

29 COMPLAINTS AGAINST NEWSPAPERS

PCCS, Colombo, 07.06.2007

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka had received 29 complaints against newspapers during the first quarter of this year of which the commission had dealt with.

A statement by the commission on its activities is as follows:

The Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka (PCCSL) was established three and a half years ago (Oct. 2003) by the media to resolve disputes between the press, and the public speedily and cost-effectively, for both, the press and the public, outside the statutory Press Council and the regular courts system.

We hope that the PCCSL has made things easier for editors and journalists to dispose of public complaints on matters published in your newspapers, and at no costs incurred in the retention of lawyers etc.

In a bid to have more transparency in the work of the Dispute Resolution Council of the PCCSL, the Commission decided to publish the records of the complaints it has received.

Complaints summary from January - April 2007

January

PCCSL/001/01/2007: Thinakkural (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/002/01/2007: Lakbima (daily)— Goes for mediation. PCCSL/003 Divaina (daily)- Resolved. PCCSL/004/01 /2007: Mawbima — Resolved. ("Right of reply" sent direct to newspaper by complainant). PCCSL/005/01/2007: Lakbima (Sunday) — Goes for mediation.

February

PCCSL/001/02/2007: The Island (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/002/02/2007: Divaina (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/003/02/2007: Lakbima (daily) File closed. PCCSL/004/02/2007: Divaina (daily)— File closed. PCCSL/005/02/2007: Priya (Tamil weekly) — Not valid. PCCSL/006/02/2007: Dinamina — Sub-judice.

March

PCCSL/001/03/2007: The Island (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/002/03/2007: Janani (Tamil weekly) — Not valid. PCCSL/003/03/2007: Vanvil (Tamil weekly) — Not valid. PCCSL/004/03/2007: Lakbima (daily) — File closed. PCCSL /005/03/2007: Divaina (Sunday) — Mediation.

PCCSL/006/03/2007: Dinamina — File closed.

PCCSL/00703/2007: Thinakkural (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/008/03/2007: Divaina (daily) — File closed., P005L/009/03/2007: Lankadeepa (daily) — File closed. PCCSL/010/03/2007: Sunday Leader — Resolved. (“Right of reply” sent direct to newspaper by complainant).

APRIL

PCCSL/001/04/2007: Divaina (Sunday) — Mediation. PCCSL/002/04/2007: Daily Mirror — File closed. POC5L/003/04/2007: The Sunday Times — Resolved. PCCSL/004/04/2007: Mawbima — Newspaper closed. PCCSL/005/04/2007: ITN — Not valid. PCCSL/006/04 Lankadeepa (Sunday) — Not valid. PCCSL/007/04/2007: Lankadeepa (Sunday) — Not valid. PCCSL/008/04/2007 Rivira — File closed. PCCSL/009/04/2007: Lankadeepa (daily) Not valid. PCCSL/010/04/2007: Silumina –Not valid PCCSL/011/04/2007 : Virakesari (daily) File closed. PCCSL/012/04/2007: Lankadeepa (Daily) – File closed. PCCSL/013/04/2007: Dinamina – File closed.

PCCSL/014/04/2007: Daily Mirror – File closed