SIGMA\7
BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

INDEPENDENT REPORT

An investigation into the US$250 million X-Press Pearl Bribery Allegation

Prepared by Sigma7 Business Intelligence

16th November 2026

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe	Lawyer and Former Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms; Former Minister of Education & Higher Education.
Ajith Mannapperuma	Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development; Former Deputy Minister of Environment.
Manju/Manjusiri Nissanka/Nishshanka	Leader of the Global Sri Lankan Congress, an unregistered political movement, and alleged individual who is claimed to have received the US$250 million bribe. Varying forms of his name are used in media reporting; his passport records his name as Manju Nishshanka.
Chamara Gunasekara	Alleged alias of individual who purportedly received US$250 million bribe.
Chandima Weerakkody	Lawyer and former Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees of the Parliament. Former Minister of Skills Development and Vocational Training, and Former Minister of Petroleum Resources Development.
Nalaka Godahewa	Founder and Leader of political party Freedom People's Front. Former State Minister of Urban Development, Coast Conservation, Waste Disposal and Community Cleanliness; Former Minister of Mass Media.
Nayanaka Ranwella	Environmentalist.
Dr Ajantha Perera	Academic and environmental activist. Between 2007 and 2013 an Adviser to the Ministry of Health on the Food Advisory Committee.
Ramesh Pathirana	Former Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee; Former Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of Industries, Minister of Health. Former Minister of Education.

INTRODUCTION

Sigma7 Business Intelligence has been commissioned by London P&I on behalf of the Owners of the X-Press Pearl, to undertake an independent investigation into a US$250 million bribery allegation. The allegation, first made public in April 2023, was that the X-Press Feeders, the vessel's Owners, and their insurer, London P&I, paid the bribe in order to influence the outcome of the legal action taken by Sri Lanka arising from the sinking of the MV X-Press Pearl. This allegation has been repeated in the Parliament of Sri Lanka, the domestic media, and has also been mentioned in proceedings before the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

Sigma7 Business Intelligence was instructed to undertake an independent review of the available evidence relating to the allegation. This Report traces the allegation's origin and subsequent development, and assesses its credibility through research and independent checks.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The investigation identified no evidence to substantiate or corroborate the allegation that a US$250 million bribe was paid by either London P&I or the Owners of the X-Press Pearl in order to influence either the outcome of the legal action or the compensation process arising from the sinking of the X-Press Pearl.

1.2. The original source of the allegation remains unknown. Ajith Mannapperuma ("Mannapperuma") said that the information alleging a bribe initially reached him through a WhatsApp message which he then forwarded to Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe ("Rajapakshe"). But Mannapperuma later noted that the message had no supporting evidence.

1.3. The purported UK NatWest bank account into which the bribe is alleged to have been paid does not exist in the form described. The sort code, account number and IBAN of this account referenced in the 24th July 2025 judgement by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka included an incorrect number of digits and an invalid IBAN that failed standard validation checks. Sigma7 Business Intelligence tested three reconstructed combinations of sort code and account number, all of which the payment app rejected before a nominal payment of GBP 1 could be made.

1.4. An unexplained payment of approximately US$250 million into a personal UK bank account would attract significant regulatory scrutiny. A payment of this magnitude and character would be expected to trigger alerts within a major UK bank's automated payment and transaction monitoring systems, prompting review by its financial crime team and, where appropriate, escalation for further investigation.

1.5. Under section 330 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA), bank staff must report where they know or suspect, or have reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting, that another person is engaged in money laundering, subject to the statutory conditions. A bank's nominated officer has a corresponding duty under section 331 to submit a Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) to the UK Financial Intelligence Unit within the National Crime Agency (NCA) where the conditions for external reporting are met.

1.6. The identity of the alleged bribe recipient has changed repeatedly since the allegation first emerged, raising further questions about its credibility and reliability and leaving unclear who was allegedly intended to benefit from the payment. Various accounts have referred to them as officials of the Sri Lankan Attorney General's Department, State Attorneys, as well as a relative of an Attorney General's Department officer. Furthermore, the recipient was also at one point identified as "Chamara Gunasekara" ("Gunasekara"), who was subsequently alleged to be an alias for Manju/Manjusiri Nissanka/Nishshanka ("Nishshanka").

1.7. The identification of Nishshanka as Gunasekara appears to have originated in unverified media reporting rather than the original WhatsApp allegation. Nishshanka denied the claim that Gunasekara was his alias, and *Lanka eNews*, which originally published this allegation, later retracted its reporting and apologised.

1.8. The narrative around the alleged destination of the funds, similarly, has changed over time from the UK to a bank account in the Bahamas linked to a person resident in England. No bank, account number or other identifying information has been provided for the purported Bahamas account, and research has identified no corporate or financial links between either Gunasekara or Nishshanka and the Bahamas.

1.9. Those who first made the allegation public themselves later expressed doubts about its reliability. Rajapakshe said he was merely passing on information rather than evidence, while



Mannapperuma said he did not believe the original message because he had found no supporting evidence.

1.10. The Sri Lankan police have to date taken no publicly reported enforcement action or made public comment on the US$250 million allegation which was lodged as an investigation with the Fort Magistrate's Court, Case No. 25401/2023, on 26th April 2023. Had there been any substance to the allegation, police action in the matter would have ordinarily been taken by now, three years after the investigation began.

1.11. Neither the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) nor the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) has publicly produced findings substantiating the alleged payment. The Commission's July 2025 interim report contained no information pertaining to the bribery or corruption allegation. No publicly available final outcome of that investigation has been identified.

2. SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. This Report draws on a variety of publicly available sources, including transcripts of parliamentary speeches, documents published by the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, parliamentary committee reports, and English- and Sinhala-language media reporting. Research also drew on specialist commercial databases and public records covering corporate ownership and directorships, property interests, credit information and UK residency data aggregators.

2.2. Our investigation examined the origin and subsequent development of the allegation, changes in the narrative, and the individuals involved.

2.3. At the time of writing, none of the underlying material from the Sri Lankan authorities' investigations has been made public, including the investigative material referred to in the Supreme Court's judgement of 24th July 2025. The Supreme Court directed the CIABOC to submit confidential interim reports under sealed cover. Neither those reports nor the underlying investigation material have been available for review.

2.4. The assessment in this Report is based on the information reviewed and checks undertaken, as described above. Undisclosed material held by the investigating authorities falls outside the scope of this assessment.

3. TIMELINE

OVERVIEW

3.1. The corruption allegation linked to the X-Press Pearl litigation first emerged in early April 2023, when it was disclosed by Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe ("Rajapakshe"), then Minister of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms (2022-2024), under the SLPP-backed government of President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

3.2. The table below chronicles the main developments in the allegation as its content materially changed over time, including changes to its reported source, the identity of the alleged recipient, and the purported bank account into which the bribe was allegedly paid.

DATE	EVENT
4th April 2023	According to subsequent accounts, further detailed below, Rajapakshe participated in a meeting of the Sectoral Oversight Committee of Parliament chaired by Ajith Mannapperuma ("Mannapperuma").
6th April 2023	Mannapperuma allegedly forwarded an anonymous WhatsApp message to Rajapakshe which contained the allegation that US$250 million had been paid as a bribe to officials of the Sri Lankan Attorney General's Department, with the funds transferred to a UK NatWest account.
7th April 2023	Rajapakshe said he forwarded the information to the Inspector General of Police and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for investigation.
13th April 2023	The allegation became public through the local media.
25th April 2023	Rajapakshe reported the allegations in a parliamentary speech, identifying an individual named Chamara Gunasekara ("Gunasekara") as the holder of a NatWest bank account into which the alleged US$250 million payment had been deposited and disclosing the associated account details, including the account number, sort code and IBAN.
26th April 2023	The Sri Lankan non-mainstream outlet *Lanka eNews* published an article which alleged that 'Gunasekara' was Manju/Manjusiri Nissanka/Nishshanka ("Nishshanka").[1]
28th April 2023	At a press conference, Nishshanka denied that he was Gunasekara and produced his birth certificate to support his denial.
9th May 2023	Rajapakshe disclosed in Parliament that Mannapperuma was the person who had sent him the bribery information via WhatsApp. He said that the message sent by Mannapperuma contained the name Gunasekara. On this occasion, after initially saying the bribe was meant for '*officials of the Attorney General's Department*', he later changed it to '*State Attorneys*' and then added that the account holder was '*a relative of the Attorney*.'
10th May 2023	Rajapakshe repeated the substance of his earlier account concerning the alleged US$250 million payment. He also referred to a claim previously reported by *Lanka eNews* that Gunasekara was Nishshanka, despite Nishshanka having already publicly denied that identification at that point.
11th May 2023	Mannapperuma further changed the version of the alleged events, stating that the alleged bribe was in fact deposited into an account in the Bahamas, not the UK.

Table 1. Timeline of Key Corruption Allegations.

[1] Varying forms of his name are used in media reporting; his passport records his name as Manju Nishshanka.

4. 6TH APRIL 2023

4.1. Mannapperuma sent Rajapakshe a WhatsApp message on 6th April 2023, alleging that US$250 million had been paid as a bribe to officials of the Attorney General's Department to negatively influence Sri Lanka's recovery of compensation arising from the X-Press Pearl incident.

