



ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රවත්පත් පැමිණිලි කොමිසල ඩිලංගක පත්තිරිකා මුත්‍රප්‍රාත්‍රූ ඇණක්රම Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

Annual Report 2018

Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka
96, Bernard Soysa Mawatha, (Kirula Road) Colombo 5.
Tel: (00 94 11) 5353635
Fax: (00 94 11) 5335500
E-mail: srockwood@pccsl.lk
Website: www.pccsl.lk

English Section – Contents

Title	Page number
Objective, Vision and Mission of PCCSL	03
Message from Chairman, Board of Directors, Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka	04
Message from Chairman, Dispute Resolution Council	05
Annual Review 2018 (CEO's Report)	06-17
Complaints received by the PCCSL between January and December 2018	18-39
Popular newspapers published in 2018	40
Complaint Chart: 2003 to 2018	41
Activities of the PCCSL in 2018	42-48
Summary of complaints resolved directly by Editors between January and December 2018	49
Complaints resolved directly by Editors between January and December 2018	50-69
Violations of the Editors' Code observed by PCCSL in 2018	70-76
Code of Professional Practice (Editors' Code)	77-81
Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL	82-88
Complaint Form	89-90
Balance Sheet	91

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 of the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) completed 15 years in existence in the year under review. Sri Lanka faced some grave constitutional challenges during the year, especially the 52 days in September-October when there was effectively no government. Fortunately the Supreme Court made an order that curtailed the stalemate.

The PCCSL continued its work in spite of such disruptions. Logistical assistance was also rendered to the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) to conduct an international conference on a review of the Colombo Declaration in September, which also celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The coming year (2019) may be a watershed in that there is every chance that the electronic media may join the print media to become the citizen's watchdog against poor reporting and fake news.

The CEO has assured us that a revamped website will be hosted shortly providing much needed information to journalists and students dealing on the work done by the PCCSL, as well as with the difficult subject of "ethics."

On behalf of the Press Complaints Commission, I wish to extend the Board's appreciation and gratitude to all our staff, our well-wishers and to those who gave us financial support, primarily the Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka.

Thank you

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

Message from the Chairman of the Dispute Resolution Council

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) is an independent voluntary self regulatory mechanism, which was the outcome of the Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility, is now in its 15th year (founded on October 15, 2003).

It works on the principles of conciliation, mediation and arbitration under the Arbitration Act of 1995 and stands modeled along the lines of similar commissions in South Africa and Scandinavian countries.

During the current year, it has held 14 meetings successfully attended by publishers, editors, desk heads, sub editors, journalists and provincial correspondents. This voluntary independent self regulatory system has been accepted by all registered national newspapers of the country.

The PCCSL received 79 complaints, 48 from the Sinhala press, 12 from the Tamil press, 14 from the English press and 05 not against the print media. There was a total of 60 valid complaints and 19 invalid complaints. Direct complaints resolved outside of the PCCSL process or complaints handled directly by editors amounting to 243 complaints. These merited the publication of a 'Right of Reply' in the form of a clarification, correction or apology.

The Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) met on seven occasions and all meetings were well attended with the members contributing and assisting the work of the PCCSL.

The www.pccsl.lk Web Page continues to assist complainants who wish to know more about the PCCSL and the self regulatory mechanism and the way it functions through an Editors' Code and set of Rules and Regulations. It allows readers to make an online complaint. The PCCSL continues to upgrade the web page to accommodate results of complaints outstanding.

The Colombo Declaration, which formulates the basis of the PCCSL, celebrated its 20th anniversary (inaugurated in 1998) in September this year (2018), where some of the ideas to enhance and develop a free media were outlined.

Awareness programs with civil society (non journalists) made positive headway by meeting 50 people representing various sections of society at 14 meetings; the role of the PCCSL, Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and the Editors' Code were explained.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the members of the Dispute Resolution Council who have attended all the meetings regularly and assisted me in my task in no small way.

Finally, we wish to thank the PCCSL Secretariat headed by its energetic CEO Sukumar Rockwood and so ably assisted by Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi, Complaints Officer – Sinhala Print for 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 (PCCSL) 2018 Annual Review

01. Introduction

The PCCSL, which was the outcome of the Colombo Declaration on Press Freedom and Social Responsibility, celebrated its 20th anniversary from September 27 to 30, 2018 coinciding with the United Nations designated International Day for the Universal Access to Information (IDUAI).

Going back 20 years, the Colombo Declaration was an outcome of an international seminar held in Colombo, organized by the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka, The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka and the Free Media Movement in association with the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association, the World Association of Newspapers, the Commonwealth Press Union, the International Press Institute, Article 19 and the Media Institute of Southern Africa.

The PCCSL is an independent, voluntary, self-regulatory mechanism set up by the newspaper industry of Sri Lanka, which comprises the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka, The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka, the Free Media Movement and the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association.

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

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

02. Executive summary

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) continued building on the positive growth made in the previous year and successfully held 14 meetings attended by 118 publishers, editors, sub-editors, journalists and provincial journalists. During the meetings, the importance of self-regulation and the Editors' Code of Professional Practice were discussed along with the PCCSL process in resolving complaints.

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

- (a) The number of valid complaints received, i.e. complaints received falling within the mandate of the PCCSL. However, complainants remain sluggish in following up on their initial (informal) complaint, while editors are eager to resolve them when informed.
- (b) The number of complaints resolved directly by editors or 'instant complaints' has maintained stability indicating that editors continue to follow the self-regulatory process. The increased number of 'Right of Reply' responses in the form of corrections, clarifications, apologies published by Sri Lankan newspapers without formally involving the PCCSL indicates that the advocacy work done by the Commission has made readers write direct to editors and have their 'Right of Reply' published without the PCCSL getting involved.
- (c) The PCCSL also observes violations of the Code and these are brought to the notice of the respective editors who respond positively by introducing positive steps in their newspapers which help reach the objective of a professional and responsible media.
- (d) The PCCSL has been informed by several publishing houses that because of the intervention of the PCCSL in resolving complaints and training journalists, as to the use of the Editors' Code to guide them to be more professional and socially responsible when writing stories, publishers have been able to avoid going to court and facing hefty legal fees.
- (e) The PCCSL sends the complainants' '**Opportunity to Reply**' - **Clause 04** of the Editors' Code – to editors for publication. Some newspapers have not published them in spite of several reminders. They are: Yarl Thinakkural, Valampuri, Divaina and Daily News. (Please see attached complaints chart for details).

02.01. Press Council issues:

In May, the Ceylon Newspapers (Pvt) Ltd, publishers of *Maubima* (Sinhala language daily/weekly) prepared documents to be presented to Court challenging the legitimacy of the Press Council. They sought the SLPI's and all media organisations concurrence that the Press Council is not a properly constituted body.

Meanwhile, *The Sunday Times* challenged the legality of the Press Council when a case came up against the newspaper. The Press Council however reconstituted the Council.

The Press Council was reconstituted and re-activated by the President on Thursday, July 05, 2018 with the following members. The new Board of Directors comprises: Advocate Koggala Wellala Bandula, Chairman; Prof Emeritus. Sunanda Mahendra; Muditha Kariyakarawana (Senior Journalist – President: Sri Lanka Press Association); Ariyananda Dombagahawatte (Senior Journalist – Editor Irida Lankadeepa); S. Thillainathan (Senior Journalist – former Editor Thinakaran); Mr. Somaweera Chandrasiri (trade union activist); Attorney-at-Law Sudarshaana Gunawardana (Director General, Govt. Information); Mr. Niroshan Thambawita, Press Commissioner. The new Board was appointed for three years.

Media organisations at a meeting in the SLPI Board Room, unanimously supported the SLPI going to Courts against the Press Council since it is not a properly constituted body. Meanwhile, the SLPI along with its constituent parties is in consultation with its lawyers on a further challenge to the legality of the Press Council.

02.02. Meeting with the Mass Media Minister:

Mass Media Minister Mangala Samaraweera on Monday, January 29, 2018 met along with Ministry officials, PCCSL/SLPI Board Chairman, Kumar Nadesan, The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka President, Manik de Silva, Government Information Director-General, Sudarshana Gunawardana, Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association Secretary, Duminda Sampath, PCCSL CEO, Sukumar Rockwood, SLPI CEO, Kumar Lopez and PCCSL Sinhala Complaints Officer, Kamal Liyanarachchi. The role of the PCCSL and SLPI were discussed. It was decided to form a committee to discuss with other like-minded people to bring in the electronic media (TV/radio and online media) in a bid to reduce 'whacking people.' The Minister agreed that the Press Council should be abolished.

He recognised the role of the PCCSL as a suitable alternative but pointed out that it lacked teeth being a self-regulatory mechanism. However, the PCCSL has a system of naming and shaming, publishers each year through the PCCSL Annual Report.

He requested the setting up of a similar system to monitor the electronic media as well and promote the Editors' Code among them. Minister Samaraweera also pointed out two more issues; licensing of TV, radio and online newspapers. He also suggested monitoring of misleading advertisements in both the print and electronic media – the use of women and children in advertising should be avoided.

Turning to the financing of the PCCSL, he suggested a grant to run the affairs of the PCCSL.

02.03. Proposed Independent News Media Council Act:

The Independent News Media Council Act (Revised) Discussion Draft (July 21, 2017) facilitated by the National Secretariat for Media Reforms (NSMR) – a partner in the IREX/USAID/MEND Program – was forwarded to SLPI on May 14, 2018 along with questionnaire returnable by May 31, 2018. SLPI replied May 23 to Chief-of-Party, IREX/MEND Program Mr. Matt Shelley that, the SLPI subscribes to the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility, which is supported by the constituent members: TEGOSL, NSSL, FMM and SLWJA and that its constituent members are willing to have a further discussion on the draft objectives based on the Colombo Declaration.

In June, the Independent News Media Council Act (Revised) Discussion Draft (July 21, 2017), was taken up for discussion with constituent members of both the SLPI and PCCSL Boards of Directors. Mr. Kumar Nadesan, Chairman of both Boards chaired the meeting. Around 15 concerns were raised. These were put forward to Mr. Sigard Sorenson, International Senior Lawyers Project, USA of IREX who had met many concerned media groups. His final report is awaited.

02.04. 20th Anniversary of the Colombo Declaration

The 20th Anniversary of the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility was held from September 27 to 30. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, Mass Media and Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera, the Leader of the Opposition Mr. R. Sampanthan was represented by

MP, M. Sumanthiram, Commonwealth Media Trust Director, Lindsay Ross, Royal Norwegian Ambassador Thorbjorn Gaustadsaether, UNESCO Director Eric Falt and the Sri Lanka Press Institute Board of Directors Chairman Kumar Nadesan. The Cinnamon Grand was the venue of the 20th anniversary and the Working Sessions were held at the Cinnamon Grand and the Mt. Lavinia Hotel.

02.05. Proposed draft Act (Sri Lanka Media Authority Act)

Following the 20th anniversary of the Colombo Declaration on Media Freedom and Social Responsibility held in September, Mr. Dieter Loraine, Managing Director, Albany Associates Limited, UK was tasked with outlining a draft Act including concerns, articulated at the 20th anniversary of the Colombo Declaration and the Independent News Media Council Act (Revised) Discussion Draft (July 21, 2017). Mr. Loraine together with Ms. Lindsay Ross of the Commonwealth Media Trust held informal discussions with representatives of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka (TEGOSL), the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka (NSSL), the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA), the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Sri Lanka Press Institute (SLPI) on a proposed draft of SLPI's constituent parties.

02.06. Gender issues:

A midst the predominantly male-dominated editors, there are four women editors (Ms. Pushpa Rowel, Editor, Dinamina newspaper, Ms. Hana Ibrahim, Editor, Daily/Weekend Express, Ms. Dharisha Bastian, Editor, Sunday Observer and Ms. Mandana Ismail Abeywickrema, Editor, the Sunday Morning) and quite a few women sub-editors, news editors, features editors and supplement editors.

02.07. PCCSL and RTI

The PCCSL continued to assist the SLPI to promote the Right to Information (RTI) in the Provinces by conducting five programmes in five districts (Badulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura and Galle) covering the three language streams, Sinhala, Tamil and English. A total of 125 male and 75 female youth attended these programmes. This programme was assisted by Mr. Kamal Liyanarachchi, Complaints Officer, Sinhala Print of the PCCSL.

02.08. Total number of newspapers monitored and their frequency

Total number of dailies and weeklies published in the three language streams at the commencement of 2018 was 43. However, at the end of December 31, 2018 there were 39 dailies and weeklies published in the three language streams.

The newspapers that closed during 2018 were: Sinhala language - Rivira daily and weekly and Lankbima daily newspapers, Tamil language – Sudar Oli daily and weekly and English language – The Nation and The Sunday Leader newspapers.

In Jaffna, the Yarl Thinakkural, Uthayan, Valampuri and Kalaikathir are published in Jaffna. Kandy and Batticaloa also have their regional newspapers

List of newspapers published and their frequency in the Year 2018:

Sinhala (dailies):

1. Lankadeepa
2. Ada
3. Dinamina
4. Resa
5. Divaina
6. Maubima

:

Sinhala (weeklies):

1. Irida Lankadeepa
2. Deshaya
3. Silumina
4. Irida Divaina
5. Maubima (Irida)
6. Irida Lakkima
7. Ravaya
8. Aththa
9. Anidda
10. Lanka
11. Sathi Aga Aruna

Tamil (dailies):

1. Virakesari
2. Metro News
3. Thinakkural
4. Tamil Mirror
5. Thinakaran

Tamil (weeklies):

1. Virakesari weekly
2. Thinakkural weekly
3. Thinakaran Varamanjali
4. Navamani
5. Vidivellu

English (dailies):

1. Daily Mirror
2. Daily FT
3. Daily News
4. The Island
5. Daily Express
6. Ceylon Today

English (weeklies):

1. The Sunday Times
2. Sunday Observer
3. Sunday Island
4. Weekend Express
5. Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)
6. the Sunday Morning

- Total Sinhala language dailies/weeklies – 17 newspapers (six dailies and 11 weeklies) – 43.58 per cent
- Total Tamil language dailies/weeklies – 10 newspapers (five dailies and five weeklies) – 25.64 per cent.
- Total English language dailies/weeklies – 12 newspapers (six dailies and six weeklies) – 30.76 per cent.

03. Complaints

During the period under review (January to December 2018), the PCCSL received **79** complaints. The following is a breakdown of the complaints as against the different language newspapers.

- * Against the Sinhala language press: **48** complaints.
- * Against the Tamil language press: **12** complaints.
- * Against the English language press: **14** complaints.
- * Not against the print media: **05** complaints

03.01. Types of complaints received: (To update)

Valid complaints: 60

- * Resolved: **31** complaints.
- * Complainant did not proceed: **19** complaints.
- * No response from Editor: **06** complaints – Name of newspaper: Yarl Thinakkural (02), Valampuri (01), Divaina (01), Daily News (02).
- * **(Pending: 04)**

Invalid complaints: 19

- * Out of mandate: **08** complaints (Complaints that do not fall within the purview of the PCCSL).
- * Sub-judice: **00** complaints (Complaints pending in courts).
- * Dismissed: **11** complaints (Not a valid complaint)

Total: 79 complaints (please see attached chart)

03.02. Complaints were received against the following newspapers:

- * The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited: ANCL (Lake House) Newspapers: **Daily News, Sunday Observer, Resa, Dinamina and Thinakaran.**
- * Wijeya Newspapers Limited: **The Sunday Times, Daily Mirror, Daily FT, Lankadeepa, Irida Lankadeepa and Ada.**

- * Upali Newspapers Limited: **Divaina** and **Irida Divaina**.
- * Lakbima Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited: **Lakbima**.
- * Rivira Media Corporation (Pvt.) Limited: **Irida Rivira**.
- * P 2 (Private) Ltd: **Lanka**.
- * Kalaikathir publishers Limited: **Kalaikathir**.
- * Valampuri Publishers Limited: **Valampuri**.
- * Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Limited: **Metro News**.
- * Ravaya Publishers (Guarantee) Company Ltd: **Ravaya**.
- * United Newspapers Limited: **Yarl Thinakkural**.
- * Ceylon Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited: **Ceylon Today (Daily edition)** and **Maubima**.
- * Saba Publishers Limited: **Saba**.
- * Theepan Publishers Limited: **Theepan**.

