sinhala language daily published by Liberty Publishers (Private) Limited was launched on August 01, 2019. *The Sunday Morning*, an English language weekly followed thereafter published by the same group.

August 01, 2019: The Journalist Movement for Media Ethics and Social Justice (JMMESJ) Online News Website was launched. An inaugural event for journalists was held at the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) Auditorium where Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi and Mrs. Kshama Ranawana spoke on Ethics, the PCCSL, highlighted self-regulation and the importance of the Editors' Code. PCCSL CEO was the Moderator.

November 12, 2019: Jaffna's regional newspaper – *Eelanadu* – re-launched. It was first launched in 1959 by late Mr. K. C. Thangaraja and re-launched after a 30-year break. Its office was burnt in June 1981 when the Jaffna Library was burnt but work recommenced after a few weeks. The LTTE attacked their office in 1987 when the Indo-Lanka Accord was signed. Former *Eelanadu* senior journalist S. Mahalingasivam (Mali) and S. S. Kuhanathan, Chairman Dish Asia Network (DAN) Television of ASK Media were present at the launch.

In Jaffna, the *Yarl Thinakkural*, *Uthayan* and *Valampuri* continue to be published.

In Kandy and Batticaloa, they have their regional newspapers.

10. Chronology of important media-related events:

Several important media-related events took place;

- **January 26, 2019:** 'Media and Law' Conference at Water's Edge organised by: National Secretariat for Media Reforms (NSMR), in partnership with Sri Lanka Media Law Forum (SLMLF), Colombo Law Society (CLS) and International Media Support (IMS).
- **January 29, 2019:** Eight media organisations organised a signature campaign and candle light vigil with Free Media Movement organisers at Lipton Square in memory of fallen journalists and impunity against journalists.
- **January 30, 2019:** Launch of Centre for Investigative Reporting (CIR) at Lighthouse, Kadirgamar Institute, Colombo.

- **January 31, 2019:** Broadcasters meeting at Taj Samudra.
- **February 22, 2019:** State Minister of Defence Mr. Ruwan Wijewardene has been appointed non-Cabinet Minister for Media. He oversees the following: Information Department, ANCL (Lake House) SLRC, ITN and SLBC. Cabinet Minister Mangala Samaraweera continues as Minister of Media.
- **March 02, 2019:** Education Ministry taking steps to rectify issues connected with teaching of the revised Mass Communication subject for GCE 'AL students. There is no teacher guidance book. Arrangements are being made by the Education Publications Department to issue such a book before April 21. (Source: *Daily News*).
- **March 06, 2019:** Finance and Mass Media Minister Mangala Samaraweera appoints committee to supervise the smooth functioning of Lake House, SLRC, ITN and SLBC. The committee comprises: Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Mr. Nalake Gunawardene, Mr. Wijenanda Jayaweera, Dr. Pradeep N. Weerasinghe, Mrs. Anoma Rajakaruna, Mrs. Kaushalya Fernando and Dr. Sudharshana Gunewardene. (Source: *Daily News*).
- **March 09, 2019:** The Sri Lanka Development Journalism Forum (SDJF) met at awarding ceremony of Young Peace Journalists who took part in MediaCorp Fellowship Programme at Hotel Galadari. MediaCorp Fellowship is a part of Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) implemented by the International Research and Exchange Board (IREX) with support from USAID.
- **March 12, 2019:** Media Ministry Secretary Mr. Sunil Samaraweera assumes duties. (Source: *Ceylon Today*).
- **March 19, 2019:** Launch of Social Media Declaration (Colombo 2019), Code of Conduct for Responsible Social Media Use organised by Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA). SLWJA and SLMMF are signatories.
- **March 20, 2019:** Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum organised a discussion on 'Empowering and Sharing Experiences' with Mr. Iqbal Athas.
- **May 03, 2019:** World Press Freedom Day was marked with a seminar organised by the Free Media Movement.
- **June 05, 2019:** Cabinet approval granted for revision of the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code enabling swift and stringent legal action to be taken against those who engage in distribution of false news and hate speech. Anyone found guilty, could face a fine of up to Rs. 1 million or a five-year prison sentence or both. The FMM has written to the Minister of Justice June 19, 2019.
- **June 17, 2019:** The Supreme Court issues strict guidelines for law enforcement authorities while hearing a case involving a minor girl being held by a woman police constable unlawfully.
- **July 10, 2019:** Parliament Oversight Committee (Sectoral Oversight Committee on Women and Gender) to formulate 'Code of Conduct' on breaking news which is harmful to female victims and their immediate family members. The Committee will also evaluate all media and classify the advertisements, news, dramas, shows and movie according to the level of damage and violations.
- **July 10, 2019:** It is an offence for an individual or an institution to maintain a television broadcasting station/satellite or cable based broadcasting station within Sri Lanka void of a valid media licence issued by the relevant subject Minister, as per section 28 of Sri Lanka Rupervahini Cooperation Act No. 06 of 1982. August 15, 2019 is the deadline to obtain this licence from the Ministry of Mass Media. (Source: *The Island*).
- **July 26, 2019:** Maiden exhibition by the Sri Lanka Photojournalists Association
- **August 09, 2019:** Speaker Karu Jayasuriya announces that COPE sittings will be opened to the media. The FMM welcomes the action of Parliament as a further step towards free media.
- **August 16, 2019:** The English language version of the Social Media Declaration, Sri Lanka (2018) – Code of Conduct for Responsible Social Media Use, undertaken by the CPA was shared with the PCCSL. The CPA requested the PCCSL's response. Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi, Complaints Officer – Sinhala Print was invited to be a member of the panel.

- **August 22, 2019:** The Ministry of Provincial Education, Sabaragamuwa Province has instructed all Principals in Schools not to permit journalists to enter their Schools to gather news. They have to get permission from the Zonal Director of Education. (Source: *Thinakaran*).
- **August 28, 2019:** A number of print and electronic journalists at a forum organised by the Right to Life Human Rights Organisation pointed out the rise in the irresponsible use of social media.
- **August 30, 2019:** Report on harassment of journalists handed over to Media Ministry Secretary Sunil Samaraweera by chairman of the committee, Mrs. Tilaka Jayasundara that probed the victimisation during the tenure of the Mahinda Rajapaksa regime.
- **September 09, 2019:** President issues Extraordinary Gazette Notice taking over the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. It now comes under the President and the Defence Ministry. The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement and the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association have criticised the President's action.
- **September 11, 2019:** The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka at their meeting requested the PCCSL to furnish them monthly the violations of the Editors' Code chart and the Direct Complaints handled by editors chart. The PCCSL CEO agreed to forward this soon after each Board Meeting of the PCCSL which is held every first Wednesday of the month.
- **September 15, 2019:** Presidential Elections Law (Act No. 15 of 1981) becomes effective from today says Elections Commissioner.
- **November 02, 2019:** 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.' An article 'A new level of audacity for impunity and journalist murders' sent by Mr. Andrew Heslop, Director Press Freedom WAN-IFRA was published in Daily FT (Nov. 02). Daily Mirror (Nov. 02) also featured an article on the 'Third Asian Investigative Journalism Conference,' in Seoul.
- November 04, 2019: Repeat of Ethics covering Election Reporting issued by Elections Commission for print and digital media.
- **November 04, 2019:** Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA) is in the process of preparing a 'Rights and Responsibilities Charter' for working journalists in Sri Lanka. Already the following media organisations have shared their views: Free Media Movement, Federation of Media Employers Trade Union, Young Journalists Association, Sri Lanka Tamil Media Forum and Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum. Closing date of suggestions/comments Nov. 12.
- **November 06, 2019:** Media Minister Mangala Samaraweera tells press conference that the list of journalists harassed by the previous regime collected through an advertisement and forwarded to Cabinet, has been approved and compensation will be paid to them in the near future. *The Sunday Morning* adds: Journalists who were harassed and persecuted during 2005 to 2015 period will be compensated. Accordingly compensation from Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 1.5 million will be paid to 78 journalists. However, several Tamil journalists refused to accept the compensation claiming that the victimised journalists need justice to 40 of their colleagues who were assassinated and murdered during this period.
- **November 07, 2019:** The media should be guaranteed the space to conduct their profession in a free and responsible manner during the Presidential Election states the Free Media Movement (FMM) in a media release. It adds: 'The Provincial Journalist Collective recently held a press briefing and revealed information regarding the harassment and obstructions faced by regional journalists across Sri Lanka from various political party organizers and supporters during the reporting of the presidential election. According to the information received by the Free Media Movement, various political parties have refused to give access to individual journalists covering their presidential election campaign meetings after inquiring the name of the media institution they represent.
- Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi left for New Delhi, India on Sunday, November 24 on a Right to Information event. He will return in ten days.

11. AGM, Board meetings and PCCSL Secretariat

- The PCCSL Board of Directors continued to meet once a month. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on September 04, 2019.
- **Board members:** Mr. Kumar Nadesan (Chairman, nominee of SLPI), Mr. Sinha Ratnatunga (Deputy Chairman, nominee of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka), Mr. Nimal Welgama (nominee of the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka), Mr. Ananda Jayasekera (nominee of the Free Media Movement), Mr. Manik de Silva (nominee of the SLPI), Mr. Duminda Sampath (nominee of the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association), Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Mr. M. N. Ameen and Mr. Mohanlal Piyadasa were re-elected by the general membership of the PCCSL.

12. Conclusion

The PCCSL Secretariat would like to thank the CEO and staff of the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) for all assistance, the Chairman and the Board of Directors of the PCCSL and the Chairman and members of the Dispute Resolution Council for their invaluable support and advice at all times.

The PCCSL Secretariat also wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to Mr. Nimal Welgama, Managing Director of Upali Newspapers Limited who continuously for the past 15 years printed the PCCSL Annual Report on *gratis* basis.

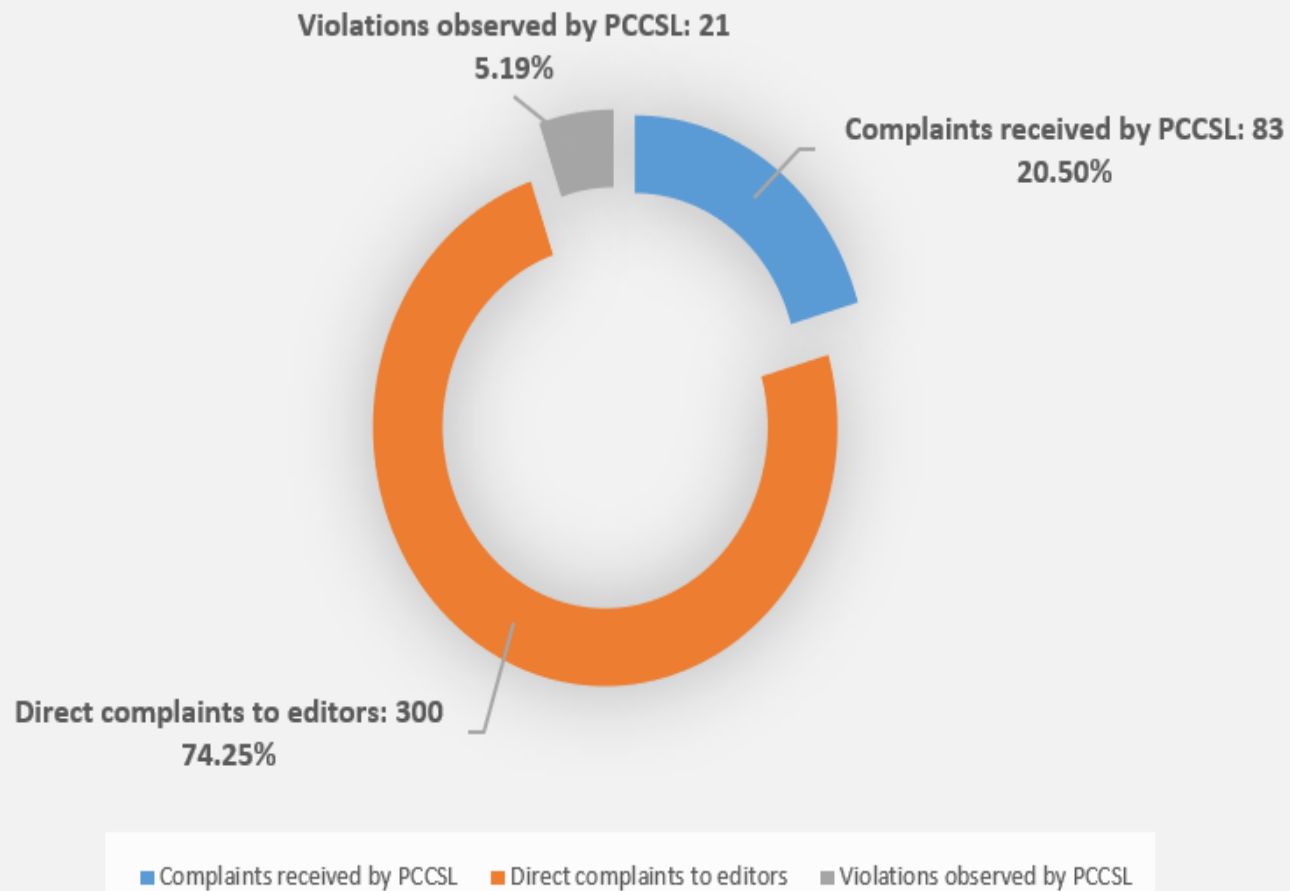
The Press Complaints Commission comprises in addition to the CEO, Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi, Complaints Officer – Sinhala Print Media and Promotions Officer.

Sukumar Rockwood
Chief Executive Officer

Category and status of complaints received in 2019

Month	Language/Total	Valid complaint	Resolved	Complainant did not proceed	No response from Editor	Invalid complaint	Out of Mandate	Subjudice	Dismissed
January	Total: 06 (S-03, T-01, E-02, O-00)	04	01	03	00	02	01	00	01
February	Total: 06 (S-03, T-02, E-01, O-00)	05	02	03	00	01	01	00	00
March	Total: 12 (S-11, T-00, E-01, O-00)	04	02	02	00	08	01	05	02
April	Total: 08 (S-06, T-00, E-01, O-01)	06	02	04	00	02	01	00	01
May	Total: 09 (S-05, T-01, E-01, O-02)	06	04	02	00	03	01	02	00
June	Total: 04 (S-02, T-00, E-02, O-00)	02	00	01	01 (Sathi Aga Aruna)	02	01	00	01
July	Total: 02 (S-02, T-00, E-00, O-00)	02	01	01	00	00	00	00	00
August	Total: 11 (S-06, T-01, E-00, O-04)	06	00	05	01 (Irida Divaina)	05	04	00	01
September	Total: 05 (S-03, T-00, E-01, O-01)	04	02	02	00	01	01	00	00
October	Total: 10 (S-07, T-00, E-02, O-01)	06	03	03	00	04	01	02	01
November	Total: 05 (S-04, T-00, E-01, O-00)	05	00	02	03 (Ceylon Today-01, Dinamina-01, Divaina-01)	00	00	00	00
December	Total: 05 (S-04, T-00, E-00, O-01)	04	03	01	00	01	01	00	00
Total	Total: 83 (S-56, T-05, E-12, O-10)	54	20	29	05	29	13	09	07

Complaints for the year 2019



Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka
Complaints received from January to December 2019

