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செயலாற்றுகை அறிக்கை
Performance Report

2018.01.01 – 2018.03.31

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இலங்கைச் சனநாயக சோசலிசக் குடியரசின்
தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழு

Election Commission of
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

**Performance Report of the Election Commission for the 1st Quarter of the
year 2018
(2018-01-01 to 2018-03-31)**

1. Election Commission

The President, on the recommendations of the Constitutional Council appointed the following members and on their assumption of duties on 2015-11-17, the Election Commission was established:

- Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya - Chairman
- Mr. Nalin Abeysekere, PC - Member
- Prof.S. Ratnajeevan H. Hoole - Member

2. The Vision and Mission of the Election Commission

Vision

“A nation that safeguards universal franchise”

Mission

“Raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders ensuring the protection of the people’s rights, and conduct free, fair and credible elections efficiently and effectively that safeguard the people’s sovereignty and universal franchise based on democratic principles”

Goals and Objectives -

- All qualified citizens exercise their franchise fearlessly, freely and confidentially in elections conducted in a free and fair manner.
- All citizens realize that exercising their franchise is an inalienable right and get involved in the election process actively.
- Equal and fair opportunities exist for all candidates during election periods.
- An all-inclusive, updated voter list is in place before every election.
- All citizens in the marginalised sectors of society engage in the electoral processes confidently and adequately.
- The election process is administered competently and transparently.
- The needs of the stakeholders for data and information related to the election process and the Election Commission are adequately fulfilled in a timely manner.

3. The Functions of the Election Commission

Matters relating to the Election Process, which was hitherto attended to by the Department of Elections under the auspicious of the Commissioner of Elections, were vested in the Election Commission with its establishment on 2015-11-17. In terms of the Article 103(2) of the Constitution, conduct of free and fair elections is the fundamental duty of the Election Commission. Accordingly, the Election of the President and the conduct of Parliamentary Elections, Provincial Councils Elections, Local Authorities Elections and Referenda in free and fair manner and in connection therewith the revision of the Electoral Register on an annual basis, have to be attended to by the Commission. In addition to these statutory functions, filling of vacancies of members of Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities and recognition and registration of political parties are the other statutory functions that have been assigned to the Election Commission.

4. Meetings of the Election Commission

The Election Commission convenes once every week as necessary and conducted 48 meetings for the year 2017 and the number of meetings held during the 1st quarter of 2018 was 15. The major issue relating to the conduct of meetings of the Commission is its quorum. The relevant legislation requires the quorum of the meetings of the Commission be all three Members and even though preliminary arrangements have been made to introduce amendments to the provisions relating to the quorum it appears that bringing in amendments might get further delayed.

5. The Staff of the Election Commission

The entire staff of the Election Commission comprises of the Chairman and Members of the Commission who belong to the Staff category, Secretary, Director General of Elections, and officers of Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS), Sri Lanka Accountants' Service (SLAcS), Director (Legal), officers of Sri Lanka Information & Communication Technology Service (SLI&CTS), Sri Lanka Planning Service (SLPS) and officers of Supra Grade Public Management Assistants' Service (PMAS), officers of Translators' Service, and non-staff grade officers of the Public Management Assistants' Service (PMAS), Development Officers' Service, Information Technology Assistant Service, Document Assistants, Office Assistants and Drivers. Accordingly, the composition of the staff of the Election Commission as at 2018.03.31 was as follows:

	Number
Staff Officers (Excluding the Chairman and Members of the Election Commission)	51
Public Management Assistants	383
Development Officers	27
Information Technology Assistants	14
Document Assistants	51
Receptionist	01
Office Assistants	175
Drivers	46
Vehicle Cleaner	01

A summary of the establishment matters pertaining to the entire staff of the Election Commission during the period under review (2018-01-01 to 2018-03-31) is as follows.