03.03. Other complaints:

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

03.04. 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 243 complaints have been resolved during the year with the publication of a clarification, correction, apology or Right of Reply. This includes 159 concerning Sinhala newspapers, 06 Tamil and 78 English. (please see attached chart)

03.05. Violations of the Code monitored by the PCCSL:

The PCCSL, during the year, monitored violations of the Code in 40 instances in 18 newspapers (**Sunday Observer**, **Daily News**, **Dinamina**, **Thinakaran**, **Lakbima**, **Sudar Oli**, **Thinakkural**, **The Island**, **Divaina**, **Rivira**, **Metro News**, **Virakesari daily and weekly**, **Daily Mirror**, **Ceylon Today**, **Maubima daily and weekly**, **Navamani**, (please see attached chart)

04. Rights of Readers

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

They are:

- **Wijeya Newspapers Limited:** Daily Mirror, the Sunday Times, Daily FT, Ada, Deshaya and Tamil Mirror.
- **Associated Newspapers Ceylon Limited (Lake House):** Sunday Observer, Daily News, Dinamina and Thinakaran.
- **Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt.) Limited:** Virakesari daily/weekly, Metro News.
- **Mass Media Syndicate (Pvt.) Limited:** Sudar Oli daily/weekly.

- **Free Lanka Newspapers (Pvt.) Limited:** Navamani.
- **Asian Media Publications (Pvt.) Limited:** Thinakkural daily.
- **Lakbima Newspapers Limited:** Lakbima daily and Irida Lakbima.
- **Rivira Media Corporation (Pvt.) Limited:** The Nation and Rivira.
- **Ravaya Publishers (Guarantee) Company Limited:** Ravaya
- **Upali Newspapers (Private) Limited:** The Island and Sunday Island.
- **Anidda Publishers (Guarantee) Company Limited:** Anidda

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

05. Dispute Resolution Council

The Dispute Resolution Council (DRC) met on seven occasions (January, March, May, June, August, October and December). The Chairman of the 11-member Dispute Resolution Council is former Secretary General of Parliament and Attorney Nihal Seneviratne. The other members are: Dr. Devanesan Nesiah, Mrs. Gnana Moonesinghe, Mr. Lucille Wijewardene, Mr. Javid Yusuf and Mr. Dion Schoorman, who are non-journalist members of the Council totalling six. Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Mr. Pramod de Silva, Mrs. Vijita Fernando, Mr. Daya Lankapura and Mr. P. Balasingham, are the journalist members on the Council totalling five. Mrs. Vijita Fernando stepped down due to poor health early in the year. Ms. Malini Govinnage was selected to replace her and resigned in December due to poor health.

06. Membership of PCCSL

Membership of the PCCSL stands at 48 as of December 31, 2018 with the demise of Mr. Jatila Wellaboda.

07. Awareness and Promotional Programmes

07.01. Web Page

The web page – www.pccsl.lk - continued to grow with 18,200 hits recorded since it was inaugurated on January 01, 2013. The Web Page makes it easier for complainants to learn more about the PCCSL, its activities, the Code of Professional Practice, the Colombo Declaration and how to make online complaints. The web page is updated with the latest information.

07.02. Programmes with publishers, Editors, journalists and provincial correspondents

The PCCSL conducted a total of 14 meetings for 118 people comprising publishers, Editors, Desk Heads, sub editors and journalists (reporters). The PCCSL also visited 05 Districts and conducted programmes for provincial correspondents. (Please see awareness chart).

07.03. Awareness programmes with civil society

The PCCSL also made positive headway by meeting 50 members representing various sections of civil society at 14 meetings. The role of the PCCSL, Rules and Procedures of the PCCSL and the Editors' Code were explained. These programmes were well

attended by principals of schools, teachers, government officials, military and police personnel, local government institutions, academics, doctors and the Directors of Education. They were eager to know more about the PCCSL and how it works. (Please see awareness chart).

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

2017 was an economically bad year for the newspaper industry and spilled over into Year 2018, poor advertising revenue and circulation, soaring production costs due to further depreciation of the Rupee against the US Dollar forcing some newspapers to change hands while some ceased production.

Following are the affected newspapers:

- The *Sudar Oli* newspaper (Tamil language daily/weekly), ceased publication.
- *Janayugaya* (Sinhala language daily/weekly), ceased publication.
- *Sathhanda* (Sinhala language weekly), ceased publication.
- *The Nation* (English language weekly), ceased publication.
- *Rivira* (Sinhala language daily/weekly), management and Editorial changes. Ceased publication.
- *Ravaya* (Sinhala language weekly), change in management and Editorial.
- *Anidda* (Sinhala language weekly), launched.
- *Resa* (Sinhala language daily), launched.
- the *Sunday Morning* (English language weekly), launched.
- *Sathi Aga Aruna* (Sinhala language weekly), launched.

09. Newspaper industry and security situation of journalists

January

Media guidelines introduced when election reporting:

Following the Gazetteering of the 32-point new media law governing coverage of elections, it was presented to Parliament and passed after a brief debate. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe signed the Gazette on January 02, 2018.

February

- The Sri Lanka Press Association held its 62nd Annual General Meeting.
- Ms. Dharisha Bastians appointed Editor of the *Sunday Observer*.

April

- *Anidda* (Sinhala language weekly), launched.

May

Attacks against media personnel:

- May 31, 2018: Mr. U. K. Kaldeen, Freelance Correspondent was attacked by a group of thugs at 5.30 am in Sainthamaruthu while he was on his way home after prayers. His motorcycle was also damaged. (Source: *Ceylon Today*).

Closure/change hands of newspapers:

- Mr. Chamara Lakshan, Editor *Resa* newspaper appointed Editor of *Silumina*.

June

Attacks against media personnel:

- June 03, 2018: Mr. Selvarajah Rajendran (55), Circulation Manager of *Kaalai Kathir* on May 28 at 4 am near Hindu College was attacked by five armed men on motorbicycles with faces covered. (Source: *The Sunday Times*)

Closure/change hands of newspapers:

- Mr. Chaminda Wariyagoda, appointed Editor of *Silumina* newspaper following the sudden demise of Mr. Chamara Lakshan.
- Mr. Philips Shantha, appointed Editor of *Resa* newspaper.

July

- *Saba* (Sinhala language tabloid weekly), edited by Mr. Bandula Padmakumara was launched in July. It closed later in the year.
- *Siyadesa* (Sinhala language weekly), published by Express Newspapers (Ceylon) (Pvt) Ltd, in June ceased publication.

August

- August 14, 2018: Free Media Movement (FMM) condemns alleged threat on journalist by Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya, President of the Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA). The journalist of the *Sunday Observer* was called a traitor in a press release.
- The English language version of the Social Media Declaration, Sri Lanka 2018 – Code of Conduct for Responsible Social Media Use, undertaken by the CPA was shared with the PCCSL on Aug. 16. The CPS requested the PCCSL's response. Mr. Kamal Liyanaarachchi, Complaints Officer – Sinhala Print was invited to be a member of the panel.
- *Sudar Oli* that was closed re-opened Aug. 26 as a weekly newspaper out on Sunday. The editor Mr. R. Sivaraja is planning on investing and taking ownership.
- *Dan Irida* a tabloid weekly Sinhala newspaper has been published the past month by Saptna Media Corporation (Pvt) Ltd. The editor is Mr. Thushara Guneratne assisted by Mr. Upul Joseph both formerly of *Janayugaya* which has closed.

September

- The seventh English language weekend (Sunday) newspaper was released in September published by the Derana Group. It is 'the *Sunday Morning*' and the Sinhala language issue is 'Sathi Aga Aruna.' Mr. Dilith Jayaweera is the MD. The other six weekend (Sunday) newspapers are: *The Sunday Times*, *Sunday Observer*, *Sunday Island*, *Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)*, *Weekend FT* and *Weekend Express*.

October

Attacks against media personnel:

- A Valampuri journalist – Uthayarasa Shalin was being harassed by the TID for publishing a photograph of the inside of a Hindu Temple where a religious

ceremony was taking place depicting the Tamil Homeland map in the background. Reporters Without Borders (RSF) called upon the government to stop harassing the journalist.

November

- Nov. 02, was 'International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists.' An article 'A new level of audacity for impunity and journalist murders' sent by Mr. Andrew Heslop, Director Press Freedom WAN-IFRA was published in Daily FT (Nov. 02). Daily Mirror (Nov. 02) also featured an article on the 'Third Asian Investigative Journalism Conference,' in Seoul.

Attacks against media personnel:

- Nov. 19, Damitha Chandrasiri (41), script writer and Editor of 'koombiyo,' tele drama on ITN has been missing for past three weeks (last seen Oct. 29) police said on Nov. 18, 2018.

December

- The *Lakbima* Daily newspaper published by the Sumathi Group ceased publication on Dec. 01, 2018.
- The *Irida Rivira* ceased publication on Dec.02, 2018. Earlier the *Rivira Daily* ceased and before that *The Nation* newspaper.
- On Dec. 05, 2018 Speaker Karu Jayasuriya summoned the Secretary to the Ministry of Media Mr. Sunil Hettiarachchi and acting Chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) Mr. Somaratna Dissanayake to Parliament following complaints by several MPs that state media institutions are not publishing Parliamentary reports accurately and without bias. The Speaker made it clear that there is no Prime Minister and Cabinet in the country. The media institutions are: Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC), Independent Television Network (ITN) and newspapers published by the Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Limited (ANCL) (Lake House). SLBC acting Chairman also expressed regret at stopping the live telecast of Parliamentary proceedings and would recommence broadcasting it.
- Mr. Mangala Samaraweera, re-appointed Minister of Finance and Mass Media Dec 21, 2018 following the political crisis. Lake House along with SLRC, SLBC and ITN come under his purview.
- Mr. Chrishantha Cooray re-appointed as Chairman, ANCL.

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 on September 12, 2018.

10.01. Board members:

Mr. Kumar Nadesan (Chairman, nominee of SLPI), Mr. Sinha Ratnatunga (Deputy Chairman, nominee of The Editors' Guild of Sri Lanka), Mr. Nimal Welgama (nominee of the Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka), Mr. Ananda Jayasekera (nominee of the Free Media Movement), Mr. Manik de Silva (nominee of the SLPI), Mr. Duminda Sampath (nominee of the Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association), Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, Mr. M. N. Ameen and Mr. Mohanalal 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 PCCSL Secretariat also wishes to place on record its grateful thanks to Mr. Nimal Welgama, Managing Director of Upali Newspapers Limited who has continuously for the past 15 years printed the PCCSL Annual Report on *gratis* basis.

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

Sukumar Rockwood
Chief Executive Officer

Complaints received by the PCCSL between January and December 2018

January 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/01/2018	Dec. 19, 2017 (received Jan. 03, 2018)	Ms. Sarathanjali Karnan, Divisional Secretary, Vavuniya	Yarl Thinnakural	Story published Dec. 19, 2017 concerning not providing water to farmers incorrect. Sent Complaint Form and Correction. Forwarded to Editor Jan. 04, 2018. Sent second letter on May 15, 2018. Editor has not responded.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading news NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/02/01/2018	Jan. 15, 2018	Group Captain M. D. A. G. Senaviratne, Director Media, Air Force, Colombo.	Maubima	Copy of complaint about Minister Amaraweera 's flight to Jaffna in a private Helicopter. Air force said incorrect story published on Jan. 15. Complaint Form send to Complainant. Informed Editor. Editor publishers RoR on Jan. 16.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading news RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/01/2018	Jan. 17, 2018	Mr. N. M. Abdullah,	Kalaikkathir	Complaint received Jan. 17 in which he states that newspaper	COMPLAINANT DID NOT

1/2018		Member Municipal Council, Jaffna		article is incorrect concerning Muslim traders in Jaffna. Called for RoR and Complaint Form Jan. 18. Tried calling complainant no response and sent two letters Jan. 17 and May 15. Complainant did not want to proceed	PROCEED
PCCSL/04/0 1/2018	Jan. 17, 2018	Ms. Sarahanjali Karnan, Divisional Secretary, Vavuniya	Yarl Thinakural	Complaint Form received. Complaint received Jan. 17 concerning letter sent out by Divisional Secretary but mentioned as Sub-Divisional Secretary which is incorrect. Sent letter Jan. 18 calling for correct clarification. Received Jan. 30. Forwarded to Editor Jan. 30 after talking to him. Sent second letter May 15. No response from Editor	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading news NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/05/0 1/2018	Jan. 23, 2018	Center for Human Rights & Research, 100/9A, Walikadawatta Road, Rajagiriya.	TV, Hiru and Derana	Complainant said some correspondents are airing incorrect stories concerning Uva Province Chief Minister's recent incident and subsequent Court case. They question the role of journalists. Complaint does not fall within the purview of the PCCSL.	OUT OF MANDAT E

February 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/02/2018	Feb. 01, 2018	Mr. S. M. Rizwan, Businessman, Mundal	Metro News	Called and complained about a photo mix up on page 15. The stories are correct but the photographs have got switched. Called and spoke to Mr. Senthilnathan COO to correct. Published correction Feb. 02.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/02/2018	Feb. 07, 2018.	Mr. L. L. J. K. Panagoda, 30, Senadilankaragama, Buwenakaba MW, Mirihana, Kotte.	Dinamina	Feb. 03, 2018 court report mentions his name, which he objected to. Came to PCCSL Office Feb. 07. told him that it is not a valid complaint since he is a suspect in a case and the court has mentioned his name.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/03/02/2018	Feb. 07, 2018.	Mr. L. L. J. K. Panagoda, 30, Senadilankaragama, Buwenakaba MW, Mirihana, Kotte.	Lankadeepa	Feb. 03, 2018 court report mentions his name, which he objected to. Came to PCCSL Office Feb. 07. told him that it is not a valid complaint since he is a suspect in a case and the court has mentioned his name.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/04/02/2018	Feb. 07, 2018.	Mr. I. G. Rohan Lal Weerasinha, 152/08, Malapalla, Pannipitiya.	Dinamina	Feb. 03, 2018 court report mentions his name, which he objected to. Came to PCCSL Office Feb. 07. told him that it is not a valid complaint since he is a suspect in a case and the court has mentioned his name.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/05/02/2018	Feb. 07, 2018.	Mr. I. G. Rohan Lal Weerasinha, 152/08, Malapalla, Pannipitiya.	Lankadeepa	Feb. 03, 2018 court report mentions his name, which he objected to. Came to PCCSL Office Feb. 07. told him that it is not a valid complaint since he is a suspect in a case and the court has mentioned his name.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/06/02/2018	Feb. 09, 2018	Mr. Eliyathambi Ratnam, Department of Marketing, University of Jaffna, Jaffna.	Valampuri	Copy of complaint sent from Jaffna concerning a misleading headline. Spoke to complainant on Feb. 09 and Mr. N. Vijayasunderam, editor. He argued he is correct. Requested to please reconsider and publish RoR. Called complainant May 15	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting NO RESPONSE FROM

				discussed matter. He said he visited the newspaper on two occasions and they promised to publish the RoR. No response from Editor.	EDITOR
PCCSL/07/02/2018	Feb. 13, 2018.	Mrs. R. A. H. R. Ranaweera, Principal, Henepola Vidyalaya, Pamunuwatta, Mirigama.	Lankadeepa	Feb. 02 story concerning Henepola Vidyalaya being used as a Polling Station has also given incorrect information. Complaint received via fax. Emailed Complaint Form on Feb. 13 and called for information. Received Complaint Form with complaint on Feb. 19. Forwarded to Editor the same day. Editor published Feb. 22.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting RESOLVED
PCCSL/08/02/2018	Feb. 19, 2018	SSP. H. K. S. Wijayagunawarden, SSP Panadura 02, Panadura.	Lankadeepa	Feb. 02, 2018 incorrect story published. Sent Complaint Form and called for details of complaint on Feb. 19. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

