

# First Election with longest campaigning period - PAFFREL

**By NABIYA VAFFOOR**

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The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) noted that the 5 August Parliamentary Election is the first Election with the longest campaigning period in local electoral history.

Approximately 57 days have been given for campaigning, they noted.

"We have traced 79 Election law violations during the period when the COVID-19 related

curfew was imposed. From 15 June till yesterday (1), 230 incidents and 236 Election law violations have been reported to our institution. Three confirmed acts of serious violence, three confirmed acts of the misuse of State and public properties and 114 confirmed non-violent violations of the Election rules were traced by our observers," noted PAFFREL Executive Director Rohana Hettiarachchi at a Media briefing, yesterday.

He further added that they

have also added two new categories of Election law violations because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Violating health guidelines during Election promotional campaigns and violating health guidelines at polling stations are the two additional categories other than the usual 37 categories of Election law violations.

Assistant Legal Officer of PAFFREL, Isuru Karavita said this time around, they plan to take legal action against Election

law violators.

"We have prepared a team of advocates and have planned to obtain the assistance of Law College students with regard to taking legal action against Election law violations," he added.

Meanwhile, PAFFREL has taken steps to place 500 observers to observe Election violations covering every District. They confirm that 300 of them have been working as long-term Election violation observers.