

PAFFREL

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சுதந்திரமானதும் நியாயமானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

2024-03-20

Press release.

Make arrangements to conclude Provincial Council delimitation process and hold Provincial Council elections prior to amending the Parliamentary Electoral System.

We are optimistic about the proposal made to establish a Mixed Electoral System consisting of the First Past the Post (FPTP) method and the Proportional Representation (PR) system. This we believe would lead to establishing an electoral system that reflects the true opinion of the people.

Accordingly, we would like to draw the attention of the government led by His Excellency the President, to the following points.

1. The proposed new electoral system should be one that safeguards the proportional basis to the maximum.
2. It should ensure the representation of political parties with a scattered vote base, in proportion to their vote base.
3. In the event the existing constituencies are changed, it should be ensured that the current representation of political parties would not be reduced due to the new delimitation process.
4. If this involves a new delimitation process, it should be effected only after holding a comprehensive dialogue aimed at protecting the representation of all ethnic groups. And the delimitation process must be acceptable to all parties concerned
5. The delimitation process should be concluded within a reasonable time frame.
6. In the event that it would not be possible to fulfill all requirements pertaining to the amendment of the electoral system before the next parliamentary election, then it is necessary to include necessary clauses authorizing the Election Commission to conduct the next parliamentary election in accordance with the existing system.
7. It is important that the delimitation process of the Provincial Council electoral system is concluded and the Provincial Council elections held, which have been delayed for more than 5 years as a result of the revision of the electoral system, prior to the revision of the Parliamentary Electoral System.
8. It should be ensured that the process of amending the electoral systems should not cause postponement of upcoming parliamentary elections.

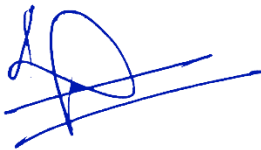
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Also, we would like to emphasize that the measures should be taken, as soon as possible, to hold the local government elections which have been stalled for about a year due to the non-provisioning of funds by the government. And we hope that the government will not resort to any action that may violate the right to vote of the people.

We, as an election monitoring organization, have no objection to amending the electoral system or introducing a Mixed Electoral System: the First Past the Post (FPTP) and the Proportional Representation (PR) system. Yet, the lessons learnt through history indicate that there are strong misgivings in the society about the motive of the amendment. Therefore, we believe that the government will take appropriate measures to introduce an electoral system that would clear the doubts of the people, promote public confidence and pave the way for representation of the true public opinion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a large loop and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Rohana Hettiarachi
Executive Director