March 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in details

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/ position
PCCSL/01/03/2018	March 13, 2018	Mr. Harindra B. Dassanayake, Director, Policy Research and International Media,	Sunday Observer	Story refers to President been the third richest person in Sri Lanka. Newspaper should be accountable for their stories. Received documents March 14 Complaint forwarded to Editor March 15, 2018 with copies to Chairman and Director Editorial.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting RESOLVED

		President's Media Division, Presidential Secretariat, Galle Face, Colombo 01.		RoR published March 18.	
PCCSL/02/03/2018	March 16, 2018	Ms. Anita Varia, Colombo 06	Hirunews.lk	Complained over telephone concerning photograph of one of two people who died in a motor car accident on March 15 in Kapparatota on the Matara- Weligama Road. Although his face is partially cover, the body is visible. Explained about PCCSL. Outside of PCCSL's mandate. Spoke to them and immediately removed the photograph.	Clause: 07. Privacy RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/03/2018	March 20, 2018	Mr. Chinthaka Dharmasena, Engineer, Colombo.	Daily FT	Complainant called in concerning article appearing written by Ruki Fernando, using the word Sinhala Buddhist in a derogatory way.	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.4(i): Prejudicial or pejorative RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/03/2018	March 22, 2018	Counseling Club, Meepitiya, Kegalle	Tamil language newspapers	Complained concerning use of semi-nude photographs and descriptive stories which are damaging to young readers.	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion RESOLVED

April 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/04/2018	April 05, 2018	Mr. Kanapathipillai Asokan, Puloli, Jaffna	Valampuri	Complaint sent by Jaffna Office via email. Spoke to complainant on April 05 to seek clarification. The complaint concerns a designation of an officer in the Northern Provincial Council, Ministry of Education. The complainant and Editor are at logger heads concerning the designation. PCCSL wrote to Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs of the Northern Provincial Council for a conformation on Aug. 06. Called Aug. 24 said will respond week 26-31 since they await response from the Divisional Office. Received letter from NPC, Ministry Sept. 18. The position exists. Replied to complainant and editor Sept. 19, following complainants telephone call.	Not a violation of the Code RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/04/2018	April 05, 2018	Mr. Kanapathipillai Asokan, Puloli, Jaffna	Valampuri	Complaint sent by Jaffna Office via email. Spoke to complainant on April 05 to seek clarification. The complaint concerns an article. The article is written by the Editor about an individual. There is no valid complaint	DISMISSED
PCCSL/03/04/2018	April 06, 2018	Director, Terrorist Investigation	Lankadeepa	Pradeshiya Secretary Kutchuveli orders removal of Buddhist flag flying in a house. Complaint states false information. Called for	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting

		Department, Police Headquarters, Colombo 01		more details and Complaint Form. Complaint Form received May. 02. Forwarded to editor May 03. Spoke to Editor and RoR published Feb. 06, 2019.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/04/2018	April 10, 2018	Mr. P. Kunaretnam, District Director, Department of Samurdhi Development for Government Agent, Batticaloa	Theepam	Called for Complaint Form and RoR before April 18. Called Aug. 24 said will post. No progress from complainant. Complainant did not want to proceed..	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/04/2018	April 06, 2018	Mr. Daljith Aluwihare, Mayor, Matale Municipal Council	Maubima	Complaint received via email. False story published. Sent story await Complaint Form and RoR. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/04/2018	April 10, 2018.	Ms. Paba Deshapriya, Human Rights Activist, Colombo.	Irida Divaina	Complainant Called PCCSL Incorrect story concerning LGBTQ Education program in Sri Lanka published April 08 2018. Await Complaint Form and RoR. Clarification published April 22.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.2: Verify accuracy of article. RESOLVED
PCCSL/07/04/2018	April 23, 2018	Mr. Thilina Hiripitiya, Colombo	Sunday Observer	Complaint emailed concerning misleading advertisement. Forwarded to Editor. Complaint does not fall within purview of PCCSL	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/08/04/2018	April 24, 2018	Mr. M. Varatharaj, Dehiwela	Metro News	Complaint concerns an advertisement where the advertisement was paid for and has not appeared. Although complaint does not fall within purview of the PCCSL requested receipt to forward to newspaper. Received receipt from complainant and forwarded to Virakesari May 11. Virakesari replied May 23 with receipt ,	OUT OF MANDATE

				published advertisement and covering letter stating advertisement was published. To clarify doubt since it was not the complainant's advertisement that was published PCCSL called Virakesari, Advertising Manager and clarified doubt. He said it is not their mistake but the Wellawatte agent. This was informed to the complainant on May 28. After a lapse of time he complains again on July 05. called and explained.	
PCCSL/09/04/2018	April 26, 2018	Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya, Media Spokesman, Department of Prisons, Colombo	Irida Divaina	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. April 24 sent Complaint Form and letter calling for details and requesting complainant if not published to call PCCSL. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

May 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/05/2018	May 01, 2018	Mr. Mohamed Saleem Ahamed Zulfikar, Rajagiriya	Yarl Thinnakural	Spoke to editor and posted RoR May 02. Story is heavy with communal overtones (Tamil-Muslim). Published RoR.	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.3: Shall not

					promote religious discord RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/05/2018	May 24, 2018	Mr. Dilhan Jayawardena, Chairman, Sri Lanka Automobile Sports, Colombo 07	Dinamina	Misleading information. Forwarded to Editor May 11. Editor replies to PCCSL June 11 saying RoR published on March 06. The complainant said he had not seen the correction and was grateful to the editor.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/05/2018	May 28, 2018	Mrs. L. A. S. Shahikala Jayasekara, Director of Education, Habaraduwa, Jayanthi Mawatha, Ihalagoda, Akmeemana.	Dinamina	In the Rajya sewava pinisa feature page of the Dinamina newspaper on May 17 published three stories regarding her. She says they are insulting and defamatory. She visited PCCSL office. Filled Complaint Form and called for documents May 30. Complainant did not proceed	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/04/05/2018	May 08, 2018	Mr. Dammika Muthugala, Commissioner Dehiwela-Mt. Lavinia Municipal Council	Lankadeepa	Copy of complaint sent to PCCSL called for details of complaint and Complaint Form. Requested from complainant to forward to PCCSL if RoR is not published. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/05/2018	May 28, 2018	Mr. Daljith Aluwihare, Mayor, Municipal Council, Matale.	Lankadeepa	Complaint against article published on May 08, concerning new tax system implemented in Matale MC. He says it is misleading but his version also appears in article. Called for clarification to check whether it is a valid complaint. Not a valid complaint. Informed complainant May 31.	02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading DISMISSED
PCCSL/06/05/2018	May 28,	Mr. Daljith Aluwihare,	Lankadeepa	Complaint against similar article published on May 08 again on	Clause: 02. Accurate

	2018	Mayor, Municipal Council, Matale.		May 14, concerning new tax system implemented in Matale MC. He says it is misleading but his version also appears in article. Called for clarification to check whether it is a valid complaint. Not a valid complaint. Informed complainant May 31.	Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate or misleading DISMISSED
--	------	--	--	--	---

June 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/06/2018	June 11, 2018.	Ms. P. K. L. P. Maduwanthi, Divisional Secretary, Matale.	Lankadeepa	June 07 article concerning construction of a building by her husband. Copy of Complaint sent to PCCSL. Reply to complainant with Complaint Form and more information on June 11. Received Aug. 21. Clarification incomplete wrote to complainant Aug. 23. Received document Sept. 03. Forwarded to Editor Sept. 04. Sept. 12 RoR published	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/06/2018	June 16, 2018	Mr. M. R. R. Fasmi, Pannala, Mr. F. Farook, Gampola and two others	Virakesari	Published story on June 16, 2018. Headline: 'Arrest of Ven. Gnanasara Thera is a gift for Ramazan festival.' RoR carried on June 18, 2018	Clause: 06. General reporting and writing Sub Clause: 6.3 Shall not promote religious discord

					RESOLVED
--	--	--	--	--	-----------------

July 2018

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 10 (S-09, T-00, E-01, O-00)
VALID COMPLAINTS	07
Resolved	02
Complainant did not proceed	04
No response from Editor	01 (Divaina)
INVALID COMPLAINTS	03
Out of Mandate	01
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	02

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/07/2018	July 03, 2018	Dr. (Mrs.) N. D. Udagama, Chairperson Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Colobo	Daily Mirror	Copy of complaint sent to PCCSL concerning article published on June 25 - 'SL Army Peacekeeping mission held up due to delay in clearance by HRCSL.' Incorrect story. Clarification published June 28 should be a 'Correction.' Article published paraphrased. Statement by Army also published inside. Hopes in the future issues pertaining to HRCSL are given due publicity. There is no complaint since RoR was published and Army statement.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/02/07/2018	July 05, 2018.	Mr. D. K. Ranjith Dissanayake, 617/6 A, Rajagiriya Udyanaya, Nawala RoadC, Rajagiriya.	Irida Lankadeepa	Complaint concerns an advertisement published March 11 stating that he is not employed by soltrrim International (Pvt) Ltd. Complaint does not fall within purview of PCCSL process.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/03/07/2018	July 06, 2018	Dr. Jayampathi Senanayake, Director, Teaching Hospital,	Maubima Daily	Complaint concerns story published on June 19 on influenza drugs quoting him when he never spoke to the newspaper. July 09 PCCSL writes to complainant with Complaint Form and calling for	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEEDED

		Karapitiya.		details of inaccuracies. Complainant did not want to proceed.	
PCCSL/04/07/2018	July 09, 2018	Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya, Media spokesman and Prisons Commissioner, Prisons Headquarters, Baseline Road, Colombo 09	Divaina	Kosgoda Tharaka an under world person in remand prison in Aggunakolapalassa Prison mentioned in news story of June 27 and Editorial of June 28. Received Complaint Form and newspaper clippings. Forwarded to editor July 10.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/05/07/2018	July 10, 2018	Ms. Thilaka Kasthuriarachchi, Former General Manager, Cooperative Store, Homagama.	Ada	Complainant calls PCCSL and learns about complaint process. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/07/2018	July 10, 2018	Ms. Thilaka Kasthuriarachchi, Former General Manager, Cooperative Store, Homagama.	Maubima	Complainant calls PCCSL and learns about complaint process. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/07/2018	July 16, 2018	Mr. Ananda Maddumage, Lecturer NIE, Maharagama	Ravaya	Complainant came to PCCSL and discussed complaint concerning an interview and article against him. Await clarification. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/08/07/2018	July 17, 2018	Mr. Thushara Upuldeniya, Prisons Commissioner and Media spokesman, Prisons Headquarters, Colombo 09.	Lankadeepa	Copy of third party complaint concerning two incorrect news stories published on May 25 and 30, sent to PCCSL. Complainant has nothing to do with the Jailors Association. Dismissed	DISMISSED
PCCSL/09/07/2018	July 23, 2018	Mr. Dhammika Kobekadduwa, Lalan Rubbers Private Ltd, No 54, Kirulapona Avenue, Colombo 6.	Lankadeepa – (Sabaragamuwa Section)	July 19 newspaper clipping and Complaint Form sent to PCCSL. Says article is inaccurate. Called for more details. July 24 sent clarification to complainant for checking. Received clarification Sept. 03. Wrote to complainant concerning clarification Sept. 06. Received clarification Oct. 04 and	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading

				forwarded to Editor Oct. 10. Clarification published Oct. 17.	stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/10/07/2018	July 24, 2018	Ms. Paba Deshappriya, Country Director, Think Equal, Colombo	Saba (Mr. Bandula Padmakuma)	Copy of complaint posted to PCCSL. Complaint says article published on July 15 is misleading. Sent Complaint Form. Received Aug. 13. Clarification carried with editor's comment. Informed complainant Aug. 14.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED

August 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/08/2018	Aug. 09, 2018	Dr. A. Terrance Daya Fernando, Kandana	Catholic Messenger	Non inclusion of caste in matrimonial advertisements appearing in the newspaper. Called for details Aug. 14. Gave contact details of Magazine. Called said policy of the Catholic Church not to give caste in matrimonial advertisements. Informed complainant.	RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/08/2018	Aug. 14, 2018.	Ms. Samanthi Gamage, Manager, Office matters, Ceylon Petroleum Storage	Lankadeepa	Aug. 07 article installation of CCTV camera on site is misleading. Aug. 14 wrote to complainant with Complaint Form and called for details. Received Aug. 21. Forwarded to editor Aug. 22. Published Aug. 24. Forwarded	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing

		Terminal, Kolonnawa.		newspaper clipping with letter to complainant Aug. 27.	inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/08/2018	Aug. 14, 2018	Dr. G. Wijesuriya, Director Health, Southern Province, No: 15 A, Lower Dickson Road, Galle.	Resa	Aug. 06 published insulting and incorrect news about Complainant. Wrote to complainant Aug. 14, with Complaint Form and requesting more details. Received Complaint Form only on Sept. 03. Spoke to complainant Sept. 03 requesting clarification followed up by letter to complainant Sept. 04 explaining PCCSL process. Complainant wanted action taken against journalist. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAIN ANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/04/08/2018	Aug. 24, 2018	Ms. M. S. Yasali Abesundara, Deputy Director (Legal), National Child Protection Authority, Colombo.	Irida Lankadeepa	Copy of complaint containing insulting news about complainant published Aug. 05. Reply to complainant with Complaint Form Aug. 22. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAIN ANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/08/2018	August 31, 2018	Attorney SP Ruwan Gunasekara, Director Police Media and Media spokesman, Colombo.	Lankadeepa	Misleading news published Aug. 20 concerning IGP. Received Complaint Form and related documents. Tried to contact complainant Sept. 03 for a clarification. Clarification received Forwarded to editor Sept. 04. Published Jan. 31, 2019	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED

