



Presidential Election

08.01.2015

Report of the Commissioner of Elections

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Commissioner of Elections**

Preface

In terms of the Constitution introduced in 1978, the first election to elect the Executive President of Sri Lanka was held on 20.10.1982. Subsequently, the elections for the election of the Executive President were held on 19 December 1988, 09 November 1994, 21 December 1999, 17 November 2005 and 20 January 2010 and the presidential election that is based to this report has been held on 08 January 2015.

In terms of the Article 30(2) of the 1978 Constitution, the term of office of the Executive President is five years. Article 31 of the Third Amendment to the Constitution allows the President to express his intention for a mandate to hold office, for a further term, at any time after the expiration of four years of his first term. Accordingly, after announcing the intention of the President for a new term on 20.11.2014, the Commissioner of Elections published an Order in the Gazette, as per Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act, fixing the date for accepting nominations and the date of poll as on 08.12.2014 and 08.01.2015, respectively.

After holding an election, it is a mandatory duty of the Department of Elections to study all incidental facts, information, notes, results and statistics and issue a formally prepared report. According to the feedback we received, the Report of the Commissioner of Elections issued after an election has been of great support to the political parties and all persons interested in politics to obtain important information as well as for the academic work of student community, researches and scholars, engaged in research and study on the electoral process in Sri Lanka. Therefore, since this is a collection of statutory matters, electoral process, rules and regulations, criteria, orders, ethics, results and statistics, I think this report will also quench their academic thirst.

Although the Commissioner of Elections is entrusted with the task of organizing the functions and works related to this election as the Head of the Department it is the result of an extremely collective process. I do not hesitate to state that this election was successfully concluded due to the unwavering commitment of all those officials. I greatly appreciate the support and commitment of the entire staff of the Department of Elections, including Mr. U. Amaradasa (then Additional Commissioner of Elections and later the Director General of Elections), to that collective process as well as to the preparation of this report. Also, I highly appreciate the Chairman of the Election Professionals' Forum of Sri Lanka and retired Additional Secretary (Ministry of Defense) Mr. S. Medawewa and Advisor on Implementation of Language Policy of the Election Commission and the retired Commissioner General of Elections Mr. M. M. Mohamed, who have done the translation work of this report properly.

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Commissioner of Elections
(25.03.2011 – 13.11.2015)

Election Commission
Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya.
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Part I

Introduction

Provisions in the Constitution and Presidential Elections Act on the Election of the President

In terms of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, passed in 1978, the first Presidential Election and the seventh Presidential Election were held on October 20, 1982 and January 08, 2015, respectively.

02. By virtue of the provisions of the 1978 Constitution, the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981 and the Amendment Acts No. 16 and 35 of 1988, has made provisions for the election of the President.

03. *There is legal provision to hold the Presidential Election, during the period not less than one month and not more than two months before the end of the term of office of the President in office or when the President expresses his intention to get elected as the President after four years of his present term of office.*

04. i. *By removing the sub – Article 31(2) and amending the sub – Article (3A) (a) (I) of the Constitution by the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution, the limit on the number of terms for a person to hold the office of the president was removed and therefore the president who was in office for the second term was allowed to express his intention to contest for re-election, at the completion of four years of his present term of office.*

ii. Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution passed on 09th September 2010 amended the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and removed the two - terms limit of holding the office of the president in terms of Sub Article 31 (2) which said “no person who has been elected twice to the office of president by the People, shall be qualified thereafter to be elected to such office by the People”. Accordingly, anyone could contest for the office of the president without a term - limit. A group of lawyers of several political parties and civil organizations expressing their

view in this regard stated that the Eighteenth Amendment would be applicable only to a future president viz. a president appointed after September 9, 2010 and the then president who had sworn in as president in terms of the old Article was therefore, governed by the legal position that existed before the Eighteenth Amendment.

- iii. President referred this matter to the Supreme Court seeking legal interpretation in terms of Article 125 of the Constitution in regard to the removal of Sub Article 31 (2) by the Eighteenth Amendment and its effect. After examining the Constitution and the Eighteenth Amendment, the Supreme Court decided that the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution was in effect since 09.09.2010, the date it was passed, and therefore, it is applicable to the president who was holding the office. Accordingly, the then president was given the opportunity to contest for the office of president for the third time.

Statutory Declaration

05. The President who was declared elected under Section 56(2) of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, on the results of the election held on 26th January 2010 and took oath in his office on 19th November 2010, declared his intention on 20th November, 2014 to seek for a further term, in terms of the Article 31(3A)(a)(ii) of the Constitution. That notification was published in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1889/31 on 20th November, 2014 and is shown as the First Schedule of this Report. Though the term of office of the President in terms of Article 30 (2) of the Constitution, was six years at the time of making the above statement, the President had held office only for four years and one day.

Order under the Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981

06. In terms of Article 31(3A) of the Constitution, which was introduced to the Constitution of 1978 by the Third Amendment, publishing the intention of the President in the above mentioned manner, is an order for the Commissioner of Elections to conduct a Presidential Election according to the Article 31(3A)(II) of the Constitution. When the Commissioner of Elections is required by the

Constitution to conduct the election of the President, he should by Order published in the *Gazette* under Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, fix the date of nomination of candidates, being a date *during the period* not less than sixteen days and not more than twenty one days from the date of publication of such Order and the date on which the poll shall be taken, being a date not less than four weeks and not more than six weeks from the date of nomination. Accordingly, the Commissioner of Elections published the notice, under Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act, in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1889 / 35 dated 21st November 2014. The *Gazette* is annexed to this report as *Second Schedule*.

07. Qualifications for Election as President

Every person who is qualified to be an elector shall be qualified to be elected to the office of President unless he is subject to any of the following disqualifications

- (a) if he has not attained the age of thirty five years ;
- (b) if he is not qualified to be elected as a Member of Parliament under sub-paragraph (d), (e), (f) or (g) of paragraph (1) of Article 91 ;
- (c) if he has been twice elected to the office of President by the People;
- (d) if he has been removed from the office of President under the provisions of sub-paragraph (e) of paragraph (2) of Article 38.

08. **Electoral Districts:** Sri Lanka is divided into 22 electoral districts for the purpose of holding elections and these electoral districts were decided by the Delimitation Commission established in 1978. The recommendations of this Delimitation Commission were included in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1233 dated 15th January 1981, which had been published by the President under the Article 97 of the Constitution. *According to this order Sri Lanka was divided into 22 Electoral Districts and* the size of each administrative district is similar to each Electoral District that is called by the same name except for *the Vanni Electoral District, comprising of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Administrative Districts*, and the Jaffna Electoral District which was formed by amalgamating Jaffna and Kilinochchi Administrative Districts after the establishment of Kilinochchi District. *Ampara Administrative District was known as the Digamadulla Electoral District and the other electoral districts belonging to the remaining administrative districts were identified by the same names of the Administrative Districts.* These twenty-two electorates were the electorates that functioned for the purpose of electing the President.

09. **Polling Divisions:** As per the directions issued by the Commissioner of Elections, the Registering Officer of each electoral district is responsible for the dividing of polling divisions and polling districts. In terms of Article 97 of the Constitution passed in 1978, details of polling divisions and polling districts, which were so divided under Section 9 of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, were published in nine *Extraordinary Gazettes* during the period from 03.02.1981 to 13.02.1981. Later the changes in the composition and the number of polling districts which were situated in the polling divisions were made by taking the factors such as the subsequent increase in the number of votes, etc., into consideration.

Appointment of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers

10. In terms of Section 7 of the Presidential Elections Act, the Commissioner, as occasion may require, shall appoint by name or by office a person to be the Returning Officer of each electoral district, and may appoint by name or by office one or more persons to assist the Returning Officer in the performance of his duties. Each such Returning Officer so appointed shall be responsible for holding the elections in his respective electoral district.

11. Out of the District Secretaries/ Government Agents of Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Districts, the Commissioner of Elections appointed the District Secretary / Government Agent of Vavuniya District as the Returning Officer of Vanni Electoral District and out of the District Secretaries / Government Agents of Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts, the District Secretary / Government Agent of Jaffna district as the Returning Officer of Jaffna electoral district by the *Gazette* No. 1889 / 36 dated 21st November 2014 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as per the powers vested with him by Section 7 of the Presidential Elections Act. District Secretaries / Government Agents of all other districts were appointed as Returning Officers of each administrative district. The *Gazette* is annexed to this report as ***Third Schedule***.

12. In order to assist the Returning Officers in each electoral district in organizing the preliminary activities of the Presidential Election, 29 officers were appointed by office in the *Gazette* No. 1889 / 36 dated 21st November 2014 as Assistant Returning Officers and in the *Gazette* No. 1891/33 dated 04 December 2014, these officers were appointed as Assistant Returning Officers by their names.

Part II

Pre - Nomination Activities

13. Organizing the preliminary activities pertaining to the election commenced with the publication of the notice on the Presidential Election by the Commissioner of Elections on 21.11.2014. In view of the fact that the period provided for the Presidential Election was less than the periods provided for other elections, the Returning Officers and the district level staff officers of the Department of Elections viz., Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections were instructed to take all necessary steps to complete the preparatory work within a specific time frame.

Valid Electoral Registers

14. By the time of publishing the Order under Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act by the Commissioner of Elections i.e. on 21st November 2014, the revision of Electoral Registers 2014 had been completed and the Electoral Register was certified on 31st October 2014. In terms of Section 5 of the Presidential Elections Act, the operative Electoral Register on the date of the publication of the order under Section 2 should be used for the election and according to Section 6, this register of electors should be the conclusive evidence for the purpose of determining whether a person is or is not entitled to vote at an election under the Act or not. Until 2012, the Electoral Register of a given year has been certified on 31st May of the following year or on a date closer to it. But from 2012 Electoral Register of the year is prepared and certified within the same year. Therefore, at this Presidential Election, which was held using the Electoral Register 2014, opportunity could be provided to approximately 300,000 voters who were newly registered upon the completion of the age of 18 years. Computerization of the preparation of the electoral register, improvements which were done to the relevant computer system and the absence of a national level election in 2014, were the major reasons for the completion of the activities relating to this electoral register before October 31st.

15. Electoral registers are prepared and certified as one list for one electoral district. Since the old electorates are now known as polling divisions in the present electoral districts, the registers corresponding to them are prepared as volumes of the current Electoral Register. They are prepared according to the 160 old electorates or polling divisions. For the purposes of an election, 100 to 150 copies of the annual Electoral Register were prepared as books till 2012. But the provincial council elections held in 2012 and 2013, proved that making of 15 copies of the Electoral

Register in book form is sufficient for the annual revision, activities in the Elections Offices and for the activities in the polling stations at an election, and therefore, it was decided to prepare the register as compact discs for all other requirements and the required number of registers were prepared for this election accordingly. For the purposes of postal voting, book form Electoral Registers were exhibited at the offices of the Returning Officers and the Divisional Secretariats and in all other exhibition centers information was supplied to the postal voters by using compact discs. In addition, the electoral registers prepared as compact discs, were issued to all political parties and candidates. Because of the use of compact discs, a special arrangement had to be made to provide information to the voters. Computers and an additional staff had to be engaged at the exhibition centers of electoral registers to provide information required by postal voters and special units had to be established at the District Elections Offices and the Elections Secretariat to provide information through hot line 1919 of the Government Information Center for the requests made through telephone, fax, and email. Hence, it was observed that the use of compact discs of Electoral Registers is an easy method compared to the preparation and exhibition of a large number of copies of the electoral registers as books at respective places and providing security to them etc.

16. At the end of the preparation and certification of the electoral register, the Elections Secretariat printed a total number of 15 copies of the Electoral Register through the private sector for each electoral district and issued to the District Elections Offices. 15 copies included 8 copies namely, 3 for the requirements of the polling stations, 2 for the exhibition of registers for postal voting, 1 for the use at the distribution of official poll cards and 2 for office use; and 7 copies for the next revision of electoral registers and other related office requirements. For all requests made by political parties and candidates, compact discs were supplied on payment basis and all political parties and candidates were informed how they could obtain compact discs at district level and at polling division level. Accordingly, 161 compact discs of the electoral register were purchased by various political parties / candidates and the income received was Rs. 985,000.00.

Polling Stations

17. In order to ensure the suitability and the facilities of polling stations, they are checked before an election. Some of these buildings are not frequently used. Therefore, it is essential to identify the deficiencies of them immediately and mend them. Within 2 weeks from the date of nomination, the Commissioner shall publish a notice in the *Gazette* specifying the location of the polling station/polling stations allotted to each polling district in each electoral district and the polling station/polling stations allotted exclusively for female voters, if any. In terms of Section 4 of the Act, there should

be one polling station for each polling district, unless there is a separate polling station allotted to female voters. According to the 2014 electoral register, 12,314 polling stations were established to fulfill the need of 12,021 polling districts. The notice under Section 4 (1) of the Act, which specifies the locations of these polling stations, was published in the *Gazette* No. 1892/9, dated 08 December 2014. 293 polling stations, provided exclusively for female voters were also included in the above number of polling stations. As per Section 9(2) of the Registration of Electors Act, each such polling division should contain no more than 1,500 electors, unless the Commissioner directs otherwise. At this election the average number of electors per one polling district was 1251. However, there were 3202 polling districts which contained more than 1500 electors.

17.1 The following are the key points to consider when choosing a location for a polling station.

17.1.1. Limiting the maximum number of voters in one polling station to 1,500.

17.1.2. Selecting them in such a way as to minimize the distance a voter has to walk to his or her polling station.

17.1.3. Placing the polling station at the center of the polling districts as far as possible

17.1.4. Obtain government or other suitable permanent buildings as polling stations as far as possible.

17.1.5. Make sure that there are easy accesses to the polling station.

17.1.6. Ensure that the polling staff has basic needs such as suitable accommodation, water and electricity.

17.1.7. Disabled voters should have uninterrupted access to the polling stations.

17.1.8. Ensuring that the relevant buildings are at minimum risk of natural disasters such as floods, earth slips etc.

18. Temporary sheds had to be erected in 87 polling districts because suitable buildings were not available within the polling districts to use as polling stations. State lands or lands belonging to local authorities were used for this purpose. When it was also difficult, private lands belonging to persons not involved in political affairs were selected to erect temporary sheds.

