

Engineering Bill: Petitioners seek SC determination

He said this in the Supreme Court when the Bill was taken up by the Bench comprising Chief Justice K. Sripavan, Justices Priyantha Jayawardane and Prasanna S. Jayawardane.

In his appearance on behalf of 18 petitioners the Counsel said in terms of Clause 14(1), no engineering practitioner could engage in the Engineering Profession unless such an Engineering Practitioner was registered under Section 15.

The Bill was gazetted on August 1 on the direction of Minister of Power and Renewable Energy and placed on the Order Paper

of Parliament on September 20. Counsel said nine members, out of 13 in the composition of the Engineering Council appointed by the Prime Minister have to be Chartered Engineers and they would form the majority in the Council in violation of the Constitution.

He contested the power given to the Prime Minister to appoint and remove the Chairman of the Council as an infringement of the Constitution.

Counsel said all matters for decision by the Council shall be determined by the majority of the members present and maintained that

any determination by the Council would be the will of the Chartered Engineers and would result in other engineers other than the Chartered Engineers being treated differently.

He said the entire Bill or some of the Sections could not become law unless passed by two-thirds of the whole number of the Members of Parliament and approved by the People at a referendum.

Faisz Musthapha PC with Faiza Markar appeared for the Intervient Petition. Deputy Solicitor General Janak de Silva appeared for the State and the Attorney General.

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