

Hon. Vasantha Senanayake, State Minister of Foreign Affairs

Vasantha Senanayake was appointed State Minister of Foreign Affairs in June 2017.

Having entered Parliament in 2010 he was made the Deputy Minister of Wild Life and Sports in 2014 by the United National Party. In this portfolio he actively pursued action on environmental and wildlife issues particularly poaching, deforestation and the illegal trade of young elephants.

In 2015 he was re-elected to Parliament with more than 75,000 preference votes from the District of Polonnaruwa in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka and appointed as the State Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management. He spearheaded many projects in the area of irrigation and water resources management including rehabilitating much of the ancient irrigation networks.

Mr. Senanayake has served as the Chairman of many Government boards namely National Lotteries Board, Water Resources Board and Janatha Fertilizer Enterprises Limited and is the present Chairman of the District Development Council of his District.

His early education was at St. Thomas Preparatory School, Colombo where he displayed leadership qualities, being appointed the Head Prefect in his senior year. He read law and earned a LLB Degree from the University of Buckingham (UK) in 1995 followed by a LLM Degree from Kotalawela Defence University, Sri Lanka.

He is the great grandson of the first Prime Minister of Sri Lanka-Rt. Hon. D.S. Senanayake and the grand nephew of Prime Minister Hon. Dudley Senanayake.

Apart from his official duties, Mr. Senanayake has been a vocal campaigner in gender rights and women's empowerment issues. He has also taken great interest in diaspora engagement activities. He has been an avid campaigner to limit the industries of tobacco and alcohol and bring about more stringent regulations including a recently implemented pictorial warning on cigarette packets. He has also implemented sanitation projects in the rural areas of Polonnaruwa, which also involves building of public toilets and securing clean drinking water.