September 2018

Summary

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

Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	00

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/09/2018	Sept. 03, 2018.	Mr. D.S. Jayantha Kalubovila, Dematampitiya, Katuneriya.	Resa	Police arrested Professor. Report published 23 Sep 2018, regarding Mr. kalubowila's Court case. Sept. 03, replied to Complaint with complaint form. Sept. 10 complainant replied requesting time. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/09/2018	Sept. 03, 2018	Mr. M. H. Jawahir, Immediate Past General Secretary, Moors SC, Colombo 06.	Daily News	Inaccurate story 'Moors SC has a new secretary after 13 years,' published Aug. 16. Submitted Complaint Form and gave relevant documents to PCCSL. Wrote to Editor Sept. 04 along with RoR. No response from Editor.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/03/09/2018	Sept. 03, 2018	Mr. M. H. Jawahir, Immediate Past General Secretary, Moors SC, Colombo 06.	Sunday Observer	Inaccurate story 'Refai Ariff succeeds Mubarak as Moors SC secretary,' published Sept. 02. Submitted Complaint Form and gave relevant documents to PCCSL. Wrote to Editor Sept. 04 along with RoR. Published RoR Sept. 09.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/09/2018	Sept. 03, 2018	Ms. G. H. M. T. Manike, Ibulgodayagama, Balalla, Mahawa.	Lankadeepa	Story published with incorrect information, Aug. 29 concerning funeral house. Reply to complainant with complaint form. Spoke to complainant Sept. 03 forwarded documents. Documents received Sept. 05. Cleared doubts in clarification with complainant Sept. 06 and sent letter to complainant. Clarification received Sept. 14 but not clear. Spoke to complainant Sept. 14 not replied. Complainant did not proceed	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/05/09/2018	Sept. 14,	Mr. D. S.	Lankadeepa	Article is based on a ruling given	COMPLAINANT

	2018	Jayantha Kalubovila, Dematampitiya, Katuneriya.		by complainant in his court which was reported Aug. 20. The report is incorrect. Sent Complaint Form Sept. 14. Complainant did not proceed.	DID NOT PROCEED
--	------	---	--	---	------------------------

October 2018

Summary

Total number of complaints received	Total: 11 (S-08, T-00, E-02, O-01)
VALID COMPLAINTS	09
Resolved	06
Complainant did not proceed	02
No response from Editor	01 (Daily News)
INVALID COMPLAINTS	02
Out of Mandate	00
Sub-judice	00
Dismissed	02

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/10/2018	Oct. 01, 2018.	SP. Ruwan Gunasekara, Media Spokesman, Police Headquarters, Colombo 01.	Lakbima	Sept. 26 article on arrest of Indian National in connection with the assassination plot of President and former President incorrect. Forwarded to editor Oct. 02. RoR published Oct. 04.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/02/10/2018	Oct. 01, 2018	SP. Ruwan Gunasekara, Media Spokesman, Police Headquarters, Colombo 01.	Ceylon Today	Sept. 26 article on arrest of Indian National in connection with the assassination plot of President and former President incorrect. Forwarded to editor Oct. 02. RoR published Oct. 05	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/10/2018	Oct. 01, 2018	SP. Ruwan Gunasekara, Media	Maubima	Sept. 26 article on arrest of Indian National in connection with the assassination plot of President	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting

		Spokesman, Police Headquarters, Colombo 01.		and former President incorrect. Forwarded to editor Oct. 02. RoR published Oct. 04.	Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/04/10/2018	Oct. 01, 2018	SP. Ruwan Gunasekara, Media Spokesman, Police Headquarters, Colombo 01.	Divaina	Sept. 26 article on arrest of Indian National in connection with the assassination plot of President and former President incorrect. Forwarded to editor Oct. 02. RoR published Oct. 05.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/05/10/2018	Oct. 09, 2018	Ms. Yashali Abayasundara , Lawyer, National Child Protection Authority, Madiwela, Sri Jayawardanap ura.	Lanka Newsweb	Sept. 20 article concerning publishing of Chairperson's statement about pregnant child misleading. Sent letter calling for details along with Complaint Form Oct. 09. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/06/10/2018	Oct. 09, 2018	Ms. Inoka Sathyangani Kirthinanda, Chairperson, Rupavahini, Colombo.	Irida Aruna	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. Oct. 07 article concerning Rupavahini logo to be changed is misleading. Sent letter calling for details along with Complaint Form Oct. 09. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/07/10/2018	Oct. 10, 2018	General Manger, State State Engineering Corporation of Sri Lanka, Colombo	Daily News	Article appearing in Oct. 10 issue is incorrect. Sent by fax and spoke to PCCSL. Complainant Form sent via email Oct. 10. Editor did not proceed.	NO RESPONSE FROM EDITOR
PCCSL/08/10/2018	Oct. 12, 2018	Ms. N. P. A. Seneviratne, Attorney-at- Law, Pannipitiya	Ada	Received complaint over the telephone concerning article published Oct. 11 on 'Navy Sampath' been remanded. Oct. 12 received documents without Complaint Form. Emailed complainant Oct. 12 concerning Complaint Form. Published Oct. 15.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories.

					RESOLVED
PCCSL/09/10/2018	Oct. 19, 2018	Mr.Chula Lakna Senaratne Dias, Mechanical Engineer, Kaduganawa.	Divaina	The story (Dec. 07, 2001) along with his photograph (not in story) photocopied and circulated insulting him. A court case also is pending. Complaint is out of mandate since it is beyond two-years in publication of original article and also has no bearing on the article. There is no complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/10/10/2018	Oct. 19, 2018	Mr.Chula Lakna Senaratne Dias, Mechanical Engineer, Kaduganawa.	Dinamina	The story (Dec. 15, 2001) along with his photograph (not in story) photocopied and circulated insulting him. A court case also is pending. Complaint is out of mandate since it is beyond two-years in publication of original article and also has no bearing on the article. There is no complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/11/10/2018	Oct. 22, 2018	Mr. V. Ajith Dharmapriya, Media Secretary, Petroleum Corporation, Colombo – 09.	Sathi Aga Aruna	Copy of complaint forwarded to PCCSL. Interview of Mr. Cyril Suduwella, Former Deputy General Manager, Petroleum Corporation, published Oct. 07 incorrect. Oct. 22 wrote to complainant with Complaint Form and called for details of complaint. Published Oct. 28.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED

November 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/position
PCCSL/01/11/2018	Nov. 02, 2018	Eng. B. M. C. G. Balasuriya, Deputy Director, Farm Mechanization Research Centre (FMRC) Mahailluppallama. (Department of Agriculture)	Irida Rivira	Copy of complaint received. Sent Complaint Form to formalise complaint Nov. 05. Complainant did not proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED
PCCSL/02/11/2018	Nov. 09, 2018	Ms: Sudath Perera Associates, Attorney for Mr. Geoffrey Aloysius, Colombo.	Daily Mirror	Copy of complaint forwarded to editor faxed to PCCSL Nov. 09. Registered post complaint received Nov. 12. (weekend holiday). Spoke to editor Nov. 09. Clarification published Nov. 10.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/11/2018	No. 09, 2018.	Mr. C. P. B. Pitawala, Boralasgamuwa.	Irida Lankadeepa	Complaint concerning inappropriate headlines on Nov. 04 article. Wrote to complainant and forwarded to editor. Editor replies Dec. 14. Forwarded to complainant. Not a valid complaint	DISMISSED
PCCSL/04/11/2018	Nov. 12, 2018	Mr. M. A. M. Jabeer, Akkaraipattu	Metro News	Complaint received Nov. 12 with three attached newspaper clippings. All have mistakes. Called and forwarded to editor on Nov. 12.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1: Avoid publishing inaccurate and misleading stories. RESOLVED
PCCSL/05/11/2018	Nov. 16, 2018	Mr. H. Abdul Saththar, Registrar, South Eastern	Madawala (Online News)	Complainant requests PCCSL to find the author of an article appearing on the Madawala Online News. Concerns electronic	OUT OF MANDATE

		University, Oluvil		media outside PCCSL mandate.	
PCCSL/06/11/2018	Nov. 21, 2018	Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy, Director, Teaching Hospital, Jaffna	New Jaffna.com (Online News)	Received faxed copy of complaint along with Complaint Form. Concerns a photograph of a woman whose child (04) was raped by her paramour. This appeared on an online newspaper. Outside PCCSL mandate informed complainant.	OUT OF MANDATE
PCCSL/07/11/2018	Nov. 21, 2018	Mr. S. M. A. S. M. Sarooj, Member Urban Council, Eravur	Thinakaran	Scanned copy of article along with Complaint Form sent by post. Spoke to complainant Nov. 27 to send the complaint. Emailed Nov. 28 the details of complaint. Forwarded to editor Nov. 28. Spoke to editor said no complaint.	DISMISSED
PCCSL/08/11/2018	Nov. 30, 2018	Deshabandu Ifthikar Aziz, Colombo	Lankadeepa	Email complaint. Reference to 'Muslim' in text in story concerning drug smuggling. Wrote to editor Nov. 30 to share with journalists/sub editors to be careful when writing stories not to mention race, religion or caste.	Clause: 06. General reporting and writing Sub clause: 6.4 (I): Avoid prejudicial reference. RESOLVED

December 2018

Summary

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

Complaints in detail

File number	Date of complaint	Complainant's name and address	Newspaper	Details of complainant	Violation/ position
PCCSL/01/12/2018	Dec. 12, 2018.	Mr. M. S. Rislan, Businessman -	Dinamina	Imported cancer drugs from Russia lead news, Dec. 07, 2018. Complaint about miss	COMPLAINT DID NOT

		importer of medical drugs, Vajira Road, Colombo 04.		leading information concerning company, Complainant goes to Bambalapitiya police and complains against newspaper. OIC of Bambalapitiya police forwards complaint to PCCSL Dec. 12, 2018. Requested Complaint Form. Spoke with complainant Dec. 12 and again Dec. 31. Received clarification Jan. 02, 2019. Forwarded to editor Jan. 03, 2019. Spoke to editor Jan. 11 and resent. Editor writes to PCCSL Feb. 7 saying that complainant has sent a letter of demand for Rs. 1 billion on Dec. 11. The editor adds that a clarification sent by the National Drugs Regulatory Authority was published on Dec. 10. Feb. 12 PCCSL writes to complainant stating that an RoR has been carried prior to them receiving the Letter of Demand and asking them what action do they propose to take. No response to date.	PROCEED
PCCSL/02/12/2018	Dec. 12, 2018.	Mr. Samsan Mallikarachchi, Secretary, Southern Province Thurusamiya Samithiya, Uru mukka, Akurassa.	Ada	Incorrect information concerning latex prices in market. Article published Dec. 12. He requests, correct information to be shared with editor. Forwarded to editor Dec. 18.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1 Not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news RESOLVED
PCCSL/03/12/2018	Dec. 12, 2018.	Mr. Dharmasiri Lankapeli, Secretary, Federation of Media Workers Trade Union.	Irida Divaina	Dec. 16 article appearing in Defence Column reference to his organisation incorrect. PCCSL advised how to draft RoR and to submit along with Complaint Form. Received Dec. 31 and sent to editor Jan. 01, 2019. RoR published Jan. 06, 2019. Informed complainant.	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1 Not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news.

					RESOLVE D
PCCSL/04/12/2018	Dec. 24, 2018	Prof. Ratnajeevan Hoole, Prof, University of Jaffna, Jaffna	The Sunday Times	Received complaint via email on December 24. Dec. 27, 2018 sent via email Complaint Form and requested letter concerning complaint. Jan. 04, 2019 received via email Complaint Form and letter concerning article '11 independent commissions defunct a midst political drama.' Forwarded to editor Jan. 08, 2019. RoR received Jan. 11 and emailed to complainant on the same day. Called complainant Jan. 17 said small change and sent to PCCSL. Forwarded to editor and published RoR on Jan. 20, 2019	Clause: 02. Accurate Reporting Sub clause: 2.1 Not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news. RESOLVE D
PCCSL/05/12/2018	Dec. 24, 2018	Mr. M. T. M. Rawsan, Beruwela	Sunday Observer	Incorrect references made in two articles (number of Cabinet Ministers and year of Tsunami in 1884). Spoke to editor.	Clause: 02. Accurate reporting Sub clause: 2.1 Not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorting news. RESOLVE D
PCCSL/06/12/2018	Dec. 31, 2018.	Mr. Asela Iddawela, Chairman, Geological survey & Mines Bureau, Pitakotte.	Lanka	Published Dec. 13 concerning the Bureau. In correct information published. Jan 01, 2019 wrote to complainant calling for Complainant Form and details of complaint. Received Jan. 04. Clarification unclear wrote to complainant Jan. 11. Jan. 18 Media Director calls PCCSL. PCCSL explained how to draft an RoR. Complainant did not want to proceed.	COMPLAINANT DID NOT PROCEED

Popular newspapers published in 2018

Sinhala Dailies	Sinhala Weeklies	Tamil Dailies	Tamil Weeklies	English Dailies	English Weeklies
Dinamina	Silumina	Virakesari	Virakesari Weekly	Daily News	Sunday Observer
Lankadeepa	Irida Lankadeepa	Thinakkural	Thinakkural Weekly	Daily Mirror	The Sunday Times
Ada	Deshaya	Sudar Oli	Sudar Oli	Daily FT	Weekend FT
Lakbima	Irida Lakbima	Navamani	Navamani		
Divaina	Irida Divaina	Thinakaran	Thinakaran Varamanjali	The Island	Sunday Island
Siyadesa	Ravaya	Tamil Mirror	Valampuri	Ceylon Today	Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)
Maubima	Irida Maubima	Vidivelli	Kalaikkathir	Daily Express	Weekend Express
Resa	Irida Rivira	Metro News			The Sunday Morning
	Lanka				
	Anidda				
	Sathi Aga Aruna				
08	11	08	07	06	07

Total newspapers published: 47

Complaint chart: 2003 – 2018

Year	2003/04	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Language																
Sinhala	129	68	96	93	72	72	53	80	87	101	167	87	87	76	48	1316
Tamil	21	23	8	17	3	12	33	24	42	33	47	20	15	18	14	330
English	31	20	20	25	18	31	22	21	29	15	70	17	17	9	12	357
Other	0	0	0	26	0	7	23	17	18	14	7	18	14	13	5	162
Total	181	111	124	161	93	122	131	142	176	163	291	142	133	116	79	2165
Validity of complaint																
Valid complaint	152	104	87	135	62	70	82	85	131	122	256	87	83	76	60	1592
Invalid complaint	29	7	37	26	31	52	49	59	45	41	34	46	50	39	19	564
Status																
Resolved	49	26	7	32	27	34	38	43	73	58	194	38	29	29	60	737
Out of mandate	29	7	37	26	23	42	46	42	39	20	20	40	26	21	6	424
Complainant did not proceed	0	0	0	0	27	25	26	30	49	51	56	46	49	36	21	416
No response from Editor	0	0	0	0	8	11	3	10	9	13	6	1	3	11	6	81
Subjudice	0	0	0	0	8	10	3	17	6	21	14	17	20	6	0	122
Closed/Dismissed	103	78	80	103	0	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	5	12	13	411

Activities of the PCCSL between January to December 2018

January 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Jan. 11, 2018	Mr. Krishantha Cooray, ANCL Chairman and Editors- Daily News, Sunday Observer, Thinnakaran, Dinamina, GM, Sales/Marketing crew and production crew.	Launch of new newspaper – Rasa at ANCL (Lake House)	10	08	02	E	Spoke about PCCSL and to carry public notice “Rights of Readers”.
Jan. 29, 2018	Mass Media and Finance Minister Mangala Samaraweera, Govt. Information DG Sudharshana Goonewardana, Media Ministry Additional Secretary Ramani Gunewardena, Media Ministry Development Director Kithsiri, Media Ministry, Media Secretary Asitha Rajaapaksa	Treasury Office	05	04	01	E	Introduced PCCSL and discussed Editors' Code

February 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Feb. 05, 2018	Ms. Paola Stabium, Project Manager MiCT and Ms. Marie Struthers, Evaluator	In PCCSL	02	00	02	E	Updated on PCCSL's activities/monitoring newspapers and Code. Explained steps in resolving complaints.
Feb. 21, 2018	Students of Sri Lanka College of Journalism (SLCJ)	In SLCJ	04	03	01	E	Balanced Reporting. Referred to Editors' Code and spoke on PCCSL since they wanted to know.