4.2. This information and its source were reported by Rajapakshe in his account to Parliament on 9th May 2023 and subsequently reproduced in the Supreme Court's July 2025 X-Press Pearl ruling:[2,3]

> *"Following participation at a meeting on 4th April 2023 of the sectoral oversight committee of Parliament that inquired into this matter [X-Press Pearl Incident], Hon. Ajith Mannapperuma (who chaired the sectoral oversight committee) sent [me] a WhatsApp message on 6th April 2023, and informed that USD 250 million had been bribed to officials of the Attorney General's Department. He further said that this (the bribe) is supposed to have gone to the State Attorneys."*[4]

5. 7TH APRIL 2023

5.1. On 7th April 2023, Rajapakshe referred the information to the CID. This information was reported by Rajapakshe in his 24th April 2023 interview with the *Daily Mirror* and subsequently repeated in his parliamentary speech of 25th April 2023.[5,6]

6. 13TH APRIL 2023

6.1. The allegation was first reported by the local media on 13th April 2023. *The Island* and *NewsWire* reported that the previous day, Rajapakshe had told *The Island* that he had received information that a "*party involved*" in the X-Press Pearl compensation deliberations had received US$250 million into a British bank account.[7,8]

7. 24TH APRIL 2023

7.1. In an interview published by the *Daily Mirror* on 24th April 2023, Rajapakshe said that "*allegations and counter allegations*" concerning an unspecified party soliciting a US$250 million bribe had arisen during the 4th April meeting of the Sectoral Oversight Committee chaired by Mannapperuma, and that he subsequently asked the Inspector General of Police and the CID to investigate.[9]

8. 25TH APRIL 2023

8.1. In a parliamentary speech on 25th April 2023, Rajapakshe publicly identified the alleged recipient of the payment as "Chamara Gunasekara" and disclosed the purported NatWest

[2] https://supremecourt.lk/wp-content/uploads/judgements/sc_fr_168_176_184_277_2021.pdf
[3] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansardvolumes/1725447465073063.pdf
[4] SC/FR 168, 176, 184 & 277/2021 – "MV X-PRESS PEARL MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CASE" – JUDGEMENT
[5] https://www.dailymirror.lk/amp/news-features/X-Press-Pearl-compensation-Experts-smell-a-rat/131-258024
[6] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1682674636017049.pdf
[7] https://island.lk/usd-250-mn-bribery-allegation-jolts-justice-minister/
[8] https://www.newswire.lk/2023/04/13/x-press-pearl-fire-shocking-usd-250-million-bribery-allegan/
[9] https://www.dailymirror.lk/amp/news-features/X-Press-Pearl-compensation-Experts-smell-a-rat/131-258024

account details.[10,11,12,13] Rajapakshe nevertheless did not make public who the source of this information was, but stated that MP Chandima Weerakkody ("Weerakkody") had already named Gunasekara publicly in the media.[14]

8.2. During the meeting, Weerakkody confirmed that the name "Chamara Gunasekara" had also come to his attention and called for an investigation into the individual's identity, on whose behalf he had allegedly received the money and whether the payment had contributed to delays in pursuing compensation.[15]

8.3. The 2024 Parliamentary Select Committee report subsequently recorded that Weerakkody had previously identified "Chamara Gunasekara" in reporting by *Sirasa News*, although the article is no longer publicly available and the date of his remarks is unclear.[16] A *Mawrata News* article published on 25th April 2023 reported that the alleged account holder had been identified as "Chamara Gunasekara" and included a video of Weerakkody's remarks.[17]

9. 26TH APRIL 2023

9.1. On 26th April 2023, *Lanka eNews* published an article (citing information from its "*internal information network*") which alleged that 'Gunasekara' was in fact 'Manju Nissanka', a close associate of Nalaka Godahewa ("Godahewa"), the Founder and Leader of the Freedom People's Front.[18,19]

9.2. The article based this on an alleged pre-existing financial link between Nishshanka and "Chamara Gunasekara". It claimed that funds connected to Nishshanka's support for Godahewa's election campaign had previously been transferred from an account bearing that name. On this basis, *Lanka eNews* speculated either that "Chamara Gunasekara" was another name used by Nishshanka himself, or that Gunasekara was an associate acting on his behalf.

10. 28TH APRIL 2023

10.1. On 28th April 2023, a *FactCrescendo* article disputed the claim that Nishshanka and Gunasekara were the same person, stating that there was no evidence to support the identification.[20] Contacted by the outlet, Nishshanka also refuted the allegation, denied holding a NatWest account, and provided copies of his national identity card and passport, which were uploaded to the article and showed that his name did not include either "Chamara" or "Gunasekara". He also stated that he intended to take legal action against *Lanka eNews* in the UK over the publication.

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[10] Sinhala: "ගරු නියෝජ්‍ය කථානායකතුමනි, ඒ පිළිබඳව පරීක්ෂණයක් පවත්වනවා. පොලිස්පතිතුමාගේ නියෝග මත අපරාධ පරීක්ෂණ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නියෝජ්‍ය පොලිස්පතිතුමා විසින් පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු සිදු කරනවා. ඒ පිළිබඳව මට හුඟක් අභියෝගත් කරලා තිබුණා පුළුවන් නම් නම හෙළිදරව් කරන්න කියලා. මම අධිකරණ ඇමතිවරයා විධියට නීතියට ගරු කරමින් තමයි ඒ කටයුත්ත කළේ. මොකද, ඒක හෙළිදරව් වීම සිද්ධ වෙන්න ඕනෑ පොලිසිය විසින් නිසායි. නමුත් මම අද ඒ කරුණු හෙළිදරව් කරනවා, මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේදී. මේකේ වගකීම මම භාර ගන්නේ නැහැ. මොකද, මේක තොරතුරක්. මේක සාක්ෂියක්ද නැද්ද කියලා මම දන්නේ නැහැ. මේක සාක්ෂියක්ද නැද්ද කියලා තේරුම් ගන්න ඕනෑ පොලිසිය පරීක්ෂණ කරලා අවසාන නිගමනය දුන්නාමයි. ඒකේ නම සහිතව මේ විධියට තොරතුරු තිබෙනවා: Chamara Gunasekara, Natwest Sort Code - 50000 - AC No. 154793334. ඊළඟට, 'IBAN: GB53NWBK50000015479234 - BIC - NWBKGB2L US Dollars 250 million in this account' කියලා තමයි මේ තොරතුර මට ලැබුණේ. ඒ පිළිබඳ පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු දැන් සිදු කරගෙන යනවා."

[11] https://www.parliament.lk/en/home/business-of-the-house/view/3195

[12] https://www.ft.lk/News/Justice-Minister-reveals-in-P-ment-name-of-X-Press-Pearl-250-m-bribe-taker/56-747690

[13] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1682674636017049.pdf

[14] Sinhala: "ඒ එක්කම මම මීට පෙර හෙළිදරව් කළා, මේ පිළිබඳව එකිනෙක පාර්ශ්වයන්ට එරෙහිව චෝදනා ඉදිරිපත් කරලා තිබෙන බව ගරු නියෝජ්‍ය කථානායකතුමනි. ඒ චෝදනා කරන අයගෙන් මම ඉල්ලුවා, එහෙම දෙයක් වෙලා තිබෙනවා නම් මට තොරතුරු ලබා දෙන්න කියලා. ඒ පිළිබඳ මට තොරතුරක් ලැබුණා. මට සාක්ෂියක් ලැබුණේ නැහැ, තොරතුරක් ලැබුණා. මම හිතන්නේ ගරු චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මන්ත්‍රීතුමාට සාක්ෂියක් ලැබිලා තිබෙනවා. එතුමා ඒ නම් ගම් කිව්වා. හැබැයි, මට ලැබුණේ තොරතුරක් නිසා මම නම් ගම් හෙළිදරව් කරන්නේ නැතුව-"

[15] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1682674636017049.pdf

[16] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/comreports/1728540814030510.pdf

[17] https://sinhala.mawratanews.lk/exclusive/the-name-of-the-man-who-took-a-bribe-of-250-million-dollars-from-the-express-pearl-ship-will-come-out-for-the-first-time-who-is-chamara-gunasekara/

[18] https://web.archive.org/web/20230428072734/https://len-official.blogspot.com/2023/04/25.html

[19] https://srilanka.factcrescendo.com/2023/04/28/explainer-on-viral-claims-manju-nishshanka-chamara-gunasekara-are-the-same-person/

[20] https://srilanka.factcrescendo.com/2023/04/28/explainer-on-viral-claims-manju-nishshanka-chamara-gunasekara-are-the-same-person/



Image 1. Nishshanka Identity Card and passport (Source: FactCrescendo)

10.2. On the same day, Nishshanka held a conference under the Global Sri Lankan Congress banner in which he denied the allegations that he and Gunasekara were the same person.[21]

11. 30TH APRIL 2023

11.1. In an interview with *The Sunday Morning* on 30th April 2023, MP Mannapperuma publicly acknowledged that he had received the WhatsApp message containing the allegation from an unknown source and forwarded it to Rajapakshe.[22]

12. 9TH MAY 2023

12.1. On 9th May 2023, Rajapakshe returned to the allegation in Parliament and identified Mannapperuma as the source of the original information he received. He confirmed that Mannapperuma had sent him a WhatsApp message on 6th April 2023 alleging that US$250 million had been paid in bribes to officials of the Attorney General's Department, and asking him to investigate.[23,24] Rajapakshe also said that the name "Chamara Gunasekara" had been contained in that message.[25,26] He added that, although he had previously told the media that he had referred the information to the police, he had not himself disclosed Gunasekara's name to the media, and that Weerakkody had been the first to do so publicly.[27]

12.2. Rajapakshe then stated that Gunasekara had been identified as Nishshanka, expressly citing a *Lanka eNews* article as the source of that claim.[28] Based on the same source, he also referred to Nishshanka as an associate of Godahewa and noted that Nishshanka had denied being Gunasekara.[29] The identification of Gunasekara as Nishshanka therefore was not included in the original WhatsApp allegation and had already been reported by the media before Rajapakshe referred to it in Parliament. On the same day, the *Daily Mirror* reported the allegation that Gunasekara was a fictitious name used by Nishshanka.[30]

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[21] https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=UlW8ltUenws

[22] https://www.themorning.lk/articles/qkAniK5sD5bDPPIdfNuN

[23] Sinhala: "අනතුරුව ගරු මාන්නප්පෙරුම මන්ත්‍රීතුමා මගේ දුරකථනයට WhatsApp පණිවුඩයක් එවමින් එහි සඳහන් ඇමෙරිකානු ඩොලර් මිලියන 250 නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නිලධාරීන්ට අල්ලස් ලෙස ලබා දී ඇති බව පවසා පරීක්ෂණයක් කරන ලෙස මාගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියා."

[24] Sinhala: "2023 අප්‍රේල් මස 06 වැනි දිනයි, එම ඉල්ලීම කළේ.".

[25] Sinhala: මා විසින් එම තොරතුරු පොලිස්පතිවරයාට සහ රහස් පොලීසියේ නියෝජ්‍ය පොලිස්පතිවරයා වෙත අප්‍රේල් 7වැනි දින බාර දෙන ලදී. එම තොරතුරු මා පොලීසියට බාර දුන් බව මාධ්‍යයට ප්‍රකාශ කළත්, එහි තිබූ චාමර ගුණසේකර යන නම මාධ්‍යයට ලබා නොදුන්නෙමි."

