

All Ex-Co Members,

**NOTICE OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – JULY 2019**

Monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association will be held at **1500 hrs on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the SLESI "Danthurai Hall", No. 29, Bristol Street, Colombo 01.** You are kindly requested to attend.

If an Ex-Co member wishes to be excused for some reason, appreciate if you could make arrangements to keep SLESA Office informed.



Ajith Siyambalapitiya  
Lt. Colonel (rtd)  
Hony Secretary General - Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association

**TENTATIVE AGENDA:**

1. Notice convening the Meeting
2. Excuses
3. Vote of condolence for deceased Members/ Servicemen
4. Confirmation of minutes of the Ex-Co meeting, held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019
5. Matters arising, out of the previous minutes
7. Tabling of Accounts for June 2019
6. Poppy Project
8. Death Donation Fund - Constitution and Membership
9. Opening of Veterans Home - Katugastota
10. Tabling Reports of SLESA Committees
11. Other Matters to be taken up
12. Letters Received
13. Any other business

**Distribution:**

H E The President - Patron  
Commander of the SL Army - Vice Patron  
Commander of the SL Navy - Vice Patron  
Commander of the SL Air Force - Vice Patron  
Chairman – SLESI  
Trustees of SLESA  
Affiliated Associations / Corporate Bodies of SLESA

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HELD ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2019 AT 1530 HRS AT THE "DANTHURAI" HALL OF THE SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S INSTITUTE, NO. 29 1/1, BRISTOL STREET, COLOMBO 01.**

**PRESENT:**

- |                                    |     |                                    |
|------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. Major General Upul Perera       | -   | President/ Chaired the meeting     |
| 2. Brigadier K A Gnanaweera        | -   | Immediate Past President           |
| 3. Major General E M M Ambanpola   | -   | Vice President                     |
| 4. Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga    | -   | Vice President                     |
| 5. Wing Commander K M S Wijenayake | -   | Vice President                     |
| 6. Lt. Col. Ajith Siyambalapitiya  | -   | Hony. Secretary General            |
| 7. Lt. Col. D M Amarakoon          | -   | Hony. Treasurer                    |
| 8. Major H M S S K Godamunne       | -   | Assistant Secretatry               |
| 9. Mr. A Pathmasiri                | -   | Assistant Secretary                |
| 10. Mr. S S Gunawardena            | -   | Assistant Secretary                |
| 11. Major P K C S Kankanamge       | -   | Assistant Treasurer                |
| 12. Cdr. R A Somapala              | 13. | Cmde. W M J B Wijekoon             |
| 14. Lt. P Wijewickrama             | 15. | Major General M D S Chandrapala    |
| 16. Major V B Karunaratne          | 17. | Major H Wilson                     |
| 18. Captain J R Mendis             | 19. | Mr. H A Jayalath                   |
| 20. Mr. P L T Perera               | 21. | Captain W J Siriwardena            |
| 22. Maj Gen M R U Bandarattillake  | 23. | Mr. D K Hemantha                   |
| 24. Mr. A S S de Silva             | 25. | Rear Admiral (Dr.) Shemal Fernando |
| 26. Mr. R K Ranawaka               | 27. | Mr. S W Hettiarachchi              |
| 28. Gp. Capt. K W Kirinde          | 29. | Captain N S Jayawardena            |
| 30. Lt. K A Premalal               | 31. | Major D A N Gnanapala              |
| 32. Major Gamini Ekanayake         | 33. | Brigadier R D A Jayasinghe         |
| 34. Major General K S Fernando     | 35. | Mr. J A Speering                   |
| 36. Captain H U Jayatissa          | 37. | Mr. H K S Sooriyaarachchi          |
| 38. Colonel P L Thisera            | 39. | Major W Dharmapala                 |
| 40. Mrs. Mekala Gunasekera         | 41. | Mrs. Geetha Chandani               |
| 42. Mr. C J De Silva               | 43. | Mr. T A Ruberu                     |
| 44. Mr. W A Jayasiri               | 45. | Major G W Ranatunga                |
| 46. Captain J S Bandara            | 47. | Mrs. W C N Weerasinghe             |
| 48. Major K S Jayaratne            | 49. | Major W G G Premaratne             |
| 50. Mr. D M Podiratne              | 51. | Captain J P Wimalson Neel          |
| 52. Mr. N N J Perera               | 53. | Mr. V Nayoor                       |
| 54. Mr. B D Samson                 | 55. | Mr. K L S Fernando                 |
| 56. Mr. W G Perera                 | 57. | Major A K D S P Siriwardena        |
| 58. Captain A V Munasinghe         | 59. | Mrs. Nirosha Hettiarachchi         |
| 60. Mr. W G Somashantha            | 61. | Mr. B A Somasiri                   |
| 62. Mr. A S Kumarapperuma          | 63. | Mr. R Nimalasena                   |
| 64. Captain P B Wickramasinghe     | 65. | Mr. S A Ariyaratne                 |
| 66. Mr. P D H C A Gunawardena      | 67. | Mr. B A A P Nandasena              |
| 68. Mr. G G P R De Silva           |     |                                    |

