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இலங்கை பத்திரிகை முறைப்பாட்டு ஆணைக்குழு
Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Annual Report 2020

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) believes that the concept of Self-regulation will promote media to be responsible for their actions more so in the case of publication of news, reports, and articles. This is an important issue today, in a time of "fake or misleading news", given the speed and need for credible news on numerous platforms whether traditional or constantly developing dynamic new ones.

The Newspaper Industry, during the year under review, continued to face numerous challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic restricted movement of journalists to gather information, as well as the printing and sale of newspapers. Working from home and publishing Online newspapers was something new and soon became the norm of the day.

In the midst of new challenges, the PCCSL undaunted, strived to uphold ethical journalistic practices through their web page and online platform when snail mail and visiting shut Editorial officers was not allowed due to strict health guidelines.

The Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) meetings (four) were held physically whenever health guidelines permitted them. In spite of such difficulties, the DRC continued to advise and handle complaints brought to them by the PCCSL. The Council members must be applauded for the time given and effort taken to resolve matters.

The PCCSL, established in 2003, based on the recommendations of an International Conference held in Colombo in 1998, 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.

Our CEO has given a detailed report of the activities and impact of the Press Complaints Commission during the course of this year (2020).

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.

**Kumar Nadesan
Chairman
Board of Directors**

Message from Chairman, Dispute Resolution Council

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) enjoys a long and historic backdrop. Some 17 years ago, it was set up and has justified its original purpose to promote and foster self-regulation by means of an Editors' Code of Professional Practice for print media journalists. This organisation saw its birth as an outcome of the Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility – the primary objective is to encourage and promote self-regulation.

The Commission dedicates itself to abide by the principles of conciliation, mediation and arbitration under the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995. We continue to follow the work of similar commissions in South Africa and the Scandinavian countries.

During this year, the Dispute Resolution Council met on four occasions – January, March, July and September – including a special meeting in February where the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of the PCCSL – our ability to have more meetings has been severely hampered by the lock down as a result of the spread of COVID-19.

It is with great pleasure that we record that the 'Rights of Readers' public notice has been included in the Press with the cooperation of newspaper Editors'. We are very hopeful that a minority of the other newspapers that has not published our notice will do so. The response to this notice is very good.

During the period under review – January to December 2020 -, the PCCSL received 76 complaints – the breakdown is as follows: Sinhala language 42 complaints, Tamil language nine complaints, English language five complaints and not against the print media 20 complaints.

Complaints were received against the following newspaper publishers, New Uthayan Publications Pvt. Ltd., Asian Media Publications Ltd., Express Newspapers (Ceylon) Pvt. Ltd, Ceylon Newspapers Pvt. Ltd., and Liberty Publishers Pvt. Ltd.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all 10 members of the Dispute Resolution Council who regularly attended the meetings and helped 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 Liyanaarachchi, 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 2020

01. Introduction

Established 17 years ago, the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) continues to promote and foster self-regulation through an Editors' Code of Professional Practice for print media journalists.

The PCCSL is an independent, voluntary, self-regulatory mechanism set up by the newspaper industry of Sri Lanka, supported by 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.

It works on the principles of Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration under the Arbitration Act No. 11 of 1995. It is modeled along the lines of similar self-regulatory mechanisms in Scandinavian countries, and South Africa. The High Court of Colombo is empowered to enforce an arbitration award made under the Act to enforce an order of the Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) of the PCCSL.

The Editors' Code, which is implemented by the PCCSL, provides for conditional third party complaints. Third party complaints are entertained from six categories viz; 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 and the Complaint Form signed.

The Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility, which is the foundation of the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL), was an outcome of an international seminar held in Colombo in 1998 and revisited twice in 2008 and 2018. The ground-breaking seminar in 1998, was 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.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's ranking by Reporters without Borders for 2020, has put Sri Lanka at 127 in the World Press Freedom Index of 180 countries. Sri Lanka was ranked 141 in 2017, 131 in 2018 and 126 in 2019.

02. Executive summary

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted negatively on the print media throughout the year under review. Editorial offices and printing presses were closed on-and-off during the year and distribution of newspapers became an issue due to lock-downs and curfews between March 20 and May 26. Journalists and Editors worked from home. The industry had to resort to going digital and this posed fresh challenges to them.

Meanwhile, the Media Minister Keheliya Rambukwella who attended a Ministerial Consultative Committee on Mass Media in November stated that a proper mechanism for the regulation of new media is needed. It will be implemented shortly, he added. The Press Council Act will also be amended to protect the dignity of the people, he asserted.

The Presidents' Secretariat issued a circular stating that 40 per cent of all government advertising should be stopped and preference be given to State media. The decision was later changed to the advertiser of state enterprises having the choice to advertise in what ever print media they prefer.

The registration of websites, which was on hold was re-introduced by the Government to set up a registry of websites.

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) continued building on the positive growth made in the previous year and successfully held 15 meetings attended by 60 publishers, editors, sub-editors, desk heads, journalists and provincial correspondents. Nine meetings were held with 203 members of civil society and journalists together. 105 students of journalism who were on lock down at home met at 11 meetings through a webinar, in addition to conducting three programmes for 122 youth. 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 continued support by the Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) comprising both non journalists and journalists has helped the PCCSL to a great extent. (Please see below).

Indicators that the voluntary independent self-regulatory system is broadly accepted by registered National newspapers printed and published in the country and is workable can be measured by the following;

- (a) The number of valid complaints, where Complainants have filled in and signed the Complaint Form thereby accepting the PCCSL process to resolve their complaint. However, Complainants remain sluggish in following up on their initial 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 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 intervention of the PCCSL.
- (c) The PCCSL also observes violations of the Code *Suo-Moto* 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, on the application of the Editors' Code to guide them to be more professional and socially responsible when writing stories, they have been to curtail the number of cases filed in courts.
- (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 (TEGOSL) that is enforced by the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka. The Code has been 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 Feb. 24, the Sri Lanka Press Council (SLPC) called a meeting of newspaper organisations and editors to resolve issues raised by the media such as; unsatisfactory handling of complaints owing to several reasons, lack of quorum to conduct inquiries and give rulings, publication of corrections, constant change in the composition of the Board and incomplete rulings given by previous Chairmen. There was a fair representation of Attorneys-at-Law representing publishers. The meeting took place in the Auditorium of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka in Rajagiriya. However, the discussion was inconclusive.

The Press Council comprises: Senior lecturer Mahinda Pathirana, Chairman, Attorney Prasanna Lal de Alwis PC, Attorney Gamini Wijewardena, Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe, Mr. **Nalaka Kaluwewa**, Director-General, Department of Government Information and Press Commissioner Niroshan Thambawita., Prof. Sunanda Mahendra, Prof. Rohana Lakshman Piyadasa, Ariyananda Dombagahawatte, Muditha Kariyakarawana, Thevathasan Senthilvelavar, Mr. M. D. P. Kumara Dharmarathna and Gamini Sumanasekera.

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.

2.3: Proposed Media Authority Act:

The proposed Media Authority Act drafted by the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) will be put to The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka (TEGOSL), the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka (NSSL), the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA) for discussion early in 2021. The draft will also be placed before the Sri Lanka Tamil Media Alliance, the Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum, the Federation of the Media Employees Trade Union and the South Asian Media Association (Sri Lanka Chapter) for discussion. It is hoped that it will be a suitable alternative to the Press Council Act of Sri Lanka and include the digital media as well.

2.4: Gender issues

Amidst the predominantly male editors, there were two women editors (Ms. Hana Ibrahim, Editor, *Daily/Weekend Express* 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.

03: Total number of newspapers monitored and their frequency

The total number of newspaper dailies and weeklies published by the end of the year in the three language streams was 38.

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

- Sinhala language

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

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

Total: dailies 06 + weeklies 09 = 15 – (39.47%)

- Tamil language

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

Weeklies: *Virakesari Weekly*, *Thinakaran Varamanjari*, *Thinakkural Weekly*, *Navamani Weekly* and *Vidivelli Weekly*.

Total: dailies 06 + weeklies 05 = 11 – (28.94%)

- 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 – (31.57%)

Besides the above there are several regional newspapers. *Uthayan*, *Valampuri*, *Yarl Thinakural*, *Eelanadu* and *Kalaikaththir* are published in Jaffna while *Sooriyakanthi* and the *Udayasuriyan* are published in the upcountry.

04. Complaints

During the period under review (January to December 2020), the PCCSL received **76** complaints. The following is a breakdown of complaints against the different language newspapers.

- * Sinhala language press: **42** complaints.
- * Tamil language press: **09** complaints.
- * English language press: **05** complaints.
- * Not against the print media: **20** complaints

04.01. Status of complaints received:

Valid complaints: 42

- * Resolved: **16**.
- * Complainant did not proceed: **22**.
- * No response from Editor: **04** (*Mawbima*, *Aruna*, *Daily Mirror*, *Divaina*).

Invalid complaints: 34

- * Out of mandate: **13**. (Complaints that do not fall within the purview of the PCCSL).
- * Sub-judice: **07**. (Complaints pending in courts).
- * Dismissed: **14**. (Not a valid complaint)

Total: 76 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: ***Dinamina***.
- Wijeya Newspapers Limited: ***The Sunday Times***, ***Irida Lankadeepa***, ***Daily Mirror***, ***Lankadeepa***, ***Ada*** and ***Tamil Mirror***.
- Upali Newspapers Limited: ***Divaina***.
- Valampuri Publishers Limited: ***Valampuri***.
- New Uthayan Publication (Pvt) Limited: ***Uthayan***.
- Asian Media Publications (Pvt) Limited: ***Thinakural*** and ***Yarl Thinakural***.
- Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Limited: ***Virakesari***.
- Ceylon Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited: ***Maubima***.
- Liberty Publishers Private Limited: ***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 and were therefore 'dismissed'.

Most of the complaints were made over the telephone and email since the postal service and mobility were disrupted frequently due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 207 complaints have been resolved during the year with the publication of a clarification, correction, apology or Right of Reply. This includes 143 concerning Sinhala newspapers, 00 Tamil and 64 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 29 instances in eight (08) newspapers; *Divaina* (8), *Virakesari* (1), *Lankadeepa* (4), *Ada* (1), *Tamil Mirror* (2), *Maubima* (9), *Dinamina* (2) and *Silumina* (2) (please see attached chart.)

05. Right of Readers

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

They are:

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

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 four occasions; (January, March, July and September) including a special meeting held in February with the Chairman and Members of the Board of Directors of the PCCSL. Despite the lockdown, the DRC continued to maintain a steady link with the PCCSL assisting in tackling difficult complaints with editors. The Chairman of the 11-member Dispute Resolution Council is former Secretary General of Parliament and Attorney Nihal Seneviratne. The members are: Dr. Devanesan Nesiya, Mrs. Gnana Moonesinghe, Mr. Lucille Wijewardene, Mr. Javid Yusuf and Mr. Dion Schoorman, who are non-journalist members of the Council totaling six. Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Mr. Pramod de Silva, Mrs. Rajitha Weerakoon, Mr. Daya Lankapura and Mr. P. Balasingham, are the five journalist members on the Council.

07. Membership of PCCSL

Membership of the PCCSL stands at 41 members as of December 31, 2020.

08. Publicity of PCCSL

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

- **January 12:** PCCSL CEO was interviewed by the *Sunday Observer* on the Editors' Code Clause No. 07 Privacy. 'Call to implement Right to Privacy Act'. This follows the alleged recordings of conversations made by MP Ranjan Ramanayake. It was also mentioned that it is unethical to record a person's voice without prior permission from that person.
- **July 23:** The Ada newspaper featured Sinhala Complaints Officer Kamal Liyanaraachchi on fake news during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **August 06:** Message from PCCSL CEO published in 90th anniversary supplement of the Virakesari newspaper
- **October 21:** A press release issued to mark the AGM held through a webinar was published in several newspapers, including; *The Island, Sunday Island, The Sunday Times, Daily FT.*
- **November 29:** An interview of FMM Convener, Ms. Seetha Ranjanee on how maintaining websites registry will affect self-regulation published in *The Sunday Morning* mentioned PCCSL.