January

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/01/2019	Jan. 03, 2019	Prof. Ratnajeevan Hoole, Jaffna University, Jaffna	The Sunday Times	Received third party complaint first on December 24, 2018 and requested Dec. 27, 2018 via email a fresh complaint giving details and Complaint Form. The complaint was that the article 'Irrigation Dept. distorts history of Iranamadu,' was taken from the <i>Colombo Telegraph</i> website. The source was not indicated. Received documents Jan. 04, 2019 via email. Forwarded to editor Jan. 08, 2019. Editor responds Jan. 11. Sent by email to complainant. Editor says this is not a third party complaint since letter from third party giving permission to complain has not been sent. Complainant identified himself as Translator of <i>Colombo Telegraph</i> . Editor responds that the article was obtained by <i>The Sunday Times</i> correspondent and complainant has unethically obtained copy from their Correspondent for <i>Colombo Telegraph</i> .	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/01/2019	Jan. 08, 2019	Mr. S. Sriharan, Hendala, Wattala	Metro News	Misleading advertisement 'Lanka Traders,' concerning installation of Dish TV for Rs. 3,990. Complainant says when he made inquiries, he was told it is an old advertisement and the cost is Rs.7,000. Informed editor and spoke to advertising dept. to correct the misleading advertisement after speaking to advertiser.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/01/2019	Jan. 08, 2019.	Attorney Chaminda Rajakaruna, Executive Director, Lanka National Sarvodaya Village Society, Moratuwa.	Sathi Aga Aruna	Complained that article published on page 02, <i>Sadesa</i> supplement of <i>Sathi Aga Aruna</i> newspaper is insulting to Sarvodaya Organization. Replied to complainant on Jan. 08 with Complaint Form and called for details of complaint. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/04/01/2019	Jan. 10, 2019.	Mr. Lakshman Wijemanna, UNP MP Kalutara District.	Irida Lakkima	January 10, 2019 published interview of him had inaccuracies. Complainant Form sent to him Jan. 10 and requested details. Complainant did not want to proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/01/2019	Jan. 18, 2019	Mr. Viran Corea, Attorney for Mr. A. Sumanthiran, Colombo	MTV News 1st	Emailed complaint concerning MTV News First Website giving incorrect information and newspaper article. Explained process and emailed Complaint Form. Emailed complainant and spoke to him.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/06/01/2019	Jan. 29, 2019.	Hospital Director, Base Hospital, Panadura	Divaina	Copy of complaint sent to PCCSL about article published on Dec. 31, 2018 incorrect article concerning Panadura Hospital. Sent Complaint Form Jan. 29, 2019 and called for details of complaint. Feb. 14, complainant called for Editors' Code. Spoke to complainant Feb. 15, 27, 28 and March 06. Complainant did not want to proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 06 (S-03, T-01, E-02, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	04
Resolved	01
Complainant did not proceed	03
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	01

February

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/02/2019	Feb. 05, 2019.	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Colombo. Mr. Nihal Chandrasiri, Director, Research and Monitoring (Actg.), HRCSL	Maubima	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. Jan. 23 news item concerning assault on prisoners at Agunakolapalassa. Details of incident incorrect. Feb. 05, 2019, spoke to official and faxed Complaint Form. Spoke to official Feb. 12. Complaint did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/02/2019	Feb. 05, 2019.	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Colombo.	Sathi Aga Aruna	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. Jan. 23 article concerning jamming devices to block phone calls between prisoners and the outside in a bid to prevent crimes. Details of article incorrect. Feb. 05, 2019, spoke to official and facsimile Complaint Form. Spoke to official Feb. 12. Clarification published Feb. 10	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/02/2019	Feb. 07, 2019	Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, Director, Jaffna Teaching Hospital, Jaffna	New Jaffna (Online newspaper)	Complaint received via facsimile concerning an incident between a male and female nurse of the Accident Ward. News item published on online newspaper. Spoke to complainant Feb. 07 and explained PCCSL process. Concerns online newspaper hence out of PCCSL mandate.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/04/02/2019	Feb. 11, 2019	Ms. Mohandas Saraswathie, Jaffna.	Valampuri	Complaint received from Jaffna office via email. Although correction/apology was published by Valampuri, complainant says incident occurred. Called for details to understand complaint via email on Feb. 11. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/02/2019	Feb. 15, 2019	Mr. Ifthikar Aziz, Colombo	Daily Mirror	Complaint received via email against use of 'Muhammad' in headline of a gossip column story appearing on page 01 of	

				Feb. 15, 2019. Editor says that 'Muhammad going to the mountain' is an idiomatic phrase popularly used in the English language. Spoke to complainant. He did not want to proceed adding that it hurt religious sentiments and to advise editor.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/06/02/2019	Feb. 27, 2019	Mr. Rohana Navaratna, General Secretary, Hospital Development Committee, District Hospital, Matale.	Irida Lankadeepa	January 27, 2019 story was published concerning stall in the Matale Hospital. Complainant states story is misleading. March 01, sent Complaint Form and called for details. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 06 (S-03, T-02, E-01, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	05
Resolved	02
Complainant did not proceed	03
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	01
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

March

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Ms. Gayathri Kanchana Wickramasinghe, 176/6, Maligaspe Sri Saranathissa Nahimi Mawatha, Bope, Galle.	Divaina	Third party complaint. Complainant's husband – Southern Police Crime Division Officer – was arrested. Feb. 18 article was insulting, she says? Since there is a court case, the PCCSL wrote to the complainant on March 06.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/02/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Ms. Gayathri Kanchana Wickramasinghe, 176/6, Maligaspe Sri Saranathissa Nahimi Mawatha, Bope, Galle.	Lankadeepa	Third party complaint. Complainant's husband – Southern Police Crime Division Officer – was arrested. Feb. 18 article was insulting, she says? Since there is a court case, the PCCSL wrote to the complainant on March 06.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/03/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Ms. Gayathri Kanchana Wickramasinghe, 176/6, Maligaspe Sri Saranathissa Nahimi Mawatha, Bope, Galle.	Maubima	Third party complaint. Complainant's husband – Southern Police Crime Division Officer – was arrested. Feb. 18 article was insulting, she says? Since there is a court case, the PCCSL wrote to the complainant on March 06.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/04/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Ms. Gayathri Kanchana Wickramasinghe, 176/6, Maligaspe Sri Saranathissa Nahimi Mawatha,	Sathi Aga Aruna	Third party complaint. Complainant's husband – Southern Police Crime Division Officer – was arrested. Feb. 18 article was insulting. Since there is a court case, the PCCSL wrote to the complainant on March 06.	

		Bope, Galle.			SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/05/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Ms. Gayathri Kanchana Wickramasinghe, 176/6, Maligaspe Sri Saranathissa Nahimi Mawatha, Bope, Galle.	Silumina	Third party complaint. Complainant's husband – Southern Police Crime Division Officer – was arrested. Feb. 18 article was insulting, she says. Since there is a court case, the PCCSL wrote to the complainant on March 06.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/06/03/2019	March 06, 2019.	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission, 14, R. A. de Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.	Divaina	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. Feb. 16 article gives false information concerning Sri Lankan Security Forces serving in the UN Peace Keeping Force. March 06, spoke to complainant concerning 'RoR' and sent Complaint Form. Spoke to editor March 12. Published RoR March 13	RESOLVED
Pccsl/07/03/2019	March 08, 2019	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson, Human Rights Commission, 14, R. A. de Mel Mawatha, Colombo 04.	Sathi Aga Aruna	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL for their information on March 08. Page one article appearing on March 03 states that she has taken over Rs. 100,000 in salary. Dr. Udagama says article is totally false and misleading. Spoke to complainant March 12, explained process. Re-received complaint on March 14. Spoke to editor March 16. Clarification published March 17. Posted to complainant March 21. Complainant not satisfied sent letter May 06. Sent Complaint Form May 08. Received May 10. Forwarded to editor May 16. Published clarification.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/08/03/2019	March 12, 2019.	Mr. Asoka Fernando, 1/13 B, Gagabada Road, Badulla.	Anidda	Third party complaint concerning former Navy Commander Admiral Wasantha Karannagoda. Complainant says that he is a hero and should not be treated this way. He was referring to the lead story in the newspaper. Complainant did not submit a Complaint Form and a letter from affected party giving permission to complain. There is also a pending court case. This is not a valid complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/09/03/2019	March 14, 2019	Mr. Ravindra Kariyawasam, Center for Environmental and Nature Studies (CENS), Rajagiriya	Ravaya	Details of complaint received on March 14, sketchy. Sent Complaint Form and called for more details. Resent Complaint Form March 21. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT WANT TO PROCEED
PCCSL/10/03/2019	March 23, 2019	Mr. Walter Fernando, Ratmalana	Daily Mirror and English language newspapers.	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL on behalf of electricity consumers who are harassed by the CEB with unscheduled power cuts and contact number on electricity bill malfunctioning. Complaint does not fall within the purview of the PCCSL Mandate.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/11/03/2019	March 25, 22019	Prof. Kapila, Vice Chancellor,	Sinhala language	Complaint made over the telephone. Requested Complaint Form and	

		University of Moratuwa.	newspaper	connected material. Emailed to him March 25. Called, reminded, re-sent April 01. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/12/03/2019	March 25, 2019	Mr. S. A. A. D. Amarasingha, Scout Association, Kurunegala District Branch.	Maubima	Third party complaint. Article published, March 25 concerning deceased Scout of Giriulla Vidyalaya. Story does not say in which Scouting District. Complainant confirms that it is not in Giriulla but in Kurunegala District. It is not a complaint.	DISMISSED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 12 (S-11, T-00, E-01, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	04
Resolved	02
Complainant did not proceed	02
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	08
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	05
Dismissed	02

April

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/04/2019	April 10, 2019	Mr. Sudath Perera, Attorney-at-Law for Mr. Geoffrey Aloysius, Colombo	The Sunday Times	Complaint sent via email along with the Complaint Form. No documents attached. Requested documents. Responded by email on April 18 and informed again that documents not received. Received documents April 29, although received in the office on April 12. RoR published April 21.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/04/2019	April 10, 2019	Mr. Sudath Perera, Attorney-at-Law for Mr. Geoffrey Aloysius, Colombo	Lankadeepa	Copy of complaint sent via email along with the Complaint Form. No documents attached. Requested documents. Responded by email on April 18 and informed again documents not received. Clarification published.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/04/2019	April 10, 2019	Mr. Sudath Perera, Attorney-at-Law for Mr. Geoffrey Aloysius, Colombo	Divaina	Copy of complaint sent via email along with the Complaint Form. No documents attached. Requested documents. Responded by email on April 18 and informed again that documents not received. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/04/04/2019	April 10, 2019	Mr. Sudath Perera, Attorney-at-Law for Mr. Geoffrey Aloysius, Colombo	MTV News First (TV Channel)	Complaint sent via email along with the Complaint Form. No documents attached. Requested documents. Responded by email on April 18 and informed again that documents not received.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/05/04/2019	April 22, 2019	Deshabandu Ms. Thilaka	Lankadeepa	Complaint sent by email with attachments of Complaint Form,	

		Dhammika Jinadasa, Kotte		newspaper clipping and letter stating the complaint. The original letter was addressed to Press Council, requested her to address it to PCCSL and send it also in Sinhala language. Reminded May 17 by email. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/04/2019	April 29, 2019.	Mr. Sudeera Nilanga Withana, Additional Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs, 8 th Floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.	Lankadeepa	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL concerning incorrect information of the State Drama Festival. Additional Director clarified article. Replied to complainant with complaint form April 2019. Letter is sent back to PCCSL with the comment on the envelope that there is no such official working with them.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/07/04/2019	April 29, 2019.	Mr. S. Isfahani Anver, Lawyer, Deanstone Place, Colombo 04.	Ethalaya Magazine	Complainant visited PCCSL and lodged a complaint concerning his real estate business. Explained complaint process and handed over Complaint Form to complainant. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/04/2019	April 29, 2019.	Mr. A. F. M. Rali. Businessman, No, 48/8/1, W. A. de Silva Mawatha, Colombo 06.	Ethalaya Magazine	Complainant visited PCCSL and lodged a complaint concerning his real estate business. Explained complaint process and handed over Complaint Form to complainant. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 08 (S-06 T-00, E-01, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	06
Resolved	02
Complainant did not proceed	04
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	01

May

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/05/2019	May 02, 2019	Dr. Channa Jayasumana, Anuradhapura	Lankadeepa	Complainant spoke to PCCSL on two occasions. Explained complaint process. Sent Complaint Form and Editors' Code. Complaint did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/05/2019	May 06, 2019	Mr. M. T. Mohomad Maheesh, Lecturer Department of Sociology University of	Sathi Aga Aruna	Newspaper published May 05, 2019 article about mother and father-in-law's involvement in NTJ and its leader Zaharan. Incorrect photograph of Mr. Mohomad Maheesh published with article. Complainant	

		Colombo		contacted PCCSL and complained. Since the newspaper is a weekly, spoke to editor and corrected in online version. Complainant visited PCCSL May 06 and handed over Complaint Form. Forwarded to editor May 07. Published correction May 12.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/05/2019	May 06, 2019	Mr. R. Abdul Razik, General Secretary Ceylon Thawheed Jamath, Maligawatta, Colombo 10	Irida Lankadeepa	Complainant came to PCCSL and handed over complaint against newspaper that had published an interview with him on May 05, 2019. Complainant says he has been misquoted. Forwarded to editor May 09. Published correction May 12	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/05/2019	May 08, 2019	Mr. Durairasa Ilango alias Regan, Jaffna	Kalaikkathir	Article published links his name with his brother who has committed a robbery brandishing a saw. Complainant is a member of the EPDP. Forwarded to editor May 09 and spoke to him. Published RoR May 12.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/05/05/2019	May 13, 2018	Mr. M. H. Deeganatha, Hingurakgoda	Not about newspaper	Complaint concerns compensation to farmer. Wrote to complainant explaining PCCSL's role.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/06/05/2019	May 19, 2019	Air Vice Marshal (retd.) A.B. Sosa, Negombo.	Daily Mirror	Complainant spoke to PCCSL on May 17 concerning a quote in an article written by Mr. Kusal Perera being incorrect. Spoke to editor, clarification published May 18.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/07/05/2019	May 28, 2019	Ms. Mohamed Hussain Fathima Rizna, Alawathugoda	Lankadeepa	Third party complaint (wife complaining on behalf of her Hansard Officer husband, who is in police custody). Sent Complaint Form to fill and forward and send RoR in Sinhala. Received June 19. Wrote June 20 saying since it is before a court process, PCCSL is unable to take it up.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/08/05/2019	May 28, 2019	Attorney Sarah Arumugam on behalf of Muslim doctor, Colombo 05	Divaina	Not a valid third party complaint, since consent letter not enclosed by Attorney Sarah Arumugam on behalf of Muslim doctor. Sent letter and Complaint Form May 30 to get his consent, fill form and send to PCCSL. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/09/05/2019	May 29, 2019	Ms. Mohamed Imtiaz Fathima Asha, Colombo 12	No newspaper mentioned	Third party complaint - her husband was arrested on April 28 under suspicion. Lots of false news and photographs. Wrote to complainant May 29 along with Complaint Form and Editors' Code. Received documents June 17. Spoke to	

				a person who answered the telephone on June 18 and explained PCCSL process. The case is ongoing with further court hearings.	SUBJUDICE
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Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 09 (S-05 T-01, E-01, O-02)
VALID COMPLAINTS	06
Resolved	04
Complainant did not proceed	02
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	03
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	02
Dismissed	00

June

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/06/2019	June 10, 2019	Mr. M. Kumarasinghe, Journalist/Author, Kelaniya	Daily Mirror	Complained that his article was published in the newspaper of June 03, 2019 under a different by-line. Although it is a violation of Clause 02. Accurate Reporting Sub Clause 2.4 plagiarism, the complainant was not happy with an RoR but wanted compensation. Explained PCCSL process and self-regulation. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/06/2019	June 13, 2019	Mrs. Ilma Amina Zuhair, Principal Ilma International Girls' School, Colombo 05.	Sathi Aga Aruna	Incorrect story concerning 10,000 Madarasi Schools in the island. Received Complaint Form. Wrote to complainant June 20 calling for details of complaint. July 09 received RoR but incomplete. Spoke to complainant July 11. Complaint received by hand July 12. Forwarded to editor July 15. Reminder sent to editor July 29. Editor did not proceed.	EDITOR DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/06/2019	June 17, 2019	Mr. Walter Fernando, Ratmalana	All newspapers (English)	Complained via email about several English language newspapers publishing political news based on a person's religion and suggesting it should be on race. Complaint does not fall within the purview of the PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/04/06/2019	June 18, 2019	Mr. A. H. Athugala, Narammala.	All newspapers (Sinhala)	Not a valid complaint. He is asking how to publish an article in any newspaper.	DISMISSED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 04 (S-02 T-00, E-02, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	02
Resolved	00
Complainant did not proceed	01
No response from Editor	01
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	01