**EXCUSED :**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mr. R M Ratnayake | 2. Mr. J V Jayaraj   |
| 3. Mr. R A Camaran   | 4. Mr. Kumara Boteju |
| 5. Mr. R M Somapala  |                      |

**NOT PRESENT:**

- |                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Captain Y S W Silva     | 2. Lt. N A P Ranatunga    |
| 3. Lt. Col E M U Ekanayake | 4. Major H P Weerakkody   |
| 5. Mr. W D J Jothiyapala   | 6. Mr. W A L Gunapala     |
| 7. Col. P R S Jayasekera   | 8. Mr. W D Elmo Frank     |
| 9. Mr. H D Sunil           | 10. Lt. Cdr. W M L Rohana |
| 11. Mr. Thilak Ranjan      | 12. Mr. A Dharmapala      |

**ON INVITATION :**

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Major General T Paranagama | 2. Brigadier H N Halangode |
| 3. Lt. Col. D S C Ganegoda    |                            |

1. Opening Remarks. The Ex-Co Meeting for June 2019 commenced with a warm welcome to all members by President, Major General W G M U R Perera USP. President announced that a few non Ex-Co members are in attendance on invitation and thanked them for their presence. As all members had received copies of the minutes prior to the meeting, notice of the meeting was taken as read.

2. Excuses. – Refer Page, 2.

3. Vote of Condolences. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of the following members who had passed away during the period under review and of all Service Personnel who lost their lives in the defense of the motherland.

Maj Gen C J Abeyratna - Army Signals Assn  
Mr. L E Hope - Naval Assn  
Mr. KS Welivita - Air Force Assn

Mr. R D Somaratna - Naval Assn  
Mr. M Padmasena - Naval Assn

4. Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 . Minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were adopted, proposed by Mr. J A Speering and seconded by Capt. J Sisira Bandara subject to the following corrections.

a. While accepting the payment of Rs.15,000/- being the monthly rental for the stores at the SLESA basement, the SLESI Trustees have approved this amount to be returned back to SLESA as a monthly Contribution of Rs,15,000/- from the SLESI for the developments of the Cenotaph. Hony. Secretary General thanked Captain Patrick Jayasinghe, Chairman and members of the Board of Trustees for their support.

b. In reference to e mail from Major General Thilak Paranagama, in para 6, delete the word ASSOCIATION and insert instead ‘CORPORATE BODY ‘ to read the paragraph as ‘Matale Ex-Servicemen’s Corporate Body.

c. Major General T Paranagama has pointed out through the same e mail, that in item no. 17 of the minutes, under the Sub-heading ‘Death Donation Fund of SLESA ‘ a credit balance of Rupees Forty Two Lakhs (Rs. 4,200,000/-) has been reflected when the actual balance should be Rupees Four Lakhs, Twenty Thousand (Rs. 420,000/-). This was re-corrected by Hony. Secretary General to read the credit balance as Rs.434,000/- as per the account.