08.01(ii): PCCSL in the digital media

- The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) has been granted 'Observer Status' by the Alliance of Independent Press Councils of Europe (AIPCE). This has given the PCCSL a place on the European Union's Press Council website – 'Media Councils in the Digital Age' - <http://www.presscouncils.eu/>

08.02. Web Page

- The web page – www.pccsl.lk – was updated. Following requests from editors, the PCCSL will up link the following documents; articles pertaining to the print media industry both locally and abroad, the Annual Reports, the Editors' Code, Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and the Complaint Form. The Annual Report contains the Annual Review (CEO's Report), messages from the Chairman, Board of Directors and the Chairman of the DRC and all charts that are relevant to the Annual Review.

09. Awareness and other programmes

09.01. Awareness Programmes with publishers, editors, journalists and provincial correspondents (update)

- The PCCSL conducted a total of 15 meetings with 60 publishers, Editors, Desk Heads, sub editors and journalists. (Please see awareness chart).

09.02. Awareness programmes with civil society

- The PCCSL, in spite of the lockdown, made positive headway by meeting 203 members representing various sections of civil society at 09 meetings. 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. In addition, the PCCSL also met 105 students at 11 meetings and 122 youths at three programmes. The role of the PCCSL, Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and the Editors' Code were explained. (Please see awareness chart).

09.03: PCCSL and RTI

- PCCSL Sinhala Complaints Officer Kamal Liyanaraachchi gives technical support to Right To Information Project by advising on application process, writing articles and support to the RTI Journalist Forum.

09.04: PCCSL and Election Monitoring

- A survey of print-media coverage given for political parties – Political stories (news/features) published were measured in column/centimetre (height multiplied by width) including headline, text, with or without photographs and caption appearing on page one and the Editorial page in the Sinhala, Tamil and English language stream newspapers in relation to coverage of political party rallies, their candidates and press conferences held by them in respect of the parliamentary election. They were graded under two categories views and news which were further divided into supporting, opposing or neutral. By this it could be observed whether newspapers are biased towards a political party or balanced in their coverage. The exercise commenced on July 01 and lasted until August 11.
- A Webinar 'Tackling Fake News during Elections.' The resource people were Shihar Anees, Media Expert and moderated by Kamal. There were 21 participants comprising journalists.
- A Webinar 'Election reporting and journalist safety.' The resource people were Dr. Thilanga Ruwanpathirana, Consultant Epidemiology, Ministry of Health and moderated by Kamal. There were 20 participants.

09.05: PCCSL and Media Salon Project

- Two webinars were conducted on "Stress and Mental Health: Reporting in a time of pandemic," in Sinhala and Tamil languages for a total of 68 participants comprising journalists from the electronic and print media, students and others. The third and fourth were "Future of Print Media in the face of a pandemic", conducted in Sinhala and Tamil over two days with 59 participants comprising journalists from the electronic and print media, students and others.

09.06: PCCSL and Fact Checking

Technical support by way of advice to help identify fake news and how to create the correct content were explained through several events identifying fake news. This project was assisted by Kamal.

10. AGM, Board meetings and PCCSL Secretariat

- The PCCSL Board of Directors continued to meet once a month. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in the SLPI Auditorium following health guidelines on October 07, 2020.
- **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. Frank de Soysa (nominee of the Free Media Movement), Mr. Manik de Silva (nominee of the SLPI), Mr. Lasantha de Silva (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.

11. 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 Annual Report is available on the PCCSL web page: www.pccsl.lk.
- The Press Complaints Commission comprises in addition to the CEO, Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi, Complaints Officer.

Sukumari Rockwood
Chief Executive Officer

Complaints received from January to December 2020

January 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/01/2020	Jan. 01, 2020	Mr. T. Piyadasa, 'Sisira' Shripathi Mawatha, Wathugedara.	No Newspaper	It is about Political harassment in 1977. Reply to Complainant Jan. 02, 2020. Complaint does not fall within purview of PCCL. It is not a valid complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/01/2020	Jan. 21, 2020	Mr. A. M. Lakshman Adikari, Chairman, Urban Council, Kuliypitiya, Kuliypitiya.	Mawbima	Dec. 13, 2019 an incorrect story was published concerning the quality of the drinking water in Kuliypitiya and illegal projects ongoing in the town. Dec. 22, 2019 replied to complainant with Complaint Form and called for details. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/01/2020	Jan. 22, 2020	Ven, Thiththagalle Ananda Thera, Ven, Dehiwala Sunanda Thera, Howpekanda, Thiththagalla, Ahangama.	Neth FM	January 12, 20 Night 'Sith Neth Asapuwa' Programme, aired some incorrect information. It was an insult to the Ven Thero's. Jan. 23 replied to complainant explaining PCCSL process and forwarded complaint to the TV Station concerned. Complaint does not fall within the mandate of the PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE

February 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/02/2020	Feb. 06, 2020	Dr. Douglas King	Daily Mirror	Complained over telephone concerning erroneous comment to the question who killed Jesus? Said to forward documents. Received Feb. 18 without newspaper clipping dated December 19, 2019. He is commenting on a phrase in an article, 'Christ's call from the cross when he was crucified by misguided Jews.' He took offense at the phrase. It is not a valid complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/02/2020	Feb. 24, 2020	Members, Varaiyarukkappatta Eluvaitivu Gramasakthi Makkal Sangam, Kayts	Valampuri	Complaint sent via email from Jaffna Office. Complaint concerns newspaper publishing an article concerning a priest attempting to close the Muruga Moorthy School in Ezuvaitheevu. Some of the organisation representatives went to see the editor concerning the complaint. It developed into an argument with the editor attempting to assault them with his helmet. Complained to Kayts Police who came and inquired. The article could create discomfort between the Christians and Hindus request a clarification. Received Complaint Form and complaint. Request via email Jaffna office for newspaper clipping of article. On Feb. 25. Received Feb. 27. Spoke to complainant March 02 told him to get a letter from the Principal refuting the allegation and forward to PCCSL. Complaint did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/02/2020	Feb. 26, 2020	Mr. Fazel Hussain, Wellawaatte	Daily Mirror	Complainant called in with complaint. Newspaper has published incorrect story concerning Muslim clerics visit to Sri Lanka. He said it is all false. Emailed (faizel.hussain@hotmail.com) Complaint Form and procedure to register complaint. Newspaper publishers 'Correction' on Feb. 26, 2020.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/02/2020	Feb. 26, 2020	Mr. Fazel Hussain, Wellawaatte	Lankadeepa	Complainant called in with complaint. Newspaper has published incorrect story concerning Muslim clerics visit to Sri Lanka. He said it is all false. Emailed Complaint Form and procedure to register complaint. RoR published on March 03.	RESOLVED

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/03/2020	March 02, 2020	Mr. Neville Kroon, Colombo	Dinamina	Complaint received via email. It concerns an inaccurate article published about him appearing in the newspaper. Spoke to complainant March 02 and emailed documents requested from him. Received Complaint Form March 03. Complaint concerns article "Judo Association election of Office Bearers" and "Judo elections held in the absence of Elections Committee." Both appeared in Dinamina of Jan. 24 and Feb. 26, 2020. Called June 08 to check on progress. Require RoR in Sinhala received in English. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/03/2020	March 03, 2020	Mr. Rathnapala Rajapaksha, Weherayaya, Athiliwawa.	Not concerning a newspaper	It is not a complaint because it does not concern published material. The complainant wanted to publish an article concerning development.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/03/03/2020	March 03, 2020	Mr. S. P. Weerasekara, Chairman, Parama Vinatha Buddhist Society, Colombo 11.	Mawbima	Newspaper published incorrect name of chairman. There is also a court case concerning the office bearers. Wrote to complainant on March 04 saying that since it is before courts it cannot be handled by the PCCSL.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/04/03/2020	March 04, 2020	Ven, Kaluwachchimulle Dhamarakkitha Thero, Chief Incumbant of the Sri Subadhrarama Temple, Puruduwella, Kudawewa.	Concerning all newspapers	It is not a complaint because it does not concern published material. Complaint concerns newspapers not publishing his articles.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/05/03/2020	March 06, 2020	Mr. Vijitha Wijewardene, Trade Union Collective, Sri Lanka Electricity Company Ltd, Ja Ela.	Lankadeepa	News item on Smart Meters published March 03. The information concerning the General Manager is incorrect. Complaint Form forwarded to complainant March 06. Complainant did not want to proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/03/2020	March 12, 2020	Ms. R. M. Jeewanthi Herath, Sempathigama, Nannapurawa, Bibile.	Not concerning newspaper	Complaint concerns husband's pension. He was a member of the Civil Defense Force until his death. Not a valid complaint.	DISMISSED

PCCSL/07/03/2020	March 27, 2020	Mr. Rakhitha Hemawardana	Mawbima	Sent via email. Incorrect fake news concerning his business, that he has played out people and is into wheeler-deals. Sent Complaint Form and other documents to PCCSL..Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/03/2020	March 28, 2020	Mr. Sawmeer Khan Kandy	Derena TV	Sent via email and called. The TV Channel is saying that the Corona Virus was brought to the country by Muslims. The Red Mosque in Colombo had prayers on March 13 and they are spreading the corona virus. To this date (March 27) those who prayed at the Mosque have not been reported positive with corona virus. Two weeks incubation period also completed. This is incorrect and misleading. It is fake news and dangerous. Spoke to him and said complaint is outside the PCCSL process but will forward it to Derena TV.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/09/03/2020	March 30, 2020	Mr. Uwais Niyaz, Colombo	Derena TV	Sent via email and called. The TV Channel is saying that the Corona Virus was brought to the country by Muslims. This is incorrect and misleading. It is fake news and dangerous. Spoke to him and said complaint is outside the PCCSL process but will forward it to Derena TV.	OUT OF MANDATE

March 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

April 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

Total number of complaints received	Total: 02 (S-01 T-00, E-00, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	00
Resolved	00
Complainant did not proceed	00
No response from	00

Editor	
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	02
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/04/2020	April 26, 2020	Mr. S. Vivekananthan, Vavuniya	Newsvanni.com and tnvi.lk (online newspaper)	Complaint received via email. Complainant states that story is incorrect. They have also published his photograph along with the bags of rice marked with the old price prior to government bringing a sealing on the price of rice. Complaint not against a newspaper. Out of PCCSL mandate. Clarified whether he has a complaint against the Valampuri newspaper since he had mentioned it. If so called for documents.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/02/04/2020	April 21, 2020	Secretary, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL)	Aruna	Complaint is on behalf of an Officer of HRCSL attached to Anuradhapura. On April 16 a journalist of the said newspaper had called him and had spoken in a harsh manner. Complaint is against the behaviour of a journalist. Out of PCCSL mandate.	OUT OF MANDATE

May 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

Total number of complaints received	Total: 10 (S-09 T-00, E-00, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	04
Resolved	04
Complainant did not proceed	00
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	06
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	03
Dismissed	02

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/05/2020	May 11, 2020	Dr. S. Raviraj, Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna	Online newspaper JVPnews.com (Tamil)	ONLINE newspaper has published an incorrect story concerning COVID-19 PCR test contaminating the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna on May 07. Dr. Kumarendran (0777-277552) spoke to me on behalf of the Dean concerning story. Emailed copy of article and letter in English. Spoke to COVID-19 Fact Team (Maneesha). Complaint is outside of PCCSL mandate. Yarl Thinakkural has published a correction of the incorrect online newspaper story.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/02/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (13.3.202	Mr. P. K. D. S. Karunanayake, Peradeniya	Maubima	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. News concerning charges at medical centre. An	SUBJUDICE