[26] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1684466996091246.pdf

[27] Sinhala: "එම තොරතුරු මා පොලීසියට බාර දුන් බව මාධ්‍යයට ප්‍රකාශ කළත්, එහි තිබූ චාමර ගුණසේකර යන නම මාධ්‍යයට ලබා නොදුන්නෙමි. එහෙත් එම තැනැත්තා චාමර ගුණසේකර බව පවසා පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්ත්‍රී ගරු චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මහතා මාධ්‍යයට ප්‍රකාශයක් කළේය."

[28] Sinhala: "චාමර ගුණසේකර යනු මංජුල නිශ්ශංක යන තැනැත්තා බවත්, ඔහු නාලක ගොඩහේවා මහතාගේ සගයෙකු බවත්, Lanka eNews වෙබ් අඩවියේ පළවීමත් සමඟ".

[29] Sinhala: "චාමර ගුණසේකර යනු මංජුල නිශ්ශංක යන තැනැත්තා බවත්, ඔහු නාලක ගොඩහේවා මහතාගේ සගයෙකු බවත්, Lanka eNews වෙබ් අඩවියේ පළවීමත් සමඟ මංජුල නිශ්ශංක යන තැනැත්තා ඔහු චාමර ගුණසේකර නොවන බව පවසමින්ම නොයෙකුත් අවලාද සහ නින්දාවිමි ආරම්භ කළේය"

[30] https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Chamara-Gunasekera-who-received-US-250-mn-is-a-close-associate-of-MP-Nalaka-Godahewa-Wijeyadasa/108-258890

13. 10TH MAY 2023

13.1. On 10th May 2023, Rajapakshe largely repeated the allegations made the previous day.[31] He again stated that Mannapperuma sent him the information by WhatsApp and quoted the English message as alleging that the money was *"supposed to have gone to State Attorneys as a bribe"* and that *"the account holder is supposed to be a relative of the Attorney"*.[32] He subsequently explained in Sinhala that the named person was a relative of an officer in the Attorney General's Department.[33] However, unlike in his 25th April and 9th May remarks, he did not identify the person described in the WhatsApp message as Gunasekara when recounting its contents.

13.2. Rajapakshe separately reiterated that it was Weerakkody who had disclosed Gunasekara's name to the media, but did not explicitly identify Gunasekara as the alleged recipient of the bribe in that passage.[34] He also repeated that the identification of Gunasekara as Nishshanka had appeared in *Lanka eNews*, stressed that he did not know either individual, and said that it was for the police investigation to establish whether the allegations were true.[35,36,37,38]

13.3. Following Rajapakshe's 9th May 2023 statements, an Opposition-initiated parliamentary debate on the X-Press Pearl disaster was due to begin the following day. In the same parliamentary sitting, Rajapakshe objected to the debate on the grounds that Sri Lanka's legal proceedings demanding compensation from the sinking of the X-Press Pearl interests were pending in Singapore, arguing that parliamentary discussion of matters relevant to the litigation could prejudice the ongoing case.[39,40,41] Following a temporary suspension of Parliament and a meeting of party leaders, the debate was permitted to proceed, subject to an agreement that MPs would not raise matters that could undermine the pending X-Press Pearl proceedings and that the debate would focus primarily on environmental-policy issues.[42]

14. 11TH MAY 2023

14.1. Again, in Parliament, on 11th May 2023, Rajapakshe identified Mannapperuma as his source, according to the information given to him, the money had been paid to a lawyer in the Attorney General's Department. He broadly restated his 10th May account, saying that the bribe was given to *"the lawyer in the Attorney General's Department who is conducting this case"* and that *"the name in this account is that of the lawyer's relative"*.[43] As in his 10th May speech, he did not identify this individual as Gunasekara. Significantly, Rajapakshe also stated that Mannapperuma

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[31] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansardvolumes/1725447465073063.pdf?

[32] Sinhala: "ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මැතිතුමා ඒ තොරතුරු WhatsApp මඟින් මට ඉදිරිපත් කළා, මේක හොයා බලන්න කියලා. එතුමා අවසානයේ මෙහෙමයි කියන්නේ, 'This is supposed to have gone to the State Attorneys as a bribe. Account holder is supposed to be a relative of the Attorney.'"

[33] Sinhala: "මේකේ පැහැදිලිව කියනවා, 'මේ මුදල ගිහිල්ලා තිබෙන්නේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නීතිඥවරුන්ට. මෙහි නම සඳහන් තැනැත්තා නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ කටයුතු කරන නිලධාරියාගේ ඥාතිවරයෙක්' කියලා."

[34] Sinhala: "ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමනි, පුවත් පතේ පළ වූ එම ලිපිය මමත් දැක්කා. මම නමක් සඳහන් කළේ නැහැ. නමුත් චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මැතිතුමා තමයි මාධ්‍යයට නම ප්‍රකාශ කළේ. මම කිව්වේ පොලීසියට තොරතුරු හොයලා බලලා මේකේ සත්‍යතාවක් තිබෙනවා නම් නම හෙළිදරව් කරන්න කියලායි. මම නම හෙළිදරව් කළේ නැහැ.".

[35] Sinhala: "ඒ අතරතුර 'LankaeNews' වෙබ් අඩවියේ යම් කිසි තොරතුරක් සඳහන් කරලා තිබුණා චාමර ගුණසේකර කියන තැනැත්තා තුමයි මංජුසිරි නිශ්ශංක කියලාත් කියන්නේ කියලා." "මම ඔය එක්කෙනෙක්වත් දන්නේවත් නැහැ, නම් අහලාත් නැහැ." ""ඒකට පිළිතුරු දෙමින් මංජුසිරි නිශ්ශංක කියන තැනැත්තාම ස්වේච්ඡාවෙන් ඇවිල්ලා මාධ්‍යයට කියලා තිබෙනවා 'මම නොවෙයි චාමර ගුණසේකර' කියලා. ඒ ටික මමත් මාධ්‍යයෙන් දැක්කා." ""ඉන් එහාට පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු මම නොවෙයි කරන්නේ. පොලීසියට ඒ තොරතුරු සියල්ල ලැබිලා තිබෙනවා. පොලීසිය ඒක අධිකරණයට ඉදිරිපත් කරලා සත්‍යය කුමක් ද කියලා අපි කාටත් හෙළිදරව් කරාවි."

[36] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1686633507044698.pdf

[37] https://web.archive.org/web/20230427033201/https://len-official.blogspot.com/2023/04/25.html

[38] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1686633507044698.pdf

[39] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/minutesofparliament/1695200319032520.pdf

[40] https://www.newswire.lk/2023/05/10/x-press-pearl-disaster-parliament-adjourned-for-10-minutes/

[41] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/news/the-pirates-of-the-x-press-pearl-parliamentarians-in-finger-pointing-game-519556.html

[42] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/minutesofparliament/1695200319032520.pdf

[43] Sinhala: "මුලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමියනි, මේ කාරණය කිව්වේ එසේ මෙසේ කෙනෙකු නොවෙයි, මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ පරිසරය, ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් හා තිරසර සංවර්ධනය පිළිබඳ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවේ සභාපතිතුමා විධියට කටයුතු කරන ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මැතිතුමා. එතුමා මට මේ තොරතුරු දෙනකොට 'මෙන්න මේක ගිණුම, මේක මුදල, මේක දුන්නේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ මේ නඩු මෙහෙයවන නීතිඥයාට, මේ ගිණුමේ තියෙන නම නීතිඥයාගේ ඥාතියාගේ' කියලා තමයි දුන්නේ."

had provided him with the relevant bank-account information, saying that the information concerning the alleged bribe had been given to him *"together with the bank-account details"*.[44]

14.2. In the same parliamentary sitting, Mannapperuma contradicted aspects of Rajapakshe's earlier account. He stated that the information he had provided to Rajapakshe was not that the funds had been deposited in the NatWest bank account in England, but rather that *'a person resident in England had deposited the money in a bank in the Bahamas'*.[45,46] No information was provided regarding the UK-based individual or the Bahamas bank into which the funds had allegedly been deposited.

14.3. Speaking to *The Morning*, Mannapperuma said:

> *"Dr. Rajapakshe says that I have given him the information. Yes. I did so. If I was certain about it, I would not have told him confidentially. I told him that I have received the information and asked him to look into it. After providing this information, I said that this sum of money is not in a bank account in the UK and that a person who is residing in the UK had deposited it to a bank account in the Bahamas."*[47]

14.4. The same version was subsequently picked up by multiple Sri Lankan media outlets in articles published between 11th and 14 May.[48,49]

14.5. Separately, Nishshanka appeared on national television bulletins and denied being "Chamara Gunasekara" or having received the alleged payment.[50] Once again, Nishshanka showed his birth certificate at the conference, stating that neither "Chamara" nor "Gunasekara" appeared anywhere on his birth certificate and invited anyone with doubts to inspect it.[51,52]

[44] Sinhala: "ඒ ගොල්ලන් අල්ලස් ගත්තා කියලා මට තොරතුරු බැංකු ගිණුම් එක්කම දුන්නේ මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවක වගකීම දරන සභාපතිවරයා."

[45] Sinhala: "දීපු information හරි කියලා මට විශ්වාසයක් තිබෙනවා නම් එතුමාට හොර රහසේ කියන්නේ නැහැ. කිව්වේ, 'මේ තොරතුරු ගැන හරියටම දන්නේ නැහැ. සල්ලි එංගලන්තයේ කෙනෙක් මෙහෙම බටහිර ඉන්දීය කොදෙව් දූපතක් වන බහමාස් කියන දූපතේ තැන්පත් කරලා තිබෙනවා කියලා මට ආරංචියක් ඇවිල්ලා තිබෙනවා. මට ඒ වාගේ ආරංචි ගොඩක් ඇවිල්ලා තිබුණා. ඒ ගැන හොයලා බලන්න' කියලා. මිතුරකු වශයෙන් කිව්වේ."

[46] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1684924919020779.pdf

[47] https://www.themorning.lk/articles/PCzVtOb6gkmnpQcP7yay

[48] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html

[49] https://lankasara.com/news/the-money-given-to-put-the-xpress-pearl-matter-under-the-carpet-has-been-remitted-to-a-bahamas-bank/

[50] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRJj0d8wln4

[51] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html

[52] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html

15. OFFICIAL SCRUTINY

15.1. Following the 12th May 2023 parliamentary debate, no material new evidence emerged substantiating the alleged US$250 million bribe. The issue moved largely into parliamentary committee proceedings and was later summarised in a Select Committee report dated 4th September 2024.[53] That report largely restated the existing narrative and did not identify new evidence confirming that the payment had occurred.