5. Tabling of Accounts for the month of May 2019. Hony Treasurer said that Audited statements of monthly Accounts of all eight (08) Accounts for the month of May 2019 were circulated along with the monthly minutes of meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and called for the adoption of each Account independently. He also said that they were Audited by the Audit Committee and said that any comments and observations are welcome.

a. SLESA Management Fund Current A/C No. 350961, - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Capt. J Sisira Bandara and seconded by Mr. B A Somasiri they were adopted.

b. SLESA Benevolent Trust Fund Current Account No. 350030-75412966 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Mr. H A Jayalath and seconded by Capt. J R Mendis they were adopted.

c. SLESA Families Welfare Fund Current Account No. 78411514 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Capt. J Sisira Bandara and seconded by Major K S Jayaratna they were adopted.

d. SLESA Welfare Facilities Development Fund Current Account No. 9410822 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Mr. J A Speering and seconded by Major W G G Premaratna they were adopted.

e. RCEL Current Account No. 350996 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Major, A K D S P Siriwardene and seconded by Mr. B A Somasiri they were adopted.

f. Sri Lanka Armed Forces Remembrance Day & Poppy Week Fund, Current Account Numbers 0071943349 - 75413054 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Capt. J Sisira Bandara and seconded by Mrs. Nirosha Hettiarachchi. they were adopted.

g. Veterans Home Account Number, 76014229 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Capt. J R Mendis and seconded by Capt. P B Wicramasinghe. they were adopted.

h. SLESA Members Welfare Loan Fund, A/C No. 0079164566 - Statement of Accounts for the month of May 2019. – Proposed by Mr. R Nimalasena and seconded by Mr. J A Speering they were adopted.

6. Approval of Grant Payments. Hony. Treasurer then called for the adoption of the Medical, Spectacles, Hearing Aids, RCEL and Scholarship Grants. They were approved as proposed by Mr. B A Somasiri and seconded by Mr. J A Speering.

7. SLESA Members Welfare Loan Fund. Hony. Secretary General explained the present Financial Stability of this Loan Fund and the present position stands as follows. Chairman Welfare Loans Committee, Vice President, Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga said that his intention is to follow the Loan Procedure adopted by the Sanasa Bank. At this stage Mr. D K Hemantha and Mr. R Ruberu insisted to consider on the recovery system. Major General K S Fernando suggested to confine the age limit to 70 years and below at the time of granting loans.

Present Financial stability of this Loan Fund and the present position stands as follows.

a. Shares received to the value of	Rs. 1,473,500/-
b. Investments by SLESA funds	Rs. 3,325,000/-
c. Loans granted to the value of	Rs. 15,330,000/-
d. Loans recovered as at 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Rs. 8,979,777/22
e. Interest received as at 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Rs. 2,095,478/10

8. Approval for payments. Hony. Secretary General called for the approval of the following payments. Proposed and seconded by Mr. J A Speering and Capt. J Sisira Bandara respectively the payments were approved.

- a. Repair of Three wheeler at Veterans Home Rs. 46,930.00
- b. Service of SLESA Van - Rs. 35,154.00
- c. Domain Registry – (slesa.lk) - Rs. 3,450.00
- d. Veterans Home-Katugastota - Bathroom Accessories/Doors and Windows Rs.345,073.50
- e. Veterans Home - Katugastota - Tiles & Paints - Rs. 357,510.00
- f. Building Materials - Rs. 150,000.00
- g. Electrical Fittings - Rs. 75,000.00
- h. Hardware Items - Rs, 47,825.00
- i. Poppy Customs Clearing Expenses – Rs. (Approved by Bd of Trustees) Rs. 1,625,271.96.
- j. Proposed Expenses - Printing of Veterans Raffle - Rs. 74,300.00

11. Donations to Veterans Home. Thanking all Donors for their generosity, Hony. Secretary General thanked the Chairman and members of the Veteran's Home Committee for their efforts to raise funds with income exceeding expenditure. He thanked the following Donors for their generous gesture.

a. Donations:

10 (v) ESR	Rs.	7,500.00
2(v) SLAWC	Rs.	7,500.00
RHQ-SLAWC	Rs.	7,500.00
5 ESR	Rs.	7,500.00
1 SLCMP	Rs.	7,500.00
7 SLLI	Rs.	7,500.00
Mr. T Vignarajah	Rs.	10,000.00
RHQ SLA	Rs.	7,500.00
6 SLNG	Rs.	7,500.00
MIC	Rs.	7,500.00
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Total	Rs.	77,500.00
		=====

b. Contributions of Provisions:

SL Army	Rs.	95,433.50 (Approximate)
SL Navy		
SLNS Gemunu:	Rs.	8,261.64
SLNS Thakshila:	Rs.	11,443.15
SLNS Mahasen:	Rs.	33,822.92
SLNS Rangala:	Rs.	12,497.30
SLNS Lanka :	Rs.	10,469.47
		-----
Total	Rs.	171,927.98
		=====

12. Letters Received.

- a. Matala Assn
- b. Pension Increment - Maj Gen Tilak Paranagama
- c. Lt P. Senevirathna - Coordinator Veterans Home
- d. UVA Assn - Request Office Up keep Allowance - Rs. 2500.00 per month
- e. Mr. PLT Perera

13. Poppy 2019.

a. President said that the consignment of Poppy has been sent by the RCEL On arrival at the Port of Colombo, the Customs have imposed Rs. 1,625,271.96/= as Customs Duty and other Charges. The Poppy consignment as cleared by calling quotations for freight and clearance, adhering to the tender board procedure.

b. Out of the quotations received for clearing poppy consignment from port, it has been offered to the lowest bidder who has quoted for all sub events involved in the clearance process. Lowest bidder was M/S Spryn Logistic (Pvt) Ltd and they have not quoted for transport which they agree to do free of cost. President, after knowing that the bidder company is owned by Col. Faiz-ur-Rahman, expressed his gratitude to Col Faiz-ur-Rahman for his generosity.

c. Since the RCEL is distributing Poppies free of Charge with in all the Common Wealth Countries for the Welfare of WW 1 & 11 Survivals and their Dependents, President SLESA has requested the Chief Patron of the SLESA and the Commander In Chief of the Armed Forces, HE. The President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to waive off the Customs Charges and reimburse the payments as the proceeds from the sale of Poppies are utilized for the welfare of aging and ailing War Veterans and their dependents who have no other source of income. He has also said that during the period of the previous regime, at our request, on a directive from the then HE The President

these payments have been reimbursed. The letter to HE has been personally handed over to the Presidential Secretariat and President has referred this letter to the Minister of Finance for necessary action. With a lapse of a period exceeding one month, the letter has not been responded. However, President SLESA has come to know through reliable sources that the Authorities are awaiting for the consent of the Minister to put up a Cabinet Paper for the purpose of Cabinet approval. The Executive Committee was of the view that we should give more time to the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider this request and if the request is not responded positively to take up the matter with reasons again with him.

14. Pensions and Anomalies. As the Chairman of the Armed Forces Pensioners Association, Major General Thilak Paranagama has intimated beneficial News to all Pensioners including tri Service Pensioners. Hence President SLESA invited him to explain the present developments and how the Pensioners are benefitted. Commencing from the inception where the Association earlier had a Pensioners Committee which was not a recognized Committee by the other Pensioners Associations, spread around the Country. He explained how he was compelled to form the Armed Forces Pensioners' Association with Mr. B D Samson as Secretary and Major K S Jayaratna as the Treasurer. The affairs of the Association were conducted satisfactorily with the consultation of Senior Government Officials, including Secretaries to Ministries, Director Pensions and at times with the Hon Ministers. The Pensioners Association has been successful now to receive the expected pension of 85 % to all Pensioners which will be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2019. Major General Paranagama further said that in the year 1988 during the tenure of HE The President of Sri Lanka, Hon. J R Jayawardene has introduced the addition of Ration Allowances, Good Conduct Pay, Qualification pay and many other payments to the pension of the retiring Ex-Servicemen. At this stage, Mrs. Mekala Gunasekara of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps expressed her concerns on the fate of the female cadres of the Armed Forces who have retired on completion of their period of service of fifteen (15) years as per their Service Regulations. Major General Paranagama responded positively and said that there is no gender barrier for Armed Forces Pensions and this matter should be taken up in the future. With all their efforts to obtain an enhanced pension to all Pensioners, Major General Paranagama regretted the poor response from the Pensioners to become members of Armed Forces Pensioners' Association. He emphasized that the strength of the Armed Forces Pensioners Association will be of assistance for future struggles and said that they are hoping to work towards the policy of 'one rank, one pension' as done in India. Maj Gen Upul Perera, on behalf of all SLESA members appreciated the efforts taken by Major Gen Thilak Paranagama & AFPA to obtain approval for enhance the Pension of Retirees of Armed Forces.