July

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/07/2019	July 01, 2019.	Mr. S. C. K. Liyanage, School Development Committee, Sarasavi Uyana Maha Vidyalaya, Peradeniya.	Ada	Published article about School with incorrect information. Wrote to complainant with complaint form July 02. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/07/2019	July 02, 2019.	I.P. Gunasinghe, OIC, Malwathuhiripitiya.	Irida Divaina	Published incorrect article concerning an accident in the Malwathuhiripitiya area. Complainant spoke to PCCSL. Explained complaint process and faxed and emailed Complaint Form July 02. Received July 23. Forwarded to editor July 29. Journalist met PCCSL to ascertain how to correct error. Gave him instructions on Aug. 12. Journalist came a second time to PCCSL on Aug. 19. Published RoR Aug.25	RESOLVED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 02 (S-02 T-00, E-00, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	02
Resolved	01
Complainant did not proceed	01
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	00
Out of Mandate	00
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

August

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/08/2019	Aug. 01, 2019.	G. M. Susantha Kumara Herath, Ambaanpola .	Not against a newspaper	Complaint concerns a land dispute. Outside PCCSL process. Wrote to complainant stating this fact.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/02/08/2019	Aug. 07, 2019.	Mr. Jabbar Hirul Hudha,	Lankadeepa	Third party complaint. Wife is complaining on behalf of her husband. Husband is in	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

		Hijrapura, Ellawala, Kebethigollawa.		prison. Sent Complaint Form Aug. 07. Complainant did not proceed.	
PCCSL/03/08/2019	Aug. 20, 2019	Mr. Joshop, Gajaba Place, Kirulapone, Colombo.	Virakesari	Complainant came to PCCSL and lodged a complaint against pictures of half nude Indian actresses being published omitting important articles. Explained complaint process. Not a valid complaint. Informed him that it is the editor's discretion.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/04/08/2019	Aug. 20, 2019	Mr. M. A. Sarath Weera, Principal, Waladdarawatht-ha, Pilanar, Wanchawala. Galle.	Lankadeepa	Complainant called PCCSL and complained concerning pornographic photographs in his computer. The case was held in 2005 and was closed in 2019 with his release. Explained PCCSL process. Awaiting Complaint Form and documents to proceed. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/08/2019	Aug. 20, 2019	Mr. M. A. Sarath Weera, Principal, Waladdarawatht-ha, Pilanar, Wanchawala. Galle.	Dinamina	Complainant called PCCSL and complained concerning pornographic photographs in his computer. The case was held in 2005 and was closed in 2019 with his release. Explained PCCSL process. Awaiting Complaint Form and documents to proceed. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/08/2019	Aug. 27, 2019	Office of the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), Sevnanagala	Maubima – Irida	Complaint against article published with incorrect information Aug. 18. Replied to complainant with complaint form Aug. 27. Received Sept. 09. Spoke to complainant concerning clarification Sept. 10. Called again January 22, 2020. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/08/2018	Aug. 27, 2019	SSP Ruwan Gunasekara, Spokesman, Police Media, Unit, Police Headquarters, Colombo.	Irida Divaina	Complaint against inaccurate news concerning Presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Aug. 18. Received Complaint Form. Complaint forwarded to editor Aug. 27. Editor did not proceed.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/08/08/2019	Aug. 27, 2019	IP R. R. P. W. Bandula Bandara, Hangdesa, Kandy.	Lankadeepa	News item published Aug. 08 incorrect. An inquiry was held and he was interdicted. Concerns return of swords and knives taken from Mosque. Explained PCCSL process and gave a Complaint Form. Awaiting documents. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/09/08/2019	Aug. 27, 2019	Mr. K. Paranthaman, Divisional Secretary, Divisional Secretariat, Vavuniya North.	ITN	Incorrect information given by journalist Nadaraja Kalaichelvan damaging to his reputation and Divisional Secretariat. Wrote to TV Station drawing their attention to inquire and that the PCCSL does not have a mandate to address complaints against the digital media.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/10/08/2019	Aug. 27, 2019	Mr. K. Paranthaman, Divisional Secretary, Divisional Secretariat, Vavuniya North.	DAN	Incorrect information given by journalist Nadaraja Kalaichelvan damaging to his reputation and Divisional Secretariat. Wrote to TV Station to inquire and informed him that the PCCSL does not have a mandate to address complaints against the digital media.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/11/08/2019	Aug. 29, 2019	Manager, Samurdhi Bank, Nedunkerni, Vavuniya North.	ITN	Complaint about journalist Nadaraja Kalaichelvan disturbing Samurdhi Bank Officers. Letter sent to Vavuniya Divisional Secretary. Faxed by Divisional Secretary	

			to PCCSL. Wrote to TV Station drawing their attention to inquire and that the PCCSL does not have a mandate to address complaints against the digital media.	OUT OF MANDATE
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Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 11 (S-06 T-01, E-00, O-04)
VALID COMPLAINTS	06
Resolved	00
Complainant did not proceed	05
No response from Editor	01
INVALID COMPLAINTS	05
Out of Mandate	04
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	01

September

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/09/2019	Sept. 03, 2019	Rev. Maxwell Doss, General Secretary, National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, Colombo	Daily Mirror	Complainant says they did not organise the event at which the Prime Minister was giving away awards. Complaint with Complaint Form received Sept. 03. Spoke to editor and emailed complaint with copy of scanned letter on Sept. 03. Clarification (RoR) published Sept. 05, top right of page 06.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/09/2019	Sept. 16, 2019	Mr. H. B. Jayakanth (Corporal), Piliyandala	Lankadeepa	After discharge from Army in 2014, due to bullet wounds he became a three-wheel driver. September 18, 2017, newspaper publishes story that he was involved in a fracas between two groups and was in remand due to assault. Case ongoing but he was released on August 26, 2018. Army recruiting office needs him to clear his name in order that his son gets admitted to Army. Visited PCCSL Sept. 16, explained process and gave Complaint Form. Awaiting documents. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/09/2019	Sept. 16, 2019	Mr. G. G. Abeyrathne, Panwila	Not concerning newspaper	Complaint concerning business. Complaint is not within mandate of PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/04/09/2019	Sept. 16, 2019	Mr. R. R. G. W. Bandula Bandara, Handesa, Kandy	Maubima	Complaint received Sept. 16 against published article being incorrect that he had returned the knives and swords taken from mosque. Spoke to complainant Sept. 17 concerning Complaint Form and documents. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/09/2019	Sept. 25, 2019	SP S. G. J. Ruwan Gunasekera, Media Spokesman	Lankadeepa	Story concerns Women Police Constables who are pregnant serving night shifts. Requests to inform which Police Station. Will look into the matter. Forwarded to Editor for observations. Editor spoke direct to complainant with information.	RESOLVED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 05 (S-03 T-00, E-01, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	04
Resolved	02
Complainant did not proceed	02
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	01
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

October

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/10/2019	Oct. 07, 2019	Mr. N. Sedurupan, Oslo, Norway	Daily Mirror	Aug. 05, 2019, newspaper published article 'Nadaraaja Sedurupan arrested and remanded,' that stated that he is a founder of a LTTE website and a pro-LTTE supporter of the Tamil diaspora. He says the article is false and misleading. Explained PCCSL process Oct. 04 when he visited the office. Received Complaint Form and documents Oct. 07, 2019. Called for Court document that he has been cleared. Received Court document Nov. 25, dated Nov. 18, 2019 saying his continued stay is unnecessary. Forwarded to editor Nov. 27. Since there is a case pending did not proceed.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/02/10/2019	Oct. 07, 2019	Mr. N. Sedurupan, Oslo, Norway	Lankadeepa	Aug. 05, 2019, newspaper published article 'Nadaraaja Sedurupan arrested and remanded,' that stated that he is a founder of a LTTE website and a pro-LTTE supporter of the Tamil diaspora. He says the article is false and misleading. Explained PCCSL process Oct. 04 when he visited the office. Received Complaint Form and documents Oct. 07, 2019. Called for Court document that he has been cleared. Case ongoing. Since there is a case pending did not proceed.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/03/10/2019	Oct. 14, 2019	Police Sergeant Pathmasiri, Police Station, Payagala.	Lankadeepa	Complaint concerns incorrect information published. October 22, called for Complaint Form and documents. Received Oct. 29. Spoke to complainant Oct. 30 and Nov. 14 concerning complaint. Forwarded to editor Nov. 14. Clarification published November 26, 2019.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/10	Oct. 16,	Mr. L. A. D. L.	Lankadeepa	Complainant called PCCSL	DISMISSED

/2019	2019	Wijethunga, Anuradhapura,		concerning cartoon appearing on page 01 of part 02. He says it is insulting to presidential candidate of JVP. Explained complaint process. Awaited documents. Not a valid complaint since it is a cartoon.	
PCCSL/05/10/2019	Oct. 16, 2019	Mr. M. M. M. Rasul, Panadura,	Maubima	Complainant an employee of Road Development Authority was arrested and released following the Easter Sunday attacks. A Court Order was issued clearing him of all suspicion. He is back at work. He was also paid back wages since he was suspended pending the outcome of courts. Says newspaper has published story concerning arrest but not cleared his name after release. Received Complaint Form and Court document Nov. 07. Forwarded to Editor. Sent reminder January 11, 2020. Editor did not proceed.	EDITOR DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/10/2019	Oct. 16, 2019	Mr. M. M. M. Rasul, Panadura,	Daily News	Complainant an employee of Road Development Authority was arrested and released following the Easter Sunday attacks. A Court Order was issued clearing him of all suspicion. He is back at work. He was also paid back wages since he was suspended pending the outcome of courts. Says newspaper has published story concerning arrest but not cleared his name after release. Received Complaint Form and Court document Nov. 07. Forwarded to editor Nov. 08. Editor did not proceed.	EDITOR DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/10/2019	Oct. 16, 2019	Mr. M. M. M. Rasul, Panadura,	Lankadeepa	Complainant an employee of Road Development Authority was arrested and released following the Easter Sunday attacks. A Court Order was issued clearing him of all suspicion. He is back at work. He was also paid back wages since he was suspended pending the outcome of courts. Says newspaper has published story concerning arrest but not cleared his name after release. Received Complaint Form and Court document Nov. 07. Forwarded to Editor. Sent reminder January 11, 2020.	EDITOR DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/10/2019	Oct. 16, 2019	Mr. M. M. M. Rasul, Panadura,	Hiru TV	Complainant an employee of Road Development Authority was arrested and release following the Easter Sunday attacks. A Court Order was	

				issued releasing him of all suspicion. He is back at work. He was also paid back wages since he was suspended pending the outcome of courts. TV Station had a news item from an MP referring to him in a derogatory way. Complaint not within mandate of PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/09/10/2019	Oct. 25, 2019	Mr. Athula de Silva, Attorney-at-Law, SLPP Lawyers Association, Colombo.	Dinamina	Third Party Complaint on behalf of Presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa's press conference. Newspaper published incorrect story. Clarification published October 25. Reply to Complainant with paper cutting October 28.	RESOLVED
CCSL/10/10/2019	Oct. 25, 2019	.Mr. Athula De Silva, Lawyer, SLPP Lawyers Association, Colombo.	Resa	Third Party Complaint on behalf of Presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa's press conference. Newspaper published incorrect story. Clarification published October 25. Reply to Complainant with paper cutting October 28.	RESOLVED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 10 (S-07 T-00, E-02, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	06
Resolved	03
Complainant did not proceed	03
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	04
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	02
Dismissed	01

November

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/11/2019	Nov. 14, 2019	Mr. M. A. Sumanthiran, MP, Colombo 06	Ceylon Today	Nov. 13 newspaper published a news item attributed to complainant with effect that 'the Tamil people should vote for Sajith Premadasa in order to defeat the Sinhalese people.' Complainant denies the statement. Documents received via email. Forwarded to Editor Nov. 15, 2019. Editor did not proceed.	NO PROGRESS FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/02/11/2019	Nov. 14, 2019	Mr. M. A. Sumanthiran, MP, Colombo 06	Maubima	Nov. 13 newspaper published a news item attributed to complainant with effect that 'the Tamil people should vote for Sajith Premadasa in order to defeat the Sinhalese people.' Complainant denies the statement. Documents	

				received via email. Editor stands by story. Informed complainant.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/11/2019	Nov. 20, 2019	Mr. K. G. G. Rajapaksha, Principal, Mahiyangana National School, Mahiyangana.	Dinamina	News report about school teacher's dinner contains incorrect information. Nov. 21, sent Complaint Form. Awaited documents. Received Dec. 17 Forwarded to editor Dec. 24, 2019. Editor did not proceed.	NO PROGRESS FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/04/11/2019	Nov. 20, 2019	Mr. K. G. G. Rajapaksha, Principal, Mahiyangana National School, Mahiyangana.	Divaina	News report about school teacher's dinner contains incorrect information. Nov. 21, sent Complaint Form. Awaited documents. Received Dec. 17 Forwarded to editor Dec. 24, 2019. Editor did not proceed.	NO PROGRESS FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/05/11/2019	Nov. 25, 2019	Attorney Nagananda Kodituwakku, Nugegoda.	Anidda	Complaint against incorrect statement made in article. He spoke to newspaper and said nothing is correct. Not satisfied. Brought to the notice of PCCSL. Advised him and sent Complaint Form, called for documents. Responds to email that he will send. Complaint. Did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 05 (S-04 T-00, E-01, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	05
Resolved	00
Complainant did not proceed	02
No response from Editor	03
INVALID COMPLAINTS	00
Out of Mandate	00
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

December

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/12/2019	Dec. 02, 2019	Mr. H. M. M. Idrees, Valaiche-nai	Deshaya	Complaint about irresponsible reporting concerning him being involved in a terrorist group. Correction published Dec. 08.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/12/2019	Dec. 26, 2019	Ven. Bibile Wajiragnana Thero, Nathissa Rajamaha Viharaya, Naula.	Divaina	Dec. 26 article has published misleading information that four people including the thero have stolen two pearls belonging to the Raja Maha Viharaya. This is inaccurate. Explained PCCSL process and forwarded documents. Newspaper published correction.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/12/2019	Dec. 26, 2019	Ven. Bibile Wajiragnana Thero, Nathissa	Mawbima	Dec. 26 article has published misleading information that four people including the thero have stolen two pearls belonging to	

		Rajamaha Viharaya, Naula.		the Raja Maha Viharaya. This is inaccurate. Explained PCCSL process and forwarded documents. Newspaper published correction.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/12/2019	Dec. 26, 2019	Ven. Bibile Wajiragnana Thero, Nathissa Rajamaha Viharaya, Naula.	Ada	Dec. 26 article has published misleading information that four people including the thero have stolen two pearls belonging to the Raja Maha Viharaya. This is inaccurate. Explained PCCSL process and forwarded documents. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/12/2019	December 30, 2019	Mr. W. N. J. Rodrigo, Pahala Wagapitiya, Nathandiya.	Neth News website	News about VAT fraud and artificial toddy aired Dec.12 is misleading. Incorrect information published with the news. Complaint forwarded to web and copy to complainant December 30, 2019. Complaint does not fall within purview of PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 05 (S-04 T-00, E-00, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	04
Resolved	03
Complainant did not proceed	01
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	01
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00

Complaint chart: 2003 – 2019

Year	2003/04	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Language																	
Sinhala	129	68	96	93	72	72	53	80	87	101	167	87	87	76	48	56	1372
Tamil	21	23	8	17	3	12	33	24	42	33	47	20	15	18	14	5	335
English	31	20	20	25	18	31	22	21	29	15	70	17	17	9	12	12	369
Other	0	0	0	26	0	7	23	17	18	14	7	18	14	13	5	10	172
Total	181	111	124	161	93	122	131	142	176	163	291	142	133	116	79	83	2248
Validity of complaint																	
Valid complaint	152	104	87	135	62	70	82	85	131	122	256	87	83	76	60	54	1646
Invalid complaint	29	7	37	26	31	52	49	59	45	41	34	46	50	39	19	29	593
Status																	
Resolved	49	26	7	32	27	34	38	43	73	58	194	38	29	29	60	20	757
Out of mandate	29	7	37	26	23	42	46	42	39	20	20	40	26	21	6	13	437
Complainant did not proceed	0	0	0	0	27	25	26	30	49	51	56	46	49	36	21	29	445
No response from Editor	0	0	0	0	8	11	3	10	9	13	6	1	3	11	6	5	86
Subjudice	0	0	0	0	8	10	3	17	6	21	14	17	20	6	0	9	131
Closed/Dismissed	103	78	80	103	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	5	12	13	7	418

