

PAFFREL

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சுதந்திரமானதும் நியாயமானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

11th November 2019

The Administrator
Facebook Group

Dear Administrator,

CONTROLLING & MITIGATING THE PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES ON THE FACEBOOK DURING THE COOLING PERIOD

PAFFREL is a Civil Society in the business of Observation & Monitoring of Election related activities in Sri Lanka to ensure Fair & Free Elections for the general public. We have been in this process for the last 32 years and prevailed upon the law enforcement authorities and contributed to the changes in Election Laws in Sri Lanka.

According to the Election Laws in Sri Lanka all political propaganda activities must cease 48hrs (cooling period) prior to the election. Accordingly, Wednesday 13th November at 12 mid-nights all propaganda activities for the Presidential Election 2019 must be ceased. This includes display of posters, banners, meetings, postal & distribution of leaflets, visits and social media campaigns or anything that can influence voters. Cooling period is for the general public to make their independent decisions without getting influenced by any propaganda activity.

Due to the nature of the social media, we are in a dilemma as to how the implementation and enforcement of law and order on Facebook will take grounds, especially during this cooling period. Hence, it is our humble request to you to help us to control and mitigate Facebook related campaigning in which we do not have any control over on any of these activities which are against the Election Laws of this country.

We strongly believe that you will pay your immediate attention and take necessary actions in this regard. We have deployed a separate technical team to coordinate with you on any measure that you would think suitable in order to control and mitigate the propaganda activities on the Facebook.

While we highly appreciate your supports being extended to us on these related matters, we would like to bring to your notice to the fact that the expedite processes would have made better impact.

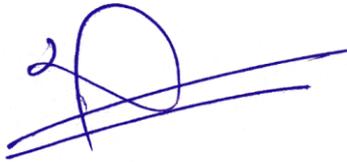
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Please feel free to contact the undersigned for any related information/clarifications in this regard.

Thanking you.
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then curves back down to cross the 'R'.

Rohana Hettiarachchi
Executive Director