15. Welfare Facilities. Referring to the proposals from President SLESA, to foster and promote welfare facilities to members, the Committees have approved the revival of the following grants as appended below. President called for the approval of the House for the implementation of the grants at revised rates with effect from 1st July 2019. The proposal was unanimously accepted.

- a. Grants for Spectacles, Hearing Aids and Scholarships to be reviewed to Rs. 5,000/- Rs.10,000/- and Rs. 1,500/- respectively

At this juncture, Captain Patrick Jayasinghe, President Honoris Causa stated that the grant for spectacles was Rs 5,000.00 & it was subsequently reduced to Rs. 3,000.00. President SLESA agreed & explained the purpose.

16. Travelling Allowances. In response to an appeal submitted by the Uva and Matale Ex-Servicemen's Corporate Bodies to revise their Travelling Allowances, after long deliberations, House unanimously agreed to increase the allowance as follows for each visit to attend the monthly Ex-Co Meetings wef June 2019.

- a. Matale Corporate Body – Rs. 1,500/-
- b. Uva Corporate Body, - Rs.2,000/-

17. Theme Song for SLESA. President has observed that after 75 years in existence, SLESA does not have a Theme Song; (SLESA Song). This has dawned in his mind when he met Mr. Kingsly Ratnayake a TV Presenter & Lyric Writer at the AGM of All Island Army Pensioner's and Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Association, held recently. On discussions they had on this subject, Mr. Ratnayake has consented to assist SLESA by composing a Song and President has agreed to communicate after discussing this matter with Ex-Co membership. This suggestion was presented to the Ex-Co and there were no objections from the House and the expression of the attitude of the membership reflected their willingness. At this stage, Captain Patrick Jayasinghe, Honoris Causa, who was instrumental in the origination of the 'Poppy Song' with the participation of 21 popular artists at the Joe Neth Studio the year 2012 at no cost to SLESA reminded the availability of the Poppy Song and said that it is played at the Armed Force Remembrance Day Commemorations and other similar occasions. Referring to the origination of the Poppy Song, Mr. B D Samson said that some Composers wanted Rs.75,000/- to compose the Song and finally Mr. Kingsly Rathnayaka, who is a son of an Ex-Serviceman Mr. R M Panditharatne composed the Song free of Charge.

18. Proposed Veteran's Home at Katugastota, President said that the re-furbishing of the Ancestral Home and property at Katugastota donated by Captain Anil Bowatta, a Serving Naval Officer for the purpose of sheltering War Veterans is now nearing completion. President said that immediately after the completion of the construction work by the Naval Civil Engineers, we must fulfill the Donors obligations by opening the Home with an appropriate ceremony and activating the operations. Thanking the Three Service Commanders and the three Services for the assistance extended by financing the project and providing workmanship and other requirements, he proposed to invite the Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy as the Chief Guest for the opening Ceremony. As the donor is a Serving Naval Officer and the major role in re-furbishing the building was handled by the Sri Lanka Navy, the House unanimously agreed to this proposal.

19. Re-Activating the SLESA Welfare Co (Pvt) Ltd. President said that applications were called to the post of Chief Operation Officer of the SLESA Welfare Services (Pvt) Ltd through Affiliated Associations from Retired Officers of the three Services who were in the Ranks above Major or equivalent. He explained that as per the requirements approved by the Ministry of Defence, to obtain the registration of a Security Establishment, it should be a retired Officer from any of the three Services who were in the rank of Major and above or equivalents. There were four (04) applicants and they were called for an Interview. Col P L Thisera was selected by the Board on Merit as the Chief Operation Officer of the SLESA Welfare Services (Pvt) Ltd on an initial starting Salary of about Rs. 20,000/- or more per month with other incentives and Fringe Benefits. He was given a time frame of six months to build up the Company by going through all Legal formalities such as Registering with the Ministry of Defence to act as a security service and renewing the Business Registration along with other requirements. He is to select clients and recruit suitable disciplined employees, preferably Ex-Servicemen. Other than building up the Security Service, the formation and Establishing of other fund raising projects such as Grocery & Stationery Shops at many places of the island, commencing from the main towns such as Kandy, Galle, Matara & Anuradhapura would be his responsibilities. He is also at liberty to explore other avenues of Fund Raising and the main object is to convert the Company to a profit making venture. His emoluments are subject to re scrutiny on his performances and developments but fixed monthly payment will be paid to him to start with the operations. President further said that there are some Ex-Servicemen who are doing very well in their self employment projects and they are doing well in their private enterprises which they are engaged in.