Activities of the PCCSL between January to December 2019

January 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Jan. 08, 2018	Mr. S. Balasubramaniam Adityan, Group Chairman Thanthi, Group publisher of ' <i>Thinathanthi</i> ' accompanied by editor, marketing manager and one other.	PCCSL Chairman's residence	04	04	00	E	Introduced PCCSL. Explained complaint process. Introduced Editors' Code.
Jan. 14, 2019	Deputy Editor Kuruvi newspaper, Mr. K. Harendran	PCCSL Office	01	01	00	E/T	Knew about PCCSL and Editors' Code. Requested RoR in publish.
Jan. 29, 2019	Mr. Ameen Izzadeen, Deputy Editor The Sunday Times	The Sunday Times Editorial	01	01	00	E	Discussed creation of Index to grade newspapers in order to foster a powerful media culture
Jan. 29, 2019	Wijeya newspapers visit: Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Editor Lankadeepa, Mr. A. Dombagahawatte, Editor Irida Lankadeepa, Mr. Anthony David, News Editor, The Sunday Times along with Ms. Renuka Sadanandan, Ms. Chandani Kirinde, Ms. Kumudini Hettiarachchi.	The Sunday Times Editorial	06	03	03	E	PCCSL Annual Report 2017 distributed, discussed newspaper violations monitored by PCCSL. Editors direct complaint discussed.
Jan. 30, 2019	Journalists at launch of Centre for Investigative Reporting	Lighthouse, Kadigamar Centre	20	15	05	E	At launch of Centre for Investigative Reporting spoke to journalists and gave copies of Annual Report 2017. Mentioned about poor quality of investigative

							reports for J Awards Programme.
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February 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Feb. 08, 2019	Mr. Sisira Paranatantri, Director, Maubima, Mr. Jayantha Sri Nissanka, Editor Ceylon Today (daily and weekly), Mr. Benette Rupesinghe, Editor Maubima (daily and weekly).	There Office at Rosmead Place, Colombo 07.	03	03	00	E/S	Briefed them about the Editors' Code and PCCSL process. Spoke about publishing 'RoR.' Left a copy of the Annual Report 2017 with Mr. Tiran Alles's Secretary.
Feb. 08, 2019	Mr. Vijith Vipulasena, Director/CEO of Liberty Publishers Private Limited, Mrs. Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema, Director/Editor the Sunday Morning and Mr. Mahinda Ileperuma Director/Editor of Sathi Aga Aruna	There Office at Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 07.	03	02	01	E/S	Briefed them about the Editors' Code and PCCSL process. Spoke about publishing 'RoR.'
Feb. 11, 2019	Journalist Movement for Media Ethics and Social Justice (JMMESJ), Colombo	At the National Christian Council auditorium, Colombo	09	09	01	E/S	Spoken about PCCSL and the Editors' Code in planning a workshop on ethics, peace and reconciliation for print media journalists and registered Online newspapers on March 25.
Feb. 20, 2019	Dr. D. B. T. Wijeratne, Assistant FAO Representative (Programme), UN Compound, Colombo	In his office	01	01	00	E	Discussed programme for journalists on nutrition. Introduced PCCSL and complaints process.
Feb. 21, 2019	Mr. Walter Fernando, Ratmalana	Over the telephone	01	01	00	E	Made inquiries how to make a complaint. Emailed Complaint Form and Editors' Code. Explained the process.

Feb. 22, 2019	Ms. Aliya Ifthikar, Asia Program Associate, Committee to Protect Journalists, New York	SLPI Auditorium	01	00	01	E	Shared a copy of the PCCSL Annual Report and introduced Editors' Code. She commented that it is a very useful tool for sharing transparency and accountability of the work of the PCCSL. Also explained PCCSL process.
Feb. 26, 2019	Myanmar journalists (05) and civil society members (06)	SLPI Auditorium	11	01	10	E	Introduced PCCSL, spoke about the Editors' Code and its implementation.

March 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
March 15, 2019	Diploma students SLCJ	Auditorium	18	04	14	S	Introduction of PCCSL, Editors' Code and how the complaint process works.
March 25, 2019	Journalists. Event organised by the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) and the Journalist Movement for Media Ethics and Social Justice (JMMESJ) – Ceylon Bible Society-03, Salvation Army-03, NCCSL-02, journalists-16.	NCCSL Auditorium	24	18	06	S/T/E	Spoke on issues such as reporting of suicide, rape, privacy and sensitivity. Importance of correct source. The Editors' Code as a guiding document.

April 2019

No activity was conducted.

May 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
May 15, 2019	Ms. Dhanushi Senanayake, Program Officer, Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND) sponsored by IREX	In PCCSL Office	01	00	01	E	Discussed about setting up a mobile application for journalists (print and electronic) to consult on matters of ethics PCCSL is invited to serve on this app.

May 22, 2019	Journalists attached to print and digital writing on sexual abuse exploitation organised by Protect Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) and PCCSL. Resource persons; Mr. Mohamed Mahuruf, Executive Director PEaCE and Mr. Ameen Hussain formerly of the PCCSL	In SLPI Auditorium	38	23	15	T	Explained the Editors' Code with particular reference to child sexual abuse reporting and the PCCSL process.
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June 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
June 19, 2019	Students of SLCJ	SLCJ classroom	05	04	01	Tamil	Spoke on Ethics and its importance in keeping to the Editors' Code. PCCSL introduced (Mr. Ameen Hussain)
June 25, 2019	Journalists – print and electronic	SLPI Boardroom	18	09	09	E/S/T	Explained PCCSL process and Editors' Code during a Seminar on 'Understanding Nutrition and the Food System.'
June 25, 2019	Students of Sri Lanka College of Journalism	SLPI Boardroom	16	05	11	E/S/T	Explained PCCSL process and Editors' Code during a Seminar on 'Understanding Nutrition and the Food System.'

July 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
July 26, 2019	Students of Sri Lanka College of Journalism	Auditorium	19	05	14	S	Introduced PCCSL and the Editors' Code. Functions of PCCSL and application of Code.

August 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
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Aug. 08-09, 2019	Youth of North Central Province - Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts	Anuradhapura Youth Centre	49	20	29	S	Introduction of PCCSL, its functions and the Editors' Code.
Aug. 22, 2019	Youth from Wayamba Province (North Western) – Kurunegala District.	Pannala Youth Centre	52	20	32	S	Introduction of PCCSL, its functions and the Editors' Code.
Aug. 28-29, 2019	Youth from Uva Province – Monaragala and Badulla Districts.	Monaragala Youth Centre	47	20	27	S	Introduction of PCCSL, its functions and the Editors' Code.

September 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Sept. 04, 2019	Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekera, Chairperson National Committee of Women, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.	PCCSL Office	01	00	01	E	Looking for ethical reporting involving women. Gave copy of Editors' Code and explained it.
Sept. 10, 2019	Workshop organised by the Press Association of Sri Lanka for journalists	SLPI Auditorium	20	13	07	S	Spoke about Editors' Code violations with examples and work of PCCSL.
Sept. 24, 2019	Workshop for journalists, University students of Mass Media Studies and Conservation. Organised by Department of Wild Life Conservation and Wild Life and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka.	SLPI Auditorium	40	10	30	E	Introduced the Editors' Code. Spoke on third party complaints. PCCSL process explained.

October 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
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Oct. 14-16, 2019	Journalists. Organised by SLPI and Inter news	Global Towers, Colombo	27	20	07	S	Course was on Fact Checking. Spoke about PCCSL and how it works and the Editors' Code.
Oct. 25, 2019	Youth Forum of Ampara	Ampara	37	21	16		Course planned by Youth Services Council is an islandwide project. PCCSL was introduced and the Editors' Code explained.

November 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Nov. 18, 2019	Ms. Sharanya Sekaran, Consultant and Ms. Yamini Perera, Project Officer, Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum.	PCCSL Office	02	00	02	E	Introduced PCCSL. Spoke about implementation of the Editors' Code.

December 2019

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Dec. 19, 2019	Local Government representatives, activists and Government servants of Gampaha District	Town Hall, Gampaha	120	55	65	S	Programme arranged by Gampaha District Secretariat invited PCCSL to speak about PCCSL, the Editors' Code and its application.

Summary of Complaints resolved directly by Editors: Instant Complaints

Summary: January to December 2019

Month	Sinhala	Tamil	English	Total
January	19	00	06	25
February	17	00	10	27
March	19	00	14	33
April	10	00	08	18
May	32	00	13	45
June	21	00	06	27
July	24	00	06	30
August	24	00	07	31
September	11	00	12	23
October	10	00	04	14
November	12	00	01	13
December	11	00	03	14
Total	210	00	90	300

Complaints resolved directly by Editors (Direct complaints) between January and December 2019

January 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JANUARY				
Jan. 13, 2019	Irida Lakbima	Page 20	Bottom middle	Correction: Mix-up of photographs in article.
Jan. 16, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Jan. 12, MP Wimal Weerawansa's court case and fine clarified. It is Rs. 01 million.
Jan. 16, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 12, MP Wimal Weerawansa's court case and fine clarified. It is Rs. 01 million.
Jan. 16, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 12, MP Wimal Weerawansa's court case and fine clarified. It is Rs. 01 million.
Jan. 17, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 12	Bottom right	Clarification: Article concerning Lanka Sathosa and not Sathosa clarified by Sathosa.
Jan. 17, 2019	Dinamina	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 12, MP Wimal Weerawansa's court case and fine clarified. It is Rs. 01 million.
Jan. 18, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 06	Bottom middle	Clarification: Clearing misconceptions – Jan. 17 editorial, former Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM) Chairman Sunil Dissanayake, cleared misconceptions.
Jan. 18, 2018	Dinamina	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 15 article that Madagoda Abeyathissa Thera collecting money for MP Wimal Weerawansa to pay Court fine is incorrect.
Jan. 19, 2018	Daily FT	Page 03	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 16 Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), the source of the Index (Central Bank of Sri Lanka) was not mentioned.
Jan. 20, 2019	Ravaya	Page 02	Middle left	Clarification: Jan. 13 article concerning Pirivena staff officers clarified.
Jan. 20, 2019	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom middle	Correction and apology: Jan. 06 article concerning a suicide victim.
Jan. 22, 2019	Divaina	Page 06	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 15 article concerning Parakrama College, Principal B. M. J. Bandaranayake responds.
Jan. 22, 2019	Dinamina	Page 11	Bottom middle	Clarification: Jan. 11 article concerning CNOR Foundation.
Jan. 22, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 16	Middle right	Correction and Apology: July 28, 2018 article on Mr. Nihal Dissanayake.
Jan. 23, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Bottom middle	CTC denies Minister's allegations: Jan. 21 article 'Health Minister: Tobacco companies behind fag smuggling.' CTC PLC sends clarification that they are not involved in cigarette smuggling and

				manufacture of cigarettes. They wanted to put the misconception right.
Jan. 23, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 22 article concerning UNP meeting at Aranayake, Media Secretary of Minister Thalatha Athukorale responds.
Jan. 24, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle	Clarification: Jan. 22 article on more hospitals in the east, Health Ministry clarifies.
Jan. 24, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Jan. 22 article on X ray films, Deputy Director, General Medical Supply responds.
Jan. 25, 2019	Maubima	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: Litro Gas Court case corrected.
Jan. 25, 2019	Maubima	Page 09	Top right	Clarification: Jan. 24 article on wife and daughter missing incorrect.
Jan. 26, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom right	Apology/Correction: Jan. 25 article British High Commissioner meets Foreign Ministry Secretary and not Foreign Minister.
Jan. 26, 2019	Maubima	Page 26	Middle left	Clarification: Jan. 25 article concerning chairman's Co-operative Union about finances.
Jan. 27, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 05 (Business Times)	Top left	Right of Reply: 'Committees and committees:' Jan. 13 column 'Kusi Amma Sera' under the above headline, Mr. Ajith Dias, former Chairman SriLankan Airlines clarifies costs incurred by Airline.
Jan. 28, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 05 (Mirror Business)	Bottom right	Monopolization of shipping agency – A clarification: Jan. 17, 2018, misinterpretation of law and totally incorrect facts clarified.
Jan. 29, 2018	Daily FT	Page 09	Bottom right	Correction: Jan. 28 article 'Enter the chartered HR professional: A new frontier for Sri Lanka.' The wrong photograph was published.
Total: 25 S-19, T-00, E-06				

February 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
FEBRUARY				
Feb. 01, 2019	Resa	Page 11	Bottom left	Correction/Apology: Russian Professor's name written incorrectly.
Feb. 03, 2019	Maubima	Page 11	Middle right	Clarification: Jan.27 articles concerning Sanasa Co-Op Society clarified.
Feb. 04, 2019	Maubima	Page 15	Bottom left	Clarification: Feb. 01 article concerning drugs, Police Media Spokesman SSP Ruwan Gunasekera clarifies.
Feb. 06, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom middle	Correction: Article on Rukmani Devi, mix up of date of one of her performances.

Feb. 07, 2019	Ada	Page 08	Top left	Clarification: Feb. 06 news story concerning threat to Gampaha journalist: former Local Government member Mangala Pushpakumara clarifies.
Feb. 08, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 06	Top right	Correction: Feb. 07 news story 'VIP assassination plotters known soon,' strap-line erroneous, corrected.
Feb. 08, 2019	Maubima	Page 04	Top right	Correction: Feb 07 Lotteries results incorrect, corrected.
Feb. 09, 2019	Dinamina	Page 15	Middle	Clarification: Jan 22 news story concerning illegal cigarettes, CTC clarifies.
Feb. 10, 2019	Lakbima	Page 20	Bottom right	Correction: Caption mix up.
Feb. 10, 2019	Lakbima	Page 20	Bottom right	Correction: Mix up of sports photograph caption.
Feb. 10, 2019	Deshaya	Page 03	Top right	Clarification: Feb. 08 news story concerning no confidence motion against Western Provincial Council Governor Azath Sally.
Feb. 10, 2019	Divaina	Page 36	Top half	Clarification: Oct. 14, 2018 article concerning education cooperative, Lanka Teachers' Union Secretary Mahinda Jayasinghe clarifies.
Feb. 15, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top left	Right of Reply: Feb. 14 Fact Box on malnourished children in Sri Lanka clarified by President's office.
Feb. 15, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 09	Top to bottom left	Right of Reply: 'National Government: Committee stage amendments to 19A:' President's Counsel Jayampathy Wickramaratne responds to Malinda Seneviratne's article on Feb. 07, 2019 titled 'Honourable Speaker and the spirit of Democracy.'
Feb. 18, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom	Clarification: Feb. 14 interview of Dr. Harini Amarasuriya, some sentences are jumbled.
Feb. 19, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: Feb. 18 news 'Promotions for victimized employees – Memo presented to CPC Director,' clarified.
Feb. 19, 2019	Divaina	Page 11	Middle right	Correction: Feb. 18 news item misquoted Housing Minister Sajith Premadasa.
Feb. 20, 2019	Daily FT	Page 07	Top right	NTB clarifies: Feb. 18 guest column 'Prudential banking and saga of MTD Walkers,' NTB clarifies facility granted to MTD Walkers Group.
Feb. 20, 2019	Daily News	Page 01	Bottom left	Manatunga, NPC Chairman till 2020: Feb. 18 news item that National Police Commission Chairman P. H. Manatunga will continue till 2020 as Chairman, clarified
Feb. 21, 2019	The Island	Page 02	Bottom right	SLIIT clarification: Jan. 01, 2019 news report 'SLIIT receives validation from the Sri Lanka Institute of Architects,' clarified.

