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## **Engineering Council of Sri Lanka**

The long-awaited Engineering Council Act was enacted at the parliament by Act No. 4, 2017 on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

IIESL made its first proposal for an Engineering Council to the government way back in 1995, when Hon. Bernard Soyza was the Minister of Science and Technology under the coalition government lead by the Hon. Prime Minister, Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranayake. The matter was debated thereafter at different levels for a long period due to the differences of opinion, the two Engineering Institutions, viz. IESL & IIESL, had.

This matter entered a new phase when Hon. Keheliya Rambukwella, as the Minister of Science & Technology took office in 2002. The minister specifically wanted the two Engineering Institutions to come up with a joint proposal. As a result, two powerful committees appointed by the two Institutions had a series of discussions for a period of nearly one year and prepared a comprehensive, very well balanced Joint Proposal. As a faction of members in the IESL vehemently opposed to this proposal the two institutions had to start afresh. Thereafter, they started working individually with the successive ministers, Hon. Tissa Vitharana, Hon. Rajitha Senarathne, Hon. Wimal Weerawansa and finally with Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka.

At the request of Hon. Patali Champika the two Institutions once again sat together and drafted a joint proposal which got amended several times. Hon. P. Dayaratne's contributions made to settle the controversies arisen in the proposal is highly commendable.

The final proposal prepared, although not to the 100% satisfaction of both Institutions, was presented to the parliament by Hon. Patali Champika Ranawaka as a Private Member Proposal and the parliament unanimously passed it.

The salient points in the act are as follows:

- (1) The Minister in charge of the Engineering Council is His Excellency President
- (2) Following Engineering Categories have been identified as eligible categories to practice under this act:
  - (a) Chartered Engineers (b) Associate Engineers (c) Affiliate Engineers (d) Incorporated Engineers. (e) Engineering Diplomates (f) Engineering Technicians - authorized by the relevant professional body to which such person belongs.
- (3) Engineering Council comprises 3 Ex-Officio Members nominated by universities, 7 Chartered Engineers nominated by IESL, 4 Incorporated Engineers nominated by IIESL, 1 Chartered Engineer nominated by the SLES and 1 Person nominated by TVEC to represent Engineering Technician category.
- (4) No Engineering Practitioner shall engage in the practice of Engineering Profession unless registered as a member of the Council within Six months from the date of commencement of

the act. Both IIESL and IESL have nominated their members to the Engineering Council and the first meeting of the Council has not been summoned yet to commence its activities.

This is a remarkable breakthrough for the Engineering Profession of Sri Lanka as well as a turning point for our Institution (IIESL).

Following members have been appointed as the representatives of the Institution of Incorporated Engineers, Sri Lanka in the Engineering Council, Sri Lanka:

Eng. Dr. T. A. G. Gunasekara

Eng. Shantha Senarath

Eng. K. Ariyawansa

Eng. Lt Col. U. P. P. Kavikeshawa

Note: Extract from IIESL Newsletter

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