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Election monitors to canvass northern political parties' support to pass draft bill on campaign financing

August 25, 2019, 12:00 pm

The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) and People's Action For Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) would meet representatives of all political parties in the North, today, to enlist their support for the draft bill on regulating campaign funding by the Elections Commission, CMEV national coordinator Manjula Gajanayake told *The Island* yesterday.

They will also inform the political parties of their plan to conduct a countrywide baseline survey on the expenses of political parties and candidates during the coming presidential election campaign period.

"Five representatives from each party will attend the meeting. A ceiling on campaign finances is a must and this idea is shared by all Sri Lankans. The Elections Commission has drafted a good bill on campaign finance and it has directed it to the Attorney General after being whetted by the Legal Draftsman. We need the support of MPs and political parties to ensure its enactment. The response has not been positive so far and that is why we are meeting the representative of the political parties."

Gajanayake said that the expenses incurred by the Election Commission for the 2005 presidential elections was Rs.715 million. It increased to Rs.1,856

million in 2010, Rs.2,701 million in 2015 and its likely that the coming election would cost the state around Rs.4,000 million.

He said that assessing campaign expenditure by political parties and candidates would also reveal important information and reveal the true extent of money being spent by the candidates. "So far no independent body has assessed the spending by political parties. We all know that a lot of money is being spent and in a few months, we will have an idea of the amount of money spent on electioneering.

By Rathindra Kuruwita

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a a a	Registered number of voters	Valid wated	Rejected values	Total	
	8,345,025	6,522,147	80,470	6,602,617	
_	9,375,242	5,094,878	91,445	5,186,223	
_	10,945,065	7,561,536	151,706	7,713,232	
	11,779,200	8,435,754	195,536	8,635,290	
_	Who is	si piero i	plet's	9,826,778	
	dream	presi	dent.	10,495,451	
	2010	10 25	140,975	12,264,377	







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