	0)			employee was arrested. Spoke to complainant May29. There is a pending court case against employee of the centre.	
PCCSL/03/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (13.3.2020)	Mr. P. K. D. S. Karunanayake, Peradeniya	Ada	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. News concerning charges at medical centre. An employee was arrested. Spoke to complainant May29. There is a pending court case against employee of the centre.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/04/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (13.3.2020)	Mr. P. K. D. S. Karunanayake, Peradeniya	Lankadeepa	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. News concerning charges at medical centre. An employee was arrested. Spoke to complainant May29. There is a pending court case against employee of the centre.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/05/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (5.3.2020)	Mr. M. J. Chandrasiri Pannipitiya	Lankadeepa	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. Complaint concerns coconut prices not published in newspaper on Friday. Wrote to complainant and sent copy to editor.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/06/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (12.3.2020)	Mr. Asoka Wijesekera, Wanduramba	Irida Lankadeepa (Lahipita Section)	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. Complaint concerns non publication of advertisement.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/07/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (4.5.2020)	Mr. Daniel Christoffer, Hatton	Divaina	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. April 30 story says he has died and his body was at the funeral parlour. He is not dead and very much alive. Published apology.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/08/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (4.5.2020)	Mr. Daniel Christoffer, Hatton	Maubima	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. April 30 story says he has died and his body was at the funeral parlour. He is not dead and very much alive. Published apology.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/09/05/2020	May 27, 2020 (4.5.2020)	Mr. Daniel Christoffer, Hatton	Lankadeepa	Due to COVID-19 lock down postal services were restored on May 27, 2020. April 30 story says he has died and his body was at the funeral parlour. He is not dead and very much alive. Published apology.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/10/05/2020	May 29, 2020	Mr. K. P. Sirimal, Grama Niladhari, Hiripitiya, Homagama	Aruna Web Page	On the Online Edition incorrect news concerning people waiting in queue for the Rs. 5,000 payment. Grama Niladhari avoids them. He says he was at the Divisional Secretary at a meeting on that day. Forwarded to editor June 24. Spoke to both editor and news editor June 26. Re. forwarded to editor June 30.	RESOLVED

June 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/06/2020	June 03, 2020	Mr. H. M. S. A. Piyasena, Mihintale	Mawbima	Incorrect story published in newspaper concerning land. Received Complaint Form and relevant documents. Forwarded to editor June 24. Reminder sent July 29. Received letter from editor Sept. 25, 2020 standing by article and giving reasons. Forwarded to complainant Sept. 29. Complainant replied Oct. 20 insisting that he is correct. Forwarded to Editor Feb. 24, 2021. Reminded Editor March 10, 2021. Editor did not Proceed.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/02/06/2020	June 24, 2020	Dr. D. M. U. C. B. Dhanapala, DMO, Divisional Hospitaal, Hemmathagama	Neth FM	Called twice gave details explained process. Documents received. Complaint does not fall within mandate of PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/03/06/2020	June 25, 2020	Dr. Selvadurai Rameshkumar, Homeopathic doctor, Dompe	Neth FM	Called in and complained. Sent documents to fill and send also explained process. Received documents. Complaint does not fall within mandate of PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/04/06/2020	June 25, 2020	Mr. Vipula Gamini Peiris, Wellawa	No newspaper	Complaint has copied letter sent to President to PCCSL concerning land issue. Complaint does not fall within purview of the PCCSL. Wrote and informed complainant	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/05/06/2020	June 29, 2020	Mrs. H. P. Hettiarachchi, Urugasmanhandiya	Mawbima	Complainant's husband and two children were killed by an underworld gang. Lankadeepa had reported the correct story but Mawbima has given a wrong story. Wrote to complainant calling for Complaint Form and documents. Received complaint attempts to clarify RoR proved fruitless. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

July 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
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PCCSL/01/07/2020	July 9, 2020	Dr. Buddika Vittahachchi, Maharagama	Neth FM	Dr. Rameshkumar's interview on Neth FM is incorrect. He is also not a registered Homeopathy doctor. Complaint is against a colleague.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/07/2020	July 11, 2020	Mr. D. G. P. A. Asela, Rajawella, Digana	Lankadeepa	Telephoned in complaint that an incorrect report concerning his brother has been published in the newspaper. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/07/2020	July 14, 2020	Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya, Commissioner-General, Prisons Department, Colombo	Lankadeepa	Two incorrect stories. One concerned a woman inmate of Angunukolapalassa Prison getting a fan and the other was that 61 Prisons Intelligence Officers have been absorbed into other prison activities. Documents received were incomplete spoke to him and got the copies of documents sent direct to newspaper. Spoke to editor and Right of Readers published. Right of Readers published July 16.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/07/2020	July 21, 2020	Mr. Priyantha Gamaage, Attorney-at-Law, Colombo 3	Hiru TV	Incorrect story concerning a block of land has been aired. Complaint is out of the mandate of the PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE

August 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/08/2020	Aug. 10, 2020	Mrs. S. Balachandran, Jaffna	Uthayan	Received complaint via Jaffna Office. Complaint involves father's unruly behaviour. After clarification from Jaffna Office, spoke to editor on Aug. 13. He said there is a police case, police have filed a case. Unable to carry RoR until case is concluded. Complaint is before Courts.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/02/08/2020	Aug. 14, 2020	Mr. W. M. Wijesiri Bandara, Bibile	Lankadeepa	Story concerning three-wheeler accident. Called for Complaint Form and details of complaint to verify details since it is a court case. Received clarification and published.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/08/2020	Aug. 17, 2020	Dr. Senal Fernando, Secretary, GMOA, Colombo	Aruna daily	Inaccurate news constantly published in newspaper. More recently on August 11, 2020 concerning Dr. Padaniya. Received complaint Aug. 19 and wrote to complainant Aug.21 calling for	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR

				documents. Received documents Sept. 02. Tried calling complainant concerning clarification no response. Sent a letter on Sept. 04. Clarification received Sept. 14. Forwarded to editor Sept. 15. Called several times. No action taken by editor to resolve complaint.	
PCCSL/04/08/2020	Aug. 17, 2020	Mr. M. Chandra, Kengalla, Kandy	Not concerning any newspaper	Complaint concerning deteriorating public service and public servants. Complaint is not valid since it does not concern an error in a newspaper published.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/05/08/2020	Aug. 28, 2020	Mr. Sudath Perera Associates (Attorney-at-Law) on behalf of Mr. E. J. Gnanam, Colombo	Iskuruppuane.lk	Carrying story of Mr. Gnanam being involved in illegal saffron imports along with Secretary to President Dr. P. B. Jayasundere. Third party complaint. Requested an authorization letter from complainant (Mr. Gnanam) to Attorney Sudath Perera to look into the matter. Received letter. Since it is concerning social media and PCCSL handles print complaints, it is not within the mandate of the PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/06/08/2020	Aug. 28, 2020	Mr. Sudath Perera Associates (Attorney-at-Law) on behalf of Mr. E. J. Gnanam, Colombo	Colomboxnews.com	Carrying story of Mr. Gnanam being involved in illegal saffron imports along with Secretary to President Dr. P. B. Jayasundere. Third party complaint. Requested an authorization letter from complainant (Mr. Gnanam) to Attorney Sudath Perera to look into the matter. Received letter. This case too, PCCSL cannot handle, however, wrote to the News Website with copy of letter sent by complainant to look into the matter. Complaint is outside PCCSL process.	OUT OF MANDATE

September 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

Total number of complaints received	Total: 10 (S-06, T-03, E-01, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	08
Resolved	03
Complainant did not proceed	04
No response from Editor	01 (Daily Mirror)
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	00
Sub-judice	01
Dismissed	01

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/09/2020	Sept. 04, 2020	Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya, Commissioner-General of	Lankadeepa	Illicit distilling of kassippu during COVID-19 lock down inside the Magazine Prison, Colombo. Incorrect story. Sent clarification along with Complaint Form on Sept. 02.	RESOLVED

		Prisons Department, Colombo.		Forwarded to Editor Sept. 04. RoR published August 24.	
PCCSL/02/09/2020	Sept. 07, 2020	Mr. S. M. C. Gunaratne, Pradeshiya Secretary, Thunpane Pradeshiya Secretariat.	Dinamina	The people of Galagedera are facing difficulties since officers are not available during officer hours. Complaint Form and relevant documents received. Complainant says story is incorrect. Forwarded to editor Sept. 08. Spoke to Editor and reminded. RoR published March 26, 2021.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/09/2020	Sept. 14, 2020	School Protection Society, Ragala Primary School, Ragala	Mawbima	Complaint against Principal of Ragala Primary School. It does not concern an incorrect story. Not a valid complaint	DISMISSED
PCCSL/04/09/2020	Sept. 15, 2020	Mr. A. Saravanabavan, Secretary, Hatton-Dikoya Urban Council.	Tamil Mirror	Published news item about an abortion on lady officer, on Aug. 08. Wrote to complainant calling for more details and sent Complaint Form on Sept. 15. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/09/2020	Sept. 17, 2020	Mr. Sampath Liyanage, President, Pallepola Co-op Society, Pallepola	Ada	Story about misappropriation of funds belonging to the Matale Co-op Society. Incorrect story. Complaint forwarded to Chairman, Wijeya Newspapers Ltd with copy to Editor and PCCSL. Spoke to Editor. Correction carried Sept. 18.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/06/09/2020	Sept. 21, 2020	Mr. Anuradha Chandrasekera, Prison Guard, Pallekelle	Lankadeepa	Visited PCCSL to clarify, how to make a complaint? Complaint is regarding an inaccurate story where he has been named. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/09/2020	Sept. 23, 2020	Mr. Lalith Wijayarathne, Director Colombo Metro Region, Urban Development Authority, Colombo	Daily Mirror	Complainant says a wrong statement has been attributed to him in his story to newspaper. Complaint received Sept. 23 along with RoR. Spoke to complainant and forwarded via email Complaint Form also on Sept. 23. Received via email Sept. 24. Forwarded to Editor Sept. 25 after talking to him. Editor did not proceed.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/08/09/2020	Sept. 23, 2020	Mr. Hameed Mohamed Saibo, Bogahakumbura, Haputale	Virakesari	Complainant has sent a letter of Demand to newspaper and has filed a case in the Welimada Courts. Proxy was filed on Sept. 24, 2020. Spoke to Virakesari Attorney who said the story does not give any clues to identify the man – name, address – except that he is a Muslim. No grounds for defamation. Answer will be filed in January 2021. Case is pending in courts.	SUBJUDICE
PCCSL/09/09/2020	Sept. 28, 2020	Mr. R. Jeyakumar, Jaffna Inuvil Hindu College, Inuvil, Jaffna.	Yarl Thinakkural	Complaint forwarded by Shirani from Jaffna Office. Complainant states that story is incorrect, in that, he had requested a transfer and not that the parents, teachers and students requested his transfer. He was former Principal of Kapilan Vigneswaran Maha Vidyalaya, Uduvil, Jaffna. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

PCCSL/10/09/2020	Sept. 30, 2020	IP E. M. Sanjeeva Mahanama, OIC Anuradhapura Police Station.	Divaina	Complainant said article about four students going missing from school is a fabricated story and is untrue. Called for Complaint Form. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
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October 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

Total number of complaints received	Total: 09 (S-06, T-01, E-01, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	07
Resolved	04
Complainant did not proceed	03
No response from Editor	00
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	00
Sub-judice	01
Dismissed	01

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/10/2020	Oct. 08 2020	Mr. Chamara Sampath MP, SLPP Badulla District.	Mawbima	Complained about Oct. 06 article where some politicians have attacked the Principal of Lunugala School. Complainant's name also mentioned in article. Officials called PCCSL and discussed the complaint. Clarification sent direct to Editor Oct. 08. Clarification published on Oct. 09. Inform Complainant same day.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/10/2020	Oct. 08, 2020	Mr. Chamara Sampath MP, SLPP Badulla District.	Divaina	Complained about Oct. 06 article where some politicians have attacked the Principal of Lunugala School. Complainant's name also mentioned in article. Officials called PCCSL and discussed the complaint. Clarification sent direct to Editor Oct. 08. Clarification published on Oct. 09. Inform Complainant same day.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/10/2020	Oct. 09, 2020	Mr. Menaka Wimalarathna, Chairman Pradeshiya Sabha, Beruwela	Lankadeepa	Complaint received via fax. Complainant called PCCSL and explained process. Called for documents. Received complaint about mention of LG member as a relative of drug dealer. Copy sent to Lankadeepa Oct. 09. Clarification published Oct. 10. Inform complainant.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/10/2020	Oct. 14, 2020	Mr. A. Alagesar, Post Master, Post Office Lindula	Mawbima	Complaint through OIC Lindula Police Station, CI Ranjith. Complainant called me. Explained process and sms, email and website for Complaint Form. Await documents. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/10/2020	Oct. 14, 2020	Mr. A. Alagesar, Post Master, Post Office Lindula	Tamilmirror	Complaint through OIC Lindula Police Station, CI Ranjith. Complainant called me. Explained process and sms, email and website for Complaint Form. Await documents. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/10/2020	Oct. 14, 2020	Ms. S. C. Chandini Abekeerthi, Assistant Director, Zonal Education office,	Mawbima	Complainant called PCCSL concerning incorrect publication on Oct. 14. The complaint is before Ja Ela Courts. Explained PCCSL process.	SUBJUDICE