19. Based on the information obtained from Grama Niladharis regarding the polling stations, it is essential to plan the transport program of polling staff and the related goods, ahead of the polling day and on the day of the poll, and prepare the correct route details for the polling stations. The assistance of the Divisional Secretaries is obtained for this purpose and when necessary, the District Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections will also carry out the necessary inspections and prepare the details to accurately reach the polling stations. Difficulties to reach each center and alternative routes are identified and vehicles suitable for the polling stations are assigned, accordingly. There were reports that some polling stations could not be reached by vehicles and at such situations, the staff of polling stations had to walk some distance. Watercraft and helicopters had to be used to transport officers and goods to the polling stations in the islands of the Northern Province. As there were no natural disasters like floods, cyclones etc., on the election day, the need to use air transport to arrive at or leave polling stations did not arise. But the Department of Elections took precautions to meet such situations. Number of polling stations and the classification of the used buildings are given in *Table I*.

Recognized Political Parties

20. In terms of the Article 31(1) of the Constitution any citizen who is qualified to be elected to the office of the President, may be nominated as a candidate -

20.1 by a recognized political party, or

20.2 by any other political party or by an elector whose name is entered in any register of electors, if he is or has been an elected member of the legislature.

21. Political parties recognized under the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 are recognized under the Presidential Elections Act as well. When the notice under Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act is published, all political parties recognized under Section 7 of the Parliamentary Elections Act are eligible to be recognized as political parties at the election of the President. As per the above provisions, 64 political parties had been accepted by the Commissioner of Elections by the date of calling nominations for the Presidential election held on 08.01.2015.

22. Out of these political parties there were three recognized political parties which submitted contradictory claims for recognition, namely United Democratic Front, Jathika Sangwardhena Peremuna and Sri Lanka Progressive Front. In terms of Section 7 of the Parliamentary Elections Act,

No. 1 of 1981 these three political parties had been recognized as political parties for the Presidential Election. The Commissioner of Elections took action under Section 10 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 to decide which party could be recognized as the United Democratic Front, Jathika Sangwardhena Peremuna and Sri Lanka Progressive Front respectively, in view of the difficulties that would arise at this election.

23. Two groups submitted contradicting claims for recognition as the United Democratic Front and two groups submitted contradicting claims for recognition as the Jathika Sangwardhana Peramuna. In addition, three groups made contradicting claims to be recognized as the Sri Lanka Progressive Front. To take decisions on the contradictory claims of these three political parties, it was basically required to provide maximum opportunity to submit their representations and listen to the answers of the rival groups. Rival groups were convened to make written and oral submissions and as there was no agreement among them, following procedure was followed.

23.1 Calling of rival claimants for oral clarifications: and

23.2 Providing an opportunity to the rival groups to meet each other face to face, discuss all the facts of their claims and listen to the answers of each other.

24. At the end of the oral clarifications before the Commissioner of Elections, the members of rival groups of all these three political parties accepted the following.

24.1 They were given an opportunity to fully listen to each other's claims: and

24.2 They were satisfied that they had been provided with the opportunity to present their views to each other

24.3 Based on the above steps a claim inquiry for United Democratic Front was conducted on 27th November 2014 and it was decided not to accept any of the groups to contest in this election as this party and the groups concerned were informed in this regard.

24.4 A claim inquiry for Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna was conducted on 27th November 2014 as of above and the parties were informed to inform in writing before 3rd December 2014, if the two parties would come into an agreement. As they failed to do so none of the groups were considered as a contesting party at this election.

24.5 A claim inquiry for Sri Lanka Progressive Front was conducted on 27th November 2014 and it was decided that no decision regarding the office of the secretary of the party could be taken at this time, as the party has taken legal action over the ownership of the party. Therefore, it was decided not to allow the party to contest the election.

Part III

Nominations

25. Date, time and venue -: The notice under Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act was published in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1889 / 35 dated 21st November 2014 by the Commissioner of Elections. Accordingly, it was scheduled to accept nominations for the Presidential Election on 08th December 2014 and to hold the election on 08th January 2015. Even if the date for receiving nominations could be extended to 09th December 2014, in view of the problems of making deposits, Monday the 08th of December 2014, was taken as the date of receiving nominations, considering the possibility of the General Certificate of Examination (O/L) scheduled to commence on 09th December getting disturbed; and the fact that the location of two examination centers on either side of the Elections Secretariat, the center for accepting nominations.

26. As per Section 13 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act, nominations shall be received from 09.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. on the day of nominations. According to Section 14 (2) of the Act, objections could be submitted from 09.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. on the same day. The Commissioner of Elections published a paper advertisement on 21st November 2014 stating these particulars together with the amount of deposits to be made by the candidates and the appointment of an officer at the Elections Secretariat to receive deposits.

27. The place for receiving nominations of the election was the Elections Secretariat situated at Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya.

28. Persons who are eligible to be present at the receiving of nominations are given in Section 16 of the Presidential Elections Act. With the assistance of the Inspector General of Police, necessary security and uninterrupted access were provided to the persons, who arrived at the Elections Secretariat, Rajagiriya to make deposits and hand over nominations on behalf of the candidates. Passes were issued to the candidate, the persons who signed the nomination of the candidate and one other person, to enter into the place for accepting nominations. Passes were also issued to 10 invitees of each candidate and they were provided with the facilities at the Auditorium of the Colombo District Elections Office adjoining the Elections Secretariat.

29. As this was an event of national importance, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation was granted permission for live telecasting. In addition, all other print and electronic media were given the opportunity to send two representatives, who, together with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, could telecast and broadcast the process concurrently, the nomination process without interruption. Since there had been complaints at the previous elections regarding the special loyalty of State media to a candidate, the Commissioner of Elections issued instructions to the State media (and also to the private media as the case may be) to perform their duty in such a way that complaints/ allegations are not received. The telecast of one private channel was interrupted for a short while, due to a communication issued during the telecast of the receiving the nominations through the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, but later revealed that it was not a deliberate act. Although it was further advised all media outlets not to promote or prejudice any presidential candidate during their telecast or broadcast of accepting the nominations one channel failed to follow suit and the Commissioner had to advise that channel to abstain from such acts as it attempted to promote one presidential candidate.

It was observed at the time of accepting the nominations that one state media was telecasting subtitles to promote one candidate, and the Commissioner of Elections had to intervene and prevent the illegal activity.

Deposits

30. The manner of making deposits is explained in Section 8 of the Presidential Elections Act. There are two ways of making deposits for nominations.

- 30.1 A candidate shall deposit a sum of Fifty Thousand Rupees (Rs. 50,000) in legal tender, when he is nominated by a recognized political party, and
- 30.2 a sum of Seventy Five thousand Rupees (Rs. 75,000) shall be deposited, when the candidate is nominated by any other political party or an elector.

Making Deposits

31. When a candidate is nominated by a recognized political party, a letter of consent to contest at the Presidential Election by the candidate has to be submitted at the time of making deposits together with a letter of the party secretary stating that the candidate represents the party. In terms of Section 8 (2) (b) of the Act, a certificate with the signature of the Secretary-General of Parliament to the effect that such candidate is, or has been, an elected member of the legislature, should be submitted, when he is nominated by any other political party or by an elector. Candidate or any other

person on his behalf had to make the deposit in legal tender with the Commissioner of Elections, on the day before the nomination date viz. before 12 noon on 07th December 2014. Since the nomination date was Monday, December 8, 2014, deposits were accepted even before the nomination date, though it was Sunday and a holiday.

32. Mr. E.A. Weerasena, Chief Accountant of the Elections Secretariat was appointed to receive the deposits and Mr. H.W.N. Kumara, Accountant (Procurements) and Ms. Sujani Yasarathne, Accountant (Payments) were also appointed to assist him. Those officers stayed in the office during the office hours, from 21st November 2014 to 12.00 noon 07th December 2014 to receive deposits from candidates or other persons on behalf of the candidates. During this period, 17 candidates representing recognized political parties and two other candidates made deposits. Details with respect to the candidates, who made deposits are given in *Table 2*.

33. Immediately after receiving deposits, the following documents were issued to the depositors.

- 33.1 Receipt under Section 8
- 33.2 A copy of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981
- 33.3 6 sets of nomination papers in Sinhala, Tamil and English
- 33.4 A form for declaration of assets and liabilities of candidates
- 33.5 Instructions on entering the place for receiving nominations
- 33.6 Entry passes and vehicle passes to reach the place for receiving nominations

Statutory Functions

34. Nominations in relation to the Parliamentary, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities elections are received by District Returning Officers or their Assistant Returning Officers. But under Section 13 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act, accepting nominations is a responsibility of the Commissioner of Elections.

35. Name of a candidate can be nominated by not more than three separate nominations and each such nomination should be substantial to the form “A” specified in the First Schedule of the Act and the requirements in Section 12 of the Act should be complied.

36. The Commissioner of Elections received nominations at the Elections Secretariat, Rajagriya from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. on 8th December 2014 and the Additional Commissioners of Elections, Mr. U. Amaradasa, Mr. R. M. A. L. Ratnayake and Mr. M. M. Mohamed assisted him in checking the nomination papers etc. Mr. M.M. Mohamed, Additional Commissioner of Elections also functioned as the Tamil translator in receiving the nominations and subsequent activities.

37. The first and the last nominations were accepted at 9.13 a.m. and 10.48 a.m. respectively and during this time period all 19 candidates who made deposits, namely, 17 candidates of recognized political parties and 2 other candidates handed over nominations. Some of the nomination papers were handed over by the candidates themselves and others by those who signed the nominations. Please refer to **Table 3** for details relating to the arrival of candidates, handing over nominations, etc.

38. Two objections were raised between 09.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. for the two nominations submitted by two presidential candidates namely, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksha and Mr. Maithripala Sirisena and the Commissioner of Elections disallowed the objections as they did not comply with the provisions of the Presidential Elections Act.

39. At the end of the period for receiving nominations, the nominations handed over by all candidates, who made deposits, were checked and confirmed that they were not disqualified under Section 15 of the Act. The Commissioner of Elections then decided to accept all of those nominations.

40. The Commissioner of Elections declared that the nominations of all candidates were accepted and then the symbols had to be allotted under Section 20 of the Presidential Elections Act. Out of all nominated candidates 17 were from recognized political parties. Therefore, they were given the approved symbols allotted to the parties under the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981 and the other two candidates applied for the symbols in their favor and since they were not requests for the same symbol, the requested symbols were allocated to them.

Order of the Names in the Ballot Paper

41. At the end of allotting symbols to the candidates, they were requested under Section 20(3) to submit in writing the manner in which they wished to see their names in the ballot paper and the parts of the name they wished to omit and the parts of the name they wished to indicate as initials. All candidates submitted their preferences in writing about the manner in which the names to be

mentioned in the ballot paper. Their names had to be included in the ballot paper according to the Sinhala alphabetical order, considering the surname, or “Ge” name when there is no surname, or how the name should be indicated in the ballot paper when none of the above appears.

42. At the end of the period for receiving nominations at 11.00 a.m. and submission of objections at 11.30 a.m., the Commissioner of Elections informed all candidates about the following matters and to provide written information relating to the election.

- 42.1 Appointment of election agents and authorized agents.
- 42.2 The declaration to be made by candidates according to the Assets and Liabilities Act, No. 1 of 1975.
- 42.3 Establishment of Elections Offices.
- 42.4 Facilities to send notifications to registered voters free of postage and providing facilities to use radio and television for their campaign in terms of the provisions in the Presidential Elections Act.
- 42.5 Provisions relating to the election campaign.
- 42.6 Legal provisions relating to the annulment of activities in polling stations.
- 42.7 Communication that the peoples’ representatives and public servants who are committed to uphold the Constitution of Sri Lanka, should not make use of state resources for electioneering purposes.

Notice of Poll

43. The notice required to be published under Section 21 of the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981 before the lapse of 14 days from the nomination date, was published by the Commissioner of Elections in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1892/8 dated 08th December 2014 and in newspapers in all three languages. The names of candidates in the contest and the election symbols allotted to them were included in the notice of poll in the order in which they would be printed in the ballot paper. In addition, the notice also stated that the day of the election was scheduled to be on January 08, 2015. This *Gazette* is annexed to this report as Fourth Schedule.

PART IV

Preliminary Activities of the Election

44. The Department of Elections had to get prepared for this national election unexpectedly, as the President published the notice/ declaration, on 20th November 2014, to get elected for a third term of office. However, the holding of Provincial Councils elections from the year 2012 to 2014 covering all the provinces of the island certainly helped in organizing the activities of this election. Preliminary organizational activities had to be carried out immediately, since the Presidential Elections Act provides a very limited time period to conduct the election. Therefore, the District Returning Officers as well as Senior Deputy / Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections at District Elections Offices were immediately summoned to Colombo and instructed them on the steps that should be taken regarding the preliminary activities and the enforcement of elections laws.

45. Postal Department and the Department of Government Printing are the two institutions which work in collaboration with the Department of Elections from the beginning of an election. From the very beginning of the election period, action had to be taken to work with the Post Master General especially on the immediate exchange of election material among Elections Secretariat, District Returning Officers and government institutions on priority basis and under free postage facility and on the distribution of official poll cards and postal ballot papers etc. The Commissioner of Elections convened the senior staff officers of the Postal Department and the Post Master General and discussed the matters relating to the manner of obtaining financial provisions from the Department of Elections to be incurred by the Postal Department for election work, the cost estimates from the Postal Department in that regard and reports on the cost incurred by the Postal Department at the end of the election etc. It is worth noting that the Post Master General and all the staff were very supportive in all above activities.

46. Due to the minimal amount of time available to get prepared for this election, the Department of Government Printing was vested with a great responsibility in carrying out all printing work necessary in that regard. Immediately after the nomination notice in this regard was issued, the head of the Government Printing Department and other senior staff were consulted. All printing work from the printing of nomination documents to the publication of the poll results in the Gazette, except for the printing of official poll cards, was performed by the Department of Government Printing.

47. The Commissioner of Elections and the officials in charge of the Department of Elections discussed with the officers of the Electricity Board and Sri Lanka Telecom on the provision of uninterrupted supply of electricity required by the Elections Secretariat and the District Elections Offices during the period of the election and the provision of general telephone facilities required by the Elections Secretariat and the District Elections Offices and additional telephone facilities for the duties relating to the obtaining results, respectively and the necessary instructions were given on their role to be played.

Printing of Ballot Papers

48. Preliminary steps to print the ballot papers were taken after receiving nominations. A sample ballot paper, which included the order of the names of candidates and the symbols for each candidate, was handed over to the Government Printer for this purpose. Printing of ballot papers commenced immediately after the proof of the ballot paper was checked and approved by the Commissioner of Elections.

Although the printing of a uniform ballot paper for every electoral district in the island was an easy task when compared to other elections, the need to complete the task within a very short period of time, created many problems. Hence, postal ballot papers had to be printed first before printing other ballot papers. The efforts made by the Government Printer and his staff to carry out the printing work within the due period, while facing many obstacles, have to be appreciated.

