



PAFFREL

நிදහசும் னா காவரஸு ஁னெலர்ஸுடல் ஁டலா ஁னா ஁லாகாரீவீட.
஁தநீரலானதுலும் நீதலானதுலான தேர்தல்களுக்கான ஁க்கள் ஁ெயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

23/12/2014

News Editor

Presidential Election 2015

Relatively incident free Postal Voting

The Elections Commissioner has made arrangements to conduct Postal Voting for the 2015 Presidential Election on December 23 and 24, 2014.

Out of a total of 626,715 applications put forward for Postal Voting in this election, 84,884 applications have been rejected. Therefore 541,831 voters are eligible to cast their Postal Vote in this Presidential Election. The Kurunegala District with a total of 66,934 postal votes, polled the highest number of votes for a single district.

1. Reports received from the field indicate that, in general, Postal Voting was conducted peacefully. Only one related incident was reported from the Gomarankadawala area in the Trincomalee District. United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) Pradeshiya Sabha member Sandun Hemantha was injured in the incident. A heated verbal exchange was reported to have occurred in front of the Daksinapaya in Labuduwa, Galle, when a team led by the Chief Minister of the Southern Province was distributing hand bills. It is regrettable to note that the Chief Minister was involved in election campaign activities. It is reported that unlawful campaign activities affected the official duties of Police and election officials. The vehicle involved in the activity was handed over to the Police by election officials.

2. The Assistant Elections Commissioner had intervened and halted an event to be held at the D.M.Ariyaratne Hall in the Ampara District Secretariat which was aiming to provide casual and temporary workers within the Ampara District with permanent appointments.

3. There were numerous complaints regarding possible election malpractices during postal voting at institutions as the Sri Lanka Transport Board, Civil Defense Force Bases and Army Camps. With due consideration to such complaints, the Elections Commissioner took steps to deploy a special agent at polling stations with more than 35 registered voters. An executive grade official was deployed at polling stations with more than 75 voters. The steps taken by the Commissioner dispelled doubts about possible malpractices and irregularities in the process.

4. Distribution of hand bills, canvassing for votes and displaying cutouts and banners were reported from several areas. It was also noted that some polling booth agents failed to report for election duty on time.

In the overall context, postal voting was conducted peacefully and voter turnout was satisfactory, according to Postal Voting Observers deployed by PAFFREL. Around 1000 Postal Voting Observers were deployed island wide to cover Postal Voting by PAFFREL. Additionally, 35 Mobile Observer units were also deployed by PAFFREL. A special team was dispatched to the Northern Province to monitor Postal Voting activities in the north.

Thanking You

Yours faithfully,

Rohana Hettiarachchi
Executive Director