		Negambo.			
PCCSL/07/10/2020	Oct. 19, 2020	Mr. D. K. Keerthithissa, Secretary, Sri Lanka United Gampatha Grama Niladhari Society Kandy	Lankadeepa	Complaint concerns Galagedera Pradeshiya Sabha. Await relevant documents. Received documents but not Complaint Form. Reminded complainant. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/10/2020	Oct. 12, 2020	Mr. M. Chandran, Kandy	No newspaper	Complainant says that letters to government officials are not replied and that this is 'bad' practice and shows how disorganized the public sector is. Not a valid complaint concerning a newspaper.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/09/10/2020	Oct. 26, 2020	Prof. (Ms.) Deepika Udagama, former Chairperson, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Colombo	Daily Mirror	Email copy of complaint to PCCSL. Complaint against Oct. 14 article reflecting negatively on the role of the chairperson. Spoke to Editor. Editor replied to complainant by email copied to PCCSL on Oct. 27 and Oct. 29. Editor is inquiring into the matter. Complainant awaits Editor's response. Editor apologizes to complainant.	RESOLVED

November 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

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

Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/11/2020	Nv. 15, 2020	Mr. Vasantha Chadrapala, Media Secretary, Ministry of Forestry	Lankadeepa	Publishing incorrect articles concerning Minister. Explained PCCSL process and called for documents. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/11/2020	Nov. 20, 2020	Dr. Asela K. Disanayake, Director, General Hospital, Matale.	Mawbima	Incorrect story published in newspaper on Nov. 13, 2020. Documents not received. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

December 2020

Summary of complaints received by PCCSL

Total number of complaints received	Total: 12 (S-05, T-03, E-01, O-03)
VALID COMPLAINTS	08
Resolved	01
Complainant did not proceed	06
No response from Editor	01 (Divaina)
INVALID COMPLAINTS	04
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00

Dismissed	03
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Complaints received by PCCSL

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Position
PCCSL/01/12/2020	Nov. 23, 2020	Mr. M. Chandran, Kengalla, Kandy	No newspaper	Sent several letters to Presidents' of Sri Lanka between 11.4.1997 and 29.6.2020. In all 27 letters sent concerning the attitude of public servants. Not a valid complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/12/2020	Dec. 05, 2020	Email complaint: veeff2010@gmail.com	Uthayan	Complaint called and emailed complaint. Insufficient details and complaint process not followed to inquire. Concerning Nov. 20 publication where a man addicted to alcohol and committing suicide because of wrong report. Called for more information. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/03/12/2020	Dec. 05, 2020	Email complaint: veeff2010@gmail.com	Valampuri	Complaint called and emailed complaint. Insufficient details and complaint process not followed to inquire. Concerning Nov. 20 publication where a man addicted to alcohol and committing suicide because of wrong report. Called for more information. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/04/12/2020	Dec. 06, 2020	Mr. Rakhitha Hemawardana, Colombo	No newspaper	Complaint via email concerning Facebook containing incorrect business information about him. He has requested Facebook to remove content but nothing has happened. Informed him that it is out of PCCSL mandate.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/05/12/2020	Dec. 09, 2020	Mr. J. C. Ranepura, Deputy District Secretary, District Secretariat, Kandy	Irida Lankadeepa	Nov. 08 Irida Lankadeepa published incorrect article about a village neglected by public officials. Spoke with Divisional Secretary, Clarification Published November 29, 2020.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/06/12/2020	Dec. 15, 2020	Mrs. M. Dayabaran, Chief Engineer, Vavuniya Area, Ceylon Electricity Board.	Thinakkural	Article published in the Thinakkural newspaper of Dec. 01 is incorrect since the power cut in Vavuniya during the Heroes's celebration was not intentional as the story says. The story adds that due to the power cut it helped them light oil lamps to mark the occasion. Emailed Complaint Form await response. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/12/2020	Dec. 16, 2020	Amal, Kandy	The Sunday Times	Story incorrect. Await details. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/12/2020	Dec. 16, 2020	Mr. N. M. S. U. Kumara, Kahatuduwa	Irida Lankadeepa (Lahipita)	Misleading vehicle advertisement. Called them and told them not to mislead people.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/09/12/2020	Dec. 20, 2021	Mr. Kalenther Lebbe Mohamed Raeez, Kalmunai-09	Divaina	Article is defamatory. Spoke with complainant on December 20 and discussed clarification. Clarification in Sinhala received December 24, but not clear. Again spoke with complainant and helped him draft clarification. Sunday, December 27 received final clarification. Forwarded to Editor December 30, 2020. Reminder forwarded Jan. 13, and March 03 spoke and emailed RoR again. Editor did not proceed.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/10/12/2020	Dec. 23, 2020	Mrs. Sugandika Wijesinghe, Ratmalana	ITN	Complaint is against a TV station publishing a story with photographs. She had appealed to them not to film the house	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

				that was rented to an NGO, which the police had come to inquire but put the story and images of the house. Called for documents not received and complainant said did not want to proceed	
PCCSL/11/12/2020	Dec. 23, 2020	Mr. M. G. Francis de Silva, Ambalangoda	Sinhala language newspapers	Newspapers do not report important stories and do not keep abreast with news on TV. He was commenting on Ven. Galboda Gnanissa Thera's interview to Siyatha TV which newspapers should have picked up. Explained PCCSL process. Complaint is not valid.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/12/12/2020	Dec. 23, 2020	Dr. Malakasiri Chandrakumara, Medical Officer of Health, Ambalantota	Lankadeepa	Incorrect story published in newspaper on Dec. 14. Complaint regarding misquoted MOH statement published December 14, 2020. Spoke with office to send complaint form. Not received. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Category and status of complaints received in 2020

Month	Language/Total	Valid complaint	Resolved	Complainant did not proceed	No response from Editor	Invalid complaint	Out of Mandate	Subjudice	Dismissed
January	S-01, T-00, E-00, O-02 = Total- 03	01	00	01	00	02	01	00	01
February	S-01, T-01, E-02, O-00 = Total- 04	03	02	01	00	01	00	00	01
March	S-04, T-00, E-00, O-03 = Total- 07	03	00	03	00	06	02	01	03
April	S-01, T-00, E-00, O-01 = Total- 02	00	00	00	00	02	02	00	00
May	S-09, T-00, E-00, O-01 = Total- 10	04	04	00	00	06	01	03	02
June	S-02, T-00, E-00, O-03 = Total- 05	02	00	01	01 (Mawbima)	03	03	00	00
July	S-03, T-00, E-00, O-01 = Total- 04	02	01	01	00	02	01	00	01
August	S-02, T-01, E-00, O-03 = Total- 06	02	01	00	01 (Aruna)	04	02	01	01
September	S-06, T-03, E-01, O-00 = Total- 10	08	03	04	01 (Daily Mirror)	02	00	01	01
October	S-06, T-01, E-01, O-01 = Total- 09	07	04	03	00	02	00	01	01
November	S-02, T-00, E-00, O-00 = Total- 02	02	00	02	00	00	00	00	00
December	S-05, T-03, E-01, O-03 = Total- 12	08	01	06	01 (Divaina)	04	01	00	03
Total	S-42, T-09, E-05, O-20 = Total 76	42	16	22	04	34	13	07	14

Complaint chart: 2003 – 2020

Year	2003/04	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Language																		
Sinhala	129	68	96	93	72	72	53	68	87	101	167	87	87	76	48	56	42	1402
Tamil	21	23	8	17	3	12	33	21	42	33	47	20	15	18	14	5	9	341
English	31	20	20	25	18	31	22	20	29	15	70	17	17	9	12	12	5	373
Other	0	0	0	26	0	7	23	15	18	14	7	18	14	13	5	10	20	190
Total	181	111	124	161	93	122	131	124	176	163	291	142	133	116	79	83	76	2306
Validity of complaint																		
Valid complaint	152	104	87	135	62	70	82	70	131	122	254	85	83	76	60	54	42	1669
Invalid complaint	29	7	37	26	31	52	49	54	45	41	37	57	50	40	19	29	34	637
Status																		
Resolved	49	26	7	32	27	34	38	37	73	58	192	38	29	29	33	20	16	738
Out of mandate	29	7	37	26	23	42	46	39	39	20	23	40	26	21	6	13	13	450
Complainant did not proceed	0	0	0	0	27	25	26	22	49	51	56	46	49	36	21	29	22	459
No response from Editor	0	0	0	0	8	11	3	11	9	13	6	1	3	11	6	5	4	91
Subjudice	0	0	0	0	8	10	3	15	6	21	14	17	20	7	0	9	7	137
Closed/Dismissed	103	78	80	103	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	13	7	14	431

Activities 2020

January 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Jan. 13, 2020	Youth, Local Government officials and Sarvodaya officials for Puttalam District.	Sarvodaya Regional Centre, Puttalam	43	22	21	S	It was a Right To Information event where PCCSL had the opportunity to talk about the activities of the PCCSL and how the complaint process works. Conducted by Kamal.
Jan. 28, 2020	Youth, Local Government officials and Sarvodaya officials for Kurunegala District.	Sarvodaya Regional Centre, Kurunegala	53	30	23	S	It was a Right To Information event where PCCSL had the opportunity to talk about the activities of the PCCSL and how the complaint process works. Conducted by Kamal.

February 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Feb. 05, 2020	Mr. Sadeesh Krishnapillai, News Editor Tamil Services, SLBC	In office	01	01	00	E	Explained Editors' Code and how it is applied to stories.
Feb. 11, 2020	Mr. Bert Reubsaet, Director SAN International B.V., Netherlands	In office	01	01	00	E	Inquired about PCCSL and how it works? Explained and spoke about the Editors' Code.
Feb. 12, 2020	Ms. C. Kishani of Ratnapura and Mr. R. M. Azeem of Oddamavadi both students at the SLCJ	In office	02	01	01	E/T	Introduced the PCCSL and explained the use of the Editors' Code.
Feb. 24, 2020	Three Journalism Diploma candidates	In SLCJ classroom	03	00	03	E	Introduced Editors' Code and spoke on PCCSL followed by exercises understanding the Code.

March 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
March 03, 2020	Diploma students (Sinhala Medium)	SLCJ	13	04	09	S	Introduced PCCSL, how complaints are entertained and Editors' Code.

April 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
April 06, 2020	Ms. Lesley Abdela, media specialist on gender issues. Organised by Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum and two others.	At home via skype call	03	00	03	E	Editors' Code explained and how gender issues are handled. Discussed the Women's Charter as well.
April 17, 2020	Ms. Zahrah Imtiaz, Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum	At home on mobile telephone	01	00	01	E	Explained Editors' Code and how PCCSL works. Talked about journalists integrity and importance of accurate reporting, correct authentic sourcing.
April 27, 2020	SLCJ students and public islandwide on COVID-19 and themedia	Through Zoom	60	35	25	S/E	Introduced PCCSL. Explained Editors' Code and its application. Kamal helped in Sinhala. Also discussed online incorrect information.