Feb. 22, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom middle	Correction: Feb. 21 expose 'Politician involved in acquiring property' incorrect photograph used. Corrected by publishing correct photograph.
Feb. 24, 2019	Sathi Aga Aruna	Page 24	Bottom half	Clarification: Feb. 10 article concerning housing project, Housing Development Authority Chairman Sagara Palanasooriya clarified.
Feb. 24, 2019	Lanka	Page 04	Top half	Clarification: March 17 article clarified by Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation Chairperson Inoka Sathyangani.
Feb. 25, 2019	Divaina	Page 02	Middle right	Clarification: Article concerning drugs in Ampara, Police Headquarters clarifies.
Feb. 26, 2019	Daily FT	Page 09	Middle left	Clarification from Amana Bank over MTD Walkers: Feb. 18 guest column article by Tennekoon Rusiripala titled 'Prudent banking and saga of MTD Walkers,' Amana Bank clarifies the facility given to MTD Walkers Group, a subsidiary of MTD Construction Ltd and that it was fully settled.
Feb. 26, 2019	Maubima	Page 01/02	Bottom left	Clarification: Feb. 25 article concerning two policemen involved in abduction of businessmen have been jailed.
Feb. 27, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Left middle down	Right of Reply: CB responds to ETI deal: Feb. 18 article, CBSL clarifies doubts.
Total: 27 S-17, T-00, E-10				

March 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
MARCH				
March 01, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 05	Middle right	Clarification: Feb. 28 news item 'Pakistan FM meets Marapana,' Foreign Ministry says the two Foreign Ministers never met and it was only a telephone call.
March 02, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: March 01 article 'ETI deal neither fully transparent nor legal,' Secretary General of the National Economic Council (NEC) Prof. Lalith P. Samarakoon clarifies what he said.
March 02, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Top right	Right of Reply: Feb. 27 article 'Dubai Lawyer to appear for drug suspects,' Foreign Ministry clarifies.
March 03, 2019	Sunday Observer	Page 06	Bottom right	Navy Commander clarifies: Feb. 24 article 'Karangoda deemed flight risk,' Navy Commander Vice Admiral Piyal de Silva was incorrectly quoted.
March 05, 2019	Maubima	Page 07	Middle right	Clarification: Feb. 27 article concerning promotion of members of the Media Unit, CTB CEO clarifies.
March 05, 2019	Maubima	Page 01 (Part 02)	Bottom right	Clarification: Concerning article on protest by Grama Niladhari Union in front of Parliament.

March 06, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 10	Top right	Clarification: BASL President Kalinga Indratissa PC will assume office on March 30, 2019. Article stating he had already assumed office clarified.
March 07, 2019	Daily News	Page 08	Bottom left	Right of Reply: Feb. 12 article 'Pinnawala attraction lacks basic facilities,' National Zoological Gardens Department, Director General Dammika Malsinghe responds.
March 09, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 07	Centre middle	National Housing Authority clarifies news report: Feb. 22 article 'Conservationists accuse Housing Authority,' NHA Information and Publicity Officer sends clarification.
March 10, 2019	Deshaya	Page 13	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 22 article concerning an accident involving Judge Wimal Unambuwasm clarified by police.
March 10, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Top left	Clarification: March 03 article concerning war hero Admiral Karanagoda - clarification from Prime Minister's office.
March 14, 2019	Daily News	Page 31	Bottom middle	Clarification: March 12 article 'Marvelous Marvel,' it was inadvertently mentioned that the premiere of the movie Captain Marvel was screened at the Colombo City Centre, when it was Savoy theatre.
March 15, 2019	Daily FT	Page 01	Centre middle	Correction: March 14 article 'Six committees for Budget implementation: Mangala,' VAT on condominiums clarified.
March 15, 2019	Divaina	Page 02	Middle left	Clarification: March 14 rape case in Angunukolapelassa clarified by police.
March 20, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: March 19 article 'Norochcholai shudders power cuts on the cards,' strap line incorrect.
March 20, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle right	Clarification: Incorrect information concerning kasippu found in Havelock City.
March 20, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01 (part 02)	Middle	Clarification: March 19 article - Merchant Bank CEO clarifies incident concerning a branch manager.
March 20, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: March 19 article concerning arrest of Forest Officer; it was Wild Life Officer.
March 21, 2019	Daily Mirror (Fact Box)	Page 01	Top right	Right of Reply: March 14 article, National Authority on Tobacco clarified incorrect information from Ministry of Health.
March 21, 2019	Maubima	Page 04	Bottom left	Clarification: March 19 article Nittambuwa police clarifies.
March 22, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 10	Bottom right	Clarification: March 15 article made incorrect reference to Sinhala-Buddhist terms in English
March 23, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle right	Clarification: March 22 article concerning Deputy Commissioner Excise Department, liquor licence for tourist hotels in Mirissa, Weligama clarified.
March 24, 2019	Irida Lankadeepa	Page 05	Right	Clarification: Incorrect information in political column clarified.

March 25, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: March 17 article - MP and SLFP General Secretary Dayasiri Jayasekera clarifies Budget Vote at Cabinet meeting reported in political column.
March 26, 2019	Ada	Page 15	Bottom middle	Correction: Mix up of names in Sujath Prasanna's show.
March 26, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: March 25 article 'On what basis was Ranjan Hulugalla appointed as Director of Lake House,' mistake in name. It should have read as Ranjith and not Ranjan.
March 27, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 12	Top right	Clarification: March 26 article 'How China is getting Nepal into its orbit,' Nepal Embassy sends clarification.
March 27, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle	Clarification: March 26 article mix up of names.
March 30, 2019	Divaina	Page 03	Top right	Apology: March 29 incorrect report, apology to Makadure Madush's Attorney.
March 30, 2019	Divaina	Page 03	Middle left	Clarification: June 16, 2018 article concerning Wela Suda's buddy clarified.
March 31, 2019	Sathi Aga Aruna	Page 02	Top right	Apology: March 24 article mix up of sentences resulting in inaccuracies. Apology to Education Minister Akila Viraj Kariyawasam.
March 31, 2019	Sathi Aga Aruna	Page 11	Bottom right	Correction: Photos mixed up, corrected.
March 31, 2019	Lanka	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: March 24 article concerning corruption in Pensions Department, Director Administration responds.
Total: 33 S-19, T-00, E-14				

April 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
April				
April 02, 2019	Maubima	Page 01 (Part 02)	Middle right	Clarification: March 29 article concerning dead bodies. Director Dr. (Mrs.) Sujeewa Rathnayake responds.
April 04, 2019	Daily FT	Page 07	Top left	Candor Equities clarifies: April 01 article 'Perseverance, SL's Strategic Location Bring Biggest FD Project to Fruition.' Candor Equities clarified
April 04, 2019	Daily FT	Page 11	Top left	Correction: Incorrect photograph of Mr. Vikas Arora used in story that he is the new CEO of Deutsche Bank Sri Lanka.
April 04, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 08	Centre middle	Clarification: March 25 article 'Tense situation in Basnayaka Nilame's Conference,' clarified.

April 04, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 16	Bottom left	Clarification: March 27 article concerning Additional Secretary, Mahaweli and Environment Ministry's telephone bill.
April 05, 2019	Divaina	Page 16	Middle bottom	Correction: April 03, editing mistake concerning Catholic priest.
April 07, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 24	Middle	Clarification: March 31 article, Finance Ministry Media Director responds.
April 08, 2019	Daily FT	Page 02	Top left	Correction: March 31 article on St. Benedict's College not written by Bro. A. E. Tarcisius. His name appeared at the bottom of the article when it should have appeared below his photograph.
April 09, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Middle	Correction: April 08 article concerning lead story content about jobs for professionals in the Colombo Port City.
April 10, 2019	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom left	Clarification: April 05 article on Attidiya Bird Park, Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia Mayor responds.
April 11, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 14	Bottom left	Clarification: April 01 article concerning Serendipity Plantations.
April 12, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Fact box on April 11, tagline 'Minister Mangala Samaraweera: correct on rupee appreciation' appeared as 'partly true' whereas the tagline should have been 'true.'
April 23, 2019	Divaina	Page 12	Middle left	Correction: Three Police Constables who died at the Dematagoda safe house were not STF but CCD personnel.
April 25, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom right	Clarification: April 24 article concerning suspicious looking van in Pugoda, Nawalapitiya Police area. It is not a suspicious van but owned by a Nawalapitiya resident.
April 29, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: April 27 article 'Bomber passed by St. Mary's Church Dehiwela' is not accurate. Security Forces and Priest confirm that the incident did not occur.
April 29, 2019	Daily News	Page 01	Middle left	Correction: Sunday Observer April 28 article headline incorrect - 'I am accountable – PM.' Corrected.
April 29, 2019	Divaina	Page 13	Bottom middle	Clarification: April 26 article concerning UN's Anti-Terrorist Convention.
April 30, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: Article 'Banning of Burqa, Mangala and Malik oppose,' Minister Malik Samarawickrema said he was not present at the Cabinet of Ministers meeting. Newspaper regrets error.
Total: 18 S-10, T-00, E-08				

May 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of	Details of correction
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			correction	
May				
May 01, 2019	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom right	Correction: April 30 Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka to be appointed as Minister of Law and Order and not Defence, corrected.
May 02, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top left	Clarification: May 01 political gossip article corrected.
May 05, 2019	Sunday Observer	Page 02	Bottom right	Right of Reply: April 21 article 'Litro gas in turmoil: MD given marching orders.' MD Muditha Peiris clarifies.
May 06, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top left	Clarification: May 03 article 'No anti-Sri Lankan protests in London: British High Commissioner James Dauris clarifies.
May 06, 2019	Maubima	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: May 01 article, MP M. I. M. Mansoor clarifies.
May 07, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom left	Clarification: May 03 article concerning situation in country, clarified by Deputy Minister Karunaratne Paranavithana.
May 07, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Top left	Clarification: UGC clarifies Batticaloa University set up under Sharia Law.
May 07, 2019	Dinamina	Page 05	Middle right	Correction: Security in Gampaha is at stake with temporary residents.
May 09, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Erratum: May 08 an incorrect paragraph in article corrected.
May 10, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Principal Puwakpitiya Tamil School clarifies.
May 12, 2019	Ravaya	Page 15	Middle right	Clarification: April 21 article concerning garbage dump, Megapolis Media Secretary responds.
May 12, 2019	Sunday Island	Page 02	Middle right	British High Commissioner clarifies: May 05 article that British High Commissioner James Dauris met Cardinal Ranjith is incorrect.
May 12, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: May 05 article concerning a Swiss Air flight having one Sri Lankan on board is incorrect. Error regretted.
May 13, 2019	The Island	Page 02	Top right	UL Company Secretary issues clarification: May 10 article 'UL purchases planes recommended by the consultant without Board approval.' Former Company Secretary Mildred Peiris issues clarification.
May 13, 2019	Maubima	Page 05	Bottom right	Correction: May 12 article, Sharia Campus in Batticaloa not for vocational training corrected.
May 15, 2019	Divaina	Page 16	Top right	Correction: May 17 article, salt water in Kalutara, corrected.
May 15, 2019	Maubima	Page 05	Bottom left	Clarification: May 13 Sri Jayawardanapura-Kotte Municipal Council clarifies incorrect story.

May 16, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Bottom left	Defence Ministry clarification: May 15 article 'Mayhem toll in NWP and elsewhere.' wounded soldiers in Marawila incident are policemen.
May 16, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 20	Bottom right	Clarification: May 11 article, Western Province Governor's Media Secretary responds to Tamil School being built.
May 16, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: May 14, a line has been omitted in the article. Corrected.
May 16, 2019	Maubima	Page 02	Top right	Correction: May 15 article on exchange rates, mix up of sentences.
May 17, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom middle	Clarification: May 15 article, Army clarifies Minuwangoda communal riots.
May 18, 2019	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom left	Virtusa clarifies: May 15 Reuter datelined article published 'Lankan software engineer, under Indian surveillance, key in Easter attack.' Virtusa Corp responds that they invited the police to check the establishment like other business establishments.
May 19, 2019	Irida Divaina	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: May 12 article concerning press conference on May 09, misquoting Mr. N. M. Ameen. Clarification published.
May 20, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Top right	Clarification: May 18 article concerning arrested suspect. He was not arrested, clarified.
May 20, 2019	Maubima	Page 13	Middle left	Clarification: May 12 article concerning Sharia Campus, former Minister of Vocational Training says he is not involved.
May 22, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom right	Correction: May 20 article concerning two Hansard employees arrested: They are not from Thalagodapitiya and Ibbagamuwa.
May 23, 2019	Daily News	Page 01	Bottom left	It was Reuters Picture: May 22 page one photograph not sourced. It was by Reuters.
May 24, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 03	Top right	BASL responds: May 16 article 'Release of copper factory workers – BASL to act on OIC's complaint,' BASL sends clarification.
May 24, 2019	Maubima	Page 07	Middle left	Correction: News item states that two tri-shaw drivers arrested are soldiers. Corrected, one is a soldier and the other is not.
May 24, 2019	Divaina	Page 01/04	Bottom middle	Clarification: May 23 lead article in Divaina concerning Kurunegala doctor – Dr. Safi performing C-sections, sterilized pregnant Sinhala women, Police Media spokesman says story is false.
May 25, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Top right	Clarification: May 23 article concerning Dr. Safi, editor says all Muslim doctors are not suspects.
May 26, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 06	Bottom right	UNHCR's reply to last week's news item: May 19 article 'Foreign refugees to be temporarily relocated in Vavuniya,' UNHCR sends RoR.
May 27, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom middle	Clarification: Former Chief Minister of Eastern Province clarified incorrect article that he was a friend of main suspect in case.

May 28, 2019	Ada	Page 03	Middle left	Clarification: Incorrect information concerning the Eastern Container Terminal of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority.
May 28, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom middle	Clarification: May 27 article, National Science Foundation, clarifies.
May 29, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 03	Bottom left	Clarification: Nurses concerned of treatment of patients in some hospitals.
May 30, 2019	Ada	Page 02	Middle right	Correction: Buddhist religious book is the smallest book in the world, it is not for the Mahanayakes but for use in the Dalada Maligawa.
May 31, 2019	Divaina	Page 01/04	Middle right	Clarification: May 30 article concerning Parliamentary Select Committee, Presidential Media Unit clarifies.
May 31, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01/06	Middle left	Clarification: May 30 article concerning Parliamentary Select Committee, Presidential Media Unit clarifies.
May 31, 2019	Resa	Page 01/02	Top left	Clarification: May 30 article concerning Parliamentary Select Committee, Presidential Media Unit clarifies.
May 31, 2019	Resa	Page 06	Bottom right	Correction: President's Media Unit clarifies article concerning Fundamental Rights, Security and Emergency mixed up with Muslim marriages.
May 31, 2019	Ada	Page 01/04	Middle	Correction: President's Media Unit clarifies article concerning Fundamental Rights, Security and Emergency mixed up with Muslim marriages.
May 31, 2019	Maubima	Page 01/02	Middle left	Correction: President's Media Unit clarifies article concerning Fundamental Rights, Security and Emergency mixed up with Muslim marriages.
May 31, 2019	Dinamina	Page 01/06	Middle right	Correction: President's Media Unit clarifies article concerning Fundamental Rights, Security and Emergency mixed up with Muslim marriages.
Total: 45 S-32, T-00, E-13				

June 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
June				
June 02, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Top left	Clarification: Attorney Romesh de Silva PC sends clarification for incorrect article.
June 03, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom left	Clarification: May 31 article concerning arrest of two people following a theft of a gold chain from a State Bank clarified.
June 04, 2019	Ada	Page 07	Top left	Correction: June 02 article concerning Major's body found in Modara canal incorrect.

June 05, 2019	Divaina	Page 11	Top left	Clarification: June 09, 2018 incorrect article about Archaeological Department clarified.
June 07, 2019	Divaina	Page 19	Top left	Clarification: June 05 incorrect story about STF in Ja Ela clarified.
June 09, 2019	Ravaya	Page 02	Middle left	Clarification: June 02 article about storage of nuclear energy, Nuclear Power Authority clarifies.
June 11, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 07	Top left	Clarification: June 06 article concerning Pohotuwa political meeting in Gampaha, Local Government Authority chair responds.
June 13, 2019	Resa	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: June 12 article about Ruhunu University, Vice chancellor Ruhunu University responds.
June 14, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: June 07 article 'Ukrainian Captain victim of circumstances beyond his control?', Sri Lanka Shipping Company Limited responds
June 14, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 04	Top left	Clarification: June 13 article 'SL/India/Japan tri-party agreement in the offing.' headline error.
June 14, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Middle left	Clarification: June 11 article concerning Kurunegala Plantations, Mr. Upali Piyasena Chairman Kurunegala Plantations responds.
June 14, 2019	Ada	Page 04	Bottom left	Correction: June 12 article about holidays in 2020, mix up of dates in the month of January corrected.
June 15, 2019	Dinamina	Page 06	Top right	Correction: June 14 article concerning Poson Poya, Lake House illumination of Mihintale, caption mix up.
June 16, 2019	The Sunday Morning	Page 02	Top left	Right of Reply: June 09 article 'Save Fridsro,' the incumbent CEO responds.
June 16, 2019	Sathi Aga Aruna	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: June 09 story about drainage line, clarified by official of Central Province Development.
June 16, 2019	Sathi Aga Aruna	Page 10	Middle	Clarification: June 09 article concerning Zaharan's shooting range in upcountry.
June 16, 2019	Maubima	Page 14	Bottom right	Clarification: May 26 article concerning Zaharan, mix up of sentences.
June 16, 2019	Anidda	Page 04	Bottom left	Correction/Apology: June 09 article concerning School information, mix up of sentences.
June 17, 2019	Dinamina	Page 03	Bottom left	Correction June 15 article concerning a police officer, mix up of name and rank.
June 18, 2019	Daily News	Page 02	Top left	Clarification: June 11 article 'Negombo Lagoon facing erosion due to sand mining: MEPA. Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) General Manager Dr. Terney Pradeep Kumara responds stating he was referring to Negombo beach and not lagoon.