Accordingly, the appointments, promotions and transfers release of Staff Officers of the Election Commission are as follows:

	Service	Number
Acting Appointments	SLAS (Grade I)	01
	SLAS (Grade III)	01
New Appointments	ICT	01
Transfers to the Commission	SLAS(Grade I)	01
	SLAS(Grade III)	01
Release from the Commission	SLAS (Grade I)	01
Retirement as at 2018.03.31	SLAS (Special Grade)	01
	PMAS (Super Grade)	01

Particulars of transfers, release from service and retirements, resignations, vacation of posts and new requirements of non-staff grade officers of the Election Commission during the period under review (2018-01-01 to 2018-03-31) is as follows;

	Service	Number
Transfers to the Election Commission	Public Management Assistants Service	08
Release from service of the Election Commission without replacement	Public Management Assistants Service	01
Release from service of the Election Commission with a replacement	Public Management Assistants Service	07
Retirements as at 2017-03-31	Public Management Assistants Service	05
	Office Assistant Service	03
Release from the Service to take up other posts in Public Service	Office Assistant Service	01
Resignation from Service	Public Management Assistants Service	01
Deaths	Office Assistant Service	01
New Appointments	Drivers	05

6. Local and Foreign Training and official visits

Local training

- During the period under review the entire Staff tirelessly engaged in the affairs of the Local Authorities election and as such it was not possible to engage any Staff Member in local training.
- However, Returning Officers, AROs, SPOs, Counting Officers, JPOs and others Staff were provided with necessary training during the period under review. The Head Office as well as the Districts Election offices organized these training programmes.

Foreign Training

Particular of foreign scholarships and training opportunities accorded by the Election Commission to its staff officers and other staffers are as follows:

Duration	Attendance	Country	Programme
From 2018.02.26 to 2018.03.03	Mr. T. A. C. N. Thalangama, DCE Mr. W. A. L. Wickramaarachchi, ACE Mr. Shreen Yapa Borelessa, ACE Mr. P. S. Pathiran, ACE	India	Capacity Building for Voter Registration for Election Officials (BIMSTEC Member Countries)

Special Activities

The Commission pursued necessary action in the period under review -

- to provide assistance to conduct awareness programmes for the student community and officers of various Institutions/ Organizations through the Election Offices as mentioned in the four year Strategic Plan 2017-2020 of the Election Commission and to review the progress thereof;
- to print and publish the English/ Tamil versions of the book launched to mark the 85th anniversary of Universal Franchise in Sri Lanka;
- to submit the Annual Action Plan for the year 2018 to the Ministry of Finance and to carry out progress reviews for the first quarter of the year;
- to computerize particulars of Public Officers for the purpose of elections and to attach staff and non – staff officers to districts for elections duties as necessary and also to conduct instruction classes for Special Coordinating AROs and SPOs;

- to conduct 3 media briefings to educate Heads, permanent and alternative representatives of Media Institutions of both State and Private Sector as well as of electronic media institutions on importance and purpose of adhering to Media Guidelines issued by the Election Commission, another media briefing on the complaints and other matters pertaining to giving effect to media guidelines and yet another media briefing on the Local Authorities election to be held on 2018.20.10. and
- to conduct a series of discussions covering all district election offices on lessons learnt and recommendations pertaining to the last Local Authorities election,

7. Statutory and other duties attended to by the Election Commission during the period from 2018-01-01 to 2018-03-30

Statutory duties:

(i) Gazette Notification No. 2050/17, dated 2018-01-20 declaring the names of recognized political parties was issued and applications to recognize political parties for the year have not yet been called for since the election to local authorities was in progress and the election to Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha is pending.

(ii) Local Authorities Election - 2018 -

Despite the fact that the required legislative amendments had been introduced to enable the conduct of Local Authorities election in 2017, it continued to get delayed due to non publication of the gazette notification constituting Local Authorities. However, a state of annoyance was developing in the minds of civil organizations and in the public in general toward this development and the public together with civil organizations and mass media voiced their views in this regard and put pressure on the government to conduct the election. Accordingly, the Government published the gazette notification number 2013/29, dated 2017.04.07 constituting Local Authority and the subsequent gazette notifications Nos. 2025/35, dated 2017.06.30 and 2043/56, dated 2017.11.02 were issued to revise the original gazette notification. In pursuance to these gazette notifications, notices calling for nomination were issued by the respective Returning Officers on 2017.11.27. Since this matter had been brought before the court, all notices calling for nominations for local authorities for which legal implications were not to be seen were published. Accordingly, it was decided to receive nominations during the period from 2017.12.11 to 2017.12.14 and to fix statutory duties to be carried out in relation to the election on the following dates:

Nomination stage I

Nomination Notice	– 2017.11.27
Receiving of nominations	– 2017.12.11 - 2017.12.15
Postal Voting	– 2017.11.27 – 2017.12.15
Appointment of Authorized representatives	– 2017.12.08 before 8.30 hours
Age limit of youth's	– 1995.05.31 – 1982.12.14

Nomination stage II

Nomination Notice	– 2017.12.04
Receiving of nominations	– 2017.12.18 - 121
Receiving of applications for Postal voting	– 2017.12.01 – 2017.12.22
Appointment of Authorized representatives	–before 8.30 hours on 2017.12.15

Poll Notice	– 2017.12.26
Date of the poll	– 2018.02.10 (Days 47)

Accordingly, following were fixed for each of the function relating to the Local Authorities election.

Notice on the issue of postal votes	– 2017.12.23
Certification of postal votes	– 2018.01.10
Issue of postal votes	– 2017.01.12
Marking of postal votes	– 2018.01.22/25/26 and 2018.02.01/02
Poll Cards distribution of poll cards	– before midnight on 2018.02.14
Handing over to the post office	– 2018.01.18 (Days 17)
Special delivery	– 2018.01.28
Silent period free of election propaganda activates	–from midnight 2018.02.07 until the poll is over on 2018-02-10
The poll	– from 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. 2018.02.10

In contrast to the previous centralized counting this time counting was done at respective polling centers and in respect of wards consisting more than one polling centre, the ballot boxes of each centers were brought to one centre and counting was done separately.

Nominations lists had been handed over (by political parties & independent groups) at both stages of receiving nominations and several nomination lists stood rejected since they did not comply with the relevant provisions. The aggrieved parties had filed 54 actions in the court and the Hon. Court had dismissed all the said 54 petitions except for the petition filed in respect of Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, before the day of the poll.

Accordingly, the Local Authorities election was held island wide for 340 local authorities (except for Elpitiya Pradeshiya Saba) on 2018.02.10. The election to Elpitiya Pradeshiya Saba could not be held due to legal actions filed in the court. The poll was peaceful and devoid of undue influences. Returning Officers of respective districts and local authorities as required announced the result of the poll. A delay was seen in announcing the results at national level and the fact that Returning Officers had to await the completion of counting at local authorities levels to transmit results to the Head Office and the technical defects surfaced in transmitting the results could be attributed to the said delay. However, as a whole, the election which was conducted under a different election system that demanded the preparation of all specimen forms and ballot papers separately for each and every local authority was a novel experience. Moreover, this was the first election held after the establishment of the Election Commission. At the same time, the conduct of a free and peaceful election within a very short period of time overcoming all the obstacles in the process could be considered as a victory to the Election Commission.

The Election Commission, upon the conclusion of the poll published the following Government Gazette Notifications:

No. & Date of the Gazette	Description
2059/83 (2018.02.24)	The gazette indicating the number of overhanging members of each local authority
2060/22 (2018.02.28)	To notify the results of all the wards are published in the official election website and at all local authorities and Grama Niladhari offices
2060/23 (2018.02.28)	To notify the declaration of the respective Returning Officers indicating the number of members from each recognized political party/independent group elected to each local authority are being exhibited at relevant District Election Offices, local authorities and in the website of the Elections Commission.
2061/42 (2018.03.09)	To notify the names of members elected and returned for the local authorities (excluding those of the Kandy District)
2062/15 (2018.03.13)	To notify the names of the Members elected and returned (for Kandy District)
2062/51 (2018.03.17)	To notify the appointment of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen (in 15 Local Bodies)
2063/01 (2018.03.19)	To publish the Names of Members returned (SLPP Members of the Colombo Municipal Council)
2063/41 (2018.03.22)	To notify the appointment of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen (in 93 Local Bodies)
2066/05 (2018.03.26)	To notify the appointment of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen (in 51 Other Local Bodies)
2064/42 (2018.03.29)	To revise the date of the Gazette Notification containing the Names of members for the Pujapitiya Pradeshiya Sabha
2064/43 (2018.03.29)	To revise the date of the Gazette Notification containing the