49. Postal ballot papers had to be immediately supplied to the postal voters due to the very limited time period available for the election. Action was therefore, taken to print the ballot papers required for the postal voters first. However, four days were sufficient to complete this task. Details of the amount of ballot papers required for postal voters were provided by the Commissioner of Elections to the Government Printer by 09.12.2014 and the amount of ballot papers required for all electoral districts were printed and supplied by the Government Printer by 12.12.2014. The Department of Government Printing took measures to hand over the total number of ballot papers required for 15,044,490 voters, to all Returning Officers by 24.12.2014.

50. Once the ballot papers were printed, District Returning Officers transported them under Police security, deposited them in the vaults and placed them under the security of a special police team until the date of dispatching them to the polling stations. Before the poll day the number of ballot papers

for polling stations should be checked, sealed and stored in the vault so that they were ready to be issued easily.

Postal Voting

51. Organizing the process of postal voting is a very tedious task at an election. Limitation of the period provided for receiving applications for postal voting facility, i.e. ten days from the date of publication of the Order under Section 2, is one reason. This activity became more complicated as a decision was taken to exhibit the compact discs of the electoral register, at a large number of places in the island for the benefit of postal voting applicants.

52. In terms of Section 23 (2) of the Presidential Elections Act, voters who are entitled to cast their vote by post, had to be provided with the facility to submit their applications to the District Returning Officers within a short period of time *viz.* 10 days. Action was therefore, taken to exhibit the compact discs of electoral registers at about 17 places including Army Headquarters and government offices to cover the Colombo district especially, the Colombo city area. In addition, facilities were provided to postal voting applicants to obtain necessary information by exhibiting printed electoral registers and compact disc versions in the offices of all District Returning Officers and in Divisional Secretariats and the book form registers were exhibited at all district offices of Sri Lanka Transport Board.

53. Further, in response to the requests made by applicants through the special telephone number 1919 of the Sri Lanka Information Center, a procedure to provide particulars to fill up postal voting applications was introduced. A program was also introduced to provide information at the Computer Units of the Elections Secretariat and all District Elections Offices, for the enquiries made through e-mail or fax or telephone. Steps were taken to inform postal voters through the heads of all ministries and departments as well as through electronic and print media about the availability of information for those who requested postal voting facilities in the above manner.

54. Though the last day to submit applications for postal voting facility was 30.11.2014, the Commissioner of Elections extended it to 08.12.2014, the last day of receiving nominations, in order to provide opportunity for the contesting candidates to cast their vote by post. Secretaries of all

ministries and the heads of all departments were informed in this regard and action was also taken to publish it through electronic and print media.

55. Although requests from the employees of government and semi government institutions, who were not entitled for postal voting facility according to the Presidential Elections Act, were received, the Department could not entertain them as there was no provision in the Act. Requests were specially made by the Ministry of Health regarding the staff engaged in health services. Lack of such facility for the groups of employees, who had to be engaged in various essential services on the poll day, appears to be a problem. There was no provision in the Act to take action in this regard. Similarly, requests were also received regarding the employees of the airport, port, Ceylon Electricity Board, state banks and expressways. It is essential to amend the relevant election laws in order to provide postal voting facilities to the employees of such institutions.

56. There were instances where some voters who had submitted applications for postal voting facility using information of other persons who had similar names and those applicants were informed about the possibility of taking legal action against them. In respect of such complaints received prior to the issuing of postal ballot papers, action was taken to provide postal voting facility to the correct persons without issuing postal ballot papers to incorrect applicants. There were instances where more than one application submitted by applicants through several certifying officers depending on the change of their service stations in the armed forces. The reason for submitting more than one application by applicants may be that they expected at least one application would be considered. This created problems in organizing activities relating to postal voting.

57. Applications for postal voting should be submitted through the relevant certifying officers. Certifying officers are the heads of departments or institutions or heads of units or officers appointed by them to be in charge of the units. Secretaries of all ministries, heads of departments and chairmen of statutory boards and corporations, where employees are eligible to submit postal voting applications, were informed to submit the names of their certifying officers to all District Returning Officers.

58. The numbers of postal voting applications received for each electoral district by the last date for receiving of applications for postal voting *viz.* 08.12.2014 and the numbers of accepted and rejected applications out of them are given in **Table IV**. The total number of applications accepted was 541,452.

59. Not only the submission of applications to the Returning Officers but also the receiving and protecting the insured packets which included postal ballot papers and submitting them to the Returning Officers after marking postal votes had to be performed by the certifying officers. In view of these highly responsible functions entrusted to the postal voting certifying officers, they were trained under the supervision of the Returning Officer of each electoral district.

Register of Postal Voters

60. At the end of receiving applications for postal voting, the register of postal voters was prepared, certified, turned out as compact discs and these discs were sent to all candidates free of charge. Returning Officers have to send the notice on issuing postal ballot papers, to the Authorized Agents of all contesting candidates. Hence, the Returning Officers were instructed to inform the authorized agents of all candidates that the issuing of postal votes would be carried out on 15.12.2014 and to appoint one agent per a postal ballot paper issuing group. Postal ballot papers were issued at the offices of all Returning Officers on 15.12.2014 and necessary steps were taken by the Postal Department to forward the insured postal voting packets to all certifying officers immediately. Special security measures introduced in provincial council elections 2013/2014 were improved and used at the postal voting process of this election in order to eliminate unfounded fear of political activists and independent critics that the marked ballot papers were not protected and that there was a possibility of corruptions at issuing/ marking of postal votes.

61. The Commissioner of Elections allotted two days, i.e. 23 and 24 of December 2014, to mark the postal ballot papers at the offices of certifying officers. The certifying officers were instructed to hand over the packets of those postal voters who could not mark their postal votes during these two days, to the District Elections Offices on the following day (25.12.2014). Instructions were given to the certifying officers, who were in charge of places for marking postal votes, to inform the District Authorized Agents of contesting candidates to appoint one agent each to observe the marking of ballot papers at these offices. Officers of the staff of the Returning Officers also participated in observing the marking of postal votes. In addition, senior police officers of all districts were informed through the Inspector General of Police to provide the *police* security, covering the offices of certifying officers. However, no any special incidents reported from the offices of certifying officers during the two days of marking postal ballot papers.

62. Assistant Returning Officers deployed to observe the postal voting activities on 24.12.2014 obtained the postal voting packets, which were kept in the offices of certifying officers but not marked by postal voters during the two days appointed i.e. 23 and 24 of December 2014, and handed over them to the Returning Officers. On the following day, the certifying officers themselves handed over the packets that could not be handed over as above, to the Returning Officer. Since such postal voters had to be given another opportunity, the day of 30.12.2014 was given to mark these postal votes under the supervision of the District Returning Officers. Postal voters had to go to the office of the District Returning Officer on that day and mark their vote. Considering the practical issues aroused at this juncture, another two days namely, 03.01.2015 and 06.01.2015 were given for postal voting.

Granting of Permission to Vote at another Polling Station

63. In terms of Section 119 B of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 as amended by Amendment Act, No. 16 of 1988, an elector who reasonably fears that he is unable to cast vote at his given polling station, may make an application requesting permission to vote at another polling station. Such request must be submitted prior to the expiration of one week after the nomination notice.

64. As in previous elections this facility was provided to the electors in the Northern and Eastern areas who had a reasonable fear to go to their polling stations. Such request had to be submitted to reach the Returning Officer on or before 27.11.2014 viz. within one week from 21.11.2014, the date of publishing the nomination notice. This period was extended to 30.11.2014 by the Commissioner of Elections considering certain requirements such as educating the voters in this regard etc. However, it was reported that no application was received by the Elections Secretariat or District Elections Offices during the said period.

Official Poll Cards

65. In terms of Section 24 of the Presidential Elections Act, an official poll card should be sent to every elector except, to the voters who have been granted permission to cast their vote by post or at another polling station. An official poll card contains the date and hours of the poll, and the details relevant to the polling station allotted to the voter. These official poll cards had to be sent to reach electors at least 07 days before the date of the poll. Electors, who had not received official poll cards due to any reason, have to obtain them from the relevant post office by proving their identity.

66. Since the electoral register was computerized, at present it is possible to print official poll cards by using computer data. Action was also taken to print them in Sinhala or Tamil language as relevant to the voter. After calling for quotations and assigning the duty to the suitable institution, the printing of official poll cards was done by the private sector. At the end of receiving the specimens of official poll cards from the Returning Officers prepared according to each electoral district including the names of electors, National Identity Card numbers, postal addresses and the particulars of polling stations, the Elections Secretariat took action to print the official poll cards by eligible printers and hand over to District Returning Officers to be distributed to the voters. Instructions were given to check the accuracy of these cards at the District Elections Offices when they were received by the District Returning Officers, place the respective rubber stamps on the official poll cards to recognize the cards which belonged to deceased persons, persons overseas and postal voters and to hand them over to the regional postal authorities to be distributed among electors. It was further ordered to hand over the official poll cards to the Postal Department on 20.12.2014 and to carry out the special distribution on 28.12.2014, relating to the Presidential Election.

Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 27 of 2013

67. In terms of the provisions in the Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 27 of 2013, opportunity was given to the internally displaced persons and to their eligible children to cast vote at the electoral districts where their permanent residences were situated prior to displacement. Thus, after certifying the electoral register for the year 2014, the persons concerned were given a week to apply for registration in the supplementary register as per the Act. Accordingly, 316 persons residing in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Batticaloa Districts for the year 2014 were entitled to cast their vote under the supplementary list. An official poll card for these voters was printed in a different colour by the Elections Secretariat, and they were sent to the districts and action was taken to distribute them to the respective voters after scrutinizing the particulars on these lists.

Indelible Ink

68. In terms of Section 36 of the Presidential Elections Act, a voter who is requesting a ballot paper shall be marked with indelible ink. Marking of the little finger of the voter with indelible ink commenced from the Parliamentary Election 1965 as a measure to prevent the voters from casting vote more than once. At present it is compulsory to prove the identity of the voter by producing an identity document prior to casting the vote. Therefore, the need to mark the little left finger with indelible ink is being questioned today by some people.

69. Indelible ink is supplied to each polling station as one pen for 350 voters in a polling station. Sometimes there are complaints received regarding the malfunctioning of indelible ink. Pens with indelible ink supplied to the polling stations, are imported and in some cases it was reported that its color was not visible instantly. But it was later understood that it took some time to have the exact appearance of the mark. There were complaints from voters and political parties that the ink did not show the specified dark color immediately. Investigations have revealed that the time taken to show dark colour changes according to the climatic conditions.

Use of Identity Documents to Identify the Voter at the Polling Station

70. In terms of the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 14 of 2004, a voter needs to be identified through the National Identity Card before issuing a ballot paper at an election. However, at a court proceeding the Commissioner of Elections agreed to consider other identity documents until the facilities provided to the public to obtain the National Identity Card without any difficulty and until all the voters are issued with National Identity Cards. In addition to the National Identity Card, valid Passport, valid Driving License, Public Service Pensioners' identity card, elders identity card and the identity card issued by the Department for Registration of Persons to clergy were accepted and at this election too persons who had none of the above identity documents in their possession, were provided with the facility to obtain the temporary identity cards issued by the Department of Elections. A broad campaign program was implemented by the Commissioner of Elections has implemented a comprehensive program to educate the voters through interviews conducted through electronic media as well as through newspaper advertisements and press releases about the need of possessing one of the above identity documents to obtain a ballot paper at the polling station.

71. According to the electoral register 2014, National Identity Card numbers of nearly 90% of registered electors had been entered in the electoral register. Action was taken through Grama Niladharis to inform the persons, whose National Identity Card numbers were not included in the electoral register, about the program of issuing temporary identity cards by the Department of Elections,. The Department for Registration of Persons carried out a program to conduct mobile services and issue National Identity Cards and the support of the election observer organizations was also received in this regard. The support of observation organizations was also given to the voters to obtain two photographs (1/4x1") necessary to obtain the temporary identity cards. Especially, action was taken to obtain the support of Superintendents of Estates for this program as the majority of voters who did not have National Identity Cards were the residents of estates located in mountainous areas. District Returning Officers, officers of District Elections Offices, Divisional Secretaries and Grama

Niladharis took steps to provide temporary identity cards to a large number of voters with the support of other groups. In addition, a program to update the temporary identity cards, issued at the Provincial Councils Elections in 2013, according to the particulars in the electoral register 2014 and issue them to the voters was also conducted.

72. To obtain temporary identity cards, the voters have to complete two applications and submit them to the Grama Niladhari together with two photographs. Grama Niladhari certified and submitted them to the District Elections Office and a staff officer at the District Elections Office certified them, a protective sticker was affixed on them and issued to the voter through Grama Niladhari. In order to confirm the accuracy of the Identity Card submitted by the voter, one application was handed over directly to the Senior Presiding Officer of the respective polling station. There were 206,609 temporary identity cards issued by the District Elections Offices in this manner and the number of identity documents that were issued for previous Provincial Council Elections and updated for the Presidential Election was 18, 134. Relevant details are given in *Table V*.

Electors Reported to be Dead or Abroad

73. Similar to previous elections the program of marking the names of deceased and persons abroad in the respective register was carried out in this election too. Particulars of electors who were dead during the period from 01st of June 2014 to 13th December 2014 and the details of persons who were abroad by 13th December 2014 were obtained from Grama Niladharis and recorded the respective details on the official poll card which was sent to the voter. Letter “D” was placed before the names of deceased persons in the electoral register sent to the polling station and letter “A” was placed in front of the names of persons abroad. Poll staff was instructed that the senior presiding officer should check the person, if a person who has been marked with these letters in the list, has come to the polling station and if he decides to issue a ballot paper, he should do so only after obtaining his signature on the relevant declaration, according to Sections 41 and 43 of the Presidential Elections Act. Details of persons, whose names appeared as deceased or abroad on the specified date under each district in the electoral register 2014 are given in *Table VI*.

Placing the Seal of the Official Mark on the Ballot Paper

74. Section 35 of the Presidential Elections Act explains how the ballot papers should be issued to the voters. As per sub section (c) of this Section, the ballot paper should be stamped with the official

mark before issuing to the voter. Otherwise, the official mark can be pressed or perforated on it in accordance with the law. These marks, which are usually used to seal the ballot papers during an election, will be securely sent to the District Elections Officers by the Commissioner of Elections, on a day close to the election. The details of the official marks, which are to be used at each polling station, will be handed over to the senior presiding officer in a sealed envelope so that the polling staff will not know the confidentiality until the date of the poll. Out of these seals one per each queue must be randomly selected in the presence of polling agents, observers, and staff before the commencement of the poll. This action is done to increase the transparency and credibility of the official mark used at the polling station.