May 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
May 03, 2020	Zoom meeting to mark World Press Freedom Day with journalists and civil society	Island wide	48	45	03	S/E	Gave introduction to PCCSL, explained process and importance of code. Kamal spoke in Sinhala. The moderator was Mr. Davidl.
May 13, 2020	Zoom meeting on the future of the print industry. Discussion involved journalists of SLCJ.	Island wide	32	28	04	T	Followed discussion. Moderator Mr. Manivanan, lecturer SLCJ, Mr. Senthil Nathan, COO Express Newspapers and Mr. P. Mathanavasan, Editor Tamil Mirror.
May 22, 2020	Journalist, online discussion	Island wide	17	12	05	S/E	Application of Editors' Code when reporting stories concerning COVID-19 pandemic.
May 31, 2020	Editor/ Director Editorial	Mawbima newspaper Editorial	02	02	0	S	Ethical violation of code of practice regarding use of photos of suicide reporting.
May 31, 2020	Editors	Five Sinhala language daily newspapers	05	05	0	S	Thanking letter for observing Editors' Code in coverage of suicide story and photographs.

June 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
June 17, 2020	Ms. Dinithi Wijesinghe, Journalist, the Sunday Morning	Over mobile	01	00	01	E	Inquiries were made concerning suicide reporting and what the Editors' Code states.
June 21, 2020	College student-weekend course	Online (Webinar)	07	05	02	S	Fact checking and Ethics. Conducted by Kamal.
June 22, 2020	College Students	Online (Webinar)	12	07	05	S	Fact checking and Ethics. Conducted by Kamal.
June 30, 2020	Mr. Rathindra Kuruwita, journalist, The Island	In Office	01	01	00	E	Spoke about successors of PCCSL; Reporting of suicide, rape, reference to race and identification of relatives of crime.

July 2020

Nil

August 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Aug. 10, 2020	Ms. Anisha Dias Bandaranaike Research Assistant	In PCCSL	01	00	01	E	Explained process to resolve a complaint through; conciliation, mediation and arbitration.
Aug. 24, 2020	Ms. Francis Bulathsinhala, lecturer at Open University of Sri Lanka	At OUSL	01	00	01	E	Interested to know the PCCSL process of resolving complaints – self-regulation and the application of the Editors' Code.

September 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Sept. 10, 2020	Ms. Sulochana Perera, Program Manager, Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum (SDJF) and Ms. Yamini Perera, Project Officer SDJF	In PCCSL office	02	00	02	E	Discussed PCCSL process in problem solving and application of Editors' Code. They spoke about Gender Charter.
Sept. 08, 2020	Met Mr. Sisira Paranatantri, Director Editorial, Mawbima, Mr. Jayanta Sri Nissanka, Editor Ceylon Today and Mr. Benetter Rupesinghe, Editor Mawbima.	In there Office	03	03	00	E/S	Promoting J Awards 2019. Spoke about importance of supporting self regulation and the Editors' Code. Replies to complaints made to PCCSL must be prompt.
Sept. 15, 2020	Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Editor Lankadeepa, Mr. Mohanlal Piyadaasa, Chief Sub Editor Deshaya, Mr. Ranjith Ananda Jayasinghe, Editor Deshaya, Mr. Nisthar Cassim, Editor Daily FT, Mr. Anthony David, Deputy Editor The Sunday Times, Mr. Premakeerthi	In there Office	09	09	00	E/S	Promoting J Awards 2019. Spoke about importance of supporting self regulation and the Editors' Code. Replies to complaints made to PCCSL must be prompt.

	Ranatunga, Deputy Editor Irida Lankadeepa, Mr. Prasanna Sanjeewa Tennakoon, Features Editor and Mr. Dayasiri Liyanage, News Editor, Irida Lankadeepa.						
Sept. 15, 2020	Mr. Dharman Wickremaratne, Editor Silumina, Mr. Rodney Martenstyn, Deputy Editor Daily News, Mr. Janaka Ranatunga, Director, Finance, ANCL on behalf of Chairman.	In there Office	03	03	00	E/S	Promoting J Awards 2019. Spoke about importance of supporting self regulation and the Editors' Code. Replies to complaints made to PCCSL must be prompt.
Sept. 16, 2020	Mr. Mahinda Ilayaperuma, Editor Sathi Aga Aruna, Ms. Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema, Editor The Sunday Morning, Mr. R. Sivarajah, Editor, Thamilan and Mr. Kulasiri Kariyawasam, Editor, Aruna daily.	In there Office	04	03	01	E/S	Promoting J Awards 2019. Spoke about importance of supporting self regulation and the Editors' Code. Replies to complaints made to PCCSL must be prompt.
Sept. 30, 2020	Mr. Janaka Prabath Rupasinghe, Programme Manager, YARL TV, a branch of DAN TV.	In Office	01	01	00	E/S	Inquired about Editors' Code. Explained it and its use and along with it the custodian – PCCSL – duties and functions.

October 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Oct. 17, 2020	Unity Sri Lanka organised for civil society and journalists	FB live	54	NA	NA	S	Journalists handling reporting during times of pandemic and the involvement of ethics
Oct. 21, 2020	SLCJ students	Google meet	17	07	10	S	Journalists handling reporting during times of pandemic and the involvement of ethics
Oct. 22, 2020	SLCJ students	Google meet	17	07	10	S	Journalists handling reporting during times of pandemic and the involvement of ethics
Oct. 25, 2020	SLCJ students	Google meet	17	07	10	S	Journalists handling reporting during times of pandemic and the involvement of ethics
Oct. 25, 2020	Journalists of SLCJ	Google meet	21	10	11	E	Role of journalists in society. Social responsibility and ethics discussed.
Oct. 31, 2020	Journalists of SLCJ	Zoom meeting	10	06	04	E	Role of journalists in society. Social responsibility and ethics discussed.

November 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Nov. 07, 2020	Youth	Online	26	14	12	S	Ethics and PCCSL explained to media students of Southern Youth Services Council.
Nov. 18, 2020	SLCJ students	Online	17	09	08	S	Fact Checking and Ethics

December 2020

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Meeting content
Dec. 23, 2020	Mr. Arthur Wamanan, Public Relations Officer, Evangelist Group	In office	01	01	00	E	Interested in setting up Code for digital media. Explained Editors' Code and process of PCCSL in resolving complaints.
Dec. 23, 2020	Mr. Ifthikhar Aziz, Convener, Seethala Group	In office	01	01	00	E	Planned workshop for journalists to be held end January 2021 on topic 'Power of Journalists' to Mould a balanced Society.
Dec. 23, 2020	Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, President, TEGOSL, Mr. Sisira Paranathantri, Secretary, Mr. Manik de Silva, Mr. Kanchana Dassanayake, Mr. Kesara Abeywardene, Mr. N. M. Ameen, Mr. K. W. Janaranjana, Mr. D. G. M. Piyadasa, Mr. Benette Rupesinghe,	Auditorium	10	10	00	E/S	Spoke on Journalism Awards for Excellence 2019. Closing date to be January 10, 2021.

Summary of complaints resolved directly by Editors' in 2020

Month	Sinhala	Tamil	English	Total
January	20	00	05	25
February	20	00	04	24
March	03	00	08	11
April	04	00	01	05
May	09	00	05	14
June	19	00	06	25
July	15	00	03	18
August	08	00	04	12
September	12	00	06	18
October	08	00	09	17
November	09	00	05	14
December	16	00	08	24
Total	143	00	64	207

Complaints resolved directly by Editors

January 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JANUARY				
Jan. 01, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: December 31, 2019 article concerning Speaker getting involved with police appointments, Police Commission responds.
Jan. 02, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 10	Top right	Right of Reply: Dec. 31, 2019 in the Letter to the Editor Column, Mr. Anthony Peter Fernando of Negombo has written to Archbishop headline: 'Does Cardinal Ranjith approve the Christmas Party in Negombo.' Archbishop's Secretary Fr. Deninton Subasinghe responds.
Jan. 03, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 02	Top left	Karu clarifies again: Jan 01 article 'National Police Commission (NPC) says no such meeting' sub-head: 'Karu says summoned NPC,' clarified by Speaker's Media Office.
Jan. 04, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom right	Erratum: Jan. 03 article 'Govt. decides to withdraw Counter Terrorism Bill.' The previous Govt. worked on the Bill and committed to the UNHRC to repeal the PTA. Error is regretted.
Jan. 06, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 12	Centre	Clarification: Jan 01, 2020 article concerning civil engineering company receiving Rs.3.6 m for project clarified.
Jan. 08, 2020	Divaina	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: January 01 and 05 articles concerning Akuressa police securing Rs.1.3 m bribe to release suspect.
Jan. 08, 2020	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom left	Clarification: January 07 article concerning beauty saloon – Natural Lanka Grooming - clarified.
Jan. 09, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Concerning qualifications of new DG.
Jan. 09, 2020	Divaina	Page 02	Middle right	Clarification: January 07 article concerning night service in Pulaimoddai Hospital clarified.
Jan. 10, 2020	Daily FT	Page 03	Top right	SriLankan Airlines clarifies claims on purchase of drinking water: News report are erroneous with regard to the purchase of drinking water for passengers. SriLankan issues a statement.
Jan. 11, 2020	Daily News	Page 03	Bottom	SriLankan Airlines clarifies claims on purchase of drinking water: News report are erroneous with regard to the purchase of drinking water for passengers. SriLankan issues a statement.
Jan. 14, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Middle right	Correction: January 13 Court report on silreda case, mix up of Judge's name.
Jan. 15, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Bottom right	Clarification: January 14 article concerning MILCO products, Manager responds.
Jan. 17, 2020	Ada	Page 17	Top left	Correction and Apology: January 16 article mix-up of designation of Defence Secretary.
Jan. 19, 2020	Iria Divaina	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 12 article concerning an under-world leader in Italy clarified.
Jan. 19, 2020	Silumina	Page 06	Bottom left	Correction: Article concerning late Mr. Philip Gunawardene, mix up of names corrected.
Jan. 19, 2020	Silumina	Page 18	Centre right	Clarification: Oct. 13, 2019 article concerning relatives of late Mr. C. W. W. Kanangara incorrect clarified.
Jan. 22, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan 21 article concerning former President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, AG responds.
Jan. 22, 2020	Mawbima	Page 07	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 09 article concerning report from parliament, Parliament Media Centre responds.
Jan. 23, 2020	Divaina	Page 01 (part 02)	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan 21 article concerning the son of a dead man clarified.
Jan. 24, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 23 article concerning Speed Post charges, Postmaster General responds.
Jan. 26, 2020	Mawbima	Page 15	Top spread	Clarification: Jan. 19 article concerning Aththanagama Police, OIC clarifies.

Jan. 26, 2020	Anidda	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Jan. 09 article concerning meeting, Mr. Lal Wijenayake responds.
Jan. 31, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Centre right	Clarification: January 30 article concerning IDH staff been on sick leave clarified.
Jan. 31, 2020	Divaina	Page 01 (Sivdesa)	Bottom left	Clarification: January 30 article concerning a gypsy family, Veyangoda OIC, police clarifies.
Total: 25 (S-20,T-0,E-5)				

February 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
FEBRUARY				
Feb. 01, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 05	Top right	Clarification: 'Patthakade gem market reopened,' January 30 article concerning the gem market was closed indefinitely, the President of the Gem and Jewelry Traders' Association, China-Fort, Beruwela Mr. Akar Cassim said that it is temporary closed on instructions of PHIs adding that it will reopen soon.
Feb. 02, 2020	Divaina	Page 01 (Part 02)	Bottom	Correction: Jan. 19 article by-line mixed up, corrected.
Feb. 02, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 21	Top left	Clarification: Jan. 12 article concerning 10 Indian Railway Engineers at work. Railway Manager M. J. D. Fernando responds.
Feb. 02, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 21	Top right	Clarification: Jan. 26 article concerning appointment of chairman of Sri Lanka Railway Department from the Forces, clarified by present Chairman Kingsly Ranawaka.
Feb. 02, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 03	Top left	Apology: Jan. 26 article mix up of names involving a Thera.
Feb. 05, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 12	Bottom left	Clarification: Feb. 01 article concerning Agriculture Ministry building, Media Secretary Dammika Withanage responds
Feb. 05, 2020	Divaina	Page iv (badada athirekaya)	Bottom right	Correction: the Year has got mixed up in aarticle.
Feb. 05, 2020	Mawbima	Page 05	Top right	Clarification: Central Province Governor clarifies article concerning transfer of Welgamuwe Zonal Director.
Feb. 09, 2020	Ravaya	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Jan. 26 corruption article, BOI Executive Officers Union responds.
Feb. 09, 2020	Aruna	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: Feb. 02 (Sathi Aga Aruna newspaper) published article concerning police and mixed up name of acting IGP.
Feb. 09, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 04	Top right	Clarification: Jan. 05 article concerning Bogola Graphite underground tunnel/drain.
Feb. 09, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 04	Bottom right	Clarification: Feb 02, article concerning Cancer Hospital, Maharagama clarified by doctor.
Feb. 11, 2020	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom Right	Clarification: Feb. 10 article concerning police dogs, police spokesman clarifies. Feb.
Feb. 11, 2020	Divaina	Page 12	Centre right	Correction: Feb. 10 mix up of headlines between two stories corrected.
Feb. 11, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 31 article concerning housing scheme coming under housing ministry, ministry secretary clarifies.
Feb. 13, 2020	Dinamina	Page 02	Centre right	Clarification: Feb. 12 article concerning All Ceylon Grama Niladhari Union clarified.
Feb. 15, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Centre	Apology: Mix up of photograph and naame.
Feb. 15, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Centre right	Clarification: Article concernng former prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to Mr. Ranjan Ramanayake in prison is incorrect. He never visited him.
Feb. 20, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 03	Top right	Clarification: Feb. 10 article '2019-COV infects BIA receptionist,' error regretted since there was only one infected with the virus.

