



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

Den Haag, 26 maart 2015

Voortouwcommissie: **vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken**
Volgcommissie(s): algemene commissie voor Buitenlandse Handel en
Ontwikkelingssamenwerking

Activiteit: **Gesprek**
Datum: woensdag 15 april 2015
Tijd: 13.30 – 14.30 uur
Openbaar/besloten: besloten

Onderwerp: Onderminister Buitenlandse Zaken van Sri Lanka

Agendapunt: **Gesprek met de heer Parera, onderminister van Buitenlandse Zaken van Sri Lanka over de relatie tussen Nederland en Sri Lanka**

Zaak: Brief derden - Ambassade van Sri Lanka (NL) te Den Haag – 8 januari 2015
Verzoek, namens minister van Buitenlandse Zaken van Sri Lanka, om
gesprek met vaste commissie voor Buitenlandse Zaken over relatie tussen
Nederland en Sri Lanka, tijdens global cyberspace conferentie d.d. 16-17
april 2015 - 2015Z00181

Leden van de commissie BDO van de Eerste Kamer zijn ook voor dit
gesprek uitgenodigd.

Griffier: T.J.E. van Toor

Activiteitnummer: 2015A00219

Ajith P Perera, MP
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka

Ajith P Perera, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, commenced his political career as a member of the Provincial Council of the Western Provincial Council in 2009. He became a Member of Parliament in 2010. He is a lawyer by profession and alumnus of University of Sri Jayawardenapura, Sri Lanka, Law College and Ananda College, Colombo. He was born on December 2nd 1967 in Bandaragama, a suburban town in Kalutara District.

Education :

He started his primary education at Wewita Maithree Maha Vidyalaya in Bandaragama. His excellent achievement in the grade five scholarship examination, paved the way for him to enter Ananda College, the premier Buddhist school in Sri Lanka to pursue his secondary education. At Ananda, he gained recognition for his outstanding performances in academics, debating and athletics. Following his secondary education he entered the University of Sri Jayawardenapura to read for a Bachelor of Science Degree at the Faculty of Applied Science. There too his peers elected him as a student representative of the Faculty Board.

In 1987, he was selected to the Sri Lanka Law College and enrolled as an Attorney - at- Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka in 1993. He sharpened his political acumen as a law student, gaining reputation as a political strategist within the student political sphere. He was a regular and ardent speaker at the Law Students Union and was elected as Speaker of the Model Parliament in recognition of his contribution to the political arena of the Law College.

Professional life :

His legal career as a leading Counsel in Civil and Criminal jurisdictions in the Panadura Courts, a suburban area within the district of Kalutara, spans over two decades. As a lawyer, he has gained popularity and recognition in the bar, bench and among the litigants as an able and fearless defender of justice and human rights.

He has been a member of the Bar Council of Sri Lanka for the past 15 years, where he has played an active and effective role in contributing to the legal fraternity and rule of law.

He has been a teacher to many legal practitioners of in Sri Lanka through his involvement in legal education as a lecturer in law.

Political Career :

- The United National Party appointed Ajith P Perera as the Chief Organizer of Bandaragama electorate (part of Kalutara District) in 2007. He contested the Western Province Provincial Council Election in 2009 and was elected as a Member of the Provincial Council, securing the highest number of preferential votes from Kalutara District.

- In April 2010, he was elected as a Member of the Parliament representing the United National Party obtaining 48,558 votes from Kalutara District.
- In 2011, he was appointed as a member of the Political Bureau, the highest decision making body of United National Party.
- In 2012, he was appointed as the Deputy Whip of the Opposition in Parliament.
- In 2015, he was appointed as the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka.
- He is an active participant in political discourses in the country. He is a regular panelist in political debates in local media where he has earned popularity for his ability to articulate complex political issues.
- He is considered as one of the first local politicians to use internet effectively to engage in a political dialogue through his blogs in Sinhala. He continues to mark a significant presence in the social media circles. www.manthri.lk, a local website which monitors and reports on parliamentarians in Sri Lanka on several occasions recognized his contribution to parliamentary affairs by ranking him among the top five of the most active parliamentarians in Sri Lanka.
- During his parliamentary career he has served in several important committees. These include:
 - Public Accounts Committee
 - Judicial Consultative Committee
 - Public Administrative Consultative Committee
 - Parliamentary Affairs Committee
- He was given the opportunity to represent Sri Lanka at important international and regional conferences and workshops such as:
 - 2005 : Law Asia Conference held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
 - 2011 : 61st Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure conducted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), UK.
 - 2011 : Westminster Workshop on Public Accounts Committee conducted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), UK.
 - 2013 : Member of the Parliamentary delegation which participated in a study tour on Truth and Reconciliation in South Africa.
 - 2014 : Member of the Parliamentary delegation to the 131st Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly held in Geneva.

Personal Life :

Ajith P. Perera was born in Bandaragama. He is the eldest in a family of three children. His parents were public servants.

He is married to Ms Nadeeka Perera school teacher by profession. They have two sons and a daughter currently engaged in their secondary and higher education.