15.2. The bribery allegation was also raised in the fundamental rights proceedings concerning the X-Press Pearl incident; however, no further material findings emerged from those proceedings substantiating the bribery allegation either.

15.2.1. On **12th May 2023**, Parliament moved to establish a Parliamentary Select Committee to investigate the *New Diamond*[54] and *X-Press Pearl* incidents.[55]

15.2.2. At the first substantive meeting of the Select Committee, on **20th June 2023**, Committee Chair Ramesh Pathirana said the inquiry would examine the Government's response, litigation, environmental damage and "*whether there was any corruption fraud.*"[56]

15.2.3. According to the Supreme Court's July 2025 ruling, the bribery allegations were formally brought into the fundamental rights proceedings on **6th October 2023**, when the Court granted Transparency International Sri Lanka ("TISL") permission to intervene pursuant to an application filed on 12th June 2023.[57,58,59] TISL sought to examine allegations that corruption may have affected Sri Lanka's pursuit of compensation for the X-Press Pearl incident, including in relation to the assessment and alleged understatement of damages, delays in initiating legal proceedings, and the decision to pursue the principal compensation claim before the Singapore International Commercial Court.

15.2.4. On **4th September 2024**, the Select Committee's report was formally presented to Parliament, by which point the bribery allegation had been incorporated into an official parliamentary report.[60,61] The Select Committee report provided no evidence to corroborate or substantiate the bribery allegation.[62]

15.2.5. According to the July 2025 Supreme Court's judgement, on **7th February 2025** the Supreme Court directed the Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) to investigate the bribery and corruption allegation surrounding the X-Press Pearl incident.

15.2.6. On **16th May 2025**, the Director General sought additional time to conduct the investigation and, following the conclusion of the hearing, the Court issued a further directive on **16th July 2025** requiring CIABOC to submit an interim report.

[53] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/comreports/1728540814030510.pdf
[54] The MT New Diamond incident was a September 2020 fire and explosion aboard a crude-oil tanker off Sri Lanka's eastern coast, which killed one crew member.
[55] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansardvolumes/1725447465073063.pdf
[56] https://www.parliament.lk/en/home/parliament-news/view/3322
[57] https://www.tisrilanka.org/tisl-takes-bribery-and-corruption-allegations-surrounding-the-x-press-pearl-disaster-to-supreme-court/
[58] https://supremecourt.lk/wp-content/uploads/judgements/sc_fr_168_176_184_277_2021.pdf
[59] https://island.lk/sc-allows-tisl-to-intervene-x-press-pearl-case/
[60] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/comreports/1728540814030510.pdf
[61] https://www.parliament.lk/en/home/parliament-news/view/4223
[62] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/comreports/1728540814030510.pdf

15.2.7. On **18th July 2025**, following the inclusion of the bribery allegation in the fundamental rights proceedings and the Supreme Court's direction to CIABOC to investigate it, CIABOC submitted an interim report. However, the Court found that the interim report filed by CIABOC concerned a general investigation into the X-Press Pearl incident itself and "*did not contain any information at all pertaining to the allegation of Bribery or Corruption*."

15.2.8. The Court therefore concluded that the matters raised in the parliamentary speeches and by TISL required fresh investigation. In its final judgement of **24th July 2025**, the Court formally directed CIABOC to conduct a fresh investigation into the bribery and corruption allegations, including by considering the CID's existing investigations into those allegations and obtaining assistance from the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the State Intelligence Service. CIABOC was further directed to submit confidential interim reports on the progress and outcome of its investigation to the Supreme Court under sealed cover every three months.[63] As at **16th November 2026**, no publicly available final outcome of the CIABOC investigation has been identified, notwithstanding requests by respondent parties to review its findings.

15.2.9. Regarding whether the alleged bribe was connected to the decision to file the compensation claim in a foreign court, the Supreme Court expressly declined to make such a finding. It held that, given the "*paucity of circumstantial evidence*" presented by TISL, it could not conclude that the Attorney General's decision to institute proceedings in Singapore "*was occasioned due to corruption or any other improper motive*."

[63] https://supremecourt.lk/wp-content/uploads/judgements/sc_fr_168_176_184_277_2021.pdf

16. ASSESSMENT OF THE ALLEGATION

16.1. Overall, our assessment is that the allegation against the owners of the MV X-Press Pearl, X-Press Feeders, and their insurers, London P&I, has no credibility and remains unsubstantiated. It originates anonymously from an unknown source and has subsequently been recounted carelessly by various Parliamentarians without being first corroborated. Media reporting of the allegation in Sri Lanka has been inaccurate with reporting fomenting further unfounded groundless speculation.

17. ABSENCE OF THE ORIGINAL WHATSAPP MESSAGE

17.1. According to an article by the *Sunday Times* published on the 14th May 2023, Rajapakshe held a press conference on 12th May 2023, during which he told the media that Mannapperuma could no longer locate the WhatsApp message he had received concerning the bribery allegation on 6th April 2023 and believed that it may have been deleted. Following Rajapakshe's conference, the article quoted Mannapperuma as disputing Rajapakshe's account. He said that while he still had the WhatsApp message he had sent to Rajapakshe, he did not know who had originally sent the message to him:

> *"I don't know who sent the message to me, but I certainly have the WhatsApp I sent to Wijeyadasa."*[64]

17.2. However, neither Rajapakshe nor Mannapperuma has published the message or the phone number from which it was sent. Nor does the message appear to have been produced in any official proceedings.

18. NON-EXISTENT UK BANK ACCOUNT

18.1. The bank account details provided in connection with the initial bribery allegation concerning Chamara Gunasekara were first disclosed in Parliament on 25th April 2023 by Rajapakshe, and were later repeated in the Sri Lankan Supreme Court Judgement.[65,66] The account details disclosed in the Supreme Court Judgement were:

> **NatWest**
> **Name:** Chamara Gunasekara
> **Account number:** 154793334
> **Sort Code:** 50000
> **IBAN:** GB53NWBK50000015479234
> **BIC:** NWBKGB21[67]

18.2. There are several inconsistencies in the bank account details recorded in the Supreme Court judgement.

18.3. The account number is recorded as **154793334**, comprising nine digits. NatWest confirms that UK account numbers are ordinarily eight digits.

18.4. The sort code is recorded as 50000, comprising five digits, whereas UK sort codes contain six digits. However, the IBAN contains the six-digit sort code 500000.

[64] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html
[65] https://www.parliament.lk/uploads/documents/hansard/1682674636017049.pdf
[66] SC/FR 168, 176, 184 & 277/2021 – "MV X-PRESS PEARL MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CASE" - JUDGEMENT
[67] The BIC was disclosed as NWBKGB2L in the 25th April 2023 parliamentary speech.

18.5. The IBAN provided in the judgement, **GB53NWBK50000015479234**, contains information that is inconsistent with the separately stated sort code and account number.

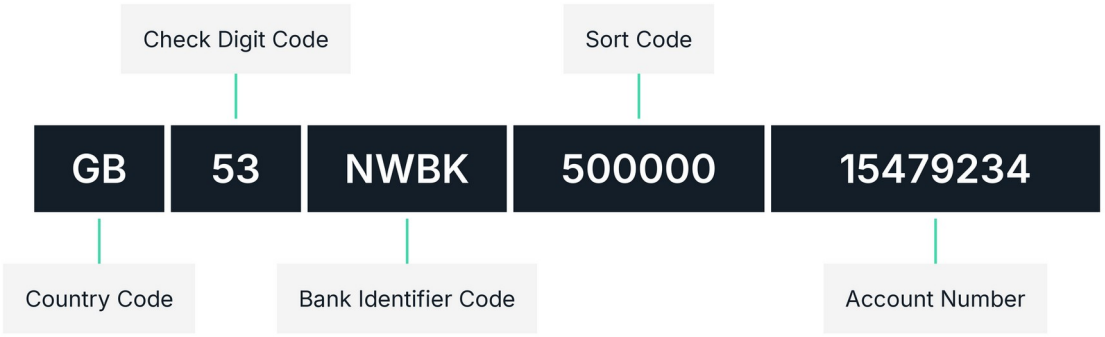


Image 2. IBAN Number Explanation

18.6. Research does confirm that **50-00-00** is a NatWest sort code.[68] However, the IBAN contains the eight-digit account number **15479234**, rather than the nine-digit account number **154793334** stated separately in the judgement.

18.7. Further checks identified an additional issue with the IBAN itself. An online IBAN validation tool indicated that, using the NatWest identifier, sort code **50-00-00** and account number **15479234**, the appropriate IBAN check digits would be **55**, rather than the **53** recorded in the Supreme Court judgement. The corresponding IBAN would therefore be **GB55NWBK50000015479234**.