Feb. 20, 2020	Divaina	Page 07	Centre	Clarification: Feb. 19 article concerning Mayor
Feb. 21, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Feb. 18 article 'SL Ayurveda Research Institute says cure to corona virus may be found,' Ayurveda Department clarifies.
Feb. 21, 2020	Divaina	Page 19	Top right	Clarification: Feb. 20 article concerning beach clarified.
Feb. 25, 2020	Divaina	Page 10	Bottom right	Clarification: Feb. 19 article concerning Maharagama Urban Council Chairman clarified.
Feb. 28, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 04	Bottom left	Erratum: Feb. 27 article 'Uninformed power cut to manage system stability CEB' mistakenly quoted PUCSL Corporate Communication Assistant Director.
Total: 24 (S-20, T-00, E-04)				

March 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
MARCH				
March 02, 2020	Lankadeepaa	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Feb. 29 article MP Wijedasa Rajapaksa clarifies Ven. Gnanasara Thero's speech which was misquoted.
March 03, 2020	Divaina	Page 05	Top Centre	Correction: March 02 article concerning Corona virus on the increase.
March 03, 2020	Divaina	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Feb. 28 article concerning singer Keerthi Pasqual in Riyadh , Deputy Manager publicity SLFEB clarifies.
March 05, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Top left	Erratum: March 03 article 'Drunkard harassing foreign couple at Palkelele match,' the incident happened at the Mahinda Rajapaksa International Stadium in Sooriyawewa and not at Palkelele as mentioned in article.
March 07, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 03	Bottom Centre	Clarification: March 06 article 'Former State Minister says US Embassy was consulted on SL matters,' Minister of Foreign Relations clarifies.
March 10, 2020	Daily News	Page 12	Top left	Arrest of Bangladeshi nationals: HC clarifies: Article concerns girl (10) abducted by four Bangladeshi Nationals. Bangladesh HC clarifies
March 12, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Top right	Clarification: March 11 article 'First batch sent to Batticaloa Campus,' COVID-19 Virus suspects will not be housed at Airport Garden Hotel, before sending them to Batticaloa as mentioned in story clarified.
March 12, 2020	Daily News	Page 16	Bottom right	Sri Lanka Cricket clarifies: March 11 article 'SLC Officials to profit through Award of TV Production Contract,' SLC says contract was made pursuant to a tender process which was conducted at all times in a transparent way.
March 16, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: March 15 article 'Rs. 100 m drug haul transported in MP Welgama's sibling's lorry.' Company clarifies that they only transported the goods.
March 17, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 03	Bottom left	Clarification: March 16 article 'Ministry of Foreign Relations: Family member of officer diagnosed with COVID-19,' concerning Foreign Ministry employee clarified.
March 17, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Top to bottom right	Clarification: March 16 article 'Plantation Companies refuse to accede.' Certain references were made not from statement clarified
Total: 11 (S-03, T-00, E-08)				

April 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
APRIL				
April 08, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top left	Right of Reply: Chinese Embassy sends Right of Reply in response to story stating that China should be held accountable for COVID-19 in Sri Lanka.
April 20, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Top right	Apology: Newspaper apologizes to Director General Health Services for incorrect story published on April 18.
April 22, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 11	Bottom right	Clarification: Article clarified that arrested person was not an employee of Sanasa Bank.
April 24, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Centre	Clarification: UNP MP Ranjith Maduma Bandara clarifies story of some Samagi Balavegaya members joining UNP.
April 26, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Article incorrect concerning relief parcel.
Total: 05 (S-04, T-00, E-01)				

May 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
MAY				
May 05, 2020	Divaina	Page 13	Centre right	Correction: April 30 article mix up of names of deceased person.
May 05, 2020	Mawbima	Page 09	Bottom centre	Correction: April 30 article mix up of names of deceased person.
May 05, 2020	Mawbima	Page 14	Centre right	Apology/Correction: May 04 article concerning Tamil diaspora buying a newspaper mix up of photographs.
May 08, 2020	Mawbima	Page 08	Bottom Left	Clarification: Former UNP MP and Minister Lakshman Kirialla clarifies his son's arrival at the BIA.
May 18, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01/02	Top	Clarification: May 17 lead article concerning former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya of Independent Commission putting pressure to increase a police officers salary.
May 21, 2020	The Island	Page 01	Bottom	'Hoole on our report: 20.05.2020 story:' May 20 article published 'Hoole and daughter asked to leave EC premises,' Prof. Hoole clarifies stoty.
May21, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Bottom right	Correction: Former MP Kavinda Jayawardane's video was sister of singer and not daughter.
May 23, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: May 21 article concerning re-cycling goods, Mr. R. M. H. Nilantha, Pradeshiya Sabha member for Nikawaratiya clarifies.
May 26, 2020	The Island (Financial Review)	Page 12	Centre left	'SLT clarifies situation regarding recent cyber attack:' SLT clarifies article concerning cyber attack.
May 26, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Right of Reply: May 20 article 'Hoole's daughter violates quarantine laws' and May 21 article 'Prof. Hoole's daughter visiting SL is unethical, Prof Hoole clarifies both articles.
May 26, 2020	Mawbima	Page 15	Centre	Correction: May 20 article concerning rape of woman not in rest house but guest house in Monaragala.
May 27, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: May 26 article 'Embassy intervenes: Says workers refuse to report to work.' Sri Lankan Ambassador's name in Romania incorcetly given.
May 28, 2020	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: May 27 article 'Govt hikes annual levies on power licenses,' the Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka (PUCSL) clarifies.
May 31, 2020	Irida Aruna	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: March 01 article concerning over time, Mr. K. W. B. M. P. Wijesundara, Deputy Director General, National Institute of Education clarifies.
Total: 14 (S-09, T-00, E-05)				

June 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JUNE				
June 01, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom centre	Right of Reply: May 21, 2020 story 'Sirisena's 4 PCoLs cost Rs. 4 billion on fake probes.' Former President Maithripala Sirisena clarifies.
June 01, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Bottom centre	Clarification: May 29 story concerning four commissions set up under former President Maithripala Sirisena's term clarified.
June 02, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 11	Bottom left	Clarification: June 01 story concerning violence that erupted after party organised by police, OIC Bandaragama Police IP T. H. D. M. L. Buddhika, clarified.
June 06, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: June 02 story concerning Milco finances, Mr. Sudath Moonasinha, Chairman, Milco Company responds.
June 07, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 02	Top left	Foreign Ministry clarifies: June 04 article Presidential Secretariat on PCR testing and quarantine procedures for members of the diplomatic corps based in Colombo when they enter Sri Lanka.
June 11, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: June 09 story concerning some employees of Prime Minister's Office involved in forging President's signature on document, Prime Minister's Office clarifies.
June 12, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 05	Centre	Clarification: June 11 story concerning Saharan, Ms. K. P. K. L. P. Maduwanthi, Divisional Secretary, Matale clarifies.
June 12, 2020	The Island	Page 02	Centre	Tamara clarifies: June 06 article 'Refusal to undergo PCR test: US official acted against Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,' Ambassador Tamara Kunanayakam clarifies.
June 17, 2020	Divaina	Page 06	Bottom Left	Correction: June 08 story concerning arrested drug dealer, BMC says not their employee.
June 17, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom Right	Clarification: June 16 story concerning arrest of mother and son, OIC of Meedoda Police, IP. P. C. Rajapaksha clarifies.
June 17, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Top Right	Correction: June 16 story concerning COVID-19 aid collected, it is US \$ 107 million.
June 18, 2020	Mawbima	Page 04	Bottom centre	Correction: June 17 story mix up of headlines concerning cost of tea, clarified.
June 18, 2020	Mawbima	Page 03	Bottom centre	Correction: June 17 story concerning LB Finance profit clarifies.
June 18, 2020	Daily FT	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: June 16 article 'Suspect in Police officer's death remanded till June 19.' The story states that the suspect was admitted to hospital when in actual fact he was placed in remand custody in Negombo.
June 21, 2020	Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: Concerns a transaction in a bank. No name of bank given or date of publication of original story with headline. Very vague clarification.
June 23, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Story concerns student arrested with drugs at Sri Jayawardanapura University, Prof. K. M. C. Konthasinghe, Deen, Engineering Faculty University of Jayawardanapura, clarifies.
June 24, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: June 23 story concerning shortage of money to pay salaries, Mr. Ratnasiri Kalupahana, Chairman, SEC clarifies.
June 26, 2020	Mawbima	Page 04	Bottom right	Clarification from media spokesman, Immigration and immigration, Never quarantine before March 10.
June 28, 2020	Divaina	Page 04	Centre left	Correction: Mix-up of names in story, Chief Priest of Kadumunna Raja Maha Vihara Pirivena clarifies.
June 28, 2020	The Sunday Times	Page 02	Bottom right	Right of Reply: Unit cost of energy from Lakvijaya. June 14 article published 'Rs. 10 added to every unit of electricity generated by Lakvijaya due to environment health costs.' Sri Lanka Energy Managers Association (SLEMA) clarify.

June 29, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom right	Correction: June 27 story concerning political interference of Avande Guard lawyers clarified.
June 29, 2020	Divaina	Page 13	Centre	Clarification: June 24 story concerning quality of liquor, Mrs. Samantha Wimalasena, Government Analyst clarifies.
June 29, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Centre left	Clarification: Former President Maithripala Sirisena clarifies aid from World Muslim Organization following Easter Sunday attack.
June 29, 2020	Aruna	Page 01	Centre right	Clarification: Former President Maithripala Sirisena clarifies aid from World Muslim Organization following Easter Sunday attack.
June 29, 2020	Dinamina	Page 01	Bottom Left	Clarification: Former President Maithripala Sirisena clarifies aid from World Muslim Organization following Easter Sunday attack.
Total: 25 (S-19, T-00, E-06)				

July 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JULY				
July 01, 2020	Divaina	Page 07	Centre left	Correction and Apology: June 23 story concerning Mahindananda Aluthgamage
July 01, 2020	Divaina	Page 14	Top right	Correction and Apology: Wrong name of deceased given.
July 01, 2020	Ada	Page 08	Top left	Correction and Apology: Mix up of Photograph and identity of a person.
July 02, 2020	Ada	Page 06	Centre left	Clarification: June 17 Police Headquarters clarify story of threat to Secretary, Canteen Owners' Society.
July 03, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 02	Top right	Correction: 'Sajith promises Rs.20,000 handout to all.' Statement corrected that it will be to all deserving people until the economy picks up.
July 04, 2020	Divaina	Page 02	Centre left	Correction: July 03 story concerning Karuna Amman meeting Peace Force in Presidents House but Ambassador's Palace.
July 07, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 04	Top right	Clarification: July 6 letter to the Editor 'Exorbitant charges by Archives Dept,' Director-General National Archives, Dr. Nadeera Rupesinghe clarifies.
July 07, 2020	Mawbima	Page 15	Centre right	Correction: July 06 story story designation of person in story.
July 07, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01 (part 02)	Top right	Apology: June 18 story, mother and son killed in accident, son is not a thera.
July 10, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom right	Correction: July 01 story court case.
July 13, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: July 5, 6 and 8 stories and Editorial concerning removal of Bo-tree in Palai and Buddhist Campus. Prof. Gallalle Sumanasiri Thera clarifies news item.
July 14, 2020	Dinamina	Page 02	Centre left	Apology: July 11 story mix up of names in story.
July 16, 2020	Lakadeepa	Page 01	Top right	Apology: July 15 story concerning story of District Court and High Court closed due to COVID-19. Apology to both courts and Judges
July 16, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 03 (Part II)	Centre right	Clarification: May 22 story concerning sale of 100,000 kg of expired onions, arrested. Emmanuel Lanka Enterprise Company clarifies.
July 18, 2020	The Island	Page 01	Centre	Expression of regret to Mr. Ravi Karunanayake: February 28, 2018 story, 'Bribery sleuths grill Ravi for four hours.' Newspaper apologises.
July 22, 2020	Mawbima	Page 13	Centre	Correction and Apology: Nugegoda motor vehicle accident mix up of names corrected.

