

## **PAFFREL cites Chapter 32 of the Establishments Code**

### **Padeniya a staff grade officer at launch of SLPP manifesto**

#### **Deshapriya's attention drawn to a serious challenge to a free election**

The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) has informed the Chairman of the Election Commission Mahinda Deshapriya through a letter on the contribution of the Government staff grade officers to politics.

PAFFREL has informed that President of the Government Medical Officers' Association; Dr. Anuruddha Padeniya was seen participating in the launch of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna manifesto on 25 October.

"While it is not wrong for a professional to submit proposals of his or her union, it is indeed a direct contribution to politics, such as the launching of a

manifesto, the most important occasion of a political party competing in an election period. In particular, postal voting may also face an indirect impact due to this," alleged PAFFREL.

Further, PAFFREL stated that Chapter 32 of the Establishments Code clearly mentions that a medical officer is considered as a staff grade officer and cannot participate in any political process other than voting.

They added that this could be a serious challenge to a free election.

Therefore, PAFFREL has requested Deshapriya to pay attention to this matter and to take necessary action.