

Electronic Media flouting election laws - PAFFREL

The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), issuing a Media release, stated that it has noticed the State and private electronic Media were flouting election laws and regulations in the run-up to the 16 November Presidential Poll.

They stated that a framework had already been formulated for the electronic Media to conduct its affairs in an unbiased and impartial manner during an election period by the Election Commission (EC).

But, PAFFREL charged that

despite the presence of such a framework, certain Media groups had resorted to function in an extremely biased or partisan manner towards certain candidates contesting the Election.

They said that such actions were also a violation of the Gazette notification 2141/53/2019/09/12 issued by the EC which has underlined the guidelines for all electronic Media groups on how they should operate during an election period. PAFFREL Executive Director Rohana

Hettiarachchi has said that in order to control the situation without allowing it to go overboard, legal action has to be mulled against institutions that fail to adhere to guidelines stipulated by the EC.

They have also urged the Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media to formulate necessary legal guidelines and a monitoring system to prevent Media groups from veering course or if not the situation could get out of control at future elections, the release concluded.



Rohana Hettiarachchi