Special Transport Facilities for Persons with Disabilities

75. Section 82 (4) (d) of the Presidential Elections Act, provides facilities to the physically disabled persons to convey himself to the polling station. The public was made aware of this through newspaper advertisements and press releases. According to these provisions permission could be obtained to convey the voter to the polling station by a vehicle, after making a written request to the Returning Officer, 7 days before the poll day, together with a medical recommendation.

76. The Commissioner of Elections informed all District Returning Officers at the briefing on the preliminary organizational activities of the election, to select polling stations considering easy access to disabled and aged electors. As a result, instances where the Returning Officers had to change some polling stations were also reported. However, it should be noted that due to the location and the limited number of existing buildings, it was not practical to meet all the demands.

Leave for Employees to be Able to Vote

77. Voting by post at the time of the polls is only available to the staff of the three Armed Forces, Police Department, Civil Defense Department and certain governmental or semi-governmental agencies that provide essential services for election purposes. Officials or employees of various institutions have requested this facility, but there were no legislation to provide postal voting facilities for these voters.

In terms of section 110 of the Presidential Elections Act, the employer should grant an employee an uninterrupted period of leave of absence, without loss of pay, in order that he or she may be entitled to vote in the polling station reserved for him personally. Minimum time that should be given is 4 hours. Anyone who violates this provision or fails to comply with it shall, after being prosecuted, be punished according to the law. The notice of the Commissioner of Elections, published in Sinhala, Tamil and English on this matter, in electronic and print media, is given in Fifth Schedule.

Part V

Staff Requirements

78. The Commissioner of Elections sent instructions to all District Returning Officers on 21.10.2014 to obtain the details of all officers, who would be engaged in election duties and vehicles which can be used for election work. Accordingly, District Returning Officers instructed the Heads of Departments, institutions and principals of government schools in their respective districts to send the details of staff and government vehicles in government offices and government schools. *The Commissioner of Elections notified the Heads of the Ministries and Departments located in the Colombo Municipal Council area to send the details of the staff and vehicles to the Elections Secretariat.*

79. Since this was an island - wide election, which required a large staff as well as a large number of vehicles, the Secretary to the President informed Secretaries to all Ministries and Provincial Governors on the request of the Commissioner of Elections, to provide the particulars of all officers and vehicles of their institutions to the Commissioner of Elections and the District Returning Officers, as per their instructions, and to limit foreign tours of government officers during the election period.

80. Necessary instructions were issued to the Returning Officers to release experienced officers from government institutions of the District to the Department of Elections, who could assist in the organization of preliminary activities of the election and, in addition, to invite and deploy retired staff officers any other employees, who have worked in the Department of Elections, for this purpose.

81. The Returning Officers were instructed regarding the classification of officers attached to government institutions and teachers as Assistant Returning Officers, senior presiding officers, junior presiding officers, and clerks under the specified salary groups in accordance with the circulars. Also, instructions to organize training classes specially to Assistant Returning Officers, who have supervised the polling stations and preliminary activities at previous elections and senior presiding officers, who would be in charge of polling stations, were also provided. The Returning Officers were also informed to train the Assistant Returning Officers, who were in charge of supervising the polling stations as well as Senior Presiding Officers who were in charge of the polling stations directly by the Returning Officer and Deputy/Assistant Commissioner of Elections; and to train the other officers by other experienced staff officers.

82. Total number of officers required for the election work in all districts was 161, 256 and out of them 155,461 officers were obtained from the respective districts. There was excess staff in some districts such as Kurunegala, Kandy etc, and these officials were assigned to nearby districts. Election staff other than the Assistant Returning Officers and Senior Presiding Officers could be obtained from within the districts. The Colombo reserve had to supply Assistant Returning Officers for duties in polling stations and counting in other districts except for districts like Colombo, Kandy and Kurunegala and a certain number of Senior Presiding Officers to other districts. According to a decision taken by the Commissioner of Elections to appoint officers from other districts for polling duties, officers of all categories were transferred between districts. Details of staff requirement of each district are shown in *Table VII*.

83. The Returning Officers were instructed to deploy the majority of poll staff for counting of votes because, counting in the Presidential election was not a complex exercise like counting of preferences in other elections. However, it was also advised to take into account the staffing requirements in case of a second / third preference count is to be made. Training classes for counting of votes were conducted only for the Chief Counting Officers and Assistant Returning Officers by the Returning Officers, who would be in charge of counting of votes, and the officers in the Colombo reserve, who were deployed for counting duties in other districts were trained by the Commissioner of Elections.

Transport Facilities

84. Supplying of staff and relevant material to all polling stations before the commencement of the poll and transport the officers together with ballot boxes and other secured material to the counting centers immediately after the poll, are very important in organizing activities of the election. Apart from that, transport facilities should also be available with the Returning Officers for the supervision of election activities and with the Police Department to provide necessary security for conducting the election without any interruption. A large number of vehicles should essentially be deployed for the aforesaid requirements since the Presidential Election is conducted island wide as a one day election.

85. Considering the above requirements the Commissioner of Elections sent a letter on 21.10.2014 to the Secretaries of all Ministries, Heads of Departments and Heads of Corporations and Boards informing them to supply the details of all vehicles of their institutions to the District Returning Officers. Details of vehicles of government offices situated in the Colombo city area had to be

supplied to the Elections Secretariat and details of the vehicles in the districts had to be supplied to the District Returning Officers by the Heads of the respective institutions. Senior officers especially the Additional Secretaries and Department Heads allowed to retain official vehicles assigned to them for their transport for election duties.

86. After calculating the vehicle requirement for election duties by the District Returning Officers, action was taken to obtain the buses of Sri Lanka Transport Board and to hire other vehicles as the number of government vehicles available was not sufficient. Similar to previous elections a new payment system was implemented for hired vehicles at the Presidential Election too. Action was taken to supply vehicles from the Colombo reserve to the districts whose total vehicle requirement could not be met even after obtaining the maximum number of vehicles in their districts in the above manner.

87. As in previous elections, necessary instructions were given at this election too, to obtain vehicles on approved rent basis, when there were not enough government vehicles to perform the duties of the Police Department and the Postal Department.

88. Senior Presiding Officers who were in charge of polling stations and Zone Assistant Returning Officers who were in charge of the supervision of several polling stations were allowed to use their own motor vehicles. However, the Returning Officers were informed to grant permission to Senior Presiding Officers in charge of polling stations to use vehicles such as big cars/vans/jeeps etc., only as they had to accompany police officers and his assistant and carry ballot boxes and secured goods since small vehicles were not suitable for this purpose.

89. Returning Officers arranged to transport ballot boxes and other goods on the pre - poll day under police security. Other poll staff had to use public transport and report to the relevant polling stations before 2.00 p.m. on the day before the poll day. In this situation, officers who travelled by train were provided with the facilities to obtain railway (duty) warrants from their places of work. The Returning Officers of the districts of Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Kegalle provided transport facilities to other staff of the polling stations to report to the polling stations where public transport was difficult.

90. In the Presidential Election of 2015, the Returning Officer of the Puttalam district had to provide transport facilities for the displaced voters to go to the polling stations to cast their vote. Most of the displaced voters of Mannar district temporarily lived in the Puttalam district and the transport

system was not strong enough to provide public transport facilities for them to go and cast their vote. Considering the requests made by several contesting political parties in this regard, District Returning Officers were instructed to work out a programme for this purpose. Accordingly, with the coordination of the Returning Officer of Puttalam District it was planned to call buses of the Sri Lanka Transport Board to the Puttalam Kachcheri on the day before the poll day and transport displaced voters to the polling stations in the Mannar district on the following day. However, this programme could not be implemented due to interventions of rival political parties. Therefore, action was taken with the intervention of the Returning Officer of the Puttalam district to arrange few private buses to transport the voters (who have registered in the electoral register of Mannar District under the provisions of the Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act No. 27 of 2013 and resided in Puttalam district) from Puttalam to Mannar and back to Puttalam on the poll day.

91. The Commissioner of Elections issued instructions to the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to stockpile fuel which was necessary to ensure that the transport facilities at the polls were not obstructed. The District Returning Officers were further instructed to inform the Regional Managers of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation about the fuel requirement of the districts and to discuss with them regarding the requirement of maintaining full stocks. Managers of filling stations from where fuel had to be obtained for the election were also informed through the Returning Officers about the need for maintaining stocks.

92. Other important area of providing transport facilities was the supplying of public transport facilities for voters. In terms of Section 82 of the Presidential Elections Act, public transport facilities had to be strengthened as there were difficulties for the voters to travel to the polling stations by their private vehicles. Officers of Sri Lanka Central Transport Board and Provincial Passenger Transport Authorities were summoned to the Elections Secretariat and they were enlightened about the importance of providing necessary vehicles for election duties as well as the transport facilities to the voters to reach the polling stations on the poll day without difficulty. Action was also taken by the District Returning Officers to inform the regional officers of these institutions at the district level.

Election Observation -Local Observer Organizations

93. Though there is no legal provision in any election law to facilitate observation of elections, experienced observer organizations were allowed to observe the Presidential Election in 2015 following the practice of previous elections and at the requests and the consent of the contestants.

94. Considering the activities of each observer organization in relation to the previous elections, following observer organizations were allowed to enter the polling station and observe or carry out observations staying outside of the polling station.

- i. People's Action for Free and Fair Election (PAFFREL) No. 12/3, Robert Terrace, Robert Gunawardene Mawatha, Colombo 06.
- ii. Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) No. 24/2, 28th Lane, off flower Road, Colombo 07.
- iii. Campaign for Free & Fair Elections (CaFFE) 100/19, Welikadawatte, Rajagiriya.
- iv. Mothers and Daughters of Lanka (MDL) No. 117, Thaladena, Malabe.
- v. Movement for Free and Fair Election (MFFE) 24/13 Wijayaba Mawatha, Nawala Road, Nugegoda.
- vi. Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) No 5/1, Elibank Road, Colombo 5.
- vii. National Polls Observations Center (NPOC) 2nd Floor, Karlshure Court, 195, Baseline Road, Colombo 09.

95. National level officers of aforesaid organizations namely, Executive Director, Co- convener and Coordinator, Secretary, National Organizer and Senior Managers were granted permission to enter in to any polling station in the island and carry out observations and permission was granted to District Organizers of the relevant organizations to enter in to any polling station in the district and observe. Organizations namely, Sri Lanka Lawyers Association, Net for Election Monitors (NEM), Lanka Polls Watch, Senior Citizens Forum of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Alumni and Professionals Association contributed by submitting their observation reports with regard to the periods of previous elections and pre election periods or by expressing views at the meetings of Permanent Representatives of Political Parties. These organizations were therefore, informed that there was no objection in observing the proceedings of the polling station from outside. However, Sri Lanka Lawyers Association consented to act in collaboration with the aforesaid observer organizations and only the nominated persons of Sri Lanka Alumni and Professionals Association (SLAPA) and Sri Lanka Senior Citizens Forum were allowed to enter into the polling stations in polling divisions and observe the proceedings.

96. *Of those local observer organizations, People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) and Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) were the only observer organizations who were granted permission to deploy static observers inside the polling station and observe the proceedings and* the observers of other observer organizations except who were given

permission, were allowed to observe up to the entrance of the premises of the polling station. Heads of these organizations were informed to appoint persons, who were not accused for their political affiliations and to provide necessary instructions to carry out their observations independently. They were further emphasized that such organizations would be removed from observations, if they were unable to follow the instructions. Observer organizations were informed to handover, to the District Returning Officers, the lists of names of observers deployed for observations at district level, at least one week prior to the poll date and if not, problems may arise as the particulars of the respective observers could not be immediately submitted to the Senior Presiding Officers who were in charge of the polling stations. Immediately after concluding the observation duties of polling stations on the poll day, observers took action to handover the report regarding the observation of polling stations to the senior presiding officer of the polling station.

97. People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) and People's Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) carried out their observations by deploying foreign observers in addition to their local observers with the prior permission of the Commissioner of Elections.

98. Providing opportunity to local monitoring institutions to observe counting of votes for the first time in the history of the elections, is a significant event that took place during the Presidential election 2015. With the objective of eliminating the misbeliefs of political parties and other organizations that various misconducts were taking place at the count, following observer organizations were authorized to observe the polling and the counting of votes as well.

- i. People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)
- ii. Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)
- iii. People's Campaign for Free & Fair Elections (CaFFE)
- iv. Mothers and Daughters of Lanka (MDL)
- v. Movement for Free and Fair Elections (MFFE)
- vi. Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL)

Foreign Observer Organizations

99. After declaring the Presidential Election, a meeting was held on 21.11.2014 with the participation of the secretaries of recognized political parties, who were willing to contest in the Presidential Election. On the requests made by political party agents at this meeting, the

Commissioner of Elections took action to obtain the assistance of foreign observer organizations for the observation of the Presidential Election. Accordingly, written invitations were sent to the Chairman of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) and to the Chairman of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) on 26.11.2014 and 29.11.2014 respectively, to observe the Presidential Election to be held on 08.01.2015. Also, the Commonwealth Election Monitoring Team has also been invited to observe the Presidential Election, while discussing invitations to the Commonwealth Election Monitoring Team and the European Union Election Monitoring Team. Mr. Jayantha Kulathunge of Eksath Lanka Mahasabha, who was willing to contest in the Presidential Election, objected inviting observers from the European Union to observe the election.

100. The Department of Elections directly coordinated the observers of Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) and the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA). The Department of Elections only intervened to provide the information to the Commonwealth Monitoring Team and to provide the assistance of the District Returning Officers to the observers. They were also allowed to go where ever they wanted to observe voting and counting. After the nomination process, up to 05.01.2015, about 60 observers from the above Asian Organizations came to the island on their time schedules and out of them 25 observers represented the Association of Asian Election Authorities, 35 observers represented the Forum of Election Management Bodies and 6 observers represented the group of Commonwealth Observers.

101. Considering the limited number of observers from the Asian election management institutions arrived in the island till 14.12.2014, they were deployed to observe the district of Colombo and adjacent districts namely, Gampaha and Kalutara providing accommodation in Colombo. During the period from 14.12.2014 to 05.01.2015 observers were given the opportunity from time to time for observing the activities relating to the election in other districts. Not less than four observers were permanently deployed to observe the poll of each electoral district from 05.01.2015 till the end of the poll and counting of votes.

102. Coordinating officers were appointed from Colombo as well as from relevant districts to assist the foreign observers who were deployed to districts and the District Returning Officers were informed to provide them with accommodation considering the need for them to stay in the districts. The District Returning Officers were notified to provide facilities to the foreign observers after they reported to districts, to discuss about the organization of the election with the District Returning

Officers, and Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections and also to arrange discussions with the authorized agents of political parties, agents of local observer organizations as well as with the police.