July 26, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 07	Top right	Clarification: August 19 story concerning Aberdeen Medical Degree, GMOA responds.
July 29, 2020	Mawbima	Page 18	Centre left	Clarification: July 16 story concerning Easter Sunday attack incorrect report clarified by Jagath Gajaweeraarachchi.
Total: 18 (S-15, T-00, E-03)				

August 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
AUGUST				
Aug. 02, 2020	The Sunday Morning	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: July 26 story 'Bitter cuppa for workers,' statement attributed accidentally to private sector taking advantage of estate workers. Planters' Association Chairman Roshan Rajadurai says there is a collective agreement which is advantageous to them.
Aug. 03, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top left	Correction: Correction to story titled 'Alleged harassment case: Aug 01 story 'Alleged harassment case: Narahenpita police launches investigation,' inadvertently named the victim incorrectly.
Aug. 19, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 04	Bottom left	Correction: Aug. 18 story 'Beruwela PS member arrested,' the newspaper inadvertently named him as a member of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC). It should have read as, member of All Ceylon Makkal Congress (ACMC).
Aug. 23, 2020	Aruna	Page 05	Top right	Correction: Aug. 16 story in parliament a lawyer's name mentioned. He is no longer with the AG's Dept. came the reply.
Aug. 23, 2020	Deshaya	Page 02	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 09 story crossover of a person wrongly written.
Aug. 23, 2020	Irida Lankadeepa	Page 09	Top Centre	Clarification/Apology: Aug. 09 story concerning 'SF Lokka' being a past student of St. Joseph's College, Anuradhapura incorrect.
Aug. 23, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 17	Top Centre	Correction: Aug. 19 photograph mix up with underworld person.
Aug. 26, 2020	Divaina	Page 03	Centre right	Correction: Aug. 25 story convicted of rape and serving prison sentence agreed to pay victim an allowance and not compensation.
Aug. 26, 2020	Mawbima	Page 15	Bottom left	Correction: Aug. 25 story convicted of rape and serving prison sentence agreed to pay victim an allowance and not compensation.
Aug. 26, 2020	Daily FT	Page 05	Centre left	SriLankan clarifies on high repatriation cost: Aug. 26 story 'Exorbitant price of COVID-19 repatriation charter flights under fire,' SriLankan explains price includes; one-way ticket Rs. 97,000. The rest is for three star Hotel with full board for 14-days quarantine on sharing basis, transport from airport to hotel and two mandatory PCR tests.
Aug. 28, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Centre bottom	Clarification: MP Lakshman Kiriella responds to news item concerning Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa.
Aug. 29, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Centre left	Correction and apology: Aug. 28 story concerning leg injury of a person, apology to Dr. T. T. Kasturiratne
Total: 12 (S-08, T-00, E-04)				

September 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
SEPTEMBER				
Sept. 11, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 04	Top right	Clarification: Sept. 02 story 'Veggies and fish now cost more,' the Central Bank of Sri Lanka clarified the story.

Sept. 13, 2020	Deshaya	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: Sept. 08 article about State Printing Corporation printing School Text Books clarified by them.
Sept. 16, 2020	Aruna	Page 07	Bottom right	Clarification: Sept. 14 article about giving Provincial Council powers to Local Government authorities after dissolution. SLPP Secretary Mr. Jagath Kariyawasam says Mr. Basil Rajapaksa said it is not correct.
Sept. 18, 2020	Divaina	Page 03	Bottom left	Correction: Sept. 15 article about drunk Sinhala student before class is incorrect and corrected.
Sept. 20, 2020	Ravaya	Page 02	Centre	Correction: Headline mistake about name of person. It should have read Jagath Samantha and not Sanath Nishantha in Anawilundawa article.
Sept. 22, 2020	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom right	Clarification: Labourers of Manampitiya mining river sand protest against company clarified by G. S. M. B. Technical Services in Kaduruwela.
Sept. 24, 2020	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: SriLankan Airlines clarifies – Sept. 19 article quoting Bloomberg saying that overall cost reduction of SriLankan Airlines incorrectly given, clarified.
Sept. 24, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Centre left	Correction/Apology: Sept. 23 about opposition protest in parliament concerning 20 th amendment, Rauff Hakeem and SLMC were also present clarified.
Sept. 24, 2020	Mawbima	Page 13	Centre right	Clarification: Sept. 06 article about import companies, Industrial Ministry clarifies.
Sept. 25, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: No decision on UNP National List: UNP Media Unit clarifies Sept. 24, article that John Amaratunga will fill the UNP vacant seat in parliament. The article is incorrect.
Sept. 27, 2020	Divaina	Page 02	Centre	Correction: Mix up of photographs of doctor mentioned in article corrected.
Sept. 28, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 02	Top right	Correction: Sept. 25 court report in Sunday Edition (27), 'Case against former Kandy ASP further hearing on Sept. 25', incorrect report and mix up of names of Colombo High Court Judge Mr. Adithiya Patabendige and suspect ASP Udugampola.
Sept. 28, 2020	Daily News	Page 03	Top left	Correction: Sept. 26 condolence vote in parliament on MP R. M. Kalu Banda Rathnayake, it was inadvertently reported that he was the former Speaker of Parliament. The error is regretted.
Sept. 28, 2020	Divaina	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: SSP Bimari Jasinghaarachchi clarifies Sept. 26 article that she is the first woman DIG in Police Department history.
Sept. 28, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Centre left	Clarification: Sept. 22 article about LRDC Company clarified by MD.
Sept. 28, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: Sept. 25 article from the hearings of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Easter Sunday attack mix up of name of Bishop corrected.
Sept. 29, 2020	Divaina	Page 03	Centre right	Correction: Incorrect article about a missing person complaint made at Pitigala police Station, corrected.
Sept. 30, 2020	Daily News	Page 02	Top left	Correction: Set 29 article about 'Presidential pardon to Royal Park convict: Petition fixed for support,' the name of the Appeal Court Judge is incorrect. It should have read as Judge W. L. R. Silva and not Judge W. L. R. Perera.
Total: 18 (S-12, T-00, E-06)				

October 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
OCTOBER				
Oct. 06, 2020	Mawbima	Page 12	Quarter page	Clarification: Mr. Siripala Amarasinhe, Chairman of the Environmental Authority clarifies October 01 article criticising Guruda Wiggahaya Column.
Oct. 09, 2020	Mawbima	Page 05	Centre right	Clarification: Major General S. W. L. Dawludala, Chairman, Fisheries Cooperation, clarifies Oct. 21 article regarding

				statement made by Mr. Rathna Gamage about payment to suppliers.
Oct. 11, 2020	The Sunday Morning	Page 02	Top right	Correction: Oct. 09 daily epaper published wrong names of petitioners in article 'Nuwara Eliya Golf Club: What next?'. Correct names published.
Oct. 12, 2020	Divaina	Page 13	Bottom Right	Clarification: Mr. Rohana Abhayaratne, Secretary, State Ministry of Spice and Small Industry, clarifies Oct. 09 article about Rs. 200 million new project.
Oct. 13, 2020	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Oct. 10 Weekend FT published a wrong photograph. Correct photograph of Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and former Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi exchanging tokens after the latter's visit published.
Oct. 15, 2020	Divaina	Page 03	Centre Right	Correction: Oct. 14 article mixed up position of Chairman of the Amarapura Nikaya
Oct. 16, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom Right	Clarification: Oct. 07 article about Bar Association of Negombo being closed for a week while the courts and Judges were functioning clarified.
Oct. 18, 2020	Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)	Page 05	Top right	Correction: Oct. 15 article 'Wetahirakanda Nature Reserve Label Dumpers Not Found Yet,' had named Climate Action Now Sri Lanka (CANSL) as questioning several people in connection with the incident is totally false as claimed by them in correction.
Oct. 18, 2020	The Sunday Morning	Page 07	Bottom half	Clarification: Articles printed about Avant Garde being involved in repatriation of Sri Lankan's from overseas is all false, adding that they have requested Rs. 380 million to bring them back by ship whereas by air it would cost only Rs.180 million. Article clarified by Chairman.
Oct. 19, 2020	Aruna	Page 02	Centre Right	Clarification: Oct. 19 article about qualifications of Dr. Sudarika Senaratne, Chairperson of Sri Lanka Standards Bureau, clarified.
Oct. 22, 2020	Mawbima	Page 04	Centre left	Clarification: Oct. 19 article about bribe for land filling of Muthurajawela marsh land, Mr. G. A. Ajith Panditharatna, Chairman, Malwaththa Real Estate Property clarifies.
Oct. 22, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom Centre	Correction: Article on shooting incident involving death of Madushan, police say it was by underworld gang
Oct. 22, 2020	Daily News	Page 01	Bottom	Correction: Oct. 21 article 'Over 90% constructions around Bolgola Lake illegal – CEA', the owner of a property legally constructed whose photograph appeared along with the article points out error.
Oct. 23, 2020	Daily FT	Page 15	Full page	Right of Reply: Mr. Nalin Laduwaahetty given an opportunity to reply Dayan Jayatilake's article of Oct.15.
Oct. 26, 2020	Daily News	Page 01	Top left	Apology: Oct. 24 inaccurate article quoting Chief of Defence Staff and Army Commander Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva, newspaper apologises.
Oct. 26, 2020	Daily FT	Page 12	Full page	Right of Reply: Rear Admiral (Retd.) Sarath Weerasekera given an opportunity to reply Dayan Jayatilake's article of Oct.15.
Oct. 29, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Oct. 28 article 'Avoiding PCol on political victimization: Ranawaka et al can be prosecuted – U. R. de Silva PC', Malik Samarawickrema said he has attended the inquiries. He added that due to the prevailing health situation he will be unable to attend inquiries. Mangala Samaraweera has also informed the Commission of his inability to attend due to the prevailing health situation.
Total: 17 (S-08, T-00, E-09)				