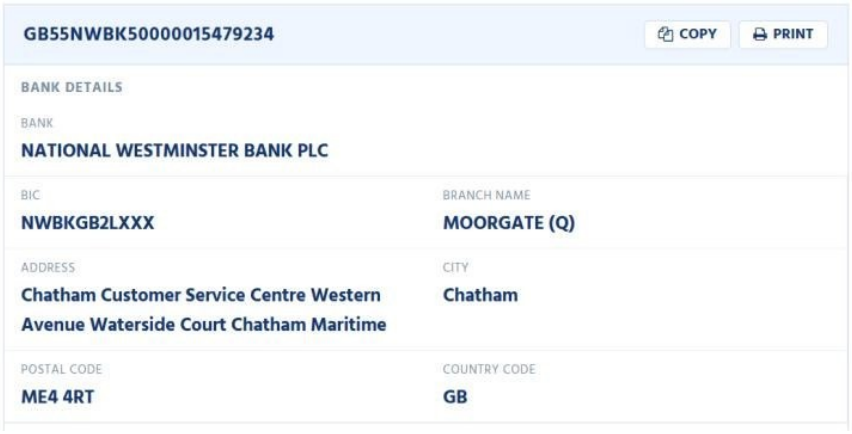
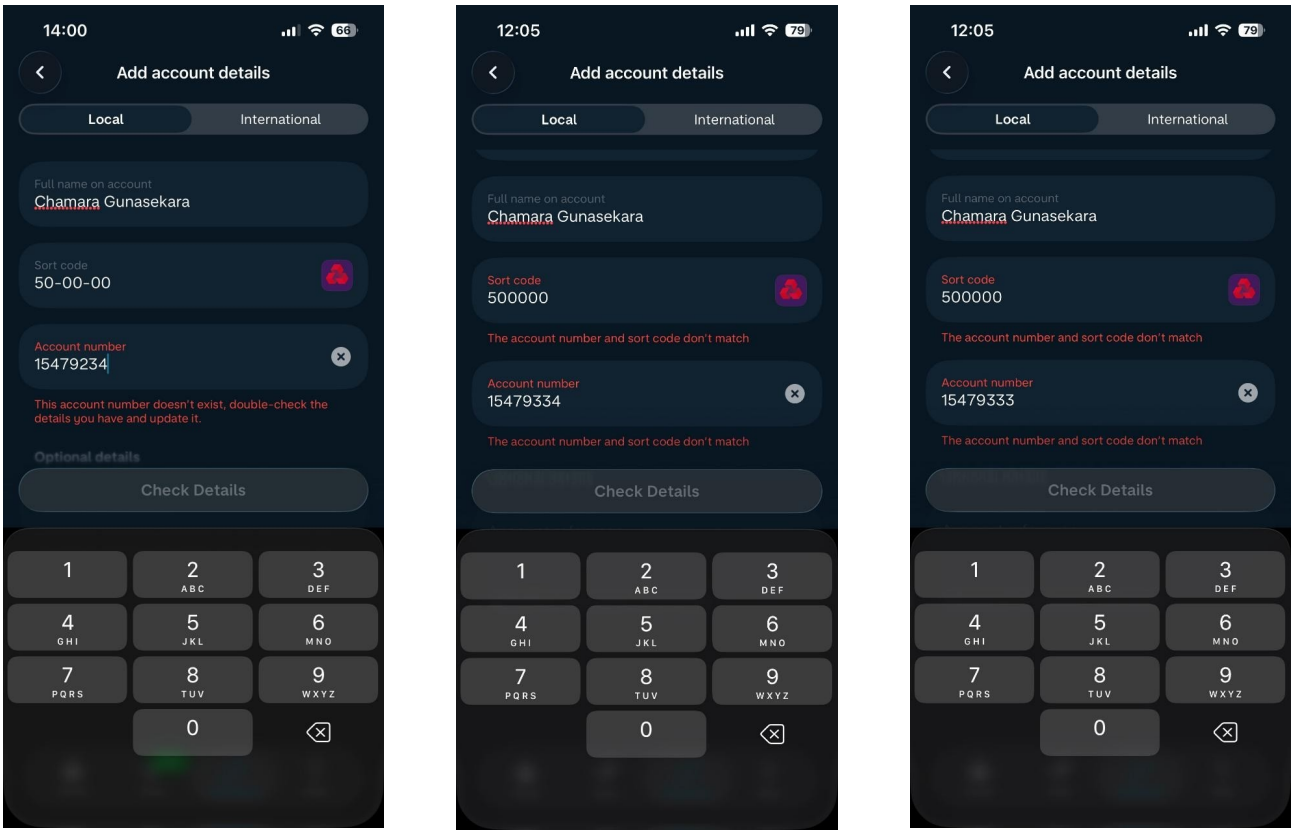


Image 3. IBAN Number Validation

18.8. An additional discrepancy concerns the BIC. The Supreme Court judgement records the BIC as "NWBKGB21", whereas the IBAN validation tool identifies the relevant NatWest BIC as "NWBKGB2L". Notably, Rajapakshe's original parliamentary statement of 25th April 2023 also recorded the BIC as "NWBKGB2L", suggesting that the substitution of the letter "L" with the numeral "1" may have arisen when the account details were reproduced in the Supreme Court judgement.

[68] https://wise.com/gb/sort-code/500000-national-westminster-bank

18.9. Notwithstanding the ability to reconstruct the account details into a correctly formatted UK IBAN, this does not establish that the underlying bank account exists. Sigma7 Business Intelligence independently tested sort code 50-00-00 with three reconstructed eight-digit account numbers: 15479234, extracted from the IBAN, and 15479334 and 15479333, derived from the nine-digit account number recorded in the judgement. The payment app rejected all three combinations at the recipient-details stage. For account number 15479234, it indicated that the account did not exist; for the other two variants, it stated that the account number and sort code did not match.



Images 4, 5, and 6. Rejection of the three reconstructed bank account combinations.

18.10. Taken together, the discrepancies in the account number, sort code and IBAN check digits, along with the unsuccessful attempts to make a test payment, cast significant doubts over the 'evidence' presented before the Supreme Court.

19. REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

19.1. An unexplained payment of US$250 million into a personal UK bank account would be expected to attract significant regulatory scrutiny, particularly if inconsistent with the account holder's known financial circumstances or expected account activity. The UK bank would be required to apply the relevant customer due diligence and ongoing monitoring requirements, with enhanced measures where required by the applicable legislation (i.e. the Money Laundering Regulations 2017). Depending on the circumstances, these measures may include enquiries into customer identity, beneficial ownership, source of funds, source of wealth and the transaction's purpose.

19.2. The table below summarises key Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) guidance applicable to UK regulated firms, including banks such as NatWest, in relation to the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. This guidance and the underlying legal requirements would therefore be relevant to a proposed US$250 million transaction of this nature.

1	**Identity**	Firms must identify and verify their customers and, where applicable, identify beneficial owners and take reasonable measures to verify their identities.
2	**Transaction-monitoring**	UK banks must monitor ongoing transactions to identify potentially suspicious or unusual activity. This includes assessing whether transactions are consistent with their knowledge of the account holder, expected account activity and risk profile. Major UK banks use automated transaction monitoring systems to generate alerts for internal review, with escalation to the bank's financial crime team and/or nominated officer where appropriate.
3	**Source of wealth and source of funds**	The bank may need to establish where the funds originated and whether the size of the transaction is consistent with the stated source of funds. It may also need to establish how the account holder acquired their overall wealth and whether the transaction is consistent with their known financial circumstances.
4	**Handling higher risk situations**	UK legislation in force in 2023 specifically required enhanced due diligence where a transaction was complex or unusually large, formed part of an unusual pattern of transactions, or had no apparent economic or legal purpose. Links to higher risk countries or business sectors also informed the risk assessment; specific requirements applied to relevant relationships and transactions involving parties established in designated high-risk third countries.
5	**Economic or lawful purpose**	Where a transaction has no apparent economic or legal purpose, the bank must apply enhanced due diligence, including examining the transaction's background and purpose as far as reasonably possible and increasing monitoring. The bank may request supporting documentation.
6	**Liaison with law enforcement**	Staff must report relevant concerns about known or suspected money laundering internally or through the applicable statutory route. Where the statutory conditions are met, the nominated officer must submit a suspicious activity report (SAR) to the UK Financial Intelligence Unit within the NCA.
7	**Unknown source of funds**	An unexplained source of incoming funds may warrant further enquiries and, depending on the circumstances, contribute to grounds for suspecting money laundering.

Table 2. Relevant UK anti-money laundering requirements and FCA guidance.[69]

20. ALLEGED BANK ACCOUNT IN THE BAHAMAS

20.1. On 25th April 2023, Rajapakshe disclosed the purported NatWest account details in Parliament. He subsequently stated on 11th May 2023 that Mannapperuma had supplied the bribery information "*together with the bank-account details*."[70]

20.2. On 11th May 2023, Mannapperuma contradicted Rajapakshe's account. He stated that the information he had provided to Rajapakshe was not that the funds had been deposited in a NatWest bank account in England, but rather that they had been deposited in a bank in the Bahamas by, or on behalf of, a person resident in England.[71] This creates a significant inconsistency. If Mannapperuma's version is correct, the NatWest details disclosed by Rajapakshe did not accurately reflect the information Mannapperuma says he provided. Conversely, if Rajapakshe's version is correct, Mannapperuma either supplied inaccurate information or subsequently gave a materially different version of what he had originally conveyed.

[69] https://handbook.fca.org.uk/handbook/fcg3/fcg3s2

[70] Sinhala: "ඒ ගොල්ලන් අල්ලස් ගත්තා කියලා මට තොරතුරු බැංකු ගිණුම් එක්කම දුන්නේ මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවක වගකීම දරන සභාපතිවරයා."

[71] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html

20.3. Neither the identity of the Bahamas bank nor any additional details regarding the alleged account were provided, making it impossible to determine whether such an account existed in the first place. Corporate aggregators and public records research more broadly do not show any affiliation for Gunasekara or Nishshanka in the Bahamas.

20.4. The apparent shift in the allegation from a UK bank account to a Bahamian account is also notable. Reframing the allegation around a Bahamian account may make it more difficult for journalists or investigators to test independently, particularly given the Bahamas' status as an offshore financial centre and the more limited public visibility of beneficial ownership information.

21. THE NAME 'CHAMARA GUNASEKARA'

21.1. 'Gunasekara' is a common name among individuals of Sri Lankan origin. As such, further identifiers would be needed to determine which 'Gunasekara' the allegation refers to. For perspective, the website "*Forebears*", a genealogy and surname-distribution website, shows that one in 268 people in Sri Lanka has the surname Gunasekara.[72]

21.2. UK residency data aggregators have identified individuals bearing the same name who are currently resident in the UK at addresses in Devon and Staffordshire. One of the individuals identified in Devon appears to correspond to a LinkedIn profile for a Gunasekara working in hygiene and food safety.[73] According to the profile, he worked in Sri Lanka until September 2023 before later moving to Plymouth.

21.3. UK electoral-register and directory data also locate an individual of that name in Plymouth in 2025 and 2026. However, the available records linking these individuals to the identified UK addresses post-date the April 2023 bribery allegation and do not establish that any of them were resident in the UK at the relevant time.

21.4. No evidence was identified to suggest that an individual named Gunasekara living in the UK experienced any apparent improvement in his financial position following the X-Press Pearl incident, or that he had any connections to the Attorney General's Department, or the Bahamas.

21.5. Media reporting introduced a further variation in the alleged recipient's identity. On 26th April 2023, the *Daily Mirror* reported that Weerakkody had referred to the individual as "David Chamara Gunasekara", whom he said was based in London.[74] However, research has not identified any individual by that full name in London or elsewhere in the UK, nor any apparent individual in Sri Lanka matching that name.

22. INCONSISTENT VERSIONS ON THE BRIBE RECIPIENT

22.1. There have been changes in the variations of the name of the alleged recipient, making it unclear for whose ultimate benefit the alleged bribe was paid. As outlined above, Rajapakshe identified the account holder as Gunasekara, while subsequent media reporting sought to identify Gunasekara as Nishshanka.