103. Foreign observers also observed the marking of postal votes conducted at the offices of certifying officers on the two days namely, 23.12.2014 and 24.12.2014. They were also given an opportunity to observe the manner of casting vote at the polling stations on 08.01.2015 as well as counting of ballot papers and activities relating to the declaration of results.

Part VI

Enforcement of Election Laws

104. According to the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, the Police Department is obliged to provide police officers requested by the Commissioner of Elections for election security during an election and to ensure that such officers act in accordance with the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections during the election period. Accordingly, it is the responsibility vested with the Inspector General of Police to enforce the election law, according to the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, from the time of declaring an election up to one week after declaring the result at the end of the election. The Commissioner of Elections, Returning Officers as well as contesting candidates and political parties expect the police to perform the duties relating to enforce the election law.

105. The support received from all stakeholders for the implementation of the presidential election law was immense. Regular operation of the police as well as the Permanent Representative Standing Committee of the Political Parties appointed to enforce the election laws, the representatives appointed on behalf of each candidate, the lawyers, representatives of recognized political parties appointed for each candidate attended in this, provided the opportunity to properly implement the candidate's code of ethics, media guidelines, election dispute resolution rules, etc., that will be explained later in the this report.

106. Immediately after declaring the election, the Commissioner of Elections gave instructions, in writing and through discussions, to the Inspector General of Police and other senior officers of the police about the manner of providing necessary security for the duties relating to receiving of nominations, enforcement of election laws, the poll and the counting of votes. Simultaneously at the district level, District Returning Officers summon senior police officers of the district / province and discuss about the matters relating to the security of the election.

107. When complaints received from relevant parties regarding the enforcement of the election law or about the problems the political parties and candidates had to face during the election campaign, they were immediately informed to the Inspector General of Police to take necessary actions. Complaints regarding the transfers of police officers under political influence were also among them. The Commissioner of Elections took action to call for reports on such complaints and issue necessary instructions to the Inspector General of Police.

Security

108. A separate unit under the supervision of a Deputy Inspector General of Police was established at the Elections Secretariat from the beginning of the election period to immediately enforce the laws relating to the electoral process as well as to take action on complaints without delay. Similarly, at the district level a separate police unit, headed by a Superintendent of Police or an officer of the level of Assistant Superintendent of Police, was established at every District Secretariat. In addition, units were set up to act under the supervision of a Police Inspector or Sub-Inspector at Divisional Secretariats or other public places, focusing on the size of the district and the areas identified as providing special protection. The National Complaints Center, established at the Elections Secretariat, was headed by the Commissioner of Elections with the assistance of the district complaints centers established at district level headed by the District Returning Officers. Opportunity to participate in the national or district level complaints centers was provided to the agents of contesting political parties as well as to the agents of elections observer organizations. These centers were able to take immediate action on the complaints received at district or national level.

109. From the day following the declaring of the election, the police largely contributed to provide security for the Elections Secretariat, all District Secretariats and to the District Elections Offices as well as to enforce the election law. Police took action to provide security by deploying at least two officers in the polling station and apart from that police mobile patrol was organized near the polling stations to provide security to the polling stations on the poll day and the day before the poll. Police performed their duty at a higher level by safely transporting the secured goods including the ballot boxes to the office of the Returning Officer at the end of the poll and by providing security to the Elections Secretariat and to the offices of all District Returning Officers till the end of counting of votes and declaring the result.

Guidelines Issued to Electronic and Print Media

110. To ensure the conduct of a free and fair election in terms of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, the Commissioner of Elections issued all media and political parties in writing on 05.12.2014 the guidelines to be followed by electronic and print media in relation to the Presidential Election and action was also taken to publish these guidelines in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka No. 1890/2 dated 24.11.2014 and the Gazette notice is given as *Sixth Schedule* to this report.

111. Without limiting to issuing of the guidelines to the media, the heads and representatives of all electronic and print media were summoned to the Elections Secretariat and were informed about the responsibility rested with the media in conducting a free and fair election and were requested to assist in conducting a free and fair election by complying with the “media guidelines” set by the Department of Elections.

112. Complaints were received from political parties / candidates, various public organizations as well as from the general public regarding the institutions which did not behave according to the media guidelines and necessary steps were taken to inform the relevant institutions in that regard and to correct them and sometimes to limit such propaganda. These institutions were also informed not to publish notices or speeches made by a candidate to promote the candidature of another candidate. Action was also taken to publish a Gazette notification in that regard in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1894 /18 dated 24.12.2014 and it is given as *Seventh Schedule* of this report.

113. Compared to the previous elections it can be noted that many institutions followed media guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Elections at this election. It is worth noting that media activities could be controlled to a certain extent because of the immediate action taken to limit these activities.

Prevention of the Misuse of State Resources

114. Considering the problems that had to be faced due to the misuse of government resources by political parties and candidates at the Provincial Council Elections held prior to the Presidential Election, steps were taken at the commencement of the Presidential Election to inform the relevant authorities in this regard.

115. In terms of Article 104 B (4) (a) the Commissioner of Elections has the power to prohibit the use of any movable or immovable property belonging to the State for the purpose of promoting or preventing any candidate contesting at an election. Hence, instructions were issued on 22.11.2014 to the Heads of government and semi government institutions, who were in charge of state property *with copies* to the Secretary to the President, Secretary to the Prime Minister / Secretary to the Cabinet of Ministers, Auditor General, Director General of Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption, Heads of three Armed Forces, Inspector General of Police, all District Returning Officers

and all District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections, to take necessary steps to prevent the misuse of government property at the Presidential Election. The instruction letter is annexed as the *Eighth Schedule* to this report and the State institutions were asked to appoint a separate officer to respond to all inquiries made by the Department of Elections and to inform the Commissioner of Elections about the officer appointed to do this.

116. Copies of the letter related to above 115, which states that the misuse of government resources is an offence, were sent also to all recognized political parties and the Permanent Representatives of political parties as well as to all electronic and print media. As a result, many complaints from political parties, civil organizations as well as from the general public were received by the Elections Secretariat and the Complaint Centers established in the offices of District Returning Officers regarding misuse at various government institutions. The relevant institutions were enquired to confirm the accuracy of the complaints received and when violation of the instructions was revealed, responsible persons were warned to stop such activities immediately.

117. Orders were also issued prohibiting the use of all movable and immovable properties of state institutions for political purposes, distribution of various goods among the public by conducting of ceremonies, spending government funds and implementation of programs to provide special relief to the public, engagement of government employees for political activities, new recruitments to the public service and giving promotions, transfers to officers etc., to promote or prejudice a candidate.

118. Public officers, even if they have political rights, should not work during his/her office time or his/ her vacations to promote candidates or political parties. Any public officers who belonged to the category of peace officers do not have political rights. Also the staff officers of government or semi government institutions do not have political rights. In view of this situation the Commissioner of Elections issued instructions to the heads of such institutions to make the officers of their workplace aware in this regard.

119. The Commissioner of Elections had to issue instructions to prevent the participation of the District Secretary who was the Returning Officer, and other staff officers, who were engaged in organizing preliminary activities of the election as Assistant Returning Officers, in the functions organized by the Ministries, Departments during the election period.

Election Complaints Investigation Bureau

120. To enforce the election law it is essential to implement a mechanism to immediately get information about the activities, which humiliate the election law and to inform the complainant that law is properly implemented. A national complaint center as in previous elections was established at the Elections Secretariat under the supervision of the Commissioner of Elections and was named the Election Complaints Investigation Bureau. Activities of this Bureau established to receive complaints, commenced immediately after declaring the nomination notice, by deploying a staff with an Additional Commissioner of Elections as the head, who was in charge of the complaints center during several elections in the past and three retired Assistant Commissioners of Elections and a supporting staff to assist him. In consultation with the Inspector General of Police a team of police officers under a Deputy Inspector General of Police and a Superintendent of Police was attached to the Election Complaints Investigation Bureau. Upon the acceptance of the nominations, permission was granted to the agents of contesting political parties to monitor these activities and local observer organizations were also informed that they could also be present in the Bureau. A District Complaint Center was established in the office of each District Returning Officer, which was headed by the District Returning Officer and with a police unit functioning under a Superintendent of Police or an Assistant Superintendent of Police. Agents of contesting political parties as well as representatives of local observer organizations were also permitted to attend them.

121. The main objective of establishing the Bureau and District Complaints Centers was to receive complaints about the violations of election law and violent activities during the election period and provide them with reasonable solutions. It was especially expected, by this program to conduct a free and fair election by minimizing the promotion or prejudice of the political parties and candidates and providing the opportunity for voters to cast their votes freely. It is not an easy task for the voter to visit the police stations and make complaints, spending money and time. By these complaints centers, opportunity could be provided to everybody to easily submit complaints and to get prompt solutions. Main objective of this arrangement was to construct the conducive background to conduct a free and fair election.

122. Immediately after receiving nominations, divisional level complaint centers headed by an Assistant Returning Officer were also established at some areas in addition to the District Complaint Center, considering the difficulties of the district and recognizing them as areas where special security was required according to the experiences gained at previous elections. In addition to these special

centers Divisional Coordinating Offices were also established at all Divisional Secretariats to cover the activities of the day before the poll and on the poll day. It was possible to submit the complaints relating to the election to these offices as well. In many instances these offices were established in association with the Divisional Secretariats. A security unit under an Inspector of Police or a Sub Inspector of Police with several other police officers was also established for each Divisional Complaints Center.

123. Telephone and fax facilities were provided to all these complaint centers to facilitate the easy submission of complaints. Particulars of these places, viz. telephone, fax numbers etc., were published through media releases. Opportunity was provided to submit complaints by visiting the complaints center or by sending written complaints through fax.

124. With this organizational structure, officers could be deployed promptly for enquiries. When the Elections Complaints Investigation Bureau received a complaint relating to a certain district, the District Returning Officer could be informed immediately and gets it inspected through the District Complaint Center and also the relevant police station could be notified directly to inquire and take action on the complaint. Immediate solutions for many problems, that hamper the holding of a free and fair election, could be obtained through this process.

125. Action was taken to carry out the activities at the centers more efficiently by deploying more officers and police officers at every Complaint Center on the day before the poll and on the poll day. Especially, the officers and other necessary facilities for the Elections Complaints Investigation Center at the Elections Secretariat were also increased on the poll day. Therefore, receiving of complaints and conducting of enquiries could be carried out easily. Registration of the complaints received and submission of their copies to the political party agents and observers were promptly done at the same time. Instructions were given to report immediately to the Elections Complaints Investigation Center on the manner in which the Returning Officer or the police took action in regard to the complaint. Opportunity was given to political parties and observer organizations present in the center to get confirmed on the accuracy of the information received, by providing them with the copies of the responses, when they were received at the centers.

126. The number of complaints received from 22.11.2014, the day on which the Elections Complaints Investigation Center was established at the Elections Secretariat, to the date of poll and the categorization of complaints is shown in *Table VIII*.

127. Notable Incidents in the Enforcement of Election Laws during the Presidential Election

127.1 Secretary of the New Democracy Front wrote to the Commissioner of Elections that there was a plan to create a state of terror all over the island during the period (from 02.01.2015 to 07.01.2015) immediately before the election day of 08.01.2015 and exterminate politicians. The Commissioner of Elections alerted the Inspector General of Police, who took immediate action with the assistance of the Special Task Force to maintain law and order in the country. The action taken by the Inspector General of Police to be vigilant about the activities related to the Presidential election and to control riot by engaging a police force of 32,000 personnel is commendable.

127.2 On the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, the District Returning Officer and the Deputy Commissioner of Elections provided the opportunity to address the public at the same place when the stage set up for public addressing by a presidential candidate at Waduramba, Galle was set on fire by opponents, the day before the scheduled meeting.

127.3 When sudden floods occurred and the security forces engaged in disaster management activities, there were complaints that the funds allocated for the purpose had been used for the promotion of presidential candidates. The Commissioner of Elections intervened and arrested it.

127.4 An attempt to distribute an article prepared to get the support of a particular community to a presidential candidate (later reported to be forged), through the postal facilities available to Members of Parliament was thwarted.

127.5 On the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, the attempt to distribute stamped envelopes stamped containing promotional material (denoting a safe tomorrow and a

bright future) to the family units of members of the security forces was prevented by the intervention of the Postmaster General.

- 127.6 Complaints were received about the distribution of sil cloths to those who observed sil at the Somaloka temple, Maligawatta, Colombo North. It was the first time complaints of such nature were made. Action was taken to alert the police and other election stakeholders and it was possible to prevent such activities, in other parts of the country. The appeal against the decision of the case, that the accused were found guilty, filed by the Financial Crimes Investigation Division of the Colombo High Court against obtaining Rs. 600 million from the Tele Communication Regulatory Commission and distribution of sil cloths using this money is being heard at the Supreme Court.
- 127.7 Action had to be taken to thwart publicity efforts during the period of silence, in which propaganda was stopped for 48 hours before the poll day, to publish not only documentaries, films, musical shows etc., previously telecast for the promotion of candidates by displaying election symbols / candidate's photos through both television and radio channels, but also religious programs, astral predictions and opinion polls. Not only the officers of the Election Complaints Investigations Bureau but also the Commissioner of Elections immediately had to intervene.
- 127.8 Propaganda video films to solicit support to candidates were not allowed to be shown in places other than where authorized campaign meetings were held. There were complaints that this order had been repeatedly violated in one of election propaganda office in the Trincomalee district and videos were displayed in the evenings and at night and no action was taken to stop this. The Assistant Returning Officer in charge of the subject had to visit the place accompanied by investigating officers of the complaints unit and police officers to inquire into these complaints. The Assistant Returning Officer warned the parties to stop this illegal activity and there had been a problematic situation. A complaint was made by politicians and the election officials had to appear before courts on the following day when they had to engage in the duty of issuing postal ballot papers. The court later decided that there was no ground to proceed with the hearing of the case. But the complaint made by election officials on illegal display of propaganda video is yet to be heard.

- 127.9 On the day of the presidential election, the Commissioner of Elections visited the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation with his assistants to suspend the telecasting of a statement made by a prominent politician about a presidential candidate.
- 127.10 The attempt to print and distribute almanac (litha) containing a picture of a presidential candidate using Samurdhi fund could be prevented by the interference of the Commissioner of Elections.
- 127.11 On the 6th of January 2015, the day before the ballot papers and ballot papers were issued, the Assistant Commissioner of Elections in the Kegalle District had to intervene to prevent illegal activities in the Rambukkana area which were carried out by influencing voters.
- 127.12 A supporter of one of the candidates for the presidential election died due to a violent incident in the Pelmadulla area in Ratnapura District three days before the presidential election held on 08.01.2015. Judicial action on this homicide which was happened during the presidential election period is yet to be finalized.

