

PAFFREL

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சுதந்திரமானதும் நியாயமானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

2024.05.28

Editor/ News Editor

Press Release.

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) files a petition in the Supreme Court against promoting political parties and candidates through the development and welfare projects of the government

The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) has filed a Fundamental Rights petition(SCFR/ 139/24) before the Supreme Court against the action taken through various circulars issued by the government for initiation of development and welfare projects aimed at promoting political parties and candidates by using state power, state property and state funds in an atmosphere where the local government election is in progress and also knowing very well that the presidential election will be held in the next 4 months. In particular, the petition aims at defeating the government's efforts to involve local level representatives of the government through the formation of Community Advisory Committees for local government areas in terms of the Circular No. PS/SB/Circular/5/2024 dated April 29, 2024 issued by the Secretary to the President. Through this petition PAFFREL requests an order,

1. To formulate the criteria for formation of Community Advisory Committees and appointing members to them in accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission.
2. To ensure that political parties and representatives' of political parties are excluded from those criteria.
3. To ensure that the candidates who do not currently represent local government bodies, representatives who had served as councilors, candidates or former members of local government bodies in the last 5 years and officers and representatives of branch offices of political parties shall not be appointed.
4. To remove the authority to make relevant appointments from the Governor and the Prime Minister and assign it to the District Secretary or the Divisional Secretary.
5. To issue the provisions allocated at Rs: 10 Million for essential development activities which were identified through the Community Advisory Committees as indicated in the said circular, by the Provincial Councils under the direction of the Governor. (As the Governor is the direct representative of the President) it would be possible that a direct political promotion could occur in favor of the government in power; hence to avoid that, to issue an order that the development proposals shall be implemented through the Divisional Secretary.

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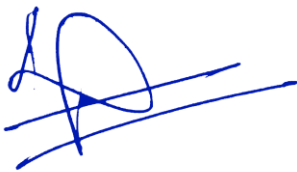
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6. To issue a necessary direction to formulate relevant criteria/recommendations through the Election Commission so that the promotion of political parties and candidates by carrying out such development and welfare activities at the time of an election could be prevented, and also to make it compulsory that such criteria shall be in force not only in respect of the present election but also in any election held in future.

7. To issue an appropriate order to prevent the responsible public officials acting in a manner that promotes the interests of political parties in power at that time or their candidates and/or issuing illegal circulars during the election time.

The PAFFREL has no objection to the implementation of development projects or welfare programs at a time when the people are undergoing severe economic hardships, our emphasize here will be on the need for refraining from initiating them in such a way that contributes to promoting a particular political party, candidate or candidates

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a diagonal stroke.

Rohana Hettiarachchi,
Executive Director.
PAFFREL