22.2. In his 9th May 2023 speech, Rajapakshe initially said that, according to the message, the bribe had been paid to officials of the Attorney General's Department, but then shifted to State Attorneys and subsequently to a relative of an officer working in the Attorney General's Department. These repeated shifts in the identity of the bribe recipient raise further serious questions regarding the reliability of the underlying allegation.

22.3. Rajapakshe also gave differing accounts in Parliament of the contents of Mannapperuma's WhatsApp message, which was the primary source of the allegation. On 9th May, he stated that

[72] https://forebears.io/surnames/gunasekara?

[73] https://www.linkedin.com/in/chamara-gunasekara-15208615a/

[74] https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Chamara-Gunasekera-sinks-in-mystery/108-258197

the WhatsApp message contained the name "Chamara Gunasekara", while on 10th May he described the alleged recipient as a relative of an attorney, without mentioning Gunasekara.

23. UNSUBSTANTIATED IDENTIFICATIONS OF MANJUSIRI NISHSHANKA AS "CHAMARA GUNASEKARA"

UNSUBSTANTIATED IDENTIFICATION OF NISHSHANKA AS "CHAMARA GUNASEKARA"

23.1. The original 26th April 2023 *Lanka eNews* article appears to have inferred that Nishshanka and "Chamara Gunasekara" were the same person from allegations that Nishshanka, an associate of Godahewa, had financed aspects of Godahewa's political campaign using funds transferred from an account in the name of "Chamara Gunasekara."[75] The article did not, however, provide any documentary evidence establishing that Nishshanka and Gunasekara were the same individual.

23.2. Nishshanka publicly rejected the identification, including at press conferences on 28th April and 11th May 2023, at which he produced identification documents, while a 28th April 2023 *FactCrescendo* article also challenged the claim. Accordingly, by the time Rajapakshe referred in Parliament to the *Lanka eNews* identification, the claim had already been in the public domain for approximately two weeks and had been disputed by both Nishshanka and *FactCrescendo*.

23.3. Following these public denials, *Lanka eNews* issued statements retracting the identification of Nishshanka and apologising for its earlier reporting. In a statement dated 16th June 2023, the outlet apologised for any harm caused by its 26th April 2023 article and confirmed that the article had been removed.[76] It stated that this was its second expression of regret, following an earlier statement on 16th May 2023, and said that it had become convinced that the facts underlying its report were untrue. The statement also said that the June apology had been issued in response to correspondence from Nishshanka's lawyers and denied any deliberate or malicious intent to harm him.

23.4. Despite the retraction, Nishshanka subsequently filed a defamation claim in the UK against Sandaruwan Senadheera, the editor-in-chief of *Lanka eNews*, on 29th September 2023. The case was closed on 8th October 2024. No court documents have been identified publicly.

NISHSHANKA'S ASSET PROFILE

23.5. Given that Nishshanka subsequently became the principal individual publicly associated with the allegation, research examined his background and known assets for any indication that he may have received or benefited from the alleged payment. Research identified no evidence linking Nishshanka's assets or finances to the alleged US$250 million payment. The property interests identified in Sri Lanka, the UK and US either pre-date the alleged 2023 payment or otherwise provide no indication of significant wealth.

[75] https://web.archive.org/web/20230428072734/https://len-official.blogspot.com/2023/04/25.html
[76] https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=275523448333483&set=a.175300028355826

24. CONTRADICTORY COMMENTARY ON THE ALLEGATION

24.1. The two individuals most associated with promulgating the bribery allegation were Mannapperuma and Rajapakshe, yet both have subsequently questioned its reliability and credibility (see Appendices I & II). Since the original allegation, both individuals have been silent on the matter and have not pursued the matter beyond statements made in Parliament and the media.[77]

WIJEYADASA RAJAPAKSHE

24.2. While Rajapakshe was the one who announced the bribery allegation to parliament, he "*declined to vouch for the veracity of the claim*."[78] In response to the questions raised in Parliament by Opposition Leader, Sajith Premadasa, Rajapakshe said on 25th April 2023, as reported by the *Daily Mirror*:

> *"I am revealing this on information I have received and cannot be responsible for these revelations. I do not know whether this information could be used as evidence. The Ministry of Defence and the police should conduct investigations in this regard."*[79]

24.3. On that day in Parliament, he said:

> *"I do not accept responsibility for this, because this is information. I do not know whether it constitutes evidence or not."*
>
> *"I had previously disclosed that allegations had been made against various parties in relation to this matter. I asked those making those allegations that, if such a thing had happened, they should provide me with information. I received information concerning it. I did not receive evidence; I received information".*

24.4. Rajapakshe's parliamentary speeches which make reference to the bribery allegation are included in Appendix I.

AJITH MANNAPPERUMA

24.5. Speaking with *The Sunday Morning* on 30th April 2023, before Rajapakshe reported the source of the allegation in Parliament, MP Mannapperuma said:

> *"The message initially came to me via WhatsApp but the source was not clear to me. I didn't believe this message because I didn't find evidence to support it. However, I have forwarded it to several others."*[80]

24.6. On 12th May 2023, Mannapperuma reiterated the same view:

> *'I don't know who sent the message to me, but I certainly have the WhatsApp I sent to Wijeyadasa.'*[81]

24.7. Mannapperuma criticised Rajapakshe for publicising information that had not yet been verified and for potentially mischaracterising its significance.[82] An article by *The Morning* from 12th May

[77] https://www.lankaenews.com/news/4659/en?fbclid=IwY2xjawTz-VIwZG9mAWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAGJyaWQRMUZKSmFYS1g3MFlKSURFTkZzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEedmugxp3Ijr71ulAFnu5MKORhst-oxqVPOyA4FPPDRgbJt45p2ZpuJXhCTNs_aem_cwkNVLF7vRtxOtr6jFLOBQ

[78] https://island.lk/usd-250-mn-bribery-allegation-jolts-justice-minister/

[79] https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking-news/Chamara-Gunasekera-receives-bribe-of-USD-250-mn-over-X-Press-Pearl-disaster-Wijeyadasa/108-258154

[80] https://www.themorning.lk/articles/qkAniK5sD5bDPPIdfNuN

[81] https://www.sundaytimes.lk/230514/columns/x-press-pearl-surfaces-in-bahamas-with-billionaire-passenger-aboard-519402.html

[82] https://lankasara.com/news/the-money-given-to-put-the-xpress-pearl-matter-under-the-carpet-has-been-remitted-to-a-bahamas-bank/

2023 reported that he said it was "*regrettable*" that Rajapakshe had failed to verify the credibility of the information before making public statements about it.[83,84]

24.8. In its 11th May 2023 article, *Lankasara* quoted Mannapperuma as criticising Rajapakshe for the way he publicised the information Mannapperuma had provided, suggesting that the Minister had sought media attention before the claims had been properly substantiated.[85] The same article reported Mannapperuma as saying that Rajapakshe had been "*dancing like a peacock in front of the media*" with the information. Speaking to *The Morning* on 12th of May, he said:[86]

> *"When the truth was being revealed, he [Dr. Rajapakshe] started mentioning my name. Why did he not mention my name when he was initially telling this before the media? He should have mentioned my name there too. He only acted out a drama and did not do anything about it. I regret the fact that it has been more than a month since this information was given, but he has not been able to make a statement yet as to whether this is true or not."*

24.9. Mannapperuma's parliamentary speech is reproduced in Appendix II.

[83] https://www.infolanka.com/news/2023/may/index16.html
[84] https://www.themorning.lk/articles/PCzVtOb6gkmnpQcP7yay
[85] https://lankasara.com/news/the-money-given-to-put-the-xpress-pearl-matter-under-the-carpet-has-been-remitted-to-a-bahamas-bank/
[86] https://www.themorning.lk/articles/PCzVtOb6gkmnpQcP7yay

25. APPENDICES

26. APPENDIX I: RAJAPAKSHE'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEECHES

26.1. 25th April 2023

26.1.1. "Honourable Deputy Speaker, I had previously disclosed that allegations had been made against various parties in connection with this matter. I asked the individuals making those allegations to provide me with the information if they had any such details. I received information in this regard. I did not receive evidence; I received information. I believe that the Hon. Chandima Weerakkody has received evidence. He disclosed the names. However, since what I received was information rather than evidence, I refrained from disclosing the names."[87]

26.1.2. "Hon. Deputy Speaker, an investigation is being conducted into this matter. The Deputy Inspector General of Police attached to the Criminal Investigation Department is conducting the investigation on the instructions of the Inspector General of Police. I have been repeatedly challenged on this matter and asked to disclose the name, if can. As the Minister of Justice, I acted in accordance with the law. This is because the disclosures had to be made by the police. However, today, I am disclosing these details in Parliament. I do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of this information, because it is information that I received. I do not know whether it constitutes evidence. It is for the police to investigate and reach a conclusion as to whether it constitutes evidence. The information I received contains the following name and account details: Name: Chamara Gunasekara, Bank: NatWest Sort Code: 50000 Account Number: 154793334 IBAN: GB53NWBK50000015479234 BIC: NWBKGB2L. The information provided to me stated that US$250 million was held in this account. Investigations into this matter are currently ongoing."[88]

26.2. 9th May 2023

26.2.1. "Meanwhile, on 4th April, Hon. Member of Parliament Ajith Mannapperuma requested that I attend a Sectoral Oversight Committee meeting in Parliament. I was unaware of which parties had been invited to attend. When I arrived at the committee meeting, I learned that those present included representatives of the Attorney General's Department, members of the committee appointed to assess compensation, Catholic priests, six lawyers representing the owner of the relevant vessel and the insurer, the P&I Club, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and representatives of MEPA."[89]

26.2.2. "In the presence of all of those individuals, when the Chairperson and others attempted to question about the manner in which the Attorney General's Department was instituting legal proceedings and the basis for doing so, I oppose it and asked that the

[87] Sinhala: "ඒ එක්කම මම මීට පෙර හෙළිදරව් කළා, මේ පිළිබඳව එකිනෙක පාර්ශ්වයන්ට එරෙහිව චෝදනා ඉදිරිපත් කරලා තිබෙන බව ගරු නියෝජ්‍ය කථානායකතුමනි. ඒ චෝදනා කරන අයගෙන් මම ඉල්ලුවා, එහෙම දෙයක් වෙලා තිබෙනවා නම් මට තොරතුරු ලබා දෙන්න කියලා. ඒ පිළිබඳ මට තොරතුරක් ලැබුණා. මට සාක්ෂියක් ලැබුණේ නැහැ, තොරතුරක් ලැබුණා. මම හිතන්නේ ගරු චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මන්ත්‍රීතුමාට සාක්ෂියක් ලැබිලා තිබෙනවා. එතුමා ඒ නම් ගම් කිව්වා. හැබැයි, මට ලැබුණේ තොරතුරක් නිසා මම නම් ගම් හෙළිදරව් කරන්නේ නැතුව-"