	Names of members for the Kekirawa Pradeshiya Sabha
2064/44 (2018.03.29)	To notify the appointment of Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen (in 07 Other Local Bodies)
2065/12 (2018.04.03)	To publish the Names of Members returned to Gangaihalakorale and Haputale Pradeshiya Sabhas from UPFA
2066/12 (2018.04.10)	To notify the appointment of Chairmen, and Vice-Chairmen of Benthara, Balapitiya and Anamaduwa Pradeshiya Sabhas
2067/26 (2018.04.19)	To publish the Name of the Member returned to the Beruwala Urban Council from JVP

Political parties concerned had failed to send the names of either one or two female members to be returned to each Gangaihalakorale, Haputale and Beruwala Pradeshiya Sabhas and to Colombo Municipal Council by 31st of March 2018 and it is expected that the names would be submitted to the Commission in the first week of April. Also the parties concerned had not pursued action to nominate the Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen of Benthara, Balapitiya and Anamaduwa Pradeshiya Sabhas where a single party had secured more than 50% of the membership until 31 March which has caused a delay in issuing the relevant gazette notification.

(iii) The Revision of the Register of Electors for the year 2018 –

- On the instructions of the Election Commission, action was taken to address the issues pertaining to multiple registration under one and the same National Identity Card number in the Electoral Register for the year 2017 which was used for the Local Authorities election held on 2018.02.10 Accordingly, 6092 persons with similar names under one and the same NIC number were identified in the document search (ElectionS Computer Programme) and such people were informed in writing to both addresses under which they had registered to inform the Election Commission the place where they wish to cast their votes. At the same time 75530 persons registered under one and the same NIC number but with different names were identified in the document search (ElectionS Computer Programme) and they too were informed as above. Accordingly, on the receipt of their written replies they were allowed to cast their votes at either of the places they had registered and the mark (MR) was placed in the electoral register used for the poll at the respective Polling Stations.
- Moreover, depending on the replies of the persons concerned to the letters sent to them regarding multiple registrations under one NIC number it was reviewed that the Department of Registration of Persons had issued NICs to two or more persons under the same NIC number. In the meantime certain persons had entered their NIC numbers erroneously into the ElectionS Computer Programme and this has led to false indication as multiple registration in the computer system therefore, action has already been taken to direct the District Election offices to rectify the error in the ElectionS Computer Programme after checking with relevant BC forms and to print the BC receipts after rectifying the said error.

- Action has already been taken to provide the Commissioner General of Registrations of Persons with all relevant details pertaining to the multiple registrations and he has informed that NICs of many such persons have already been rectified and accordingly new NIC numbers of such persons will be updated at the electoral revision 2018.
- The preliminary arrangements for the electoral revision 2018 such as printing and issuing of BC forms and other relevant forms have already been completed and a general instruction letter regarding the enumeration and another general instruction letter regarding the appointment of political party representatives were sent to all Registering/ Assistance Registering Officers and to Secretaries of all recognized political parties respectively. Proposals were submitted to the Commission by various Political Parties/ Civil Organization/ Religious Leaders regarding the revision of the composition of Polling Centers/ Divisions at the time of the last Local Authorities election and therefore all the District Election offices were advised to look into these matters at the time of the electoral revision 2018 and if any revision under Section 9(3) of the Registration of Electors Act is required, to submit such proposed revisions to the Head Office.
- The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs was informed regarding the suspension of transfers of Grama Niladharis and on restricting Grama Niladhari Days during the period of the field enumeration in connection with the Electoral Revision 2018 and a copy of the said letter has been dispatched to all Registering/ Assistant Registering Officers, Divisional Secretaries as well as to representatives of Grama Niladhari Trade Unions.

(iv) **Filling vacancies in the Membership of Provincial Councils**

The Commission took action to fill the following vacancies in the membership of Provincial Councils during the 1st quarter ended on 31st march 2018:

Provincial Council	Administrative District	Name of Member held office	Political party/ Independent Group	Date of the Notice of the Vacancy	Grounds for Vacancy	Name of Member Elected /action taken	Number of the Gazette	Date of the Gazette
Western	Colombo	S. Kuhawaradharan	United Progressive Alliance	2017.12.21	Resignation	Stenly Antoney Sanmugam	2055/33	2018.01.24
	Colombo	Uswatte Liyanage Senake Dhamayantha De Silva	United National Party	2017.12.19	Resignation	Krishantha Yogadas Pancharathnam Ram	2052/27	2018.01.05
	Gampaha	Jayaweera Arachchilage Rois Wijitha Fernando	United National Party	2017.12.18	Resignation	Sudasin Manchnayake Appuhamilage Kithsiri Manchanayake	2058/27	2018.02.14
	Gampaha	Madampe Appuhamilage Manjula Prasanna Sampath	United National Party	2017.12.12	resignation	Uthuwana Pathirannehelage Chandrasoma Saranalal	2055/34	2018.01.24
Northern	Mannar	Habeibu Mohommadhu Rais	Sri Lanka Muslim Congress	2017.12.05	Resignation	Abdhul Niyaz Seeni Mohomed	2055/34	2018.01.24
	Jaffna	Immanuwel Arnel	Illankei Thamil Arasu Kachchu	2017.12.14	Resignation	Sabaarathnam Kugadaas	2055/34	2018.01.24

8. Financial provisions

The summary of expenditure in the first quarter of the year 2018 is as follows:

Description	Provisions	transferred /written off provisions			Net Provisions	Expenditure for 1 st Quarter	expenditure
		Supplementary provision	additions	deductions			
Salaries and wages	230,000,000				230,000,000	55,589,784	174,410,216
Salaries and wages (21)	3,000,000				3,000,000	750,000	2,250,000
Overtime & Holiday pay	10,000,000				10,000,000	7,639	9,992,361
Other allowances	170,000,000				170,000,000	31,308,797	138,691,203
Travel expenses - Local	5,000,000				5,000,000	9,524	4,990,476
Travel expenses - foreign	2,000,000				2,000,000		2,000,000
stationary & office requirements	4,750,000				4,750,000	155,760	4,594,240
Fuel	12,000,000				12,000,000	1,110,609	10,889,391
Food & drinks and uniforms	500,000				500,000	144,000	356,000
vehicles	12,000,000				12,000,000	348,770	11,651,230
Machinery & equipment	8,000,000				8,000,000	1,002,983	6,997,017
Buildings & constructions	300,000				300,000		300,000
Transport (write off 10%)	7,000,000				7,000,000	1,629,194	5,370,806
Postal & telecommunication	15,500,000				15,500,000	2,804,227	12,695,773
Electricity & water	14,000,000				14,000,000	3,029,561	10,970,439
Rant & rates	7,000,000				7,000,000	1,685,535	5,314,465
Procurement under leasing	5,900,000				5,900,000		5,900,000
Other	4,021,646,000				4,021,446,000	1,276,440,229	4,418,559,771
Property loan interest	4,500,000				4,500,000	1,020,040	3,479,960
Buildings & Construction	30,000,000				30,000,000	94,634	29,905,366
Furniture & office equipment	3,000,000				3,000,000	15,193	2,984,807
Machinery & equipment	26,250,000				26,250,000	610,669	25,639,331
Buildings & construction	50,000,000				50,000,000	-	50,000,000
Lands and lands amplification	1,000,000				1,000,000		1,000,000

Training and Capacity building	4,000,000				4,000,000		3,471,136
	4,532,946,000				4,537,746,000	126,972,790	4,942,413,988

9. Future activities in the year 2018

- i. Pursuing action in compliance with the Action Plan for 2018 prepared as per the Four Year Strategic Plan of the Election Commission;
- ii. Calculated activities to be implemented under special projects during the year 2018:
- iii. Commemoration of the Voters' Day on June 01, 2018.
- iv. Affairs relating to the registration of electors for the year 2018 and propropaganda activities connected thereto;
- v. Pursuing action to revise the Registration of Electors Act, Parliamentary Elections Act and other election related legislations;
- vi. Pursuing action to conduct the Parliamentary election which is due in 2018 on the completion of preliminary arrangements for the conduct of the same.
- vii. Finalization of the registration of political parties for the year 2018.
- viii. Pursuing action to introduce necessary amending legislations to enable young citizens who attain 18 years of age after June 01, 2018 to include their names in the electoral register.
- ix. Providing necessary information for the amendments to the Provincial Councils Elections Act.
- x. Execution of all other duties assigned to the Elections Commission.

Foregoing is a detailed report on the performance of the Election Commission pertaining to statutory and other administrative and management affairs during the first quarter of the year 2018 from 2018.01.01 to 2018.03.31.

Election Commission
Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya.

2018-10-