June 18, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: June 14 article concerning ACCA, ACCA clarifies.
June 18, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: June 11 article, concerning salary to employees of government institutions, Mahaweli Ministry Secretary responds.
June 19, 2019	Divaina	Page 19	Middle right	Clarification: June 04 article, Western Province Governor's office responds to Mabola land deed.
June 22, 2019	Divaina	Page 10	Middle bottom	Correction: June 21 article concerning accident two dead and not three.
June 23, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 08	Top right	Clarification: June 16 article concerning President and Prime Minister clarified by Prime Minister's Media Secretary.
June 23, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 12 (The Sunday Times 2)	Top right	Clarification: June 09 article written by Firoze Mistry had extracts from Mr. Asiff Hussein but was not being mentioned, clarified.
June 25, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Middle right	Clarification: June 22 article Haldamulla Pradeshiya Sabha Administrative Officer clarifies article.
June 28, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 07	Top left	Correction: June 23 article 'Irreversible impact of a failed South-Western monsoon,' error in paragraph.
June 29, 2019	Divaina	Page 15	Middle	Clarification: Article concerning Muthurajawela clarified.
June 29, 2019	Divaina	Page 15	Middle	Clarification: June 26 article concerning uniform of government servants, Puttalam District Secretary clarifies.
Total: 27 S: 21, T:00, E:06				

July 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JULY				
July 01, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: June 28 article clarified by JVP Propaganda Secretary Vijitha Herath concerning statement made by JVP Leader Ananda Kumara Dissanayake on the 19 th Amendment.
July 01, 2019	Maubima	Page 01/02	Middle	Clarification: June 26 article concerning Asgiriya Mahanayake Thero, Pakiasothy Saravanamuttu clarifies.
July 02, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom left	Clarification: May 27 article, IP's Union clarifies news concerning promotions of police officers.
July 03, 2019	Divaina	Page 07	Top right	Clarification: July 02 article concerning cross over of Deputy Chairman, Kolonnawa UC member Keerthi Liyanage clarifies.
July 03, 2019	Divaina	Page 10	Middle right	Correction: Article about investigation into Minister's wife, corrected.

July 04, 2017	Ada	Page 09	Middle left	Clarification: June 17 article about a businessman, clarified
July 04, 2019	Daily News	Page 11	Top left	Right of Reply: July 02 Sports column incorrect reference to Josephian rugger player holding referee by the collar corrected.
July 05, 2019	Divaina	Page 11	Middle	Correction: Mix up of sentences in Court report.
July 06, 2019	Lakadeepa	Page 07	Middle	Clarification: July 03 article, Police Spokesman Rohan Gunasekere clarifies pinkama story in Mullaitivu.
July 07, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 19	Top left	Clarification: May 26 article about bomb explosion, Mr. Safi Mohideen clarifies.
July 07, 2019	Maubima	Page 12	Middle	Clarification: Article about women police constables clarified.
July 09, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: July 08 article 'Two Sri Lankan Ambassadors in the Netherlands, Acting/Director-General Public Diplomacy of the Foreign Ministry Niluka Kadurugamuwa clarifies.
July 09, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Middle right	Clarification: June 27 article concerning promotions of police officers, Police IP's Association clarifies.
July 09, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 04 (Part 02)	Bottom left	Clarification: Kesbawa UC Chairman Lakshman Perera clarifies article.
July 09, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Top left	Clarification: July 08 article concerning two Sri Lankan Ambassadors in Netherlands, Foreign Ministry clarifies.
July 09, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 12	Bottom right	Clarification: July 06 article concerning allowances to MPs, MP Shehan Semasinghe clarifies.
July 09, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: June 14 article about promotion of tuition teacher, clarified by Zaharan.
July 10, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Bottom left	Clarification: July 08 article concerning low quality fuel - CEYPETCO Chairman responds.
July 11, 2019	Divaina	Page 02	Middle	Clarification: April 09 article about dead soldier in Medawachchiya clarified.
July 11, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Bottom left	Clarification: April 02 article about members of Local Government body gambling clarified.
July 12, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom right	Clarification: July 11 article about increase of pension clarified by Ministry.
July 17, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 14	Middle	Correction/Apology: July 16 article concerning JVP people's power movement clarified.
July 17, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 14	Bottom middle	Clarification: July 12 article concerning corruption at Pilimalawa Fuel Filling Station clarified by proprietor.

July 18, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Right of Reply: June 27 article about 'Chathurika Sirisena summoned to Court' clarified.
July 18, 2019	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom left	Correction: July 15 incorrect article clarified.
July 18, 2019	Divaina	Page 09	Top right	Correction: July 15 photograph and caption of an event published is an old photograph. Corrected.
July 21, 2019	Irida Divaina	Page 18	Middle left	Clarification: July 14 article about imported drugs, Secretary GMOA concerning clarified.
July 28, 2019	The Sunday Morning	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: July 21 article about KPMG seeking more funds for forensic audit, KPMG says the article is incorrect.
July 30, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 10	Bottom right	Clarification: July 29 article headlined 'Controversy over Easter Sunday attack,' incorrect photograph of writer used. Correct photograph published with name.
July 31, 2019	Daily News	Page 01/6	Middle right	Right of Reply: July 22 article concerning the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury linked to establishing of the Church of Ceylon (Anglican) as a separate Province is incorrect, Bishop of Colombo responds.
Total: 30 S-24, T-00, E-06				

August 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
AUGUST				
Aug. 02, 2019	Aruna	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Aug. 01 article concerning increase in cigarette prices, Ceylon Tobacco Company clarifies.
Aug. 03, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Middle left	Cardinal responds to Island report: Aug. 02 article 'Under fire from Cardinal.' Rishad meets Mannar Bishop, 'clarifies his position reiterating his stand for an independent, impartial and trustworthy inquiry of 21/4 and those responsible be exposed.
Aug. 03, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 02 article 'Malwatte and Asgiriya veto alien architecture for Bogambara,' Additional Secretary Development Strategies and International Trade sends clarification.
Aug. 03, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: August 02 article concerning free drugs issued from Dr. Neville Fernando Hospital, Health Ministry clarifies.
Aug. 03, 2019	Dinamina	Page 06	Top right	Correction: Aug. 02 Mix up of photographs corrected.
Aug. 04, 2019	Aruna	Page 18	Middle right	Clarification: Article concerning 87/89 JVP conflict, clarification by Milton J. Benjamin of Matale.

Aug. 05, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Aug. 03 article 'Illegal deals signed to transfer SLIIT assets to private entity': Amunugama, former Minister Sarath Amunugama clarifies.
Aug. 07, 2019	The Island	Page 01	Bottom right	Correction: Aug. 06 article 'PSC decides to question SIC appointed by President,' Incorrect photograph used. Corrected.
Aug. 07, 2019	Ada	Page 08	Middle right	Clarification: Aug. 06 article about a dead woman clarified.
Aug. 08, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Aug.07 article, Health Ministry clarifies.
Aug. 08, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom middle	Correction/Apology: Aug. 06 article
Aug. 08, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Middle right	Clarification: Aug. 05 article concerning protest by music teachers of the Visual and Performing Arts University, Vice Chancellor Prof. Sarath Chandrajeewa clarifies.
Aug. 11, 2019	Aruna	Page 18	Bottom left	Clarification: July 28 article concerning prison, Sunanda Deshapriya clarifies.
Aug. 11, 2019	Ravaya	Page 02	Middle	Clarification: Aug. 04 news item concerning loss of machine, Petroleum Corporation clarifies.
Aug. 12, 2019	The Island	Page 03	Bottom spread	Clarification: Tamara's clarification on IORA statement, Tamara Kunanayakam clarifies her statement.
Aug. 12, 2019	Maubima	Page 03	Bottom left	Correction/Apology: Aug. 09 article mix up of photograph.
Aug. 16, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Right of Reply: July 25 article 'Matugama catchment area being cleared illegally – RPO,' CEO of the Namunukula/, Kegalle Plantations PLC Sriyan Eriyagama replies.
Aug. 20, 2019	Daily FT	Page B3	Top left middle	Correction: Aug. 18 article 'Manufacturing services recovering from Easter blow,' data was taken from Department of Statistics, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.
Aug. 24, 2019	Divaina	Page02	Middle left	Clarification: Aug. 21 Hiniduma UNP organiser clarifies incorrect article.
Aug. 25, 2019	Ravaya	Page 02	Middle left	Clarification: Aug. 18 Financial Commission article, Sri Lanka Ruparvahini Corporation clarifies.
Aug. 27, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: Aug. 26 article concerning voter registration, Elections Commissioner responds.
Aug. 27, 2019	Dinamina	Page 01	Top right	Clarification: Aug. 26 article – Speaker Karu Jayasuriya clarifies position regarding his resignation.
Aug. 27, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Aug. 26 article Speaker Karu Jayasuriya clarifies position regarding his resignation.

Aug. 27, 2019	Resa	Page 01	Lead	Clarification: Aug. 26 article Speaker Karu Jayasuriya clarifies position regarding his resignation.
Aug. 27, 2019	Ada	Page 03	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 26 article Speaker Karu Jayasuriya clarifies position regarding his resignation.
Aug. 28, 2019	Divaina	Page 07	Top right	Clarification: Aug. 26 article concerning Kandana Hospital trip, Hospital Director clarifies.
Aug. 28, 2019	Divaina	Page 18	Bottom left	Correction: Aug. 20 article concerning massage parlour on top of Sanasa building is incorrect.
Aug. 29, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle right	Correction: Aug. 28 concerning tinned fish consumers in Sri Lanka, Mr. Kamal Addarachchi misquoted.
Aug. 29, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Middle	Apology: Aug. 26 article about a student misleading.
Aug. 30, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 17	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 23 article concerning co-coordinators of the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage clarified by Ministry.
Aug. 30, 2019	Maubima	Page 01 (Part 02)	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 28 article concerning shortage of drugs at the Apeksha Cancer Hospital, Maharagama, clarified by Health Ministry.
Total: 31 S-24, T-00, E-07				

September 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
SEPTEMBER				
Sept. 01, 2019	Divaina	Page 16	Bottom right	Correction: August 25 incorrect article concerning 43 rd National Sports Festival
Sept. 01, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Top left	Clarification: August 11 article concerning new recruits to the Prisons Department, Prisons Headquarters clarifies.
Sept. 05, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top right	President referred to 'persons' not 'a person:' Sept. 04 article of President speaking at SLFP Convention clarified.
Sept. 06, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 03	Middle left	Right of Reply: Sept. 05 article 'Cattle slaughtered illegally to supply Bohras – NCAW,' the Anjuman-E-saifee (Sri Lanka) Trust says they have got all government approval to slaughter and transport the meat.
Sept. 08, 2019	Maubima	Page 21	Top left	Clarification: Sept. 01 incorrect article concerning Akbar Team.
Sept. 08, 2019	Ravaya	Page 02	Middle left	Clarification: August 25 article concerning chairperson of SLRC clarified.
Sept. 11, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Middle right	Clarification: Sept. 10 article 'Gota a challenge but Sajith will make it a close race' quoting Minister Harsha de Silva, he says never spoke to journalist.
Sept. 11, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle	Clarification: Sept. 10 article concerning Presidential candidates Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Sajith Premadasa. Minister Dr. Harsha de Silva

				clarifies
Sept. 11, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom left	Clarification: Sept. 10 article concerning files burnt, Central Province RDA Engineer Dissanayake clarifies.
Sept. 13, 2019	Divaina	Page 14	Middle right	Clarification: Sept. 12 article about Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha clarified.
Sept. 17, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Middle left	Clarification: Sept. 16 article concerning opening ceremony, Galle District UNP MP Wijepala Hettiarachchi
Sept. 17, 2019	Divaina	Page 07	Bottom left	Correction: Sept. 16 article concerning Excise Department, Finance Ministry corrects article.
Sept. 19, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Sept. 18 article 'Chinese FM to inspect major Chinese Projects,' it was not Chinese FM visiting Sri Lanka, the newspaper regretted the error.
Sept. 20, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 07	Bottom left	Clarification: 'Fifth vacancy at PUCSL,' July 19, 2019 article concerning appointment of Attorney Sandun Gamage to the post of Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) clarified.
Sept. 21, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 02	Bottom middle	Clarification: 'Chinese Company ALIT clarifies on Lotus Tower project,' ALIT clarifies its position with regard to the Colombo Lotus Tower project finances.
Sept. 21, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: 'Speaker rejects media reports.' Speaker Karu Jayasuriya rejected the article of him requesting nomination as presidential candidate.
Sept. 22, 2019	Sunday Island	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarified in <i>The Island</i> of Sept. 23. Clarification: 'Gota's spokesman responds to <i>Sunday Island</i> lead story.' Keheliya Rambukwella spokesman for Gotabaya Rajapaksa clarifies issues in article.
Sept. 23, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: 'Gota clarifies confusion over NIC nos.,' Gotabaya Rajapaksa clarifies article
Sept. 23, 2019	Daily News	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: 'PM clarifies about special Cabinet meeting,' following meeting at Temple Trees Sept. 22, with party supporters, PM clarifies news report.
Sept. 24, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: 'Crossing over to UNP: Former Mayor of Kaduwela refutes the media report,' G. H. Buddhadasa says he never crossed over to UNP.
Sept. 27, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Sept. 25 article concerning the government take over of the Neville Fernando Hospital, Ministry of Health clarifies.
Sept. 28, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 07	Top right	Clarification: July 03 article concerning Salu Sala land at Pamankade Junction, Police Spokesman clarifies.
Sept. 30, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: 'ULF splits: Dr. Wickramaratne responds,' Sept. 28 article Dr. Wickramaratna clarifies.