[88] Sinhala: "ගරු නියෝජ්‍ය කථානායකතුමනි, ඒ පිළිබඳව පරීක්ෂණයක් පවත්වනවා. පොලිස්පතිතුමාගේ නියෝග මත අපරාධ පරීක්ෂණ දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නියෝජ්‍ය පොලිස්පතිතුමා විසින් පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු සිදු කරනවා. ඒ පිළිබඳව මට හුඟක් අභියෝගත් කරලා තිබුණා, පුළුවන් නම් නම නම් හෙළිදරව් කරන්න කියලා. මම අධිකරණ ඇමතිවරයා විධියට නීතියට ගරු කරමින් තමයි ඒ කටයුත්ත කළේ. මොකද, ඒක හෙළිදරව් වීම සිද්ධ වෙන්න ඕනෑ පොලීසිය විසින් නිසායි. නමුත් මම අද ඒ කරුණු හෙළිදරව් කරනවා, මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේදී. මේකේ වගකීම මම භාර ගන්නේ නැහැ. මොකද, මේක තොරතුරක්. මේක සාක්ෂියක්ද, නැද්ද කියලා මම දන්නේ නැහැ. මේක සාක්ෂියක්ද, නැද්ද කියලා තේරුම් ගන්න ඕනෑ පොලීසිය පරීක්ෂණ කරලා අවසාන නිගමනය දුන්නාමයි. ඒකේ නම සහිතව මේ විධියට තොරතුරු තිබෙනවා: Chamara Gunasekara, Natwest Sort Code - 50000 - AC No. 154793334. ඊළඟට, 'IBAN: GB53NWBK50000015479234 - BIC - NWBKGB2L US Dollars 250 million in this account' කියලා තමයි මේ තොරතුර මට ලැබුණේ. ඒ පිළිබඳ පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු දැන් සිදු කරගෙන යනවා."

[89] Sinhala translation: ඒ අතරතුර අප්‍රේල් මස 4වන දින පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කමිටුවට සහභාගි වන ලෙස පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්ත්‍රී ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මහතා මාගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටින ලදී. ඒ සඳහා කැඳවා සිටියේ කුමන පාර්ශ්වයන්ද යන්න මා දැන නොසිටි අතර, මා ඒම කමිටුවට ගිය අවස්ථාවේ දැන ගත්තේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නියෝජිතයන්, වන්දි තක්සේරු කිරීමට පත් කළ කමිටුවේ සාමාජිකයන්, කතෝලික පියතුමන්ලා, අදාළ නැවේ හිමිකරු සහ රක්ෂණ සමාගම P & I Club නියෝජනය කරන නීතිඥවරු 6දෙනෙකු, රාජ්‍ය නොවන සංවිධානවල නියෝජිතයන් සහ MEPA එකේ නියෝජිතයන්ද සහභාගි වී සිටින බවයි.

lawyers who had come on behalf of the defendant side be removed from the meeting. I also instructed them not to question the Attorney General about the manner in which he intended to institute proceedings. Some environmental experts, meanwhile, expressed their views to the media as though they were judges empowered to determine the jurisdiction of the courts."[90]

26.2.3. "Subsequently, MP Mannapperuma sent a WhatsApp message to my phone, stating that US$250 million had been paid as bribes to officials of the Attorney General's Department and requesting that I conduct an investigation into the matter."[91]

26.2.4. "That request was made on 6th April 2023. I handed over the information to the Inspector General of Police and the Deputy Inspector General of Police of the Criminal Investigation Department on 7th April. Although I informed the media that I had handed the information over to the police, I did not disclose to the media the name 'Chamara Gunasekara', which was contained in that information. However, the Honourable Member of Parliament, Chandima Weerakkody, made a statement to the media identifying that individual as Chamara Gunasekara. Because I did not disclose the name to the media, I observed that various people were making allegations that I, too, was involved in some conspiracy. Therefore, on 25th April, I presented all the information to this House."[92]

26.2.5. "[Mannapperuma] sent me a WhatsApp message stating that US$250 million had been paid as bribes to officials of the Attorney General's Department and requesting that I conduct an investigation into the matter. He concluded by saying the following: 'This is supposed to have gone to the State Attorneys as a bribe. The account holder is supposed to be a relative of the Attorney.'"[93]

26.3. **10th May 2023**

26.3.1. "The person who alleged that bribes had been paid to the Attorney General's Department to delay legal proceedings relating to that ship was the Honourable Opposition Member of Parliament Ajith Mannapperuma. He was the person who provided me with the information. Following the receipt of that information, the CID commenced an investigation into the matter. On 26th April, case No. 25401/2023 was filed before the Fort Magistrate's Court."[94]

26.3.2. "Hon. Presiding Member, I want to clarify the point raised by our Hon. Member. In fact, I made a disclosure in this House concerning an alleged bribe. I did so because the matter had been brought to my attention as a serious issue. Honourable Ajith Mannapperuma provided me with that information via WhatsApp and asked me to look into it. He concluded his message by stating: 'This is supposed to have gone to the

[90] එම සියලු දෙනා ඉදිරියේ සභාපතිවරයාත්, තවත් අයත් නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට නඩු පවරනු ලබන ආකාරය සහ පදනම පිළිබඳ ප්‍රශ්න කිරීමට උත්සාහ කළ අවස්ථාවේ මා ඊට විරෝධය පා විත්ති පාර්ශ්වය වෙනුවෙන් පැමිණ සිටින නීතිඥවරුන් සභාවෙන් ඉවත් කරන ලෙස ඉල්ලා සිටියෙමි. නීතිපතිවරයා නඩු පැවරීමට කටයුතු කරන ආකාරය ගැන ප්‍රශ්න නොකරන ලෙසද දන්වා සිටියෙමි. සමහර පරිසර විශේෂඥයන් අධිකරණ බලය තීරණය කරනු ලබන විනිසුරුවන් මෙන් මාධ්‍යයට අදහස් ප්‍රකාශ කළහ."

[91] Sinhala translation: අනතුරුව ගරු මාන්නප්පෙරුම මන්ත්‍රීතුමා මගේ දුරකථනයට WhatsApp පණිවුඩයක් එවමින් එහි සඳහන් ඇමරිකානු ඩොලර් මිලියන 250 නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නිලධාරීන්ට අල්ලස් ලෙස ලබා දී ඇති බව පවසා පරීක්ෂණයක් කරන ලෙස මාගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියා."

[92] Sinhala translation: "අනතුරුව ගරු මාන්නප්පෙරුම මන්ත්‍රීතුමා මගේ දුරකථනයට WhatsApp පණිවුඩයක් එවමින් එහි සඳහන් ඇමෙරිකානු ඩොලර් මිලියන 250 නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නිලධාරීන්ට අල්ලස් ලෙස ලබා දී ඇති බව පවසා පරීක්ෂණයක් කරන ලෙස මාගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියා. 2023 අප්‍රේල් මස 06 වැනි දිනයි, එම ඉල්ලීම කළේ. මා විසින් එම තොරතුරු පොලිස්පතිවරයාට සහ රහස් පොලීසියේ නියෝජ්‍ය පොලිස්පතිවරයා වෙත අප්‍රේල් 7වැනි දින බාර දුන් බව මාධ්‍යයට ප්‍රකාශ කළත්, එහි තිබූ චාමර ගුණසේකර යන නම මාධ්‍යයට ලබා නොදුන්නෙමි. එහෙත් එම තැනැත්තා චාමර ගුණසේකර බව පවසා පාර්ලිමේන්තු මන්ත්‍රී ගරු චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මහතා මාධ්‍යයට ප්‍රකාශයක් කළේය. මා විසින් එම නම මාධ්‍යයට හෙළිදරව් නොකළේ මා ද යම් කුමන්ත්‍රණයක කොටස්කරුවෙකු නිසා යැයි නොයෙක් අය චෝදනා කරනු දකින්නට ලැබුණි. එම නිසා අප්‍රේල් 25වැනි දින මම එම තොරතුරු සියල්ල මේ ගරු සභාවට ඉදිරිපත් කළෙමි."

[93] Sinhala translation: WhatsApp පණිවුඩයක් එවමින් එහි සඳහන් ඇමරිකානු ඩොලර් මිලියන 250 නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නිලධාරීන්ට අල්ලස් ලෙස ලබා දී ඇති බව පවසා පරීක්ෂණයක් කරන ලෙස මාගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියා

[94] Sinhala translation: "ඒ එක්කම, ඒ නැව සම්බන්ධයෙන් වූ නඩු කටයුතු ප්‍රමාද කරන්න නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවට අල්ලස් දුන්නා කියලා කිව්වේ විපක්ෂයේ මන්ත්‍රී ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මැතිතුමා. එතුමා තමයි මට තොරතුරු දුන්නේ. ඒ තොරතුරු ලද පමණින්, මේ වනවිට CID එක ඒ සම්බන්ධව පරීක්ෂණ ආරම්භ කරලා අප්‍රේල් මාසයේ 26වැනි දා කොටුව මහේස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ අංක 25401/2023 දරන නඩුව පවරා තිබෙනවා."