Part VII

Rights of Candidates

Providing Radio and Television Campaigning Facilities for Candidates

128. In terms of Section 117 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, candidates were provided with the opportunity of applying for the use of broadcasting and telecasting facilities, free of charge from Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, within one week from the date of nominations. Each candidate was able to obtain two air time slots, 90 minutes per each, from each Corporation. Candidates could use the 90 minutes at three occasions, not less than 15 minutes and not exceeding 30 minutes each. The law also says that the use of broadcasting and telecasting should end 72 hours before the date of poll.

Candidates were also informed that their photographs and the election symbols could be exhibited at the telecasting and to get the assistance of another speaker, if he wants to speak in the other national language and if he uses his 90 minutes on three occasions. They were further informed that if their views attempt to assassinate the characters of other candidates than to explain the matters relating to the policies of the parties, such speeches would not be telecast or broadcast.

Free telecasting and broadcasting periods to each candidate was decided by lots drawn before the representatives of each candidate at the Elections Secretariat on 11.12.2014 and the officers of the Department of Elections, with the Chairmen of Rupavahini and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporations in attendance. The total air time allotted for 19 candidates was 28 hours and 30 minutes.

Facilities to the Candidates to send Election Material to the Voters Free of Postage

129. In terms of section 114 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, candidates are entitled to send one election material to the voters, postage free, at any time between the day of nominations and the tenth day before the day of poll.

130. Post Master General had to determine the mechanism of handing over the relevant material to the post and the conditions relating to the nature of the material. As per the letter sent by the Post Master General on 28.11.2014 to the candidates in this regard, the weight of the material should be 30g or less, and length should be 300mm and width should be 100mm. In this letter the post offices in each district where the relevant matter should be handed over were also mentioned. Candidates bought the compact discs from the Department of Elections, which included the particulars to print the addresses of the voters, to post the material easily. It is mentioned in the law that the distribution of these matters shall stop five days prior to the poll day.

131. The Commissioner of Elections had to intervene in the reservation of meeting halls and playgrounds under the local authorities including Maharagama, Moratuwa and Pelmadulla to ensure they are allocated in a manner fair by all candidates. The assistance of permanent representatives and secretaries of political parties has been instrumental in solving these problems.

Part VIII

The Poll

132. The Senior presiding officers, who were in charge of polling stations, the other staff, ballot papers and other goods were dispatched to polling stations on 07.01.2015, the day prior to the poll day. This activity is considered as one of the foremost activities of holding of an election and was carried out at all District Returning Offices.

133. Senior presiding officers, who were travelling to the polling stations as well as Zone Assistant Returning Officers, who were deployed to supervise the activities of the polling stations had to report to the office of the respective District Returning Officer on the day before the poll day. At the end of a discussion with the Returning Officers on the proceedings at the polling stations on the poll day, all those officers who reported, were issued with their formal appointment letters. As in the previous elections the aim of this arrangement was to avoid any person from knowing, the particulars of polling stations where the relevant officers were going to serve prior to the poll day.

134. Necessary arrangements were made for the Senior Presiding Officers to receive the goods from the relevant receiving center according to the polling stations they were appointed to and to travel to the prescribed polling station together with his/ her assistant and police officers in their assigned vehicles. For some polling stations in the Northern Province, support of the Sri Lanka Navy had to be obtained to transport officers together with the ballot boxes and other goods and to get them back at the end of the poll.

135. Except for the senior presiding officers, other poll staff had to report to the polling stations by using public transport facilities. Returning Officers provided facilities to transport officers to the polling stations in the areas where public transport was weak. All officers in the staff were given instructions to report to the polling stations before 2.00 p.m. on the day before the poll day and to participate in the rehearsal on the election, conducted by the senior presiding officer. Returning Officers received reports that the staff sufficient to hold the election has reported to the stations by the prescribed time and they have participated in the rehearsal.

136. It was confirmed by the reports of the Assistant Returning Officers that Senior Presiding Officers of all other districts reported to the polling stations by 2.00 p.m. Officers in charge of supervising the polling stations had to supervise the respective polling stations, attend to deficiencies, if any, and send the first message to the Returning Officers. By that message it was expected to report to the Returning Officers, that the staff together with all Senior Presiding Officers has reported to the polling stations and all arrangements have been made to commence the poll on the following day.

137. Returning Officers informed all Grama Niladharis through Divisional Secretaries to arrange buildings to be used as polling stations by the day before the poll day, and accordingly they prepared the polling stations. However, instructions were given to rearrange the polling stations, if the senior presiding officer thinks that the arrangement of the polling stations was not convenient to the voter.

138. The senior presiding officer arrives at the polling station and checks to see if it is properly arranged, and he notes the attendance of the staff. He/ she also checks and ensures whether the goods received from the Returning Officer are in sufficient amounts and the ballot boxes are functioning. If there is any deficiency, action should be taken to inform the Zonal Assistant Returning Officer attached to his/ her center and obtain the necessary requirements. It was instructed to check the packets of sealed ballot papers, official marks and indelible ink, without opening them. Even though the District Returning Officer has given written instructions to all officers, conducting a rehearsal to address the problems relating to the duties of each officer and to clarify their issues, is considered as a main duty of the senior presiding officer, since instruction classes had not been conducted for junior presiding officers and clerk level officers. This step provides a very useful opportunity to check the knowledge of the officers engaged in election duties as well as to overcome weaknesses and to hold the election on the poll day successfully.

139. Instructions were given to provide facilities to female officers to go to the lodgings they have preferred to or to their own houses and male officers to spend the night at the polling center with the senior presiding officer. Arranging accommodation facilities to all officers at the polling station and the supplying food was the responsibility of the Grama Niladhari, who takes care of the polling station.

140. The message sent to the Returning Officer by the Zonal Assistant Returning Officers after visiting the relevant polling station on the day before the poll day, ensuring that sufficient staff to commence the poll at the scheduled time on the following day has reported, and all other relevant matters were in the proper order, is very important to the Returning Officer, because it confirms that all the pre organizational activities before the poll day have been successfully completed.

Poll Day

141. Since the poll was to be commenced at 7.00 a.m. on the poll day, the Returning Officers advised the staff to report to the polling stations by 6.00 a.m. and to carry out preliminary activities relating to the poll. Accordingly, necessary activities had to be carried out to exhibit instructions for voters, place the cubicles etc. at proper places and to make preparations to seal the ballot boxes. The Commissioner of Elections had informed the agents through candidates that two agents for a candidate could be present at the polling station and it was important to report to the polling station by 6.30 a.m. in order to make the monitoring easy. Prior to commence the poll, the agents were provided with the opportunity to seal the ballot boxes and to check the ballot papers, official stamps, indelible ink and electoral registers, etc., which were issued to the polling station. Prior to sealing the ballot boxes, the polling agents were invited to ensure that there was nothing in the ballot box and if they need, they were allowed to place their seal (by a sticker) inside the ballot box. After the ballot box was sealed by the senior presiding officer, the agents were allowed to stamp the surface of the ballot box. A specimen of each stamp so placed by the agents had to be handed over to the senior presiding officer at the same time. Apart from that, the official stamp which had to be placed on the reverse side of the ballot paper was also decided at the polling station, immediately before the commencement of the poll. Accordingly, Senior Presiding Officers were instructed to select, before the agents, the required number of official stamps out of the stamps which were made available to the polling station according to the number of queues of the polling station. With these actions it was expected to secure the trust of political parties and candidates about the poll.

142. The poll at every polling station in the island commenced at 7.00 a.m. on 8th January 2015. Facilities were provided to 15,044,490 voters to cast their vote at 12,314 polling stations. It was also reported that the voters gathered at many polling stations prior to commence the poll. It may have happened due to the instructions given by the Commissioner of Elections emphasizing the

convenience to the voter as well as to the polling staff by early attendance of voters at the polling stations.

143. Zonal Assistant Returning Officers visited their prescribed polling stations and adjoining areas and carried out their observations. Apart from that, the police also performed their duties through police officers, who stayed in the polling stations and by mobile patrols outside and observed whether any offences relating to the election committed inside or outside the polling stations. Zonal Assistant Returning Officers reported to all District Returning Officers that the activities relating to the election were being carried out without interruption.

144. Divisional coordinating offices were established at the Divisional Secretariats and Returning Officers obtained reports through them regarding the incidents in the polling stations or in the field during the day before the poll as well as on the poll day and took necessary action in that regard. Opportunity was provided to the agents of political parties, agents of observer organizations as well as to the general public to submit their complaints to the Divisional Coordinating Offices. Since the police were also attached to this center, Assistant Returning Officers who were in charge of Divisional Coordinating Offices took action to immediately inspect the places relating to the complaints.

145. It was facilitated for two agents to stay in the polling station representing a candidate. Apart from that, the candidates and election agents were allowed to observe the poll at any polling station in the island and authorized agents and divisional agents were allowed to visit any polling station in the district and in the relevant polling division respectively and observe the poll.

146. In terms of the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 14 of 2014, before requesting a ballot paper, every person who is eligible to cast vote, shall prove his/ her identity at the polling station by producing an identity document. Thus, impersonation was totally eliminated and the activities at the polling stations could be carried out peacefully.

It was instructed at the Presidential election to verify the identity of the voter using one of the following identification documents with a photo, before issuing the ballot papers.

1. National Identity Card
2. Valid passport
3. Valid driving license
4. Pension Identity Card

5. Elders Identity Card
6. Identity card issued for the clergy by the Department for Registration of Persons
7. Temporary Identity Card issued by the Department of Elections

In terms of Section 46 B, newly added to the Presidential Elections Act by Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 35 of 1988, the Commissioner of Elections has been vested with the power to annul the poll of the polling station and hold a fresh poll, if any disturbance occurred in a polling station. This created an environment to carry out the activities of polling stations without any interruption.

147. Senior Presiding Officers were ordered to take action especially to commence the election at 7.00 a.m. on 08.01.2015, end it at 4.00 p.m. on the same day, seal the ballot boxes and to hand over them to the Returning Officers together with other secured material. Polling agents were allowed to seal the ballot boxes once again, which were sealed by using protective adhesive tapes with the National Emblem. In addition, instructions were given to paste the original copy of a special report, prepared by the senior presiding officer, covering the lid and the body of the ballot box and seal it. This report shall be prepared on a carbonized paper in 6 copies and the polling agents, observers in the polling station, other officers of the poll staff as well as the senior presiding officer, in charge of the polling station, should place their signatures on the report stating their names, designations and National Identity Card numbers. Necessary action was taken to insert the second copy of this report in the envelope in which the ballot paper account has been enclosed and to seal it, third copy in the envelope which contains the journal of the senior presiding officer and to hand over other three copies to the agents of three parties, who had signed on the document. By this action, agents of political parties could be satisfied that the ballot box, which has the pasted document with their signatures has been safely handed over to the counting hall. At the end of the poll, senior presiding officer in charge of the polling station, prepares the ballot paper account, on a carbonized paper in 5 copies, stating the number of ballot papers in the ballot box together with some other information and a copy of this account is also given to the polling agents. The ballot box, sealed at the end of the poll was enclosed in a polythene bag, placed a tag on it and the agents were given the opportunity to record its recognition number. Further, a vehicle permit was also issued to any polling agent to follow the vehicle with the ballot box, to the counting center, if he/she wishes to do so. All these actions were special steps to satisfy the contesting parties that the ballot boxes used at the polling station were safely handed over to the center for counting of votes.

148. On the instructions of the Returning Officer, the Senior Presiding Officers sealed the ballot boxes as mentioned above, prepared all declarations and sealed packets and travelled to the center for counting of votes, through the prescribed route in the vehicle attached to the polling station. It was reported that all ballot boxes and sealed packets from all polling stations in the island were received at the offices of the Returning Officers by 9.30 p.m. on the poll day. As the time informed for the political parties / groups for counting of votes was passing out in the afternoon of the poll day, the counting staff reported to the counting centers for the duty of counting votes.

Part IX

Counting of Ballot Papers

149. Provisions regarding the counting of ballot papers and counting of postal votes are laid down in Sections 47 to 59 and in regulations 18 to 28 of the Second Schedule of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 respectively. In terms of Section 47 of the Act, on the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, Returning Officer of the each electoral district has to count the votes and work out the result and submit to the Commissioner of Elections to prepare the total result of the election.

150. Accordingly, District Returning Officer has to select places for counting of votes, appoint counting staff and inform the candidates about the agents to be present at the counting of votes. They will be designed so that the ballot papers of several polling stations situated in one polling division can be counted at one center. Generally, 12, 500 to 15,000 registered voters are selected for one counting center and assigned to counting centers. It was advised to set up counting centers to count about 1500 to 2500 postal voting packets of postal voters at one center. Accordingly, the major responsibility of the District Returning Officer in this regard was to accurately receive the used ballot boxes and other sealed envelopes from polling stations situated in all polling districts of the electoral district, count the ballot papers and postal ballot papers before the agents of candidates and to report to the Commissioner of Elections the number of votes received by each candidate in the electoral district.

151. Counting centers could not be established always considering the number of registered electors as instructed by the Commissioner of Elections due to the location and the facilities available at the counting centers. Since 10 to 15 polling stations had to be assigned to one counting center and facilities in a center had to be provided for about 30-40 staff and about 95 representatives of the candidates, the Returning Officers had to establish centers for counting of votes with difficulty. Instructions were also given to deploy about 15 officers including the chief counting officer for the counting centers for postal votes. There was a total number of 1419 counting halls in all districts. Out of them 1115 were allotted for counting of ordinary ballot papers and 304 halls for counting of postal votes. Details of counting centers established in each district are shown in ***Table IX***. In some instances, all centers for counting of votes in an electoral district could not be established in the same premises and therefore,

they had to be established at several premises. Therefore, in some districts, the results tabulation center has to be located in the premises of counting halls outside the office of the Returning Officer.

152. In terms of the provisions in the Presidential Elections Act, opportunity has to be provided to each candidate to appoint two agents for one center for counting of postal votes and five agents for one center for counting of ordinary ballot papers. In order to enable appointing agents, Returning Officers informed all candidates, polling agents and authorized agents, the details relating to the location of counting halls of the district, the manner of attaching polling stations to them (together with the number of registered voters) and the number of agents to be appointed to them. The date to hand over the appointment letters of counting agents to the Returning Officer as well as the date to report to obtain the formal entry pass prior to the poll day, were also mentioned in the same letter. Instructions were given to the agents, who obtained this pass, to directly report to the counting hall in the afternoon of the poll day. There were requests made at the meetings of political party secretaries as well as at the meetings with permanent representatives of parties to allow candidates to appoint more agents in addition to the amount of agents that could be appointed for a counting hall according to the law in view of the assumption that corruptions would occur at the count. In response to this request, one more agent for a candidate was allowed to enter in to the premises of counting halls and to observe all counting halls in the premises. As has been done at previous elections, opportunity was provided for one counting agent per each candidate to enter in to the counting hall at 3.00 p.m. on the poll day, check the ongoing activities and to stay inside. Counting agents could stay at a prescribed place in the premises and observe the transport of ballot boxes from polling stations to the counting halls, if they wish to do so. Action was also taken by the Department of Elections to issue guidelines to educate the counting agents on their duties.