November 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
NOVEMBER				
Nov. 05,2020	Divaina	Page 02	Centre left	Clarification: Nov. 04 article about COVID-19 suspects in Army camps at Rock House and Borella Col. H. T. W. Widymananda, Army Media clarifies.
Nov. 10,2020	Divaina	Page 01	Centre left	Clarification: Nov. 08 article misquote about Test Kit for COVID-19, Dr. Senal Fernando, Secretary GMOA clarifies.
Nov. 10,2020	Aruna	Page 13	Bottom left	Clarification: Oct. 29 article concerning two lawyers family in fracas, Attorney Madara Karunaratne clarifies.
Nov. 11,2020	Dinamina	Page 01	Centre	Correction: Nov. 09 article about President talking to Chinese President mix up of dates corrected.
Nov. 16,2020	Aruna	Page 07	Centre left	Clarification: Nov. 09 article about people pawning their jewelry has increased during the COVID-19, Central Bank clarifies total amount of gold.
Nov. 17, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 04	Top left	Right of Reply: Nov. 10 article 'CPC to blame for coastal degradation,' Colombo Port City clarifies.
Nov. 18,2020	Divaina	Page 19	Centre	Clarification: Nov. 17 article about fracas in Heenatigala, Attorney clarifies.
Nov. 21,2020	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Centre	Clarification: Nov. 07 article about Mr. Brihan Abdeen, Member of the Pradeshiya Sabha Wattala abstaining from voting at Budget.
Nov. 22,2020	Ravaya	Page 02	Centre	Clarification: Nov. 15 article about government's plan on electricity clarified.
Nov. 22, 2020	The Sunday Times (Part 02)	Page 07	Top left	Clarification: Nov. 15 article 'Major shipping line pulls out of Colombo Port,' MSC Lanka (Pvt) Ltd clarifies.
Nov. 24, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 02	Top left	Correction: Nov. 23 article 'Govt creates Technology Ministry,' incorrect institution coming under new Ministry named. It should be ICTA (Information and Communications Technology Agency) and not SLIT.
Nov. 27, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom right	Correction: Nov. 26 article 'Police COVID-19 cluster rises to 1,500', corrected.
Nov. 27,2020	Mawbima	Page 07	Centre left	Clarification: Nov. 25 article about 1500 police personnel being quarantined, DIG Ajith Rohana, Police Media Spokesman says only 1123 police personnel.
Nov. 30, 2020	The Island	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Nov. 27 article 'Severity of impact of second wave on economy could be far worse than anticipated – CBSL'. CBSL says article is misleading and could adversely affect the improving economic situation. Clarified by CBSL.
Total: 14 (S-09, T-00, E-05)				

December 2020

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
DECEMBER				
Dec. 07, 2020	Dinamina	Page 01	Centre Bottom	Clarification: December 05 article about load of heroin in the Welikada Prison, Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya responds.
Dec. 07, 2020	Mawbima	Page 01	Centre Bottom	Clarification: Mr. N. M. Perera, Chairman, Sathosa, about imported load of sugar without paying tax referred to by JVP MP Anura Kumara in his speech.
Dec. 07, 2020	Mawbima	Page 07	Centre right	Apology: Editor apologizes for story of dead woman dieing of COVID-19 in Dunburg, Hatton. Mr. M. B. R.Pushpakumara, District Secretary, of Nuwara Eliya clarifies.
Dec. 07, 2020	Aruna	Page 03		
Dec. 08, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top right	Correction: Dec. 07 article 'Most admired companies,' name of Ceylinco Life Insurance Ltd, incorrect.

Dec. 09, 2020	Aruna	Page 01	Centre bottom	Clarification: Labor Commissioner's Office clarifies December 08 article about money for compensation with the Commission.
Dec. 10, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Centre left	Clarification: Police Headquarters clarifies incorrect December 09 article about 150 people been infected with COVID-19 at Police Headquarters.
Dec. 10, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau is not closed due to COVID-19. The story is incorrect.
Dec. 13, 2020	Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)	Page 14	Top half	Clarification: Dec 04 article 'Sharia law played major part – Cardinal'. Cardinal Malcolm clarifies his statement.
Dec. 13, 2020	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: Mr. K. C.Rajapaksha, PHI, Nittabuwu East, clarifies December 12 article about party in a house, adding that they have been isolated.
Dec. 16, 2020	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom Left	Clarification: Mr. M. B. M. W. Samaranayake, Commissioner General, Department of Excise, clarifies article about drug bust in Marawila.
Dec. 16, 2020	Aruna	P 02	Bottom left	Clarification: December 15 article about Provincial Council Elections, Minister Vasudeva Nanayakkara clarifies.
Dec. 16, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Trinity College, Kandy clarifies article '13 people in Trinity College residence test COVID positive'. The 13 were not residents of the official residence complex.
Dec. 17, 2020	Divaina	P 03	Top right	Clarification: December 08 article about closure of two wards and COVID-19 doctors in Gampola Hospital, GMOA clarifies.
Dec. 17, 2020	Divaina	P 09	Centre right	Clarification: from DIG Ajith Rohana, regarding 16 th report about MP Rajitha Senaratne statement about US stand of our country.
Dec. 17, 2020	Aruna	P 02	Bottom right	Clarification: December 13 article about stranded trawlers, Chairman, Fishing Corporation, Major General S. W. L. Diwlagala clarifies.
Dec. 20, 2020	The Sunday Times	Page 12 (Part 2)	Centre	Correction: Dec. 13 article concerning tax fraud by W. M. Mendis, Ms. Sonya Gooneratne daughter of W. M. Mendis states her father owns no shares or has any controlling-interest in the business once it was sold to Mr. Arjuna Aloysius.
Dec. 21, 2020	The Island	Page 05	Top right	Clarification: Dec. 16 article clarified by Ms. Sonya Gooneratne daughter of W. M. Mendis states her father owns no shares or has any controlling-interest in the business once it was sold to Mr. Arjuna Aloysius.
Dec. 21, 2020	Lankadeepa	P 01	Centre middle	Apology and correction: December 19 article about COVID-19 Report, apology to Professor Malawige
Dec. 22, 2020	Daily News	Page 02	Top left	Clarification: Mass Media Minister Kheliya Rambukwella clarifies incorrect reports doing the rounds concerning registration of social media platforms.
Dec. 23, 2020	Ceylon Today	Page 08	Bottom left	Right of Reply: Dec. 18 article Azerbaijan and Turkey's Genocidal Assault Against Armenians, Turkish Ambassador puts the record straight in connection with his comments made concerning the Nagorne-Karabakh armed conflict.
Dec. 30, 2020	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Top right	Clarification: Coordinating Secretary to Minister of Justice, Ali Sabry about his resignation is totally false.
Dec. 30, 2020	Aruna	P 01	Centre	Clarification: December 29 article about 43 acres of land in Hantanawatte, MP Lakshman Kiriella clarifies.
Dec. 30, 2020	Mawbima	P 13	Bottom centre	Correction: Mix up of names of under-world person should be H. M. Lokka and not S. F. Lokka.
Total: 24 (S-16, T-00, E-08)				

Violations of the Editors' Code in the print media observed by the PCCSL

January 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated	Action taken
Jan 17, 2020	9.Virakesari Page 06 Body of young man found in Kotmale • Tamil Mirror Page 05 Body of young man found in Kotmale	Photography of brutally assaulted man photographed. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor to exercise more discretion on matters of publishing photographs of this nature. Exercise more sensitivity and discretion for the loved ones left behind.
Jan. 23, 2020	• Tamil Mirror Page 01 Student assault on student	Photography of brutally assaulted student photographed. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion.	Spoke to editor to exercise more discretion on matters of publishing photographs of this nature. Exercise more sensitivity and discretion for the loved ones left behind.

February 2020

No violations were observed.

March 2020

Photographs of children believed to have been affected by corona virus had been published in some newspapers. This is a violation of the Editors' Code. Also publication of names of corona virus suspects in some newspapers is a violation of the Editors' Code. However, the online version of a newspaper avoids this.

Violation: Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.

April 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated	Action taken
April 10, 2020	Divaina P4 147 arrested in Kochchikade	Curfew violators arrested among them some Muslims. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Race immaterial.	Spoke to editor
April 10, 2020	Divaina P4 Muslim businessman arrested	Muslim businessman arrested while transporting inferior quality rice. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Race immaterial.	Spoke to editor

April 16, 2020	Mawbima P5 Punani COVID-19 person's wife infected	Name of COVID-19 infected person and his wife's name given. She is also infected. Violation: Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.	Spoke to editor
April 22, 2020	Mawbima Page7 Muslim arrested with COVID-19 from Naluawa	Arrested man a Muslim from Naluawa infected with COVID-19 Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Race immaterial.	Spoke to editor
April 29, 2020	Mawbima P7 Photograph of COVID-19 infected people.	Photograph of COVID-19 patient's family Violation: Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.	Spoke to editor

May 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated.	Action taken
May 04, 2020	Divaina Page 03	Intoxicated man cut's his wife's neck. Use of word 'Muslim' to describe the nationality of the woman. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.	Spoke to editor
May 06, 2020	Lankadeepa Page 12	Use of Kerosine oil for suicide. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, Sub clause 6.5: Details of suicide must be avoided.	Spoke to editor
May 14, 2020	Lankadeepa Page 02	Muslim man arrested with 73 packet of drugs Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.	Spoke to editor
May 21, 2020	Mawbima Page 03	Photo of youth hanging following suicide in Chenmani after insulting video on social media. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.1: Social issues that are painful and shocking use sensitivity and discretion.	Wrote to editor and Director Editorial
May 23, 2020	Divaina Page 03	A Muslim Mother and her son commit suicide, by drinking poison. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race. Sub	Spoke to editor

		clause 6.5: Details of suicide must be avoided.	
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June 2020

Although most newspapers carried the photograph of a suicide victim at Independence Square, the face was not visible. However, one Sinhala language newspaper had the face uncovered.

July 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated	Action taken
July 08, 2020	Dinamina Page 01 Suicide story/photograph	Young girl and boy commit suicide by jumping into river. Parents did not agree to their friendship. Bodies are exposed and can be identified Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion and Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.	Spoke to Editor and explained the violation before sending a letter.

August 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated	Action taken
Aug. 24, 2020	Divaina Page 06 Commits suicide	Mother reprimands daughter over love affair. Daughter consumes kerosene oil and dies. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.5: Details of suicide must be avoided.	Spoke to editor

September 2020

Date of publication	Name of newspaper/Page number/Headline	Brief description of violation/Clause violated	Action taken
Sept. 17, 2020	Divaina Page 18 Father arrested for rape of daughter	The father's name and address given in the story leading to identification of daughter's name and address. Violation: Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.	Spoke to Editor and told him to avoid unnecessary details when reporting rape articles.

October 2020

Some newspapers had published photographs of the second wave of COVID-19 patients. Editors were told not to publish such photographs or to mention any names of COVID-19 suspects since it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives..**

November 2020

- Some newspapers had published photographs of the second wave of COVID-19 patients. Editors were told not to publish such photographs or to mention any names of COVID-19 suspects since it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.**
- November 04: Lankadeepa, Page 01, Bottom right, details of two COVID-19 women who have died published. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.**

- November 06: Mawbima, Page 03, Top Left, wife commits suicide after dispute with husband by eating 'Kaneru' seeds. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.5: Details of suicide must be avoided.**
- November 01: Silumina, insulting headline against a mother. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 02, Accurate Reporting, sub clause 2.1: Not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting.**
- November 08: Silumina, article about marriage of children. Photograph of young mother used. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.**
- November 21: Lankadeepa, Page 01, Top Left, mother affected with COVID-19 leaves IDH with infant child without informing authorities. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07. Privacy, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives..**
- November 22: Divaina, Page 12, article about motor vehicular accident involving daughter of police officer, race of another person mentioned. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **General Reporting Clause. Violation: Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**

December 2020

- December 07: Mawbima/P 01 – Arrested on narcotic charge, Muslim businessman also involved for drugs business. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**
- December 09: Ada/P 02 – 27 COVID positive in Veyangoda Muslim village. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**
- December 10: Dinamina/P19 – 12-year-old girl commits suicide by drinking Kerosene oil. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.5: Details of suicide must be avoided.**
- December 10: Mawbima/P09 – report regarding COVID situation in Veyangoda Muslim Village. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**
- December 12: Divaina/01 – Sri Lankan Muslim student tries to get asylum from UK mentioning crisis. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**
- December 20: Mawbima/P 04 – Reported as a COVID Mother. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 07, sub clause 7.1: Respect private lives.**
- December 30: Mawbima/P 12 – 60 COVID people in Kumaramulla Muslim village. Informed newspaper that it is a violation of the Editors' Code: **Clause 06, sub clause 6.4 (ii): Identifying a person by race.**

Summary of newspapers and the number of violations observed

Ada – 01

Dinamina – 02

Divaina – 08

Lankadeepa – 04

Mawbima – 09

Silumina – 02

Tamil Mirror – 02

Virakesari – 01

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 overriding 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 Editors' 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

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 there of 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 obtained.