March 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
March 05, 2018	Mr. Ravindra Dabare, Attorney-at-Law and Environmentalist	NCCSL	01	01	00	E	Discuss environmental issues and journalists should condone bad actions. Spoke

							about Editors' Code and PCCSL.
March 14, 2018	Mr. John Hyde, former Austrian Government Minister and Ms. Chamani Prematilake, Project Management Consultant, UNDP Parliamentary Support Group	In office	02	01	01	E	Shared experiences of more openness to parliamentary proceedings and Committee Stages. Briefly spoke about PCCSL and its responsibilities.
March 20, 2018	Staff of President's Media Unit	Presidential Media Division, Fort, Colombo 01	21	06	15	S	Writing press releases, distribution, building contacts with journalists. Introduced PCCSL and the guiding tool being the Editors' Code.
March 21, 2018	Mr. Sudharshana Gunawardene, Director-General, Government Information Department, Polhengoda Road, Colombo 05.	In their office	01	01	00	E/S	Discussion on a self regulatory mechanism to govern social media and web media. How PCCSL's Editors' Code can take the lead.
March 26, 2018	Mr. Kumar Nadesan, Chairman PCCSL/SLPI and rep. NSSL, Mr. Sinha Ratnatunga, Deputy Chairman PCCSL/SLPI, Mr. Siri Ranasinghe, rep. TEGOSL, Mr. C. Dodawatte, Convener FMM, Mr. Lasantha Ruhunuge, President SLWJA, Mr. D. Lankapeli, President FMETU, Mr. A. Nixon, rep. SLTMA, Mr. Sadique Shihan, Rep. SLMMF and Mr. Lakshman Gunasekere, Chairman, SAFMA (Sri Lanka Chapter)	In Board Room	09	09	00	E/S	Discussion on whether Sri Lanka Press Council.
March 28, 2018	Ms. Ambika Satkunanathan, Commissioner Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.	In office	01	00	01	E	Introduced the PCCSL and how it works. Spoke about the Editors' Code. PCCSL has linked up with the Commission to follow complaints concerning LGBTQI stories.

April 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
April 04, 2018	Director Govt. Information Mr. Jayasinghe and DG Secretary Ms. Nadishi	DG Govt. Information's Office,	02	01	01	S/E	Discussed possibilities of introducing a Code for Online Media
April 05, 2018	Ms. Surangi Gunayangoda, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Advisor and Mr. Frido Fernando, Media Empowerment for a Democratic Sri Lanka (MEND)	In PCCSL Office	02	01	01	E	Introduced PCCSL and how the complaint process works. The Editors' Code was also explained.
April 11, 2018	Director General Government Information Mr. Sudharshana Gunawardene with Mr. Kumaar Nadesan	DG Govt. Information Office	01	01	00	E	Steps to be taken to carry forward the discussion of introducing an Online Code for registered Online Web newspapers with them.

May 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
May 16, 2018	Mr. Julien Seo, World Peace, South Korea	In PCCSL Office	01	01	00	E	Introduced PCCSL and how it works. Referred to Editors' Code.

June 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
June 14, 2018	Youth Council members of Galle, Matara and Hambantota	Youth Council Centre, Akmeemana	48	18	30	S	Introduced PCCSL and explained Editors' Code.
June 20, 2018	Mr. Bill Boyes, Communication Officer, World Health Organization, Colombo	In office	01	01	00	E	Talked about coverage of suicide reporting and how WHO can help. Spoke about Editors' Code and complaint process.
June 21, 2018	Mr. Sigurd Sorenson, Attorney for IREX, Mr. Rasmin, Country	Board Room	03	02	01	E	Meeting with SLPI/PCCSL Board members who are constituent members. Discussed proposed independent Council draft.

	Manager IREX and staff member						Explained PCCSL process and Editors' Code.
June 22-24, 2018	Representatives of Civil Society Organisations of Colombo District. Planning guidelines for social media organised by CPA	Rani Hotel, Negombo	20	15	05	S	Introduced PCCSL. Spoke on the importance of self regulation and the Editors' Code.
June 28, 2018	Students following Diploma in Journalism, SLCJ	SLCJ classroom	08	01	07	S	What is Ethics and introduce Editors' Code. This follows previous lecture on 'Balanced Reporting.'
June 28, 2018	Students following Diploma in Journalism, SLCJ	SLCJ classroom	02	02	00	E	What is Ethics and introduce Editors' Code. This follows previous lecture on 'Balanced Reporting.'

July 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Tot al	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
July 12, 2018	Journalists attached to News View (Kandy region newspaper)	SLPI Auditorium	24	18	06	S/T/E	Mehala introduced SLPI, Kamal on RTI, Self on PCCSL and Code
July 14, 2018	Youth Council members of Central Province (Kandy)	Youth Council Centre, Ulapane	55	25	30	S	Introduced PCCSL and explained Editors' Code.
July 19, 2018	Two lay-members and a Nun from the Catholic Church in Colombo	In Office	03	02	01	E	Inquired about PCCSL and how the complaint resolving process works.
July 20, 2018	CPA Programme to prepare a set of guidelines for Social Media platforms (2 nd meeting)	Inform Office, Polhengoda, Colombo	10	06	04	S	Inquired about PCCSL and how the complaint resolving process works.

August 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Tot al	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Aug. 16, 2018	Ms. Shalika Thangarajah, Lecturer Univ. of Colombo and Ms. Ajani Tharshika,	PCCSL Office	02	00	02	E	Required information on how PCCSL was inaugurated, Complaint process and Editors' Code application.

	Student Mass Communication, Univ. of Colombo.						
Aug. 30, 2018	Mr. Wenura Perera and Ms. Lasya Hettigamage, Project Officer Peace ECPAT Sri Lanka.	Board Room	02	01	01	E	Inquired about the Editors' Code and does it cover the Online Web Sites. Organisation is working towards educating people against child-sex web sites.

September 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Sept. 06, 2018	Mr. Bill Boyes, Communication Officer, World Health Organization, Colombo	In office	01	01	00	E	World Suicide Day on Sept. 10. Details of Code on subject.
Sept. 07, 2018	The Director/CEO Vijith Chandrasena and Journalists attached to <i>The Sunday Morning</i> (English) and <i>Sathi Aga Aruna</i> (Sinhala) weeklies published by Liberty Publishers Private Limited.	In their office	23	13	10	S/E	Introduced Editors' Code and functions of PCCSL

October 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Oct. 01, 2018	Two final year students BA (Special Degree) Political Science, South-Eastern University – Mr. L. Azky and Mr. M. B. M. Shafini.	PCCSL Office	02	02	00	T/E	PCCSL where it stands as of today. Work during war reporting days. Editors' Code.

Oct. 02, 2018	Mr. Chris Elliott, CEO/Director, Ethical Journalism Network, UK	At Galle Face Hotel	01	01	00	E	Introduced PCCSL, its working and resolving of complaints. Spoke about the Editors' Code.
Oct. 15, 2018	N'Eliya youth	Divisional Secretariat, N'Eliya	42	32	10	S	On an RTI Programme. Slotted in information pertaining to PCCSL and Editors' Code
Oct. 16, 2018	Ms. Mahoshadi Peiris, Researcher, Veritae Research	Over telephone	01	01	01	E	Post Graduate Diploma student at the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo required information concerning newspapers published in Sri Lanka. Informed about PCCSL and how it works..
Oct. 17, 2018	Badulla youth	Riverside Hotel, Badulla	44	29	15	S	On an RTI Programme. Slotted in information pertaining to PCCSL and Editors' Code

November 2018

Date	Target group	Venue	Total	Men	Women	S/T/E - Medium	Remarks
Nov. 03-04, 2018	Youth Organisations, University students and civil society groups	Swiss Hotel, Kandy	21	11	10	S	During the lecture on RTI, introduced the PCCSL, how complaints are resolved and the Editors' Code.
Nov. 13-14, 2018	Youth Organisations, University students and civil society groups	Rajarata Hotel, Anuradhapura	12	12	08	S	During the lecture on RTI, introduced the PCCSL, how complaints are resolved and the Editors' Code.
Nov. 16, 2018	Mr. Mohammed Mahuruf, Executive Director PEAce, Ms. Lasya Hettigamage, Project Officer, PEAce and Mr. Karthik Sasitharan, Project Officer PEAce	In SLPI Board Room	03	02	01	E	Discussion on sexual exploitation of children Online. How PCCSL can help bring about awareness. Looked at Editors' Code and its application for print.
Nov. 27-28, 2018	Youth Organisations, University students and civil society groups	Aradhana Hotel, Galle	73	41	32	S	During the lecture on RTI, introduced the PCCSL, how complaints are resolved and the Editors' Code.

December 2018

No activities

Summary of Complaints resolved directly by Editors: Instant Complaints

Summary: January to December 2018

Month	Sinhala	Tamil	English	Total
January	15	01	24	40
February	17	01	11	29
March	15	00	06	21
April	16	01	08	25
May	20	00	04	24
June	15	01	03	19
July	09	00	01	10
August	09	02	05	16
September	17	00	03	20
October	14	00	05	19
November	03	00	03	06
December	09	00	05	14
Total	159	06	78	243

Complaints resolved directly by editors (Direct complaints) between January and December 2018

January 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JANUARY				
Jan. 02, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 14	Bottom right	Right of reply: Dec. 26, 2017 story clarified by Russian Ambassador concerning Russian youth involved in crime jumping the country is incorrect.
Jan. 03, 2018	Divaina	Page 09	Bottom right	Clarification: Dec. 02 story incorrect, State Evaluations Society clarifies.
Jan. 04, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 20	Top right	CH-Navy brawl: Story 'CH shocked over Yoshitha criticism', Mr. Dhanushka Perera, Captain SC Navy replies.
Jan. 04, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 14	Top left	Right of Reply: Story on D. A. Rajapakse Memorial Museum, Niranjan Dissanayake, a CEO of a multi-national company operating in Sri Lanka states that Mr. Gotabaya Rajapakse is innocent as per RTI request his lawyers have made to FCID clarifying payments made to SLLRDC by the foundation, that the FCID has made a request to the Chief Government Valuer as to the money paid by the foundation. In actual fact a sum has to be returned back to the foundation since the foundation has paid in excess.
Jan. 04, 2018	Daily FT	Page 11	Bottom right	Brand Finance issues article on BOC brand value: Jan 03 story 'Sri Lanka's No. 1 brand dented by bond scam', Brand Finance Lanka Managing Director Ruchi Gunewardene clarifies. Story concerns the negative impact on BOC due to Bond Scam the presumptions in story are totally incorrect.
Jan. 04, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: Story published Dec. 22, 2017 concerning Kegalle District UNP Local Government list name. Miss Nanda Malini Sepala

				Dassanayake's name corrected.
Jan. 04, 2018	Maubima	Page 19	Bottom right	Correction: Boralesgamuwa local government elections name list incorrect. Corrected.
Jan. 05, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 02 Editorial PAFFRAL Head Rohan Hettiarachchi clarifies.
Jan. 06, 2018	Ceylon Today (Sunday Edition)	Page 16	Bottom right	Right of Reply: Nov. 24, 2017 story 'Suspension of SLBA by BWF, Minister should intervene to lift Suspension' by Karuppiah Ramakrishnan, badminton player Niluka Karunaratna clarifies. Karunaratna states he was never interviewed by the newspaper and his photograph wrongly used.
Jan. 08, 2018	Daily FT	Page 02	Middle left	Ali Asger Shabbir's lawyer clarify report on inter parte interim orders: Attorney's issue statement concerning Jan. 05, 2018 story concerning this case that the headline was false and misleading.
Jan. 08, 2018	Ceylon Today	Page 02	Top half	Clarification: Ali Asger Shabbir refutes statements: Jan. 04, 2018 story "Interim Order issued against Ali Asgar Shabbir", Attorney's issue statement concerning Jan. 04, 2018 story concerning this case that the headline was false and misleading.
Jan. 10, 2018	Lakbima	Page 02	Middle right	Correction/Apology: Jan. 09 story concerning polling station.
Jan. 13, 2018	Daily FT	Page 16	Top left	Correction: Rohan Fernando to run for NOC Presidency – Jan. 12 story, he too is running for NOC.
Jan. 14, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 02	Top left	Right of Reply: Not interested in becoming SriLankan Chairman: Tiran – Jan. 06 story says no interest in the job.
Jan. 14, 2018	Divaina	Page 13	Top left	Clarification: Jan. 02 story concerning sexual abuse of eight students of St. Joseph's Balika Vidyalaya, Nugegoda. Principal clarifies.
Jan. 14' 2018	Irida Lakbima	Page 10	Top left	Correction: Jan. 14 story published in Section II concerning book on Donald Trump the title has gone as "Tire and Tury". It should be "Fire and Fury".

Jan. 15, 2018	Lakbima	Page 06	Middle	Clarification: Jan. 12 story headline error concerning child abuse.
Jan. 16, 2018	Dinamina	Page 13	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 12 story concerning local government elections is incorrect.. Elections Commissioner's office clarifies.
Jan. 18, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 23	Bottom left	Correction: Jan. 13 sports page story "Table tennis stalwarts sound alarm bells", Coordinator for Table tennis from Ministry of Sports says was not a National player.
Jan. 18, 2018	The Island	Page 03	Top to bottom left	SriLankan says: Jan. 15 story "Prez orders probes into Mihin Lanka, SriLankan", concerning J. C. Weliamuna Report, SriLankan says some concerns in report have been addressed.
Jan. 19, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 18 story "SL Navy nabs two smugglers with Rs. 50 mn worth gold at KKS", Navy spokesman was not involved in detection and arrest clarified.
Jan. 19, 2018	The Island (Financial Review)	Page 01	Top to bottom left	SriLankan Airlines on J. C. Weliamuna Report: Putting the Report in the correct perspective.
Jan. 19, 2018	Ceylon Today (Ceylon FT)	Page B3	Top spread	We have done everything possible to address Weliamuna issues: SriLankan: SriLankan responds to criticism on Report.
Jan. 19, 2018	Daily News	Page 08	Bottom	SriLankan Airlines clarifies position on Weliamuna Report, aftermath actions: SriLankan clarifies Report.
Jan. 19, 2018	Daily FT	Page 14	Bottom	SriLankan Airlines issues communique on J. C. Weliamuna Report: Contrary to popular belief the Board of Directors has acted upon the Report recommendations.
Jan. 21, 2018	Ravaya	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 14 story states that MP Udaya Gammanpila was not present at Court hearing. However, he has replied that he was present.
Jan. 21, 2018	Ravaya	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 14 story states MP Udaya Gammanpila was not present in Court when the case against him was heard. He clarified that he was present.
Jan 21, 2018	Divaina	Page 11	Bottom left	Clarification: Jan. 07 story concerning shooting incident between two groups of underworld gangsters, wife of deceased person

				clarifies.
Jan. 19, 2018	Rasa	Page 02	Middle	Correction and Apology: Jan. 17 story concerning bonus vehicles for the Attorney General's Department, Attorney General Jayantha Jayasooriya clarifies.
Jan. 20, 2018	Daily News	Page 06	Top middle	Correction: Jan. 17 photo and caption of the Army Commander, he was referred to as Lieutenant when it should be Lieutenant-General.
Jan. 20, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 14	Middle left	Right of Reply: Jan. 19 story "Presidential candidate Rohan Fernando launches campaign". Clarification sent by Secretary-General of the National Olympic Committee (NOC) Mr. Maxwell de Silva.
Jan. 21, 2018	The Sunday Times (Business Times)	Page 05	Top middle	Right of Reply: Jan. 14 story "Tourism in a tizzy: Minister Amaratunga wants control". Tourism Minister Amaratunga replies.
Jan. 21, 2019	Sunday Observer	Page 06	Bottom right	Right of Reply: Dec. 17 story 'Beware of Dubious "Virtual" Leaders', Lendtech Lanka (Pvt) Ltd sends their response.
Jan. 21, 2018	Irida Lankbima	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: Mix up of pages clarified.
Jan. 23, 2018	Daily FT	Page 01	Bottom left	HNB clarifies: Jan. 22 story "Court orders seizure of select cash machines of HNB," HNB says misleading information.
Jan. 23, 2018	Daily FT	Page 11	Top middle	Correction: Captions interchanged in two photographs.
Jan. 25, 2018	Navamini	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: Jan 22 story concerning a playground in a school in Kadawata. The story is incorrect and was corrected.
Jan 26, 2018	The Island (Business News)	Page 07	Bottom right	Clarification: Jan. 23 story under Financial Review "Footwear Fair" has no connection with Export Development Board.
Jan 27, 2018	The Island	Page 02	Middle right	Correction: Jan. 26 story concerning Bond Report designation of Dr. Nalaka Godahewa should read as former Chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission.
Jan. 30, 2018	Divaina	Page 07	Bottom left	Correction: Jan 23 story concerning murders in Katugastota totals 30 when it is only two murdered.