153. A formal program was prepared at these counting centers to receive ballot boxes together with other secured goods, which were brought by the Senior Presiding Officers at the end of the poll. Assistant Returning Officers in charge of issuing and receiving of goods were instructed to hand over the items required for counting of votes, out of the goods received, to the chief counting officer, and to pack other goods in bags and place them securely in the center. They were also instructed to hand over them to the Returning Officer together with counted ballot papers to be deposited safely, at the end of counting of votes. Protecting the centers for receiving of ballot boxes and other goods, counting premises and other adjoining places were carried out under the supervision of senior police officers of the region.

154. Assisting staff required for counting of votes were collected from within the district and the chief counting officers as well as Assistant Returning Officers were sent to several districts from Colombo. Other Assistant Returning Officers together with the chief counting officers, who were sent to the districts outside Colombo, were trained at Colombo on their duties. During the instructions classes held for senior presiding officers, they were informed about the counting of votes and instructions were given to the chief counting officers to refresh the other staff prior to the commencement of the counting of votes.

155. Counting of votes relating to an electoral district in a Presidential Election does not take a long period of time compared to other elections. But since a large staff was deployed for the Presidential Election, providing food and other facilities to them from the forenoon of the poll day up to the following day, was the responsibility of the Returning Officers. As in the previous elections, Returning Officers did not provide the night meal to the counting staff. Temporary food stalls were established at the counting centers to purchase the meal at a reasonable price. It was decided to pay the officers', the expenditure for dinner.

156. Several basic conditions have to be fulfilled to commence the counting of votes.

- Ballot boxes from all polling stations assigned to the counting center, have to be received.
- Prescribed time for the counting of votes informed to the candidates has, to be elapsed.
- Announcement of the Returning Officer to commence the counting has to be received.

However, if the agents of candidates have not arrived at the counting center before commencing the counting of votes, it was instructed to enquire whether the agents were staying around the areas of the counting hall and they were alerted to come in to the hall by using loud speakers. If all ballot boxes allotted to the counting center have been received, the reports on disturbances at the polling station (Z Report), which had been handed over by the senior presiding officer in charge of the polling station, had to be opened. The information in such report had to be recorded in the report of Chief Counting Officer (ZCCO) and submitted to the Returning Officer and thereafter permission to commence the counting had to be obtained. If the senior presiding officer has reported in the Z report that the environment of the polling station did not support the conduct of a free and fair election in the polling station, instructions were given to check the reports of police officers who were at the polling station, polling agents and observers of the polling station as well as the report of the relevant

Zonal Assistant Returning Officer who have supervised the polling station, and to confirm the information in the report of the senior presiding officer in charge of the polling station. If any disturbance is substantiated by other reports, Returning Officer has to report to the Commissioner of Elections. Decision whether to count the votes of the polling station or not, is made by the Commissioner of Elections after considering the relevant reports as well as the complaints received by the Commissioner of Elections, the statements by the senior presiding officer in charge of the polling station, police officers and Zonal Returning Officer. The Commissioner of Elections takes a decision to annul the poll at such polling station and to hold a fresh poll, if the disturbances such as taking away ballot papers by force, marking ballot papers and stuffing the ballot box by force, undue influence to the agents and the staff, have taken place. At this Presidential Election such situations were not reported from any polling station in the island.

157. Counting of votes is done under three stages as given below.

- In the *First Stage*, the number of ballot papers in each ballot box is counted, accuracy is confirmed and deposited in the trough.
- *Second Stage* consists of two sub stages. Under the first sub stage ballot papers in the trough are taken on to the counting table, ballot papers marked for each candidate are sorted and put in to the respective boxes of each candidate by engaging the whole staff and pass the doubtful ballot papers to the Chief Counting Officer.
- At the second sub stage of the second stage, the officers at the counting table are divided in to five groups namely, sorting group, counting group, checking group, rechecking group and random checking group. Officers are seated according to the seniority and counting and checking is carried out. Here, the box with ballot papers sorted for each candidate in the first sub stage are taken and counting, recounting and checking are carried out under the aforesaid five groups.
- At the end of second stage of counting of votes, Counting Officer has to send to the Returning Officer, the result of the votes received by each candidate from the counting hall. A copy of this results sheet was also handed over to the agents who had signed on the results sheet representing each party. Candidates were also able to prepare a results sheet with the

information they received from their agents. They could compare them with the results prepared by the Returning Officers and it helped building up the trust of agents and candidates regarding the results. Permission was granted to two agents of each candidate to stay at the counting premises with a laptop computer to prepare the result according to the results sheets received from the counting halls through their agents at each counting premises. For this purpose, the Returning Officers arranged to locate them within the counting premises.

- In the *Third Stage*, counting of preferences is carried out. When no candidate has received more than half of the valid votes in the whole island, two candidates who have received the highest and the next highest numbers of votes are set aside and the second and third preferences marked in the ballot papers of other candidates in favor of the top two candidates are counted next. Counting of preferences at the Presidential Election is not complicated like the counting of preferences at other elections and the details of such preferences are not marked in any forms and the preferences are counted according to the ballot papers. The need for counting of preferences to select the president did not arise at any Presidential Election held up to now. However, whether a candidate has received more than half of the valid votes is determined, only after receiving the results of all counting centers by Returning Officers and after forwarding them to the Commissioner of Elections. Therefore, even in the counting centers where the initial steps related to the counting of votes are completed early, the Returning Officers release the officers on the instructions of the Head Office.

Part X

Tabulation and Declaration of the Result

158. In terms of the section 55 of the Presidential Act No. 15 of 1981, the Returning Officers have to prepare a statement of the number of votes obtained by each candidate for each Electoral District based on the statements provided by Counting Officers of each counting center together with centers for counting postal votes and immediately forward it to the Commissioner of Elections. According to the provisions of the Act, only one result is declared at the Presidential Election. The Commissioner of Elections has to declare the result according to Section 64 of the Act. Even though it is cited so in the Act, the result was declared at district level also as the final result was decided on the district result. It was decided to declare the result of the number of votes obtained by each candidate in each polling division in both district and the national levels, the postal vote result of each electoral district and the final result of each electoral district.

159. Returning Officers were instructed to draw their attention on the following matters when selecting the place to tabulate and declare the results at district level *viz.*, easy access to all counting halls, transport facilities, electricity, security arrangements, telephone and fax facilities and easy access to supervise all activities. Generally, it was the auditorium of the District Secretariat that was used for this purpose except in situations where distant places from the District Secretariat had to be used for counting of votes. As in the previous Presidential Elections this time also the Elections Secretariat was used to tabulate and declare the final result at the national level.

160. There is no provision in the Act to declare the results at the electoral district level. Therefore, it is not necessary to inform the contesting candidates regarding the tabulation and the declaration of the result by Returning Officers. But since the prevention of the participation of agents of candidates for this purpose would cause misinformation and doubts, the Returning Officers were instructed to inform the District Authorized Agent and one other person selected by him, about the ability to attend the center for tabulation and declaration of the result. As mentioned earlier, the responsibility of declaring the result is vested with the Commissioner of Elections in terms of Section 64 of the Act. Hence a notice was sent to all candidates and polling agents informing them the date, time and venue of the declaration of the final result and that the contesting candidates, polling agents and one other person selected by each candidate could be present at this place. In addition, as per the agreement reached at the meetings with party secretaries and party representatives, permission was

given to the secretaries of the parties contesting the election and one of the permanent representatives of the political parties, as well as one person representing the recognized monitoring bodies, to arrive at the center for declaring the final result in the Elections Secretariat.

161.

(a) Considering the misbeliefs that prevailed at the previous Presidential Election and the fact that the preparation of the final result was carried out at the Elections Secretariat, it was arranged to allow the agents to closely observe the activities relating to the tabulation of the result. The Commissioner of Elections held a briefing with journalists, political party representatives and leading politicians to eliminate doubts and misunderstandings of opposition representatives on the process of tabulating the results in each counting hall at the district level to tabulating of the results at the Election Secretariat. This could prove that they cannot deliberately make a difference from counting of votes to declaration of the results and there is no room even for a mistake.

(b) Final decisions regarding the tabulation of results were taken after holding several rounds of discussions with the University of Colombo School of Computing and Sri Lanka Telecom, who provided the technical assistance. The Department of Elections was working with these two institutions in the past considering the security, accuracy, confidentiality and trustworthiness of the information system.

162. In the preparation of the final result by the Elections Secretariat the final results of a district tabulated at the Elections Secretariat is compared with the District result, its accuracy is verified and the results of a district is approved. The results sheet which shows the number of votes obtained by each candidate in the counting halls of the district, were collected via fax, reconfirmed by enquiring over the telephone, and in addition, an arrangement to scan and retrieve that information was made this time. Two photocopies of result sheets of each counting hall, were obtained through fax, one copy was handed over to the Division for Tabulation and Preparation of the Result and the other copy was handed over to the unit of University of Colombo School of Computing, stationed in the Elections Secretariat, to prepare the result as per the computer program. Apart from that, scanned results sheets were obtained from the districts by the Computer Unit of the Elections Secretariat and tabulated the result using computers. The Returning Officers were instructed to establish result tabulation centers at the offices of all Returning Officers and deploy experienced senior officers to the centers.

163. A group of officers at the Elections Secretariat, consisting of Additional Commissioners of Elections and other experienced senior staff officers was there for rechecking the results. Results received from the districts and the results obtained from aforesaid three divisions of the Elections Secretariat were submitted to the above group by the staff officers in charge of the divisions. Accuracy of the results was certified and submitted to the Commissioner of Elections to declare the result. Another group of senior staff officers was deployed at the place for declaring the result to assist the Commissioner of Elections, to re - compare and recheck the result received by the Commissioner of Elections. At the end of the final scrutinizing, the Commissioner of Elections declared the result.

164. District Returning Officers faxed the counting hall result with the number of votes received by each candidate and emailed the scanned result sheet to the head office. District Returning Officers thereafter prepared the result at polling divisions level and submitted to the Commissioner of Elections. After receiving the results of all polling divisions of the electoral district and the postal voting result relating to the electoral district, the number of votes received by each candidate for the electoral district was submitted to the Commissioner of Elections. After preparing and checking the result of each electoral district and administrative district, final result was declared by the Commissioner of Elections through electronic media.

165. The Commissioner of Elections confirmed the accuracy of the final result and certified it by placing his signature and issued to the District Returning Officers and the media. Electronic media had to be registered at the Department of Elections to obtain results and the results to the print media were issued through the Department of Government Information. Electronic media entered into a contract with the Department of Elections to obtain the right to telecast official results after paying Rs. 70,000 per one institution and Rs. 20,000, per other channels under such media institution. Nine television media institutions, 8 Radio channels, 6 web sites, 3 online newspapers and 5 mobile phone SMS institutions got registered after paying relevant fees to obtain the results. Results were immediately handed over to the registered media institutions electronically through a secured computer network and the necessary computer network and communication facilities were provided by Sri Lanka Telecom. Election results at polling division and electoral district levels were provided one by one, through a secured computer network as stated above. The University of Colombo School of Computing and Sri Lanka Telecom took care of the security of the computer network until the final result of the Presidential Election was issued. The result, which was certified by the Commissioner of Elections, was firstly faxed to the District Returning Officer and secondly to the Director of

Government Information, to be declared. Director of Government Information released the results to all local and foreign newspaper institutions.

166. A breakdown of the computer server, where the data was obtained by the media institutions from the network system of the School of Computing of University of Colombo, which released the results to media, occurred after mid night of the poll day and therefore, the results could not be handed over electronically to the television institutions for a period of about ½ hour. But during this period too, the results certified by the Commissioner of Elections, were faxed to the District Returning Officers. According to the enquiry made in this regard, it was revealed that, this has happened due to the rechecking of their service files within a very short period of time that is even less than a second by the media institutions as they were keen to announce the results immediately.

167. Due to the misbeliefs spread after declaring the results of the previous Presidential Election 2010 and considering the views of the agents of contesting political parties, permission was granted to the candidates and two agents per one candidate and one observer of each observation organization, to be present and observe the activities of the center for tabulation and declaring results at the Elections Secretariat, an arrangement that has never been made in presidential elections in the past. As a tradition, arrangements were made to inform all candidates of the time of declaring the final results and to inform them to arrive at that time. Opportunity was also provided to the agents, who participated in the process, to record the results at the place for declaring the result. Therefore, there was no room for any political party or candidate to express doubts about the final result.

168. The total numbers of votes received by each candidate from each electoral district, submitted by the Returning Officers of 22 electoral districts of the island, were compared with the documents prepared at the Elections Secretariat and its accuracy was confirmed. Then the Commissioner of Elections declared the number of votes received by each candidate for the whole island and the candidate elected as the President. Candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena obtained 6,217,162 votes which was 155,436 more than the half of votes cast, i.e. 6,061,726, of the total number of votes, i.e. 12,123,452. Therefore, the need to counting the preferences did not arise at the Presidential Election 2015 and this was the final result according to Section 56 (2) of the Presidential Elections Act. Thus, in terms of Section 64 (2) of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, the Commissioner of Elections declared the candidate of New Democratic Front Mr. Maithripala Sirisena elected as the President, at the Elections Secretariat at 9.38 a.m. on 09.01.2015. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, candidate of New Democratic Front and several other candidates participated at this event. The notice regarding

the election of the candidate, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, as the President was published in the *Extra Ordinary Gazette* No. 1896/ 26 on the same day, i.e. 09.01.2015. The total number of votes received by each candidate at this Presidential election is shown in **Table VI** and the number of votes received according to the polling divisions under each electoral district is shown in **Table XI**.

Part XI

Costs Incurred for the Election

169. This Presidential Election was held island - wide in 25 administrative districts and 15,044,490 voters were provided with necessary facilities, counting of votes was taken and the result was announced. The total cost incurred for this purpose was Rs. 2,706 million. Accordingly, the cost incurred per one registered voter at this Presidential Election was Rs. 179.87.

170. The cost borne by the Department of Police, Postal Department, Department of Government Printing and the Department for Registration of Persons was Rs. 881 million. The balance Rs. 1,825 million (67.4%) out of the total expenditure incurred for this Presidential Election, Rs. 2,706 million, was incurred directly by the Department of Elections.

