



# PAFFREL

கிடைக்க வேண்டிய உரிமைகளை மக்கள் செயல்பாடு.  
சுதந்திரமானதும் நியாயமானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயல்பாடு.

## PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

2025.07.09

Press Release

Re: filling the vacant position of the Chairman of the Right to Information Commission (RTI).

The enactment of the Right to Information Act No. 12 of 2016, which has been a subject of debate in society for almost 3 decades is undoubtedly a great achievement by the citizens of Sri Lanka. Consequently, an unprecedented information culture has been established in society through the socialization of information secured by organizations and citizens, especially by those interested in preventing bribery and corruption, using the Right to Information, and it has become the most powerful weapon that citizens have exercised in recent times.

However, a vacancy has occurred in the Right to Information Commission which is composed of five members, following the resignation of the Chairman of the commission. Applications were called for the vacancy, but it has not been filled yet, despite more than 3 months having passed since the closing date of the applications.

It is our observation that the failure to nominate a suitable person to fill the vacancy by the Constitutional Council has severely hampered the functioning of the Right to Information Commission, which has rendered immense service to the society. Unlike the other statutory commissions, the nomination of members to the Right to Information Commission is entrusted to the Constitutional Council, and it is the responsibility of the President to nominate a suitable person from among the members as the Chairman. Accordingly, it is an inalienable responsibility of the members of the Constitutional Council to nominate a suitable person with a vision, free from allegations and one who has earned social respect, for the vacant post of Chairman.

The President has the discretion to appoint one of the four current members of the Commission or the new member to be appointed, as the Chairman of the Right to Information Commission. We believe that it is the responsibility of the 10-member Constitutional Council, particularly the members representing the ruling party, the opposition, and civil society, to nominate the most suitable person for the vacant position of the Chairman.

We earnestly request the Hon. President to take necessary steps to appoint a person who is recognized, respected and acceptable to all, and is free from allegations in his past record of service, and also capable of performing the duties assigned to the post, to the vacant position of the Chairman of the Right to Information Commission, without delay, and in doing so to nominate the most suitable person from among the members of the Commission as the Chairman, and also to take steps to provide adequate staff and other facilities to ensure the enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and tasks of the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Rohana Hettiarachchi

Executive Director

#No.16, Byrde Place, Off Pamankada Rd, Colombo 06.

Tel : (+94) 11 2558570 / 11 2558571 Fax : (+94) 11 2558572

Email : paffrel@sltnet.lk Web : www.paffrel.com