Total: 40 (S-15 T-01, E-24)				
--	--	--	--	--

February 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
FEBRUARY				
Feb. 01, 2018	Maubima	Page 01 (Part 02)	Middle right	Correction: Jan. 31 story concerning arrested candidate's political party incorrect.
Feb. 02, 2018	Maubima	Page 17	Top right	Clarification: Jan. 31, 2017 story concerning assault on candidate. Incorrect name of Pradeshiya Sabha, not Wadduwa but Pothupitiya and not Podujana Peramuna but UPFA candidate.
Feb. 03, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 03	Middle left	Correction: Feb. 01 story "Theft at Trinco Navy Holiday Bungalow", Navy spokesman's name incorrect.
Feb. 04, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 09	Top right	Right of Reply: "Tourism industry 'no no's' John on CNN campaign", headline of story published in the Business Times on Feb. 04. Tourism Minister John Amaratunga responds.
Feb. 05, 2018	Ceylon Today (Ceylon FT)	Page B6	Bottom right	Correction: Feb. 04 story "Janashakthi – Allianz in landmark Rs. 16.4 B deal", there is an error in the story and the accompanying photograph was wrong.
Feb. 08, 2018	Daily News	Page 06	Top left	Mendis & Company in dialogue with CBSL to resolve restrictions: Feb. 06 story "License of Medis distillery suspended", W. M. Mendis & Company clarify.
Feb. 08, 2018	Ceylon Today	Page 05	Bottom middle	Clarification: Sept. 21, 2017 story "AG probes SLRDC tender process irregularities running into billions", the Sri Lanka Land Reclamation and Development Corporation issues clarification.
Feb. 08, 2018	Lakbima	Page 11	Bottom middle	Correction: Candidate's political party mix up.
Feb. 11, 2018	Ravaya	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: Feb. 04 story concerning City of Colombo going under water as a result of the Port City, Ministry of Megapolis clarifies.
Feb. 12, 2018	Metro News	Page 03	Top left	"Youth youth who received a bribe for Rs. 5,000 and fined Rs. 30,000 is incorrect". Story published, Jan. 17. Kilinochchi Court says story is wrong and no such case came before the Courts.
Feb. 13, 2018	Maubima	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: Feb. 12 photograph and caption of Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Wasanatha Senanayake in Polonnaruwa had gone as Merigama.
Feb. 13, 2018	Rivira	Page 02	Middle	Correction: Feb. 12 story concerning local government elections software was handled by University of Colombo when it should have been

				University of Kelaniya.
Feb. 13, 2018	Rivira	Page 02	Middle right	Correction: It should read as Kelaniya University and not Colombo University who is responsible for the software used in releasing local govt. election results.
Feb. 14, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Bottom left	Correction: Feb. 12 story concerning rape of nurse, the suspect is not the dental doctor.
Feb. 15, 2018	Daily Mirror (Mirror Business)	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: Story "RIL Property announces Rs. 800 m rights to settle bank borrowings". The amount should be Rs. 1.6 million.
Feb. 15, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification/Apology: Feb. 14 story concerning local govt. elections, Minister Arjuna Ranatunga clarifies.
Feb. 16, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 08	Middle right	Clarification: Concerning Local Government Ministry Secretary remains.
Feb. 17, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Middle right	Clarification: Feb. 15 story "Not my job to issue final results", clarifies delay in announcing results.
Feb. 21, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Top left	Right of Reply: Feb. 19 story "CEB engineers question payment to Lakdhanavi", Manager Administration of Lakdhanavi responds.
Feb. 21, 2018	Maubima	Page09	Bottom right	Clarification: Feb. 20 story misunderstanding in parliament political column, JVP Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake.
Feb. 22, 2018	Divaina	Page 07	Middle	Clarification: Feb. 20 story concerning Petroleum Corporation pump in petrol station clarified.
Feb. 22, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 22	Top right	Clarification: Dec. 28, 2017 story concerning Asbestos, Mr. Anton Edma clarifies.
Feb. 23, 2018	Ceylon Today	Page 06	Bottom right	Correction: Feb. 22 story 'Maldivian crisis continues – Chinese warships turn around'. It should read Foreign Secretary of Maldives meets Indian envoy to Male.
Feb. 27, 2018	The Island	Page 01, 04 and 06	Middle to full page	Former Defence Secretary's response: 'Police. Military personnel under pressure to implicate me falsely': Feb. 25 story former Defence Secretary Gotabaya Rajapakse responds.
Feb. 27, 2018	Maubima	Page 06	Bottom right	Clarification: Feb. 23 story concerning government School, Education Ministry clarifies.
Feb. 27, 2018	Divaina	Page13	Middle right	Clarification: Feb. 25 story concerning Muthurajawela, Land Reclamation and Development Corporation clarifies.
Feb. 28, 2018	Divaina	Page19	Top right	Clarification: Feb. 26 story concerning selected chairman of local government body in Homagama.

Feb. 28, 2018	Maubima	Page02	Middle right	Clarification: Jan. 02 story concerning FCID, SP Ruwan Gunasekera, Police Spokesman clarifies.
Feb. 28, 2018	Daily FT	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: Feb. 27 story 'Plans Port upgrading countrywide', KKS Port should not have been included. It is handled by India and the Trincomalee Port by Singapore.
Total: 29 (S-17, T-01 E-11)				

March 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
MARCH				
March 04, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 05 (Business Times)	Bottom left	Clarification: "Crabs to Kaema Sutra – a heady mix for Dharshana Munidasa": Feb. 24 story error in story.
March 04, 2018	Lakbima	Page 22	Bottom	Clarification: Secretary National Language Ministry comments on story.
March 04, 2018	Maubima	Page 01/15	Bottom right	Clarification: March 05 story, Defence Ministry clarifies
March 05, 2018	Resa	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: March 02 story Front Line Socialist Party comments on Cabinet Ministers, misquoted.
March 05, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01/06	Middle	Correction: Meeting between Mahinda and Maithri incorrect.
March 05, 2018	Dinamina	Page 08	Bottom middle	Clarification: Health Ministry responds to story on Hospital Director
March 07, 2018	Divaina	Page 01/04	Middle left	Correction: March 06 story concerning Central Finance.
March 08, 2018	Rivira	Page 02	Middle left	Correction: Photograph had no name
March 09, 2018	The Island	Page 01 (Financial Review)	Middle left	CBSL clarification on CIFL issue: Central Bank of Sri Lanka clarifies press release issued on March 05.
March 11, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 10	Bottom right	Right of Reply: "Minister says Layards Road project was approved on justifiable grounds". Magapolis Minister Champika Ranawaka replies to March 04 story.
March 11, 2018	Sunday Observer	Page 29 (Business Observer)	Bottom left	Clarification: March 04 Business Observer lead story "Domestic rating agencies, the way forward – Former Fitch Ratings Head".

				Incorrect headline, should have read "Domestic Rating Agencies, the way forward – Former Lanka Rating Head".
March 11, 2018	Deshaya	Page 02	Top middle	Clarification: mix up of one paragraph of story concerning Doctor's article.
March 11, 2018	Deshaya	Page 19	Bottom right	Correction: March 04 story concerning Raja Rata Rajini train mix up of MPs name, E. L. B. Hurulle.
March 12, 2018	Resa	Page14	Bottom right	Correction: March 07 photograph of accident in Kandy Page.
March 12, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01 (Part 02)	Middle	Clarification: Mr. Ruwan Tharanga Karunaratne owner of fitness centre disputes incorrect quotation.
March 13, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: Feb. 22 story "Mount Lavinia station in dilapidated state", former Station Master says he never mentioned any shortcomings.
March 13, 2018	Maubima	Page 04	Bottom right	Clarification: March 12 story Ministry of Trade responds to import of eggs.
March 16, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 10	Top left	Clarification: March 15 story concerning recently concluded local government elections.
March 18, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 11 (Business Times)	Bottom left	Correction: "Lack of recognition for innovation in Sri Lanka": March 11 story "Lack of recognition for innovation in Sri Lanka". Story incorrect.
March 22, 2018	Divaina	Page 18	Top right	Clarification: Management of Sugathadasa Stadium on water in swimming pool.
March 29 th 2018	Dinamina	Page2	Top right	Apology: March 02 story infers former President's dream coming true with the removal of a JVP member. JVP member Anura Kumara Dissanayake apologizes for any hurt.
Total: 21 S-15, T-00, E-06				

April 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
April				
April 01, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 09	Top right	Correction: "New Sri Lankan factory to reuse and recycle electric vehicle batteries". New factory to be set up in Japan and not in Sri Lanka as reported.

April 03, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page08	Middle right	Correction: March 29 story concerning Angulana incident, 33-years ago, the corpse is that of a student and not an aged man.
April 05, 2018	The Island	Page 01 (Financial Review)	Bottom middle	CSE clarifies: April 4, 2018 story “Calculation error boosts bourse temporarily”, calculation incorrect
April 05, 2018	Rivira	Page 06	Bottom middle	Clarification: April 04 story, JVP MP Nalin de Jayatissa clarifies parliament column.
April 05, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 18	Middle	Correction: April 04 story, alleged bribe of Rs.100,000 asked by CMC employee. Complaint made to police by NSB security personnel incorrect.
April 06, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle right	Correction: April 05 story concerning NHDA official in custody over bribery. He is not an NHDA official but a UDA official.
April 08, 2018	Sunday Island	Page 03	Top right	Gandhi assassination: It was not a real newsreel photo: April 01 photograph was a still from a film “Nine hours to Rama”.
April 10, 2018	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom middle	Clarification: April 07 story concerning Victory Parade, no forces will take part. Foreign Ministry responds to story.
April 10, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 08	Bottom right	Clarification: April 09 story concerning helicopter carrying Speaker landing in school premises, Speaker’s Media Unit responds.
April 10, 2018	Dinamina	Page 08	Middle right	Correction: April 09 story concerning incorrect declaration of former Minister Johnston Fernando’s assets before courts incorrect name not P. B.Jayasundera but P. B. Abeykoon.
April 19, 2018	Daily FT	Page 06	Bottom right	Correction: April 18 photograph and caption incorrect, story “Singer wins big at Dell Partner Awards FY18”.
April 19, 2018	Divaina	Page 19	Middle left	Correction: April 09 story armed person in Godagama house not STF person but Army person.
April 20, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 14	Bottom left	Correction: April 18 story on Constitutional Reforms mix up of words.
April 22, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 06 (Business Times)	Middle right	“Ne Port City’s” hidden truths spells dangers for future generations”: Reply of CHEC – Last week story by academics on the adverse impact of the Colombo Port City Project, CHEC Port City Colombo (Pvt) Ltd says story is misleading
April 22, 2018	Divaina	Page 15	Bottom left	Correction: April 15 story concerning seating arrangements in parliament, Secretary General clarifies.
April 22, 2018	Divaina	Page 18	Bottom right	Correction: April 15 story mix up of names. It should read as Social Empowerment Ministry and Department.

April 23, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	CBK clarifies: April 12 story "CBK, Ranil meets at Temple Trees" President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga categorically denies any such meeting.
April 23, 2018	Sudar Oli	Page 06	Top right	Correction: United Peace Alliance of Sri Lanka says demonstrators protesting outside Indian High Commission are not their organisation but another group using their name.
April 23, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: April 20 story, PHI harassing people is insulting news about PHI. Homagaama PHI clarifies.
April 23, 2018	Dinamina	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: April 21 story robbery of Sanasa Bank incorrect Bank branch. It should be Aluthgama in Gampaha District
April 24, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom right	Clarification: April 20 story "Alleged misappropriation of Rs. 22 mn: Wanted female suspect arrested by CID". Place of Bank robbery incorrect.
April 24, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Top middle	Clarification: April 23 story concerning misleading information about Hambantota and Trincomalee Ports. Communications and Public Relations Manager of the SLPA clarifies.
April 25, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle	Apology: Feb. 27 story concerning Ravi Karunanayake mix up Bond and Sathosa Cases.
April 25, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 12	Bottom right	Clarification: April 21 story Sanasa Bank Chairman Lalith Jayasuriya clarifies Sanasa Bank Branch robbery.
April 27, 2018	The Island	Page 01	Bottom right	LNG requirement: Malik responds – April 25 story "CEB engineers study national LNG requirement, Minister Malik Samarawickrema responds.
Total: 25 S-16, T-01, E-08				

May 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
May				
May 01, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 08	Top left	Clarification: April 28 story concerning floating Rupee, Minister Harsha de Silva responds.
May 04, 2018	Rasa	Page 01	Top right	Clarification and Apology: May 03 story concerning relics of Lord Buddha.
May 04, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 07	Top left	Correction: May 02 story concerning missing ring it is not the SLPA boss's ring but Jaya Terminal boss's ring.

May 04, 2018	Maubima	Page 09	Middle right	Clarification: May 02 story incorrect concerning Manageress of Lanka Fishing Corporation.
May 09, 2018	Rasa	Page 04	Middle left	Clarification: May 03 story concerning incorrect quote made by SLFP Trade Union General Secretary Leslie Devendra.
May 09, 2018	Lakbima	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: Story concerns Samurdhi money, DG Dr. Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne clarifies report.
May 09, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01	Middle left	Clarification: Clarification on Samurdhi story from DG Samurdhi Development Authority.
May 09, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 08	Bottom left	Clarification: May 01 story concerning new appointments to Courts, Judges High Court Union seeks clarification.
May 09, 2018	Maubima	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: Samurdhi Authority DG corrects incorrect story.
May 09, 2018	Maubima	Page 02	Middle	Clarification: May 08 story concerning expenses of food for May Day, SP Sattish Gamage clarifies.
May 12, 2018	Ravaya	Page 15	Bottom half	Clarification: Lanka Transformers clarifies story on Kerewalapitiya Power Station.
May 14, 2018	Divaina	Page 01	Top right	Clarification: May 13 story about Mr. Nissanka Senadipathi, Avant Garde Chairman bribing 300 policemen, Chairman clarifies.
May 16, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 11	Top to bottom left	Right of Reply: Rotarian replies to Muttukumar – Response to Mr. Muttukumar's article published April 27, 2018. RoR sent by Rotarian John Baskaran.
May 16, 2018	Daily FT	Page 03	Top left	Right of Reply: May 14 "Laugfs unhappy over N'tota terminal delay," Sri Lanka Ports Authority clarifies story.
May 16, 2018	Divaina	Page 06	Middle	Correction: May 15 mix up of photograph of present Chinese Ambassador in Sri Lanka and former.
May 18, 2018	Lakbima	Page 06	Middle	Clarification: May 10 article concerning CEB Engineer arrested while taking a bribe. CEB says the person arrested is not a CEB Engineer.
May 20, 2018	Irida Lankadeepa	Page 25	Top middle	Clarification: Article concerning "Beach Boys," OIC Weligama Police Station IP Lasanthaa Buddhika responds.