Total: 23 S-11, T-00, E-12				
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October 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
OCTOBER				
Oct. 08, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: Article concerning Elpitiya Election date.
Oct. 11, 2019	Daily FT	Page 05	Bottom left	Correction: October 09 business article was published without attribution. It is by Nihal Senaratne.
Oct. 11, 2019	Maubima	Page 11	Top middle	Correction: Oct. 08 article concerning Emirates flight service corrected.
Oct. 11, 2019	Maubima	Page 16	Bottom right	Correction: Incorrect article corrected.
Oct. 21, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 14	Middle right	Clarification: Oct. 18 article concerning Actor Jackson Anthony clarified.
Oct. 22, 2019	Daily News	Page 09	Top right	Daily News regrets: PCCSL pointed out error of 'child soldiers' photograph published on Oct. 21 was a violation of the Editors' Code. Apology to kith and kin.
Oct. 23, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Oct. 22 article Primary Industries and Social Empowerment Minister Daya Gamage says he was not at the Ministry when police officers raided it. Mistake in story clarified.
Oct. 23, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 16	Bottom right	Clarification: October 22 article concerning Mr. Sajith Premadasa's meeting in Colombo clarified.
Oct. 23, 2019	Maubima	Page 18	Middle left	Clarification: October 22 article concerning missing daughter, police clarify.
Oct. 25, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Middle	Correction: Oct 24 article concerning Free Media Movement's support for Sajith Premadasa, it is not FMM, apology published.
Oct. 26, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle right	Apology: Aug. 06 article concerning Water Board Project Director been corrupt, Apology published.
Oct. 27, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 06	Bottom right	Right of Reply: Oct. 20 article written by Dr. Collin Seneviratne, Toxologist based in UK and Prof. Sarathchandra Kodikara, Pathologist and Head of Peradeniya University Forensic Medicine Faculty's: "Govt. Analyst Department not sufficiently equipped: Many killings mysterious deaths go unsolved' has been misunderstood. They clarify article.
Oct. 30, 2019	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Oct. 21 article concerning Elections Commission, clarified.
Oct. 31, 2019	Ada	Page 01	Middle right	Clarification: Oct. 30 article concerning Mr. Kumara Welgama's support to presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa clarified.
Total: 14 S-10, T-00, E-04				

November 2019

Date	Name of	Page No	Position of	Details of correction
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	newspaper		correction	
NOVEMBER				
Nov. 03, 2019	Lanka	Page 08	Middle right	Correction: October 27 article about mix up in project carried out by Moratuwa University clarified.
Nov. 04, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: SSP Ruwan Gunasekere, Police Spokesman clarifies Elections Commissioner's order.
Nov. 07, 2019	Dinamina	Page 06	Bottom right	Correction: Mix up in headline of news story clarified.
Nov. 08, 2019	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Nov. 05 article concerning strike action by the Sri Lanka Parliamentary Employees Union clarified.
Nov. 08, 2019	Ada	Page 14	Bottom	Clarification: Oct. 14 article concerning Homeopathy Medical Council clarified by Chairman Dr. D. P. Perera.
Nov. 14, 2019	Resa	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: Incorrect number of Policemen on election duty corrected.
Nov. 14, 2019	Ada	Page 13	Bottom left	Correction: Article about Kotte Municipal Council meeting cross overs clarified.
Nov. 14, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Bottom right	Clarification: Nov. 09 incorrect news item about CEYNOR clarified by them.
Nov. 14, 2019	Maubima	Page 04	Top right	Clarification: Nov. 12 article concerning arrest of Hikkaduwa Urban Council Mayor and another person, false story. They were not arrested.
Nov. 16 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 11	Bottom right	Clarification: Nov. 15 article concerning raid on brothel house, owner clarifies.
Nov. 19, 2019	Aruna	Page 02	Bottom middle	Clarification: October 11 article, acting Nilame Kataragama Devale responds.
Nov. 20, 2019	Maubima	Page 09	Top left	Correction: Election result of Kuliyapitiya.
Nov. 22, 2019	Dinamina	Page 06	Top left	Apology: Nov. 18 article concerning suicide corrected with an apology.
Total: 13 S-12, T-00, E-01				

December 2019

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
DECEMBER				
Dec. 02, 2019	Ada	Page 03	Top right	Correction: November 20 court report reference to aa telephone conversation that did not take place
Dec. 03, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle right	Clarification: Article on files found left behind in former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's office at Temple Trees incorrect.
Dec. 03, 2019	Divaina	Page 02	Middle	Correction: Article concerning elephant attack words have got mixed up.
Dec. 05, 2019	Divaina	Page 04	Top right	Correction: Incorrect article.
Dec. 06, 2019	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom right	Erratum: Dec. 05 article 'Diplomats apprised of progress.' Foreign Secretary clarifies.
Dec. 06, 2019	Resa	Page 04	Bottom right	Correction: December 03 article concerning dengue in Galle Fort, mix up of headline.
Dec. 06, 2019	Mawbima	Page 01 (Part 02)	Bottom left	Correction: Dec. 04 article concerning budget wrongly reported.

Dec. 07, 2019	Dinamina	Page 06	Top right	Correction: Nov 30 article concerning university news of student.
Dec. 08, 2019	The Sunday Times	Page 06	Middle right	Right of Reply: Dec. 01 article 'General Elections in late April or early May, polls chief tells President.' Coordinating Secretary to the Elections Commissioner Mr. Rizan M. A. Hameed clarified.
Dec. 09, 2019	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom left	Apology/Correction: Article had misleading news concerning Mr. Lal Wickramatunga, former Si Lankan High Commissioner in Australia
Dec. 12, 2019	The Island	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: Dec. 18 Photo caption concerning a photographic exhibition to mark the 70 th Chinese National Day, mix up of names.
Dec. 21, 2019	Lankadeepa	Page 11	Bottom right	Clarification: Dec. 17 article concerning Dematagoda Chaminda, his attorney responds.
Dec. 24, 2019	Dinamina	Page 08	Middle right	Correction: Dec. 21 article does not refer to all teachers.
Dec. 27, 2019	Mawbima	Page 13	Middle right	Clarification: Article concerning re-stating of retired officers is incorrect says Parliament Communication Director Shan Wijetunga.
Total: 14 S-11, T-00, E-03				

Violations of the Editors' Code monitored by the PCCSL between January and December 2019

January 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
Jan. 25, 2019	Daily Mirror Page 06 'Clandestine affair with professor leads to brutal killing of nurse'	Nurses name divulged. Clause 07: Privacy Sub clause: 7.1 and 7.3 <i>Sub clause 7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect the private and family lives of individuals, their home, health and correspondence, including digital communications. Intrusions on this right to privacy without consent could be justified only by some over-riding public interest.</i> <i>7.3: Particular care should be taken to ensure that in cases involving grief or shock, inquiries and approaches are handled with sensitivity and discretion.</i>	Spoke to editor and discussed clause on Privacy.
Jan. 28, 2019	Maubima Page 01 and 02 'Mother strangles child and hangs herself on guava tree'	Method of suicide given. Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Wrote to editor Jan. 28, 2019
Jan. 30, 2019	Maubima Page 13 'Millionaire businessman of Dehiwela commits suicide by shooting behind his house'	Method of suicide given. Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.	Wrote to editor Jan.31, 2019
Violations: 03			

February 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

March 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

April 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

May 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
May 23, 2019	Divaina Page 01 Thawheed Jamath doctor: 4000 Sinhala Buddhist mothers sterilised	Clause 02: Accurate Reporting Sub clause 2:1 - <i>'Reasonable care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news.'</i> Sub clause 2.2 - <i>'Verify accuracy of reports prior to publication.'</i> Clause 06: General Reporting and Writing Sub clause 6.1 - <i>'Sensitivity and discretion.'</i>	Spoke to editor and sent letter outlining the violations.
Violations: 01			

June 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
June 05, 2019	Thinakkural Page 06 Muslim boy warned Tamil journalist	Used words 'Tamil' and 'Muslim' Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub Clause 6.4 (ii): <i>Publishing details of a person's race.</i>	Brought to the notice of editors.
June 09, 2019	Irida Divaina Divaina Lankadeepa	Used the word 'Muslim' in text. Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub Clause 6.4 (ii): <i>Publishing details of a person's race.</i>	Brought to the notice of editors.
Violations: 04			

July 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
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July 13, 2019	Virakesari P03 'Explosives used to kill wild animals used on wife'	Photograph shows body of woman and blood on the ground. 06. General Reporting and Writing 6.1: Shocking emotional photograph.	Spoke to editor
Violations: 01			

August 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
Aug. 02, 2019	Metro News Page 06 Head Line: Monk's girl friend's, 21-year-old girl friend invited to hotel and sexually molested by Monk and allegedly killed.	Woman's name, address, place of rape and details of alleged murder mentioned The journalist has published the story which appeared on a TV and gossip social media website without checking the facts. Article 02. ACCURATE REPORTING Sub clauses 2.1 and 2.2 Article 06. GENERAL REPORTING and WRITING Sub clause: 6.2: In dealing with social issues of a particularly shocking or emotionally painful nature – such as atrocity, violence, drug abuse, brutality, sadism, sexual salacity and obscenity – the press should take care to present facts, opinion, photographs and graphics with due sensitivity and discretion, subject to its duty to publish in the public interest.	Sent letter to editor on Sept. 17 and copied to MD. Spoke to editor. Spoke to journalist who wrote story and advised him to check stories before publication with proper sourcing.
Aug. 02, 03 and 06 2019	Daily Thanthi Page 03 Four stories violating the Editors' Code. • Pointing pistol at	Editors' Code violated: Clause: 6.GENERAL REPORTING AND WRITING Sub clause: 6.1, 6.5,	Wrote to Managing Director informing him of violations. COO calls and informs PCCSL letter forwarded to Editor Daily Thanthi to avoid such stories being published in section

	<p>second wife in a threatening manner. Photograph published.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient results lead to suicide. Details of victim given. • Business partner deserts business resulting in suicide. Details of suicide given. • Mother and child commits suicide after husband reprimands them for eating ice cream and not giving him. Suicide details given. Put head on railway line. 		published in Sri Lanka.
Aug. 12, 2019	<p>Daily Thanthi Page 03</p> <p>Shocking incident in front of wife: Husband jumps off bridge in suicide attempt</p>	<p>Woman's name and details given. Husband's name and details including place of work given. Details of suicide given.</p> <p>Clause 6. General Reporting and writing Sub Clause: 6.5 suicide reporting</p>	Informed Virakesari editor.
Aug. 29, 2019	<p>Ada Page 07</p> <p>Accused teacher abuses 10 children</p>	<p>School name mentioned. Age of children given, class and name of student can be found.</p>	Wrote to Editor
Violations: 07			

September 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

October 2019

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION AND CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED	ACTION TAKEN
Oct. 09, 2019	<p>Maubima Page 04</p> <p>'Principal in remand over molestation of seven school boys'</p>	<p>Name of School and class of students given in article.</p> <p>Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.1</p>	Letter sent to editor
Oct. 19, 2019	<p>Daily News Page 05</p>	<p>Photograph of child soldiers hitching a ride on</p>	Spoke to editor Lakshman Gunasekera, promised to carry an apology.

	'The political expression of Tamil militancy'	a trailer. File photograph often used by ANCL newspapers to illustrate 'child soldiers.'	Published Apology Oct. 22, 2019 top right page 09.
		Clause: 07. Privacy Sub clause: 7.1, 7.4	
Oct. 21, 2019	Daily Mirror Page 01/02 'Body of sexually abused teenager recovered'	Article gives boy's age, name, class, name of school Article 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause 6.1 and 6.2 (i) Article 07. Privacy Sub clause 7.1	Wrote to editor highlighting Editors' Code violations.
Oct. 23, 2019	Ceylon Today and Maubima Page 01 'US Court dismisses case against Gotabaya.'	The same photograph appeared earlier with Ahimsa holding a portrait of her late father, Mr. Lasantha Wickrematunga. This time the portrait is substituted with the court document. Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1 Digital manipulation of image.	Spoke to Director Editorial Mr. Sisira Paranatantri, Editor, Ceylon Today, Mr. Jayantha Sri Nissanka and Editor, Mawbima, Mr. Benette Rupesinghe. No apology published.
Violations: 05			

November 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

December 2019

No violations of the Editors' Code were observed.

Code of Professional Practice (Code of Ethics) of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka adopted by the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

01. PREAMBLE

This code of practice, which is binding on newspaper publishing companies, Editors and their journalists and contributors both in print format and online, aims to ensure that the Sri Lankan press is free and responsible and sensitive to the needs and expectations of its readers, while maintaining the highest standards of journalism.

Those standards require newspapers to strive for accuracy and professional integrity, and to uphold the best traditions of investigative journalism in the public interest, unfettered by distorting commercialism or by improper pressure or by narrow self-interest, which conspires against press freedom. Newspapers and journalists, while free to hold and express their own strong opinions, should give due consideration to the views of others and endeavour to reflect social responsibility.

This code both protects the rights of the individual and upholds the public's right to know. It should be honoured not only to the letter but in the spirit – neither interpreted so narrowly as to compromise its commitment to respect the rights of the individual nor so broadly as to prevent publication in the public interest.

Editors should co-operate swiftly with the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) in the resolution of complaints. Any publication judged to have breached the Code must print the adjudication in full and with due prominence, including a headline reference to the PCCSL.

02. ACCURATE REPORTING

2.1: The media must take all reasonable care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news, photographs and other images. Any significant digital manipulation of images should be labelled.

2.2: Every reasonable attempt should be made by editors and individual journalists to verify the accuracy of reports prior to publication. Where such verification is not practicable, that fact shall be stated in the report.

2.3: Editors and their staff, including external contributors, shall not publish material in such a way as to endorse any matter which they know or have reason to believe to be false or inaccurate.

2.4: Plagiarism must be avoided. Legitimate use of other people's work should be duly attributed.

2.5: The press must distinguish clearly between comment, conjecture and fact.

03. CORRECTIONS and APOLOGIES

3.1: Where it is recognized by the editor that a report was incorrect in a material respect, it should be corrected promptly and with due prominence and with an apology where appropriate, except where the correction or apology is against the wishes of the aggrieved party.

04. OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY

4.1: A fair and reasonable opportunity to reply should be given to individuals or organizations in respect of factually incorrect statements endangering their reputation, dignity, honour, feelings, privacy and office. The mutually agreed reply should be confined to the complainant's version of the facts and no longer than necessary to correct the alleged inaccuracy.

4.2: Newspapers or journalists who respond to a complainant's reply other than to apologize or regret the error, must then be prepared to offer the aggrieved party a fresh opportunity to reply.

05. CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

5.1: Every journalist has a moral obligation to protect confidential sources of information, until that source authorizes otherwise.

06. GENERAL REPORTING and WRITING

6.1: In dealing with social issues of a particularly shocking or emotionally painful nature – such as atrocity, violence, drug abuse, brutality, sadism, sexual salacity and obscenity – the press should take special care to present facts, opinions, photographs and graphics with due sensitivity and discretion, subject to its duty to publish in the public interest.

6.2: In reporting accounts of crime or criminal case, publications shall not, unless it is both legally permitted and in the public interest –

i. Name victims of sex crimes.

ii. Knowingly name any young person accused of a criminal offence who is below the age of 16 and who has no previous convictions.

iii. Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.

6.3: A journalist shall not knowingly or wilfully promote communal or religious discord or violence.

6.4: i. The press must avoid prejudicial or pejorative reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex or to any physical or mental illness or disability.

ii. It must avoid publishing details of a person's race, caste, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental illness or disability unless these are directly relevant to the story.

6.5: When reporting suicide, care should be taken not to give excessive detail of the method used.

07. PRIVACY

7.1: The press shall exercise particular care to respect the private and family lives of individuals, their home, health and correspondence, including digital communications. Intrusions on this right to privacy without consent could be justified only by some over-riding public interest.

7.2: The use of long-lens or other cameras to photograph people without consent on private or public property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy is unacceptable, unless in the public interest.

7.3: Particular care should be taken to ensure that in cases involving grief or shock, inquiries and approaches are handled with sensitivity and discretion.

7.4: Young people should be free to complete their school years without unnecessary intrusion. Publication of material concerning a child's private life would be acceptable only if there was some exceptional public interest other than the fame, notoriety or position of his or her family or guardian.

7.5: The restrictions on intruding into privacy are particularly relevant to inquiries about individuals in hospitals or similar institutions, unless it serves the public interest.

08. HARASSMENT and SUBTERFUGE

8.1: Journalists, including photo-journalists, must not seek to obtain information or pictures through intimidation or harassment or by misrepresentation or subterfuge. The use of long-lens cameras or listening devices, or interception of private or mobile telephone calls, e-mails or messages is

unacceptable unless this can be justified in the public interest and the material could not have been obtained by other means.

09. INTEGRITY

9.1: All journalists should act with integrity and honour in the performance of their work.

9.2: Conflicts of interest should be avoided. Journalists should inform their editor or responsible superior of any possible conflict, such as close personal connection with any story in which they are significantly engaged; or acceptance or offers of gifts that might compromise their integrity. If such conflict is unavoidable, it should normally be disclosed to the reader.

9.3: i. Even where the law does not prohibit it, journalists must not use for their own profit financial information they receive in advance of its general publication, nor should they pass such information for the profit of others.

ii. They must not write about shares or securities in whose performance they know that they or their close families have a significant financial interest, without disclosing the interest to the publisher, editor or financial editor.

9.4: Articles written for payment or other benefit from a commercial or other non- editorial source, such as in advertorials or promotions, should be clearly labelled as such. Payment should not be sought or accepted as a reward for including favourable – or excluding hostile – editorial material.

INTERPRETATION

1: Public Interest' means:

i. Protecting democracy, good governance, freedom of expression, human rights and keeping the people informed of the actions of their elected representatives and government.

ii. This also includes, but is not confined to:

- Detecting or exposing crime or the threat of crime;
- Disclosing a person or organisation's failure or likely failure to comply with any legal obligation to which they are subject;
- Disclosing a miscarriage of justice;
- Raising or contributing to an important matter of public debate, including serious cases of impropriety, unethical conduct or incompetence concerning the public;
- Disclosing concealment, or likely concealment, of any of the above;
- Protecting public health and security and social, cultural and educational standards;
- Protecting the public from being misled by some statement or action of an individual or organisation.