20. Sale of Veterans Raffle Tickets. President stressed that there are 48 Affiliated Associations with in SLESA and all Affiliated Associations must be requested to encourage their membership to sell at least one book by a member. The beneficiaries of the Scholarship Grants also must be encouraged to sell these Ticket Books.

21. Financial Transaction between Matale Ex-Servicemen's Corporate Body. An inquiry board was appointed & it is being investigated in to ascertain the facts of the incident. Hony Secretary General said that the final out come will be informed to the EXCO once the report is submitted by the Inquiry Board.

22. Air Conditioning of the SLESA Secretariat Main Assembly Hall. President said that the main hall is regularly used by Affiliated Associations to conduct their monthly meetings and very often they meet for SLESA requirements and he proposed to Air Condition the area. He also said that the Air Conditioner installed at the Hall is not functioning now hence it should be replaced with a new Air Conditioner. He called for the approval of the House to proceed on this by calling quotations from reputed Agents. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the House,

22. 75<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Celebrations of SLESA. - President said that SLESA which was established on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1944 on the initiative of few pioneering Servicemen should be commemorated Annually on the same day and this has been declared as the 'SLESA DAY'. Commemorations for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary should commence on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 with the observance of Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu and Muslim Religions by inviting four Religious Dignitaries of the four faiths to the SLESA Secretariat and obtain their blessings for the following objectives.

- a. To invoke blessings to all deceased members of SLESA during the last 75 years.
- b. Bless the ailing and sick members of SLESA for their speedy recovery.
- c. Bless the living members of SLESA and their Families for good health.
- d. Invoke blessings to all those who lost their lives in WW1, WW 11, 30 years waged terrorism and during other Internal Conflicts and Insurrections.

President also informed the house that the Governor Central Bank has not responded to our request in minting a commemorative coin. The Post Master General also has not responded to our request to issue a Commemorative Stamp and said that he will follow these two requirements. Further he said, the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the ceremony should be a lunch at SLESA Secretariat.

23. Poson Dansela. Assistant manager SLESA Mr. H M K Herath informed that the ICE CREAM DANSELA conducted by the Staff Members of the SLESA Secretariat in view of the Poson Poya Day was a success. He shared the blessings of the recipients for this meritorious act organized by the Staff Members. All Donors and Participants who assisted them in numerous ways were highly appreciated.

24. Election of SLESI Trustees.

a. President said that SLESA has received names of ten (10) nominees with six (06) from S L Army, three (03) from SL Navy and one (01) from SL Air Force in response to SLESA letter calling for nominations to fill the four (04) positions of SLESI Trustees whose period of Office expires on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and read the following names scheduled in alphabetical order.

- |       |                                 |                                   |
|-------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1).  | Major General M D S Chandrapala | SL Army Engineers Assn            |
| (2).  | Lt. Col. D S C Ganegoda         | SL Army Engr Services Assn        |
| (3).  | Brigadier K A Gnanaweera        | Army Signals Assn,                |
| (4).  | Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene      | Ex-Naval Divers Ex-Service Assn   |
| (5).  | Brigadier H N Halangode         | Gemunu Watch Association          |
| (6).  | Brigadier J P A Jayawardene     | SL Army Ordnance Association,     |
| (7).  | Captain W P J S Jayasinghe      | SL Naval Association,             |
| (8).  | Rear Admiral S R Samaratinga    | Assn of Veteran Naval Sea Farers, |
| (9).  | Colonel (Dr.) S W S Somaweera,  | SL Army Medical Corps Assn        |
| (10). | Mr. D M Chandraratna,           | SL Ex Air Force Association.      |



b. President declared that Mr. D M Chandraratna is elected uncontested as the Trustee to represent the Sri Lanka Ex-Air Force Association as there are no other nominations from the Associations of Sri Lanka Air Force.

c. He then declared that the nominee, Brigadier J P A Jayawardene, of the Army Ordnance Assn, declined his nomination and withdrew the nomination papers. At this juncture, Vice President SLESA Rear Admiral S R Samaratunga, of the Association of Veteran Naval Sea Farers, declined his nominations too and withdrew his nomination papers. With this two withdrawals, President SLESA declared that out of the ten (10) nominees, the contest is among seven (07) nominees and read their names as follows.