May 21, 2018	Daily FT	Page 03	Middle left	Correction: No contraction in Services sector in April – May 17 story “Manufacturing services sectors contract in Avurudu month”
May 22, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: May 21 article concerning numbers reduced by President, Minister Prasanna Adikari responds.
May 23, 2018	The Island	Page 01	Bottom left	CBSL responds to ex-Governor: May 22 story “Cabraal: What has happened to USD 8 bn,” the Economic Research Department of CBSL sends clarification.
May 23, 2018	Maubima	Page 07	Middle	Correction: May 18 story concerning wilpattu mentioned “Sinhala Diaspora” but should have read “Diaspora”.
May 26, 2018	Divaina	Page 01	Middle left	Clarification: May 25 article concerning security in the country
May 27, 2018	Irida Lakbima	Page 11	Bottom middle	Clarification: May 25 article concerning security, President’s Media Unit responds.
May 27, 2018	Deshaya	Page 02	Bottom right	Clarification: May 20 article concerning Hambantota island, China Company demands conditions.
Total: 24 S-20, T-00, E-04				

June 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
June				
June 10,2018	Lakbima	Page 12	Bottom middle	Correction/Apology: June 03 article based on Facebook article of Weyangoda, which is incorrect.
June 10, 2018	Divaina	Page 06	Bottom left	Clarification: June 03 article concerning UGC. UGC gives clarification.
June 10, 2018	Divaina	Page 07	Top left	Correction/Apology: June 07 photograph within article concerning School Development Society, photograph mix up.
June 10, 2018	Ravaya	Page 04	Middle	Clarification: June 03 article concerning English Diploma conducted by University of Peradeniya.
June 15, 2018	Divaina	Page 09	Middle right	Clarification: June 11 article concerning tender procedure at State Pharmaceutical Corporation (SPC) Chairman Sanath Liyanage responds.

June 17, 2018	The Island	Page 03	Top right	Correction: June 10 article had an incorrect photograph of Canon R. S. de Saram, Warden of S. Thomas' college Mt. Lavinia. Correct photograph published.
June 18, 2018	Virakesari daily	Page 01	Middle right	Article in Virakesari of June 16 concerning imprisonment of Ven. Gnanasara Thero, headline was 'Muslim peoples Ramadan gift.' This was quoted from a press conference following the imprisonment of the Thera. Clarification published June 18.
June 19, 2018	Ceylon Today	Page B7 (Ceylon FT)	Middle spread	Right of Reply: Planters' Association response to Jivaka Attapattu (Plantation Ministry Consultant). Article published June 15 had certain inaccuracies that were corrected by Planters' Association.
June 19, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: June 18 article concerning bribe offered by Aloysius's Company, Police Media Spokesman responds.
June 20, 2018	Dinamina	Page 03	Top half	Clarification: Former Director-General, Sri Lanka Customs responds to incorrect article.
June 21, 2018	Lakbima	Page 03	Middle left	Clarification: June 19 article concerning hospital issues, Health Ministry Services, Director General Priyantha Attapattu responds.
June 21, 2018	Divaina	Page 13	Bottom left	Clarification: June 20 article concerning Noraichcholai Coal-fired power plant and Minister Champika Ranawaka
June 21, 2018	Divaina	Page 14	Bottom half	Clarification: June 08 article concerning impounding of Rs. 16 billion BMW vehicle, former Sri Lanka Customs DG responds.
June 22, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Top left	Clarification: June 21 article concerning two MPs having a fight. It was not a fight but an argument.
June 26, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: Article - 'SL Army Peace Keeping Mission held up due to delay in clearance by HRCSL.' Commission says vetting process of tri-forces and police for UN Peace Keeping Missions overseas started in September 2016 and does not delay them going.
June 26, 2018	Maubima	Page 04	Bottom middle	Correction: June 18 story concerning high death rate at Karapitiya Hospital.
June 28, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Bottom left	Clarification: Article concerning UGC EPF monies been invested with Perpetual Treasuries for in Bonds.
June 28, 2018	Dinamina	Page 01	middle	Clarification: Article concerning UGC EPF monies been invested with Perpetual Treasuries for in Bonds.

June 29, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Middle	Clarification: June 27 and 28 articles concerning treat to 'Kosgoda Tharaka' - an underworld person at the Angunakolapaleesa Prison. Prisons Commissioner clarifies.
Total: 19 S: 15, T:01, E:03				

July 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
JULY				
July 04, 2017	Siyadesa	Page 02	Top right	Correction: Mix up of story.
July 04, 2017	Ada	Page 09	Middle left	Clarification: June 17 article businessman clarifies
July 11, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: July 10 article concerning medical leave, Dental Doctors' Union clarifies incorrect story.
July 12, 2018	Daily Ft	Page 01	Bottom left	Right of Reply: Lakdhanavi responds to Daily FT article over Kerawalapitiya LNG deal – July 10 article 'More bidders cry foul over tender process for second Kerawalapitiya LNG power plant.' Facts have been misrepresented in article clarified.
July 12, 2018	Dinamina	Page 06	Top right	Correction: Figure in Dollars incorrect. Corrected.
July 17, 2018	Dinamina	Page 10	Middle	Clarification: July 13 article on drug racket by those serving prison sentence in Welikada Prison, Prisons Commissioner Thusharaa Upuldeniya clarifies incorrect story.
July 19, 2018	Maubima	Page 04	Bottom right	Correction: July 17 article concerning employees rights' Case stated that the Additional Magistrate Priyadarashani Herath had bee misquoted. Newspaper apologies and corrects mistake.
July 19, 2018	Maubima	Page 13	Middle	Clarification: July 14 article in Maubima (Sunday Edition) concerning transfer of Buddhist Affairs Commissioner. Commissioner Nimal Kotawelagedara clarifies.
July 24, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Middle right	Correction: July 22, photo caption mix up of names.
July 29, 2018	Silumina	Page 15	Bottom right	Clarification: July 22 article concerns a Ministers' disciples, titled "Minister's disciples are identified." Police spokesman, SP Ruwan Gunasekara clarifies.

Total: 10 (S-09, T-00, E-01)				
-------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

August 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
AUGUST				
Aug. 08, 2018	Dinamina	Page 03	Middle	Correction: Aug. 06 cost of machine to protect cultivation cost stated Rs. 2 million is incorrect. It should be Rs. 22,000.
Aug. 08, 2018	Lakbima	Page 02	Top left	Clarification: Aug. 07 concerning Prof. Mahinda Kelagama's son, clarified not his son – Prof. Jagath Kelagama.
Aug. 08, 2018	Resa	Page 04	Bottom right	Correction: Aug. 07, press release issued, price misquoted.
Aug. 13, 2018	The Island	Page 09	Middle middle	Correction: Aug 10 article by Fr. Augustine Fernando 'People's Money, Finance Cos and the Central Bank,' mistake in text.
Aug. 14, 2018	Daily News	Page 07	Bottom left	Correction: Aug. 13 incorrect photograph used in article.
Aug. 16, 2018	Tamil Mirror	Page 03	Top right	Correction and Apology: Aug. 14 article "Nedukunari Temple do not visit." Name of deity incorrect. Corrected.
Aug. 17, 2018	Tamil Mirror	Page 13	Bottom left	Correction and Apology: Aug. 15 Cross Word Puzzle incorrect. Published again on Aug. 17.
Aug. 17, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 08	Bottom right	Right of Reply – Ministry clarifies: Aug 16 story on 'Seven vehicles allocated to Bathiudeen exceeds limit,' Ministry of Industry and Commerce Secretary states should be three vehicles and not 10.
Aug. 20, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Bottom right	Clarification: Aug. 14 article, West Coast Power (Pvt) Ltd, sends clarification concerning a power plant.
Aug. 20, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01 (Part 02)	Middle	Clarification: Aug. 13 concerning ownership of West Coast Power Station clarified.
Aug. 23, 2018	Divaina	Page 08	Bottom right	Clarification: Aug. 20 article concerning Mayoress's staff of the Colombo Municipal Council, Commissioner responds.

Aug. 23, 2018	Divaina	Page 10	Middle	Clarification: Aug. 26 article concerning compensation for Wattala fishermen affected by Port City construction, Fisherman's solidarity Movement responds.
Aug. 24, 2018	Resa	Page 04	Bottom right	Correction: Aug. 23 article concerning survey conducted on dramas corrected.
Aug. 27, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 06	Middle right	Clarification: Aug. 23 article concerning transfer of 25 inmates of the remand prison, Remand Prison Commissioner M. M. N. C. Dhanaasinghe clarifies..
Aug. 29, 2018	The Island	Page 02	Top right	Clarification: Aug. 21 article "Gnanasara thera's kidney stone removed in three hour surgery," size of stone corrected.
Aug. 31, 2018	Ravaya	Page 12	Bottom left	Clarification: Aug. 19, clarifies Esoft courses.
Total: 16 (S-09, T-02, E-05)				

September 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
SEPTEMBER				
Sept. 02, 2018	Ravaya	Page 12	Bottom left	Clarification: Aug. 19 article clarified concerning Esoft courses.
Sept. 02, 2018	Anidda	Page 01	Bottom	Clarification: Aug. 26 article concerning illigal migration of tri-forces with help of Navy ships, Navy spokesman Commander Dinesh Bandara clarifies.
Sept. 05, 2018	Dinamina	Page 03	Top right	Clarification: Sept. 03 article concerning arrest of OIC Avan Garde Security Services.
Sept. 06, 2018	Divaina	Page 03	Bottom left	Clarification: Sept. 05 article on ECO test, Minister Champika Ranawaka clarifies.
Sept. 07, 2018	Maubima	Page 07	Middle left	Clarification: Sept. 20 article by Secretary Economic Council is misleading. Mr. B. M. S. Batagodaa, Secretary Power and Energy Ministry clarifies.
Sept. 08, 2018	Dinamina	Page 06	Top right	Correction: Sept. 08 photograph of Ven. Sumangala Thera corrected.
Sept. 09, 2018	Irida Lankadeepa	Page 24	Bottom middle	Clarification: Sept. 02 article concerning digital screen, Western Province Director IT Mr. A. V. Jagath Priyanthie clarifies.
Sept. 09, 2018	Lakbima	Page 02	Bottom middle	Correction: Sept. 07 article concerning Campus opening day corrected.
Sept. 15, 2018	Sunday Observer	Page 03	Top right	Clarification: February 08 clarification referred to the article headline 'AG probes SLRDC tender process irregularities running into billions.' The article was published on Sept. 21, 2017.
Sept. 17, 2018	Divaina	Page 03	Top right	Clarification: Sept. 16 article containing misleading information concerning Vietnam tour.

Sept. 18, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 09	Top middle	Clarification: Sept. 08 article distribution on electricity, Secretary Ministry of Power and Energy clarifies.
Sept. 18, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01 (part 02)	Top middle	Clarification: Clarification from Press Council.
Sept. 19, 2018	Divaina	Page 11	Middle right	Clarification: Gem and Jewelry Authority clarifies article.
Sept. 19, 2018	Maubima	Page 14	Bottom right	Clarification: Sept. 18 Parliament report concerning missing people, TNA MP Vijayakala Maheswaran's article clarified.
Sept. 19, 2018	Ada	Page 08	Top left	Correction: Sept. 13 article concerning Dimbulagodaa Forest Officers.
Sept. 20, 2018	Daily FT	Page 11	Bottom left	Clarification: Sept. 19 article 'CAL Facilitates First Cross Border Share Transaction by a Sri Lankan Stockbroker.' CAL clarifies transaction.
Sept. 21, 2018	Dinamina	Page 03	Middle right	Clarification: Sept. 20 article concerning arrest of SriLankan
Sept. 25, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Middle right	Apology: Sept. 19 court report concerning MP John Seneviratne mix-up of names with John Fernandopulle.
Sept. 26, 2018	Resa	Page 02	Bottom left	Correction: September 24 article concerning Buddhism.
Sept. 29, 2018	Daily News	Page 04	Top to bottom on left	'Chrysotile conundrum' clarified: Aug. 07, 2018 article clarifies hurriedly written article.
Total: 20 (S-17, T-00, E-03)				

October 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
OCTOBER				
Oct. 03, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 05	Bottom middle	Correction/apology: Oct. 02 article on export economy headline mix up corrected.
Oct. 04, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Bottom middle	Clarification: Sept. 26 article concerning Technical College, Ratmalana property, Principal M. K. T. I. Perera clarifies.
Oct. 04, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 01 and 06	Bottom middle	Clarification: Sept. 20 article concerning starving couple eating murunga leaves, President's Media Unit clarifies.
Oct. 07, 2018	Maubima	Page 05	Bottom	Clarification: Sept. 23 article concerning adi wattu, Mr. M. E. C. Suriyabandara, DG Forest Department responds.

Oct. 08, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 13	Top middle	Clarification: October 01 article concerning Football National Pool, Mr. Anura de Silva, Chairman Football Federation responds.
Oct. 11, 2018	Ceylon Today	Page 01	Bottom middle	CBSL responds...: Oct. 08 article concerning falling Rupee, CBSL clarifies states that infusing the Rupee by injecting foreign currency into the market from the reserves only worsens the country's macroeconomic and medium term prospects.
Oct. 11, 2018	Resa	Page 04	Bottom left	Correction: Oct. 10 article and photo of landslide in Ratnapura also published District Secretary, Ratnapura's photograph, which is incorrect.
Oct. 19, 2018	Ada	Page 08	Top left	Correction: Aug. 29 article concerning death of child in Gampaha Hospital. Corrected to Galaha Hospital.
Oct. 20, 2018	Divaina	Page 12	Middle	Correction: Oct. 19 article concerning Narahenpita OIC receiving a bribe from a doctor, it should be former OIC of Narahenpita Police Station.
Oct. 20, 2018	Divaina	Page 03	Middle	Clarification: October 18 article concerning drug addiction at Biyagama Central School, it should be some.
Oct. 22, 2018	Maubima	Page 11	Top left	Clarification: Oct. 18 article concerning assistants from surveyors, Land Ministry responds.
Oct. 24, 2018	Maubima	Page 01	Bottom left	Clarification: August 19 article concerning Mihintale staircase. Department of Archaeology clarifies concerning raising required funds for construction.
Oct. 24, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 06	Middle	Correction on Senanayakes: Oct. 22 article concerning 'Predictions of Senanayakes come true,' erroneously mentioned relative of late Prime Minister D. S. Senanayake as Kojana when it should be Cojitha. Also the Estate referred to as Murray Watte and not Male Watta
Oct. 26, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 18	Bottom right	Clarification: Oct. 25 article 'Symposium on MMDA Reforms.' Mr. Ashraff A. Samad clarifies that the 'Colombo District Masjid Federation unanimously decided to support the committee report on MMDA compiled by the committee led by Justice Saleem Maroof' which is incorrect.
Oct. 26, 2018	Daily Express	Page 02	Bottom right	Oops!: PCCSI brought it to the notice of the Editor that page 02 of Oct. 24 was repeated in whole on Oct. 25. The error was regretted due to an oversight.
Oct. 28, 2018	The Sunday Times	Page 04	Left top down	A cockeyed view from cockpit: Cpt. Suranga M. Samarasinghe, Secretary of the Airline Pilots' Guild of Sri Lanka responds to Oct 21 article 'BIA Runway Safety Area Not of Standard: ICAO.'
Oct. 30, 2018	Divaina	Page 02	Middle	Clarification: Oct. 29 article Health Ministry Secretary B. G. S. Gunathilake clarifies.
Oct. 31, 2018	Ada	Page 08	Middle left	Clarification: Oct. 11 article concerning son robbing mother of cash and jewelry, son clarifies