State Attorneys as a bribe. The account holder is supposed to be a relative of the Attorney.' The information clearly stated that the money had been paid to lawyers in the Attorney General's Department and that the individual named in the information was a relative of an officer working in the Attorney General's Department. I handed the information over to the CID the following day. I have also given a statement to the CID regarding the matter today. A case concerning this matter has now been filed before the Fort Magistrate's Court, Honourable Presiding Member."[95]

26.3.3. "Honourable Member, I also saw the article published in the newspaper. I did not mention any name. It was Chandima Weerakkody who disclosed the name to the media. What I said was that the police should investigate the information and disclose the name if the information was found to be true. I did not disclose the name. Following the publication on the Lanka eNews website of information alleging that Chamara Gunasekara was an individual named Manjula Nissanka and that he was an associate of Nalaka Godahewa, the individual named Manjula Nissanka began making various defamatory and insulting remarks, insisting that he was not Chamara Gunasekara. I do not know either of these individuals, nor have I even heard their names before. It stated that he was an associate of a former minister and that there was suspicion that he himself may have been behind this. That is what was stated on the Lanka eNews website. In response, the individual named Manjusiri Nissanka voluntarily came forward and told the media, 'I am not Chamara Gunasekara.' I also saw that statement in the media. I am not the person conducting the investigation. The police have received all the relevant information. The police will submit the matter to the court and establish the truth, which will then be made known to all of us."[96]

26.4. **11th May 2023**

26.4.1. "Honourable Presiding Member, the person who raised this matter was not just anyone. It was the Honourable Ajith Mannapperuma, who serves as the Chairperson of Parliament's Sectoral Oversight Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. When he provided me with this information, he said, 'Here is the account, here is the amount of money, and this is the money that was given to the lawyer handling this case in the Attorney General's Department. The name appearing on this account belongs to the lawyer's relative.' That is how he presented the information to me.

26.4.2. "Honourable Presiding Member, as the Minister of Justice, what should I do when a chairperson of a Sectoral Oversight Committee of this Parliament provides me with such information? What I had to do was hand the information over to the CID and the Inspector General of Police. That is what I did. This matter was also reported to the court. The investigation is ongoing."

26.4.3. "Honourable Presiding Member, after providing me with that information, they subsequently launched a smear campaign against me, alleging that I was not taking

[95] Sinhala translation: "මූලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමනි, අපේ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමා මතු කළ කාරණය පිළිබඳව මම පැහැදිලි කිරීමක් කරන්න ඕනෑ. ඇත්ත වශයෙන්ම අල්ලස් ලබා දීමක් පිළිබඳව මම මේ සභාවේදී යම් හෙළිදරව්වක් කළා. මොකද, මේක බරපතළ කාරණයක් විධියට මට ඉදිරිපත් කළ නිසායි ඒ හෙළිදරව් කිරීම කළේ. ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මැතිතුමා ඒ තොරතුරු WhatsApp මඟින් මට ඉදිරිපත් කළා, මේක හොයා බලන්න කියලා. එතුමා අවසානයේ මෙහෙමයි කියන්නේ, 'This is supposed to have gone to the State Attorneys as a bribe. Account holder is supposed to be a relative of the Attorney.' මේකේ පැහැදිලිව කියනවා, 'මේ මුදල ගිහිල්ලා තිබෙන්නේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ නීතිඥවරුන්ට. මෙහි නම සඳහන් තැනැත්තා නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ කටයුතු කරන නිලධාරියාගේ ඥාතිවරයෙක්' කියලා. ඊට පසුදිනම CID එකට ඒක භාර දුන්නා. ඒ පිළිබඳව මම අද CID එකට ප්‍රකාශයකුත් කළා. මේ වන විට ඒ පිළිබඳව කොටුව මහේස්ත්‍රාත් අධිකරණයේ නඩුවකුත් ගොනු කර තිබෙනවා, මූලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමනි."

[96] Sinhala translation: "ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමනි, පුවත් පතේ පළ වූ එම ලිපිය මමත් දැක්කා. මම නමක් සඳහන් කළේ නැහැ. නමුත් චන්දිම වීරක්කොඩි මැතිතුමා තමයි මාධ්‍යයට නම ප්‍රකාශ කළේ. මම කිව්වේ පොලීසියට තොරතුරු හොයලා බලලා මේකේ සත්‍යතාවක් තිබෙනවා නම් නම හෙළිදරව් කරන්න කියලායි. මම නම හෙළිදරව් කළේ නැහැ. ඒ අතරතුර 'LankaeNews' වෙබ් අඩවියේ යම් කිසි තොරතුරක් සඳහන් කරලා තිබුණා චාමර ගුණසේකර කියන තැනැත්තා තමයි මංජුසිරි නිශ්ශංක කියලාත් කියන්නේ කියලා. මම ඔය එක්කෙනෙක්වත් දන්නේවත් නැහැ, නම් අහලාත් නැහැ. ඔහු හිටපු ඇමතිවරයෙකුගේ හිතවතෙක්. ඔහුම තමයි මේක කරන්න ඇත්තේ කියලා සැකයක් තිබෙනවා කියලා 'LankaeNews' වෙබ් අඩවියේ තමයි සඳහන් කරලා තිබෙන්නේ. ඒකට පිළිතුරු දෙමින් මංජුසිරි නිශ්ශංක කියන තැනැත්තාම ස්වේච්ඡාවෙන් ඇවිල්ලා මාධ්‍යයට කියලා තිබෙනවා 'මම නොවෙයි චාමර ගුණසේකර' කියලා. ඒ ටික මමත් මාධ්‍යයෙන් දැක්කා. ඉන් එහාට පරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු මම නොවෙයි කරන්නේ. පොලීසියට ඒ තොරතුරු සියල්ල ලැබිලා තිබෙනවා. පොලීසිය ඒක අධිකරණයට ඉදිරිපත් කරලා සත්‍යය කුමක් ද කියලා අපි කාටත් හෙළිදරව් කරාවි."

legal action in this matter because I, too, had accepted bribes. I therefore reported the information I had received. The Attorney General's Department is a department that falls under my purview. The person who provided me with information alleging that officials of that department had accepted bribes, together with the bank account details, was the chairperson responsible for a Sectoral Oversight Committee of this Parliament."[97]

27. APPENDIX II: MANNAPPERUMA'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEECH

27.1. 11th May 2023

27.1.1. "Then, Hon. Speaker, another issue arose. I provided information to the Honourable Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe. Yes, I did. Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe is a minister who is a friend of mine. In confidence, I gave the Honourable Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe this information. However, when I gave him the information, I explained that the money had not been deposited in a bank in England. Rather, a person residing in England had deposited the money in a bank in the Bahamas, an island in the West Indies. That is what I told him. I said that the money had been deposited in a bank located in the Bahamas, an island in the West Indies."[98]

27.1.2. "If I had confidence that the information provided was accurate, I wouldn't tell him about it in secret. What I said was: 'I do not know the exact details of this information. I have received information that a person residing in England has deposited money in the Bahamas, an island country in the West Indies. I have received many such reports. Please look into the matter.' I told him this as a friend."[99]

[97] "මූලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමියනි, මේ කාරණය කිව්වේ එසේ මෙසේ කෙනෙකු නොවෙයි, මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ පරිසරය, ස්වාභාවික සම්පත් හා තිරසර සංවර්ධනය පිළිබඳ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවේ සභාපතිතුමා විධියට කටයුතු කරන ගරු අජිත් මාන්නප්පෙරුම මැතිතුමා. එතුමා මට මේ තොරතුරු දෙනකොට 'මෙන්න මේක ගිණුම, මේක මුදල, මේක දුන්නේ නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවේ මේ නඩු මෙහෙයවන නීතිඥයාට, මේ ගිණුමේ තියෙන නම නීතිඥයාගේ ඥාතියාගේ' කියලා තමයි දුන්නේ." "මූලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමියනි, අධිකරණ ඇමතිවරයා විධියට මට මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවක සභාපතිවරයෙක් එවැනි තොරතුරක් දුන්නාම මා කළ යුත්තේ කුමක්ද? මා කළ යුතු දේ තමයි CID එකටයි, පොලිස්පතිටයි ඒ තොරතුරු ලබා දෙන එක. මම එහෙම කළා. ඒ පිළිබඳව අධිකරණයටත් වාර්තා කළා. ඒ පිළිබඳව පරීක්ෂණය සිදු වෙමින් පවතිනවා." "මූලාසනාරූඪ ගරු මන්ත්‍රීතුමියනි, ඒ තොරතුරු මට දීලා, ඊට පස්සේ මට විරුද්ධව මඩ ප්‍රචාරයකුත් ගෙන ගියා, මේ පිළිබඳව නීතිමය පියවර ගන්නේ නැත්තේ අධිකරණ ඇමතිවරයාත් අල්ලස් අරගෙනය කියලා. ඉතින් මම මට ලැබුණු තොරතුරු දැනුම් දුන්නා. මා යටතේ තිබෙන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුවක් තමයි, නීතිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව. ඒ ගොල්ලන් අල්ලස් ගත්තා කියලා මට තොරතුරු බැංකු ගිණුම් එක්කම දුන්නේ මේ පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ ආංශික අධීක්ෂණ කාරක සභාවක වගකීම දරන සභාපතිවරයා."

[98] Sinhala translation: "ඊළඟට ගරු කථානායකතුමනි, ප්‍රශ්නයක් ආවා. මම විජයදාස රාජපක්ෂ ඇමතිතුමාට විස්තරයක් දුන්නා ලු. ඔව්, මම දුන්නා. විජයදාස රාජපක්ෂ කියන්නේ මගේ හිතවත් ඇමති කෙනෙක්. ... විශ්වාසය තුළ විජයදාස රාජපක්ෂ ඇමතිතුමාට මේ විස්තරය දුන්නා. හැබැයි, මේ විස්තරය දීලා මම කිව්වා, මේක එංගලන්තයේ බැංකුවක් නොවෙයි, එංගලන්තයේ පදිංචි කෙනෙක් බටහිර ඉන්දීය කොදෙව් දූපතක් වූ බහමාස් දූපතේ තිබෙන බැංකුවකයි මුදල් තැන්පත් කරලා තිබෙන්නේ කියලා. ඒකයි එතුමාට කිව්වේ. බටහිර ඉන්දීය කොදෙව් දූපතක් වන බහමාස් දූපතේ තිබෙන බැංකුවක මුදල් තැන්පත් කරලා තිබෙන්නේ කියලයි කිව්වේ."

[99] Sinhala translation: "දීපු information හරි කියලා මට විශ්වාසයක් තිබෙනවා නම් එතුමාට හොර රහසේ කියන්නේ නැහැ. කිව්වේ, මේ තොරතුරු ගැන හරිටම දන්නේ නැහැ. සල්ලි එංගලන්තයේ කෙනෙක් මෙහෙම බටහිර ඉන්දීය කොදෙව් දූපතක් වන බහමාස් කියන දූපතේ තැන්පත් කරලා තිබෙනවා කියලා මට ආරංචියක් ඇවිල්ලා තිබෙනවා. මට ඒ වාගේ ආරංචි ගොඩක් ඇවිල්ලා තිබුණා. ඒ ගැන හොයලා බලන්න" කියලා. මිතුරකු වශයෙන් කිව්වේ."