2: In any case where the public interest is cited, the Press Complaints Commission will require the Editor and/or journalist to demonstrate that the breach was proportionate to the public interest served.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

The provisions of this Code will also apply to the Online publications of the print media, where:

- The editor of the newspaper, magazine, or freestanding web publication is ultimately responsible for it and could reasonably have been expected both to exercise editorial control over it and apply the terms of the Code before publication.
- The material used has not been pre-edited to conform to the on-line or off-line standards of another media regulatory body.

REVIEW

The Editor's Guild of Sri Lanka shall review the provisions of this Code from time to time, in consultation with a Code Committee comprising of members, and non-members appointed by the Guild.

The Code is supported by the following organizations:

- The Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka
- Free Media Movement
- Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association
- Sri Lanka Press Institute
- Sri Lanka College of Journalism
- Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance
- Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum
- Federation of Media Employees Trade Union
- South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) – Sri Lanka Chapter

Revised in 2016

RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

A. MAKING A COMPLAINT

1. Any person who reasonably believes that he or she or another person/s have been adversely affected by any published item including a news story, article, photograph and/or graphic ("Published Item"), that appeared in a newspaper or a magazine or a Journal or an Online edition thereof published in Sri Lanka may make a complaint to the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka ("PCCSL"). Such complaint shall satisfy the following requirements:

- (a) it shall be in the prescribed complaint form, which may be downloaded from the PCCSL website, at http://www.pccsl.lk/make_complainant;
- (b) it shall be a concise statement in writing, describing the issue and shall be duly signed by the complainant;
- (c) it shall be communicated to the PCCSL in person, by registered post, facsimile, e-mail or any other electronic means;
- (d) any Published Item/s in an online edition (website) can either be downloaded and a print out obtained and/or forwarded to the PCCSL if such Published Item is available on the online edition and or traced from any archive of the online edition or any link to that online edition.
- (e) the Published Item alleged to have affected the complainant adversely shall be annexed to the complaint; provided however, that where the complaint is made via e-mail or any other electronic means, the complainant shall attach the Published Item to the complaint.
- (f) Where the complainant is unable to find a copy of the Published Item, the PCCSL Secretariat shall make every endeavour to assist the complainant in finding such Published Item.

2. (a) The complainant may request the PCCSL to:
- (i) settle a dispute by conciliation
 - (ii) settle a dispute by mediation; or
 - (iii) refer the matter for adjudication by arbitration

Provided however that in the event that pursuant to action taken by the Dispute Resolution Council of the Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") as set out under (7) below, the editor of the relevant newspaper, journal, magazine or online edition thereof agrees to publish a correction and/or apology and/or a right of reply, which in the Council's view addresses and rectifies the issue complained about, the parties shall not proceed to conciliation, mediation and/or arbitration.

- (b) Where the complainant requests the PCCSL to refer the matter for adjudication by arbitration, the complaint must, in addition to the requirements set out under (1) above, satisfy the following requirements:
- (i) the material facts and circumstances of the dispute shall be set out;
 - (ii) a statement of evidence shall be provided; and
 - (iii) the relief sought by the complainant shall be specified.

3. A complaint made against any Published Item after one year from its publication shall not be entertained by the PCCSL.

B. THE ROLE OF THE COUNCIL

4. The Council shall accept a duly received complaint only if it deems, at its complete discretion that the Published Item referred to has breached the Code of Professional Practice of the Editors Guild of Sri Lanka for the time being, as adopted by the Sri Lanka Press Institute ("SLPI") and the PCCSL.

5. Where the members of the Council are of the opinion that the Published Item has not breached the Code of Professional Practice of the Editors Guild of Sri Lanka, it shall reject the complaint and provide reasons therefor in written form, to the complainant within two (2) weeks of receiving the complaint. In the event that notice of refusal has not been provided to the complainant it shall be deemed that the complaint has been accepted by the Council with effect from the date on which the same was received by the Council.

6. Once the complaint is accepted, the Council shall within one (1) working day thereof, communicate the same to the editor of the newspaper, journal, magazine or online edition thereof which contained the Published Item which allegedly adversely affected the complainant, along with a copy of the complaint. The Council shall, along with such communication call on the said editor to act on the complaint and/or reply to the Council on the complaint within a period of five (5) working days of receiving the communication.

7. In the event that the editor of the newspaper or magazine to whom the communication is made as aforesaid, does not respond to the same by the due date, the Council shall forthwith directly refer the complaint to the publisher for action on the matter and/or a reply to the Council; provided however that where the editor or the publisher (as the case may be), or a person acting for and on behalf of such editor or publisher requests for time to reply, such further time may be granted by the Council at its discretion.

Provided further, that if a correction and/or a right of reply is published in the newspaper, journal, magazine or online edition, it would be deemed to be a reply.

8. The Council shall make all endeavours to facilitate the parties to enter into a settlement within the shortest period of time, but not later than two (2) weeks from the date of accepting the complaint.

C. CONCILIATION

9. Where a complainant has, along with the complaint, made a request to the PCCSL that the matter be settled by conciliation, the Council shall refer such request to the Chief Executive Officer of the Council (CEO) for conciliation. A settlement agreed upon by the parties may include a correction and/or apology and/or a right of reply.

10. Where there are existing circumstances or those that may arise, which are likely to give rise to reasonable doubt on the impartiality and independence of the CEO to whom the matter is referred for conciliation, the CEO shall disclose such circumstances to the Council in writing and the Council shall refer the complaint to a member of the Council for conciliation.

11. In the event that the Council is of the opinion that the matter is not likely to be resolved through conciliation, the Council may propose, for the consideration of the parties, other means of resolving the dispute.

D. MEDIATION

12. Where a complainant has, along with the complaint, made a request to the PCCSL that the matter be settled by mediation, the Council shall refer such request to the CEO or three members of the Council for mediation.

13. (a) Where there are existing circumstances or those that may arise, which are likely to give rise to reasonable doubt on the impartiality and independence of the CEO or a member of the Council to whom the matter is referred for mediation, the CEO or the member of the Council (as relevant) shall disclose such circumstances to the Council in writing and shall not act as mediator in such matter;

(b) In the event that such a written disclosure of interest in the matter is provided by the CEO or any member of the Council (as relevant) appointed to mediate the matter, as stipulated in (a) above, the Council shall appoint another member of the Council in place of the member withdrawing.

14. In the event that the CEO or the Council is of the opinion that the matter is not likely to be resolved through mediation, the Council may propose, for the consideration of the parties, other means of resolving the dispute.

15. The Council shall determine the procedure for mediation so as to facilitate an expeditious and economical resolution of the dispute by mediation. In general:

- (a) each party shall be given a fair hearing and an opportunity to present its case in conformity with the principles of natural justice;
- (b) a dispute shall be settled within two (2) weeks of the date when the dispute was referred to the CEO or three-members of the Council (as relevant), however this period may be extended at the request of the parties;

16. Mediation proceedings shall terminate:

- (a) upon the parties reaching a settlement agreement;
- (b) upon a declaration issued by the Council on the recommendation of the CEO or the three members of the Council (as relevant) appointed to mediate the matter, stating that it is unlikely that the proceedings would lead to the resolution of the dispute; or
- (c) upon a written request by any one of the parties requesting for the termination of mediation proceedings.

In the event that mediation proceedings terminate on the grounds provided under (b) and (c) above, the Council shall refer the matter for arbitration by the Council as provided for under Part E below; provided however that a member who was involved in mediation proceedings shall not be appointed to the panel of arbitrators.

Provided however that a complainant may withdraw the complaint should he or she not be willing to proceed to arbitration.

E. ARBITRATION

17. The request made to the PCCSL by a complainant to arbitrate a dispute between himself and a member of the PCCSL, arising from any publication in the press of Sri Lanka, or the consent of the complainant to any referral for arbitration made by the Council in terms of clause 11 or clause 16 above, together with the deemed consent of the member of the PCCSL in terms of article 12 of the articles of association of the PCCSL, shall be deemed to be an arbitration agreement” within the meaning of the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995 between the said member of the public and the particular member of the PCCSL to refer such dispute for resolution by Arbitration.

- 18.** Where a complainant has, along with the complaint, made a request to the PCCSL that the matter be settled by arbitration, or where the Council has referred the matter for arbitration further to clause 11 or clause 16 above, the Council shall appoint a three (3) member panel of the Council as arbitrator and refer the dispute to such panel for arbitration.
- 19.** Where the parties to the dispute object to the appointment of one or more of the member/s constituting the panel the Council shall appoint another member or members of the Council in place thereof.
- 20.** (a) Where the three member panel of the Council sits as the arbitrator:
(i) the quorum for any adjudication thereby shall be two (2) members;
(ii) the Council shall always maintain a non-press related members majority; and
(iii) the majority opinion shall prevail, provided that in the event a matter is taken up by two (2) arbitrators forming the quorum, a decision shall require unanimity.
- (b) The three (3) member panel of the Council may, at its discretion, refer any matter to a fuller panel with the consent of the parties. The quorum in such event shall be two (2) members less than the composition of the relevant panel.
- 21.** Where there are existing circumstances or those that may arise, which are likely to give rise to reasonable doubt on the impartiality and independence of any member of the Council to whom the matter is referred to for arbitration, such member of the Council shall disclose such circumstances to the Council in writing and shall not act as arbitrator in such matter.

In the event such a written disclosure of interest in the matter is provided by the member of the Council appointed to arbitrate the matter, as stipulated in (a) above, the Council shall appoint another member of the Council in his/her place.

- 22.** The Council shall determine the procedure for arbitration so as to facilitate expeditious and economical resolution of the dispute. In general:
- (a) each party shall be given a fair hearing and an opportunity to present its case in conformity with the principles of natural justice;
- (b) at the request of the arbitrator, the parties shall state the evidence on which they wish to rely on, specifying what they wish to prove thereby;
- (c) the Council shall require the parties to the dispute to be comprehensive in any or all statements submitted and in case the complainant fails to comply with such requirement, the arbitrator may at his discretion dismiss the case; provided however that in the event the relevant editor and/or publisher fails to comply with the said requirement, such failure shall not prevent the continuation of proceedings;

(d) in the event that a party fails to appear at a hearing or otherwise comply with an order and does not show valid cause for such failure, such failure shall not prevent the arbitrator from proceeding with the case or rendering an award;

23. The arbitrator shall grant an arbitral award in accordance with the following:

- (a) the powers of the arbitrator to award relief in arbitral proceedings shall be limited to making an order to the editor and/or publisher to publish a right of reply and/or correction and/or apology in the media in which the relevant publication took place, unless the power to award any other relief is expressly conferred on the arbitrator in writing by the parties. Provided however that the arbitrator may specify a date and/or a page number and/or placement on a particular page of the said publication including online editors for the execution of the arbitral award;
- (b) an arbitral award shall be made after having conscientiously considered and evaluated all aspects of the proceedings and after the arbitrator determines what has been proved in the case;
- (c) an arbitral award shall be made not later than one (1) month from the date on which the matter was referred for arbitration;
- (d) a separate issue or part of the matter in dispute between the parties may at the request of a party be decided by a separate award; provided however that where the other party objects to the same, a separate award may be rendered by the arbitrator if it is deemed that there are exceptional reasons therefor;
- (e) where a party has partially admitted a claim, the arbitrator may give a separate award on the part that has been admitted;
- (f) in the event a settlement is made, the Council may at the request of the parties, confirm such settlement in the award.
- (g) a correction, change or interpretation of the award may be given effect to in the following circumstances, provided that the relevant parties to the arbitration have been presented an opportunity to express their views:
 - (i) any obvious miscalculation or clerical error in an award shall be corrected by the arbitrator;
 - (ii) the arbitrator may decide a question which should have been decided in the award but which was not decided therein, in the event that a party to the arbitration requests for the same within thirty (30) days of the award;
 - (iii) the arbitrator may provide an interpretation of the award in writing provided that the same is requested for by a party to the arbitration within thirty (30) days of the award;

24. An arbitral award by the Council of the PCCSL is equivalent to an award by an arbitral tribunal under the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995. As such, an

arbitral award by the Council may be enforced in terms of the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995, by applying to the High Court within one (1) year following the expiry of fourteen days from the date of the award.

25. The fee and costs of arbitration shall be decided by the Council and the Council shall prescribe how and by whom such fees and costs shall be paid.

26. Once arbitration proceedings close, the arbitrator shall submit to the PCCSL, a copy of the award as well as a record of all proceedings.

F. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

27. The CEO shall maintain records of all complaints including telephonic and verbal communications relating thereto and decisions of conciliation, mediation and arbitration proceedings, and shall make available to the PCCSL an annual report of the complaints made, adjudicated and pending, which will be made available to the public thereafter by way of a publication by the PCCSL.

G. NOTICES

28. Any document, addressed to the PCCSL and sent by courier or by registered post shall be deemed to be given, made or received by the PCCSL on the day it was so delivered or on the day following that on which it is posted as the case may be.

29. The spokesperson for all complaints received and decisions made by the Council will be the CEO, provided however that the CEO may consult the chairman of the Council where it is prudent to do so. In any event no details will be provided to the press and/or electronic media and/or public regarding on-going inquiries, and no interpretation of any arbitral awards made by the Council will be made by the CEO unless after consultation with the chairman of the Council and/or arbitrator.

30. All press releases and verbal statements on matters relating to the PCCSL, made to the public and/or other media, by the CEO will require the prior sanction of the chairman of the PCCSL provided that if they relate to any matter involving a complaint, the provisions of clause 29 shall apply.

H. REVISION OF RULES

31. These procedures will be reviewed annually or as and when required and if necessary revised and submitted by the CEO to the Council for approval and to the Board of Directors of PCCSL for ratification and implementation.

COMPLAINT FORM

I/we wish to make a complaint regarding an incorrect publication of which details are given below:

1. Name of Newspaper/Magazine/Journal/Online publication:
2. Date of publication:
3. Page number/link:
4. Headline:
5. Clause/s in Code of Professional Practice breached:
6. Name in Full: (Rev./Dr./Mr./Mrs./Organization):
.....
- *(If 3rd Party Complaint give relationship):
7. National Identity Card/Passport/Driving License number (please attach photo copy):
8. Address:
9. Telephone: Mobile: Fax:
10. Email:

I/we enclose herewith:

(a) A photocopy/print out of the newspaper article/magazine/Journal/Online publication against which the complaint is hereby made; and (b) the complaint based thereon.

(b) I/We have received a copy of the Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and have read and understood the procedure that will be followed by the PCCSL in addressing the complaint made hereby and prefer that the dispute be settled by: Conciliation/Mediation/Arbitration.

(C) I/we acknowledge that the settlement arrived at consequent to the conciliation/mediation/arbitration of a dispute shall be final and conclusive and shall not be challenged before any Court of Law or any statutory tribunal, except on a procedural defect.

Date:

Signature:

NOTE: A claim may be made by a third party who falls into one of the categories specified below. The categories thus specified are not exhaustive. The PCCSL may at its complete discretion, accept or reject a third party complaint.

***The categories for third party complaint are:**

Environmental Groups, Animal Welfare Groups, Adults on behalf of minors, an immediate family member of an accident victim, an immediate family member of a person in custody and anyone complaining on behalf of another provided the prior written permission of the person personally affected is

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (Company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2019

	Note	2019 Rs.	2018 Rs.
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank Balance	3	-	155,186
		-	155,186
Total Assets		-	155,186
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
Stated Capital	4	-	-
Unrestricted Fund	5	(5,909,593)	(2,158,597)
		(5,909,593)	(2,158,597)
Non-current Liabilities			
Employment Benefit Liability	6	33,750	190,000
		33,750	190,000
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	221,348	216,931
Amount Due to Related Parties	8	5,542,776	1,906,852
Cash and Bank Balance	3	111,720	-
		5,875,843	2,123,783
Total Funds and Liabilities		-	155,186

These financial statements are in compliance with the requirements of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007.

Mehala

Manager - Finance and Administration

The Board of Directors is responsible for these financial statements. Signed for and on behalf of the Board by,

[Signature]
Director

[Signature]
Director

The Accounting Policies and Notes on pages 07 through 12 form an integral part of the financial statements.

14 July 2020
Colombo

