



Report on Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election 2024 27th October 2024

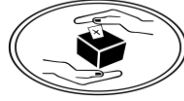
Elipitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election took place on 26th October peacefully. A total of 55,643 persons were eligible to cast their vote through 48 polling stations. With the legal intervention due to the rejection of the nomination paper submitted by the Democratic United National Front (DUNF) for the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha in the Local Government Election 2018, the party's candidates filed a fundamental rights petition. The Supreme Court thereupon ordered an interim injunction that prevented the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha election from taking place until the matter was settled. The election was finally held in 2019 with a significant voter turnout. The term of the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha was supposed to end by 06th March 2024. However, through a special gazette, the council members' mandates were extended until 04th November 2024. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) announced last August that the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election would be held on 26th October 2024.

For the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election 2024, 279 candidates from 08 Political Parties and 01 Independent Group ran for 28 wards. In a mixed proportional representation system, 17 members will be elected by vote on a divisional basis, while 11 will be selected through proportional representation. 07 women members should be elected to the council to ensure the 25% of women representation at the Local Government level.

On the day of the election, the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election results were released and National People's Power (NPP) obtained a total of 17,295 votes and secured 15 seats. With a 63% of voter turnout, 36,825 votes were polled, and 520 of those votes were rejected. Out of 36,305 valid votes, Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) received 7,294 with 06 seats, The Sri Lanka Poduhana Peramuna (SLPP) obtained 3,597 with 03 seats, People's Alliance received 2,612 with 02 seats, Independent Group secured 02 seats with 2,568, The People's United Freedom Alliance (PUFA) received 1,305 votes with 01 seat, and National People's Party won 01 seat with 521 votes. Neither the Janasatha Peramuna (JP) nor the Devena Parapura (DP) were able to win any seats.

Nevertheless, the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election has been peaceful under the guidance of the ECSL and Following a Presidential Election and a General Election scheduled for the following month, a local level election was witnessed with less number of complaints and incidents.

PAFFREL deployed 48 Stationary Observers on the Election Day and 02 Mobile Observation Teams covered a sizable portion of the polling stations in Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha area. PAFFREL received only 02 complaints which were confirmed, one regarding a preventing a voter from casting a vote using a certified letter issued by the Department of Registration of Persons instead of the National Identity Card at a polling station situated in Batuwanhena in Elpitiya. Additionally, a voter complained that someone else had already cast her vote in connection with her name when she went to the polling station set up at Pituvala in Elpitiya. To ensure a seamless polling procedure, PAFFREL advises voters to arrive at the upcoming elections prepared and with the required identity cards and documents. However, there were no usual incidents or



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circumstances reported in the Pre-Election period and on the Election Day that significantly affected the polling. Importantly, there were no complaints and incidents reported to PAFFREL on acts of violence and abuse of state power, resources, and employees from the pre-election period to Election Day.

As noted by the Mobile Observers and Stationary Observers deployed by PAFFREL on the polling day, there were no malpractices in polling stations. With very few exceptions, the polling stations also included sufficient amenities for those with disabilities. No incidents were reported on illegal election campaigns, illegal public gatherings, intimidation, threats over voters, polling agents, and election officers and influencing, transportation of voters, banning of polling stations, assaults, using force to turn voters away from polling stations, vote rigging, seize ballot boxes and papers, illegal election campaigns. The preparation of the counting centers were much soothing and disciplined. Election Observers from other Election Observation Organizations also appeared in some counting centers. Transparency was maintained at counting centers, and ballot boxes were in perfect condition. Nearly every polling station guaranteed a free and fair election with the comprehensive direction and guidance of ECSL and the sufficient protection offered by Sri Lanka Police. PAFFREL is grateful for the efforts made by the aforementioned parties.

This election is crucial for demonstrating the existence of democracy at the local government level, and it can be characterized by the progressive actions of candidates, voters, political parties, and independent groups that abstained from violence and violations during the pre-election phase and on Election Day. PAFFREL continues to make interventions to ensure the democratic essence of elections in the upcoming Parliamentary Election and beyond.

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