d. President said that the eligibility of Brigadier K A Gnanaweera and Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene to contest to the positions of Trustees SLESI have been challenged and he sought the advice of Policy Planning and Formulation Sub Committee and said that, contrary to the challenged substances, this Committee has ruled out the objections raised, confirming the eligibility of nominating both nominees to be Trustees of SLESI.

e. With the announcement of the names of the Seven (07) contestants by President SLESA, Major General, M D S Chandrapala raised his objections saying that Brig Gnanaweera's name is not there in the SLESA Journal - 2019 under the list of General Council Members. President explained as to what happened in length and said that Brig Gnanaweera's name was later on nominated on behalf of another member of his association and informed in writing SLESA. Later on Brig Gnanaweera is again nominated by his association to contest at SLESI Elections and informed to SLESA hence he is eligible to be a contestant at the elections. In the case of Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene, President said, although Mr Goonawardena's name was supposed to be taken out from SLNA, he is proposed for elections by Naval Divers Association hence he has the right to contest for elections. President further said that both matters were referred to Policy & Planning Sub Committee as well and with their written approval only the nominations were accepted for elections.

f. President SLESA who is the Returning Officer for the election of Trustees to SLESI, invited Hon'y Secretary General, SLESA, Lt. Col. Ajith Siybalapitiya to Chair the Election Committee and Conduct elections assisted by Mr. D K Hemantha, Mr. R K Ranawaka and Group Captain K W Kirinde, representing the three services. Voting commenced by secret ballot and on completion of voting, ballot papers were taken in for counting. On completion of counting, results were presented to President SLESA by the Chairman, Elections Committee and President announced the following results, arranged in chronological order.


(1). Brigadier K A Gnanaweera	35	SL Army Signals Assn
(2). Brigadier H N Halangode	35	Gemunu Watch Association
(3). Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene	34	Ex-Naval Divers Ex-Servi Assn
(4). Captain W P J S Jayasinghe	33	SL Naval Association
(5). Lt. Col. D S C Ganegoda	26	SL Army Engineer Services Assn
(6). Maj Gen M D S Chandrapala	16	SL Engineers Association
(7). Col (Dr.) S W S Somaweera	05	SL Army Medical Corps Assn

g. After announcing the number of votes received by each Contestant, President declared that the following four (04) are the Trustees elected to the Board of Trustees of SLESI commencing from the 01<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

(1). Brigadier K A Gnanaweera	35	SL Army Signals Assn
(2). Brigadier H N Halangode	35	Gemunu Watch Association
(3). Mr. P D H C A Goonewardene	34	Ex-Naval Divers Ex-Ser Assn
(4). Mr. D M Chandraratna	-	Elected uncontested from the Ex-Air Force Assn.

h. After the announcement of the election results, Major General M D S Chandrapala again got up and said that the Rules are supreme and General Councilors of SLESA should have the ratification of the Ex-Co and further said that Brig Gnanaweera's name has not been ratified at the Ex-Co meeting before his nomination for elections was given hence he is not eligible to contest the elections. President SLESA, Maj Gen Upul Perera, explained that Brig K A Gnanaweera's nomination was accepted due to the reasons mentioned in Sub para 24 e and further explained that there had been no Ex-Co between the day of the receipt of Brig Gnanaweera's nomination and election day, which fell on the very next Ex-Co day. If his nomination to the General Council to be ratified by the Ex-Co, it would have been done by the same members of Ex-Co who voted for the said elections. Brig Gnanaweera has received the highest number of votes and that it self ratifies his nomination to the General Council and to be a Trustee of the SLESI . It is also mentioned that there had been no practice in SLESA, although it is mentioned in the Rules of SLESA to ratify General Council members at the EXCO meetings, when they are changed for various reasons like, deaths, sicknesses, migration etc. The practice is that all the General Council Members are straightaway accepted once they are nominated by the Affiliated Associations.

25. There being no other business, meeting terminated at approximately 1930 hrs.



Ajith Siyambalapitiya

Lt. Colonel (Rtd)

Honorary Secretary General - Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association