Oct. 31, 2018	Divaina	Page 01 (Part 02)	Top right	Correction: Oct. 30 article Police OIC receiving bribe, headline error.
Total: 19 (S-14, T-00, E-05)				

November 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
NOVEMBER				
Nov. 20, 2018	Daily Mirror	Page 01	Bottom left	Correction: Nov. 19 picture caption of Premiere Mahinda Rajapaksa cutting a cake was at the Presidential Secretariat and not Temple Trees.
Nov. 26, 2018	Dinamina	Page 09	Bottom right	Correction: Nov. 23 article concerning Mass Media Secretary. Confirmed as Mr. Charitha Herath.
Nov. 27, 2018	Daily News	Page 07	Middle left	Correction: Nov. 15 article 'Iranian missing during Lankan visit,' the woman's nationality should be Iraqi and not Iranian.
Nov. 27, 2018	Maubima	Page 04	Bottom left	Apology: Nov. 26 incorrect photograph used in article.
Nov. 29, 2018	The Island	Page 01	Bottom right	Prof. Guneratne responds to <i>The Island</i> report: Nov. 28 article: 'Lankan don says Indian President can dissolve Lok Sabha,' Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Prof. Camena Guneratne clarifies her speech.
Nov. 30, 2018	Maubima	Page 15	Top right	Clarification: Sri Lanka Ports Authority responds to article concerning attack.
Total: 06 (S-03, T-00, E-03)				

December 2018

Date	Name of newspaper	Page No	Position of correction	Details of correction
DECEMBER				
Dec. 04, 2018	Daily News	Page 12	Bottom right	Correction: Incorrect photograph used in appreciation.
Dec. 06, 2018	Daily News	Page 02	Top right	Correction: Dec. 05 article 'Divided SC judgment not acceptable,' Ven. Prof. Medagoda Abhayatissa Thera has been reported.incorrectly.
Dec. 06, 2018	Divaina	Page 07	Bottom middle	Clarification: Dec. 05 article mix up of names.
Dec. 10, 2018	Divaina	Page 01	Bottom right	Clarification: Dec. 07 article Drugs Regulation Commission on quality of drugs imported from Russia.
Dec. 11, 2018	Maubima	Page 09	Bottom right	Apology: Mix-up of photograph of Chief Incumbent Kalutara Temple.

Dec. 11, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 02	Middle right	Correction: Dec. 09 article concerning arrest of gem businessman with weapons in Beruwela wrong name of accused corrected.
Dec. 12, 2018	Resa	Page 02	Bottom middle	Correction: Dec. 11 article concerning Speaker and Parliament corrected.
Dec. 16, 2018	Sunday Island	Page 15	Top right	Colombo heritage collection clarifies: Nov. 25 article iDiscover spearheads 'Wealth of Colombo's heritage sites,' factual errors corrected.
Dec. 18, 2018	Divaina	Page 06	Middle left	Clarification: Dec. 17 article concerning the post of Prime Minister clarified.
Dec. 18, 2018	Resa	Page 02	Bottom right	Correction: Dec. 17 article headline error concerning corrupt government servants.
Dec. 18, 2018	Lankadeepa	Page 04	Bottom right	Correction: Dec. 17 article concerning education system mix up of sentences.
Dec. 19, 2018	Daily Express	Page 02	Bottom left	Ops!: Dec. 18 article 'Of Chinese loans and national security,' Sri Lanka's total debt is US \$ 51.8 billion and NOT US \$ 15.8 billion.
Dec. 19, 2018	Ada	Page 08	Middle	Correction: Dec. 18 article concerns incorrect letter heads used by the Presidential Secretariat. It was an IBA CAMPUS letter head. Apologized.
Dec. 23, 2018	Sunday Island	Page 01 (Business Section)	Bottom left	Correction of caption error: Dec. 16 caption of photograph.
Total: 14 (S-09, T-00, E-05)				

Violations of the Editors' Code monitored by the PCCSL between January and December 2018

January 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
Jan. 04, 2018	Lakbima Page 12 Ex-soldier released on bail for distilling illicit liquor	Story states that suspect is an ex-soldier.	Privacy: (7.1)
Jan. 14, 2018	Virakesari (weekly) Page 04 Dangerous drug detected at Airport	A banned dangerous drug mentioned as "Methamphetamine".	General Reporting and Writing: (6.1)
Jan. 15, 2018	Divaina Page 01 Girl raped by three people dies in hospital	After the incident the distraught girl had written a suicide note and was going to commit suicide. The methods of suicide are given with the use of a saree.	General Reporting and Writing: (6.5)
Jan. 15, 2018	Rivira Page 03 Girl raped and commits suicide	Steps taken to commit suicide explained in detail.	General Reporting and Writing: (6.5)
Jan. 15, 2018	Divaina Page 03 Two people arrested at Katunayake Airport with drugs worth Rs. 20 m.	A dangerous banned drug is named as "apple".	General Reporting and Writing: (6.1)
Jan. 19, 2018	Lakbima Page 12 Former Karandeniya Pradeshiya Sabha Vice Chairman's brother arrested with stock of weapons	The story elaborates on the headline thereby incriminating the former vice chairman. <i>"identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime".</i>	General Reporting and Writing: 6.2 (iii) <i>"identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime".</i>
Jan. 23, 2018	Lakbima Page 12 Army Soldier assaults two children with knife and commits suicide	Methods used in killing his children and his suicide.	General Reporting and Writing 6.5
Jan. 23, 2018	Daily Mirror Page 07 After seriously injuring	Methods used in killing his children and his suicide.	General Reporting and Writing 6.5

	his children: Soldier commits suicide		
Violations: 08			

February 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
Feb. 07, 2018	Metro News Page 17 Jaffna-man in prison attempts to commit suicide while others shout to stop him, immediately hospitalized.	Under the influence of liquor he attacks his wife. Someone has made a complaint and police arrest him on that complaint. While in police custody he pulls out a blade and attempts to slit his throat inflicting a serious injury.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5 "When reporting suicide, care should be taken to give excessive detail of the method used."
Feb. 08, 2018	Sudar Oli Page 01 Throat-cutting Brigadier gets President's protection: Draw sword re-shielded indicates green card to get back to work.	The headline is commentary and distorts the story.	02. Accurate Reporting 2.1 "Inaccurate, misleading and distorted news".
Feb. 16, 2018	Thinnakaran Page 23 Caption	Three-year-old student wins event at sports meet mentions that she is under the three-year-old category further mix up of name or House name	02. Accurate Reporting
Feb. 27 2018	Divaina Page 11 This story is about teacher assaulting a school student	From this article they mention the name of this school	6. General Reporting 6.1: Care to present facts with due sensitivity and discretion in the public interest.
Violations: 04			

March 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
March 05, 2018	Metro Newspaper Page 14 Man who went to repair electric wire gets	Photograph shows electrician dangling from main electricity cable post	07. Privacy 7.3: Particular care should be taken to ensure that in cases involving grief or shock, inquiries

	electrocuted and dies		and approaches are handled with sensitivity and discretion.
March 11, 2018	Sunday Observer Page 01 Bus driver attacked by Lankan Bonnie and Clyde duo	Photograph of both suspects posing for a photograph with former President Mahinda Rajapakse at a function.	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.
March 12, 2018	Daily News Page 01 Brutal attack on private bus driver: SPC member, wife remanded	Photograph of both suspects posing for a photograph with former President Mahinda Rajapakse at a function.	07. Privacy 07.1:
March 13, 2018	Dinamina Page: 08 Rajapakse supporter and Provincial Councilor along with wife and weapon: Assaulted driver in hospital.	Photograph of both suspects posing for a photograph with former President Mahinda Rajapakse at a function.	07. Privacy 7.1:
March 21, 2018	The Island Page 04 Minister's kinsman remanded over road drama	Story mentions that suspect (Mr. Shalil Mohamed Hussein) is a relative of Minister Kabir Hashim	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.2.(iii): Identify without consent relatives of a person accused or convicted of a crime.
March 23, 2018	Rivira Page 02 Two arrested with "iyis" drugs	Name of drug mentioned	06. General Reporting 6.1
March 24, 2018	Daily Mirror Page 06 Rs. 6 m worth of "ice" detected, two persons arrested	Name of drug mentioned crystal Methamphetamine "ice".	06. General Reporting 6.1
Violations: 07			

April 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
April 04, 2018	Maubima Page 02 "Commits suicide since mother went abroad"	Steps of suicide explained	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5

			Spoke to Editor
April 10, 2018	Daily Mirror "New violence against Muslims in Sri Lanka has old roots"	Story appears in inappropriate section in newspaper and infers that the Sinhala Buddhists are the only trouble-makers in the country.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.3 Sent letter with copy of article
Violations: 02			

May 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
May 03, 2018	Metro News Page 14 Found in school bag drug and place of manufacture. Two people arrested.	Recipe to make drug given in detail. It deals with drug abuse harms society.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.1: Sent letter to Editor with copy of Code
May 06, 2018	Virakesari Page 07 Young family woman commits suicide by hanging	Personnel details of victim given: name, age etc.	07. Privacy 7.1: and 7.3: Spoke to Editor
May 31, 2018	Divaina, Page 05 Suspect commits suicide after hacking to death his wife and children. Published in Thinakkural, Metro News and Thinakaran.	He swallowed "hakkapatas" to commit suicide	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5: Spoke to Editors
Violations: 03			

June 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
June 27, 2018	Navamani daily Page 01 'Savarana student murdered, three	Mentioned name of victim who is below 16 years.	Clause 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub Clause 6.2 (ii)

	students arrested' Navamani weekly (June 29 – July 01, 2018) Page 08		
Violations: 02			

July 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION COMMITTED	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
July 29, 2018	Virakesari Page 04 Mother while feeding baby turns to see husband hanging dead	At the postmortem inquiry mother gives details of suicide. Newspaper publishers details.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5: Excessive details of suicide given.
Violations: 01			

August 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION COMMITTED	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
Aug. 01, 2018	Thinkkural Page 11 Drunk man eats 'kaneru' seeds and dies	Method for suicide and name of substance mentioned in story.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5: Excessive details of suicide given.
Aug. 14, 2018	Virakesari Page 14 Young family man eats poison and suicide	Child (5) name, wife's name mentioned.	07. Privacy 7.1: Respect family lives 7.3: Sensitivity and discretion 7.4: Young people should be protected.
Aug. 16, 2018	Thinakkural Page 02 Jaffna girl commits suicide in Wellawatte	Details of mother of two girls whose husband is a doctor given. Method of suicide by hanging given. Went into room, ties sari to fan and hangs.	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5 (iii) Method of suicide given. 07. Privacy 7.1: Respect family lives 7.3: Sensitivity and discretion 7.4: Young people should be protected.
Aug. 21, 2018	Dinamina Page 13 Consumed cyanide in	Distraught with husband consumes cyanide and dies	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.5 (iii) Method of suicide given.

	husband's home		
Aug. 22, 2018	Divaina Page 01 (Siwudesa part) Muslim in possession of ganja bailed	Mention of Muslim in headline is unnecessary	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.4 ii: Avoid publishing details of race.
Aug. 30, 2018	Daily Mirror Page 01 Photograph	Photograph of body of teenage girl lying face down in canal in Kilinochchi	06. General Reporting and Writing 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion 07. Privacy 7.1: Respect family lives
Violations: 06			

September 2018

No violations

October 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
Oct. 08, 2018	Metro Newspaper Page 14 Three elephants killed in accident involving Batticaloa-Colombo train: Engine and three compartments derailed.	Article has a photograph published showing the train on top of the dismembered body of the elephant with its head and trunk sticking out.	Clause: 06.General Reporting and Writing Sub Clause: 6.1: Shocking or emotionally painful nature. Sensitivity and discretion
Oct. 10, 2018	Thinakkural Page 06 Student under treatment in hospital passes Year five scholarship examination	Photograph of Year five student suffering from cancer.	Clause: 07. Privacy Sub Clause: 07.4: Young people should be free to study. Child's private life described.
Oct. 10, 2018	Maubima Page 14 Pepiliyana accident lady doctor involved	Explicit details of doctor given in a drunken state.	Clause: 07. Privacy Sub clause: 7.1: Respect of private lives
Oct. 11, 2018	Maubima Page 05 Four attempts in committing suicide by jumping in front of a train fails but fifth	Several times attempted suicide and failed. Successful attempt (putting neck on rail track) explained. (Gampaha)	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.5 Excessive method of suicide

	attempt succeeds		
Oct. 23, 2018	Maubima Page 09 Father of three children commits suicide	Attempted suicide four times and failed. Successful in fifth attempt by tieing a sarong to his neck and hanging from a tree. (Kegalle)	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.5 Excessive method of suicide
Oct. 24, 2018	Ceylon Today Page 06 Man succeeds in fifth suicide attempt	Attempted suicide four times and failed. Successful in fifth attempt by tieing a sarong to his neck and hanging from a tree. (Kegalle)	Clause: 06. General Reporting and Writing Sub clause: 6.5 Excessive method of suicide
Violations: 06			

November 2018

DATE OF PUBLICATION	NAME OF NEWSPAPER/PAGE NUMBER/HEADLINE-ARTICLE	VIOLATION	CODE CLAUSE VIOLATED
Nov.11, 2018	Maubima (Sunday) Page 12 'Hakmana police area businessman receives call from Madush'	Story concerns murder of under world member. It shows the bloodied dead body.	Clause 06: General Reporting and Writing Sub Clause 6.1: Sensitivity and discretion should be observed when publishing photographs of a shocking and emotional nature
Violations: 01			

December 2018

No violations

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

The Code is supported by the following organizations:

- The Newspaper Society of Sri Lanka
- Free Media Movement
- Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association

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

Revised in 2016

RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE PRESS COMPLAINTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

A. MAKING A COMPLAINT

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

- (a) it shall be in the prescribed complaint form, which may be downloaded from the PCCSL website, at http://www.pccsl.lk/make_complains.php;
- (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.



ශ්‍රී ලංකා පුවත්පත් පැමිණිලි කොමිෂන්
இலங்கை பத்திரிகை மறைப்பாட்டு ஆணைக்குழு
Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka

96, Bernard Soysa Mawatha (Kirula Road),
Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
Tel: (+94 11)5353635, Fax: (+94 11)5335500
E-mail: stockwood@pccsl.lk,
Web page: www.pccsl.lk

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.

BALANCE SHEET

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 Rs.	2017 Rs.
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank Balance	3	155,186	-
		155,186	-
Total Assets			
		155,186	-
FUND AND LIABILITIES			
Accumulated Fund			
Stated Capital	4	-	-
Unrestricted Fund	5	(2,158,597)	(8,556,952)
		(2,158,597)	(8,556,952)
Non-current Liabilities			
Employment Benefit Liability	6	190,000	142,500
		190,000	142,500
Current Liabilities			
Payables	7	216,931	998,945
Amount Due to Related Parties	8	1,906,852	7,412,789
Cash and Bank Balance	3	-	2,718
		2,123,783	8,414,452
Total Fund and Liabilities			
		155,186	-

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

Manager - Finance and Administration

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

Director

Director

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

02 July 2019
Colombo