171. For the activities relating to this Presidential Election, the Commissioner of Elections provided financial assistance to four Government Departments and the cost incurred by those four Government Departments namely, the Police Department, Postal Department, Department of Government Printing and the Department for Registration of Persons is shown below as a percentage of the total cost.

Department	Cost Incurred Rs.	Percentage
Postal Department	384,999,999.90	14.22%
Police Department	373,863,605.57	13.81%
Department of Printing	120,623,570.69	4.45%
Department of Registration of Persons	1,719,741.95	0.06%
Total	881,206,918.11	32.54%

172. The Department of Government Printing incurred Rs. 120,623,570.69 for this Presidential Election and 63.5% of this total cost was incurred to print ballot papers. Another huge expenditure under printing was born for the printing of official poll cards and it was Rs. 21,604,936.33. That task has been accomplished by the Department of Elections by paying money to the private sector.

173. The cost incurred by the Department of Police was Rs. 373, 863,605.57. Out of it a sum of Rs. 23,203,200.00 was borne by the Special Task Force, Ministry of Defense and the Department of Civil Defense. Out of the provisions allocated to the Police Department, Rs. 218 million and Rs. 90 million

were incurred to pay combined allowances of the police officers and to obtain fuel for police vehicles, respectively. With the permission of the Commissioner of Elections, Rs. 99.4 million was spent by the Police Department to obtain additional vehicles for election duties, on hire basis and Rs. 24 million was borne to remove illegal notices.

174. During the period of an election, there are certain special duties to be carried out by the Postal Department. For this purpose, the Commissioner of Elections allocated financial provisions to that Department. Accordingly, Rs. 384,000,000.00 was allocated to the Postal Department. Out of these provisions Rs. 216 million, Rs. 138 million Rs. 13 million and Rs. 07 million were incurred for over time duties of employees, stamp and postage, documents and for fuel, respectively.

175. The total cost of this election can be classified as follows according to the nature of the cost.

Nature of the cost	Cost Incurred Rs.	Percentage
1. Removal of illegal exhibits	24,026,298.78	0.89%
2. Expenditure on foreign observers	35,620,676.67	1.32%
3. Constructions and Repairs	56,427,210.09	2.09%
4. Electricity	108,821,690.60	4.02%
5. Stamps and postage	137,642,661.45	5.09%
6. Printing costs	144,009,403.32	5.32%
7. Welfare costs	148,084,094.76	5.47%
8. Services including water, telephone and other costs	173,008,674.65	6.39%
9. Vehicle rental	182,989,324.18	6.76%
10. Fuel	185,847,238.96	6.87%
11. Stationery / Office equipment	207,340,925.93	7.66%
12. Salaries, overtime, travelling and allowances	1,302,488,631.15	48.12%
Total	2,706,306,830.54	100.00%

176. The highest percentage of the total cost incurred for this Presidential Election, 48.12%, was incurred for the payments made to the staff. The next highest percentage, 7.66%, has been paid for stationery and office equipment. Out of the total cost, 6.87%, 6.76%, 5.47%, 5.32%, 5.09% and 4.02% had to be incurred for fuel, rented vehicles, welfare, printing, stamp and postage and electricity, respectively.

177. One hundred and seventy three million rupees was incurred under the services and other costs. It includes Rs. 97 million paid for Grama Niladharis for providing of services to polling stations, Rs. 11 million borne for water supplies and Rs. 08 million spent for communication facilities.

Part XII

Observations and Recommendations

Public Service

178. Public employees are vested with the responsibility to assist the Department of Elections and the Returning Officers for holding the elections. Public officers as well as officers of the Central Bank are deployed for poll and counting duties. But employees of statutory boards and corporations are not included in this. For an island - wide election a large number of many public employees was required for preliminary organizational activities as well as polling, counting and the declaration of the result. Therefore, immediately after declaring an election the foremost duty of the Department of Elections and the District Returning Officers is to send data sheets to the respective institutions to obtain particulars to carry out a census on the public employees and vehicles of Ministries, Departments and various institutions. The Heads of the respective institutions are bound to provide information about all officers and vehicles of his / her institution, but in recent years there has been a tendency of these officials to be negligent about this situation. While many institutions provide information of all employees and vehicles on the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, some organizations neglect to pay proper attention in this regard. Further, in some instances information only of the officers who wish to go for election duties were reported while keeping the maximum number of the vehicles owned by the institution and providing only few vehicles for election duties, in spite of the instructions given by the Commissioner of Elections. Therefore, the Commissioner of Elections had to make a huge effort to find the necessary resources required for the election. Sometimes circular instructions had to be given through the Secretary to the President directing to submit particulars of staff and vehicles of all institutions, to the Commissioner of Elections. While many public employees perform election duties happily, there are others who try to escape from election duties considering only the difficulties in staying away from home for one or two days for polling and counting duties, and the difficulties in the process of counting of preferences. It is necessary to take action to amend laws to notify the administrators that it is mandatory to provide all eligible officers and all the vehicles belonging to the institutions and to make available the resources necessary at the request of the Commissioner of Elections in order to ensure the success of the forthcoming elections under this situation.

179. Although the staff officers of the public service cannot enjoy political rights, the employees who do not fall into the category of staff are entitled for political rights. However, the judiciary officers, members of armed forces, police officers and peace officers are not entitled to enjoy political rights. In the organization of elections the Department of Elections has to utilize officers who have political rights and also officers who do not have political rights. The question of whether the officers can be used for election duties will arise, if they engage in the promotion of political parties or candidates during the elections, even though they have political rights. If such incident occurs, the Commissioner of Elections will receive complaints from political parties / candidates as well as from the concerned public. Even the officers with political rights should be informed through the heads of the institutions not to engage in promotional activities of political parties / candidates by working out of office hours or on leave from duty or under the cover of duty during the election period, and if the officers selected for election duties engage in such activities, necessary action against them should be taken in the future.

180. Secretaries to the Ministries, Heads of Departments and institutions, who are at the highest level of the Public Service, may have to take certain actions during the period of the election, due to political influence even if they are reluctant. In such instances, the secretaries and heads of institutions should show the necessity to comply with the law by informing the relevant parties about the legal complications of such issues and the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections. But there are officers who do not follow the law and support the preparations by showing the ways to by-pass the law. They should not hesitate to point out that it is impossible to implement under political pressure what cannot be implemented. They should not hesitate to say that in the absence of a written request, such things cannot be done. Otherwise the election process will be ridiculed. Necessary steps have to be taken in future, to take action against the officers when they violate the election law.

Postal Voting and Provision of Other Facilities

181. Government employees who engage in election duties as well as employees in certain related essential services possess the right to vote by post. Applications have to be made to obtain postal voting facilities within 10 days from the date of publishing the election notice under section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act. If this period is extended by another week, the number of persons who apply for postal voting may be enormous and therefore, a bulk of duties may have to be performed during a very short period of time. In relation to the previous Presidential Election 626,953 postal voting applications were received and after scrutinizing them, 541,452 applications were accepted.

Many functions namely, receiving of applications for postal voting, checking, and informing the applicants whether their applications have been accepted or rejected, preparation of the register for postal voting, issuing of ballot papers for postal voters, activities relating to the marking of postal ballot papers and reaccepting of used and unused postal voting packets by the Returning Officers, have to be performed within a very limited period of time. Many complaints have been received by the Returning Officers even on some minor shortcomings in this process. Election periods are determined by election laws. Therefore, the extension of the period for postal voting will not provide a solution to this, because if it is done, the election could not be held during the specified period of time. Therefore, a comprehensive program on the postal voting process should be implemented to educate the officers who are eligible for postal voting as well as those who are engaged in essential duties. For that, officers need to be trained and educated and legislation needs to be made. Action must be taken in future elections to provide voting facilities to officers and employees of government teaching hospitals, ports, and airports etc., who are performing essential services on the poll day in island wide elections, to exercise their vote at a polling station close to their place of work.

182. In the current postal voting system, the requests made by government servants to exempt them from election duties due to non - application for postal voting, or due to the rejection of postal voting applications as well as requests to release from the essential services to go and cast their votes at the normal polling stations, have become a problem for the Returning Officers in holding an election. It is important to note that the release of such officers has implications for the proper functioning of an election on one hand and the maintenance of essential services on the other. All eligible voters should have the opportunity to cast their vote and the impact of the failure in that regard on a free and fair election should also be considered, if they are not able to apply for postal voting or are not allowed to go to the polling booth, due to rejection of the application.

183. In applying for postal voting, some members of security forces obtain the particulars through somebody else to fill up their applications. In filling up applications it is possible that the information of some other voter who has the same name in the same polling district is inadvertently written in the postal voting application. Sometimes this may happen by design and deprives the genuine voter of his voting right, which also denies the opportunity of that person to go to the polling station and cast his vote. The Department of Elections cannot do anything about it, but the genuine voter can take legal action against the person who applied for postal voting. There is no precedent in this regard. However, the Department has taken several measures to curb such situations. Even these measures do not provide to be comprehensive and therefore, it is opportune that postal voting facility is revisited.

The interest and enthusiasm of the public to develop voting systems for citizens abroad, as well as for the use of the Electronic Voting Machines, further discussion of the use of such new technologies is needed.

Problems associated with the use of Indelible Ink

184. In terms of Section 36 of the presidential Elections Act, the little finger of the left hand of voter has to be marked with the appropriate mark before issuing a ballot paper. The Department of Elections uses imported ink pens for this purpose and due to the problems cropped up at their usage, public trust in election has been at a stake. The problem with this ink is that it does not properly function under certain weather conditions. Complaints from various political parties as well as persons have been received that the ink used was not visible after applying it on the little finger and therefore, a voter could cast vote again. Returning Officers had to provide new ink pens as no ink pen was functioning at some polling stations. However, some question about the requirement of marking the voters when an identity document to confirm the voter is a mandatory to issue a ballot paper. As far as other countries are concerned, voter identification by marking the voter is still practiced in many countries. One may argue that it is appropriate to abolish this system after obtaining the consent of the political parties or by making relevant amendments to the Elections Act, considering the high cost and the fact that the ballot paper is issued only after confirming the identity. Or else the attention may be drawn to change the method of marking i.e. draw a short line on the nail of the little finger by using ink bottles and brushes as is done in some countries. Cost can be reduced and the trust of the voters in the process could be enhanced by using such method.

Political Parties and Independent Candidates

185. During the electoral process the Department of Elections discusses with the secretaries of contesting political parties, their agents and when independent candidates or independent groups appear, with the candidates or their agents as well as with the leaders of independent groups. At this Presidential Election 17 out of 19 candidates represented political parties. The Department of Elections directly contacted the secretaries of the respective political parties and election agents on behalf of all candidates, election agents and authorized agents at district level. Participation of two independent candidates personally in the meetings or making their agents to participate in the meetings made the coordination easy. The Commissioner of Elections conducted meetings with party secretaries and polling agents once in two weeks and informed them the organization of the election.

Weekly discussions were held with the permanent representatives of political parties and the responsibilities vested with the candidates and their agents in organizing the election were explained. Lengthy discussions were conducted at these meetings on the appointment of polling agents and counting agents and regarding the manner in which the candidates should act in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

186. Even though instructions were given as above, there were problems at this time too, like in the previous elections, regarding the appointment of polling agents and counting agents which interrupted the electoral process. It was advised that the appointment of polling agents in a polling division should be done through one agent, appointed for each polling division and the appointment of counting agents should be done only by the authorized agents of the district. It was informed that these appointments could be done either by the election agent or the candidate, at exceptional occasions. However, incidents were reported where the appointments were made both by the candidate authorized to appoint agents and by the authorized agent. The Returning Officers therefore had to face problematic situations at the beginning of the poll. Same situation was reported in the appointment of counting agents. Appointments of some counting agents had been done by persons who were not authorized to appoint them and there were instances where the appointments of counting agents for one counting center were made by both the authorized agent and the candidate. Since the Returning Officers had to spend extra time to correct these situations, it badly affects the whole organizational structure. Therefore, in order to eliminate this situation in the future, attention of the party secretaries has to be drawn to the importance of submitting the lists of their representatives within the specified period of time as directed in the Act and according to the instructions given by the Commissioner of Elections. The lists of those authorized to appoint polling agents and enumerators should be sent by the Returning Officers to the political party secretaries and authorized agents in advance, and ensure that no agents are appointed by outsiders, and if such appointments are made the concerned parties should be made to know such appointees will not be allowed to enter the polling stations or counting halls.

Election Propaganda

187. Sections 68 to 74 of the Presidential Elections Act describe the manner of conducting public meetings for the promotion of candidates, holding of processions, printing and distribution of leaflets in relation to the election, exhibition of notices and maintaining Elections Offices during the election period under certain limitations and the manner of carrying out activities on the poll day. After declaring the election, the Commissioner of Elections discussed with the secretaries of political parties

and provided the relevant Act to them. After accepting nominations the Commissioner of Elections educated the candidates, party secretaries, polling agents, authorized agents and local agents and provided them with the Act and advised on the importance of following them. At the same time, the Commissioner of Elections provided necessary instructions and relevant Acts to the police in charge of law enforcement, in addition to the instructions issued by the Inspector General of Police. It is expected from the police that it takes immediate action to inquire into the complaints made with the police. But the political parties/ candidates as well as those who are responsible for enforcing the law consider that the limitations on election campaigns as impractical. Therefore, violation of election laws by the candidates and their followers has become a common practice today. Though the exhibition of cutouts and banners at public places is prohibited, there were instances where the prohibition was ignored, and the law was violated.

188. It was observed that the police as the agency responsible for enforcing the law had difficulties in giving priority to the incidents of violations of election law, providing security to the people's representatives and candidates, security duties related to the election, during the election period of about two months, in addition to their day to day normal duties.

189. Though the Commissioner of Elections reduced some restrictions related to election campaign after coming into agreement with party secretaries and representatives of parties, the followers of parties were not concerned about it and continued to carry out their activities in their normal way without any control. These irresponsible activities adversely affect the holding of a free and fair election. Candidates, who can spend large sums of money, carry out their propaganda in a large scale to exhibit their popularity and power. This causes injustice to other candidates. In addition, the adverse effect to the environment by the propaganda work using polythene-like substances is very high. In view of this situation, immediate action should be taken to control such activities. These problems may be solved to a certain extent by fixing a maximum limit of campaign spending to candidates, providing equal facilities to all candidates to exhibit a certain number of notices, cutouts etc., and providing common places by the government to exhibit campaign material without disturbing the general public. In the alternative, action has to be taken to create a mechanism to implement the law strictly.

190. Problems faced by candidates and political parties are also limitless in reserving places to conduct election propaganda meetings. Political parties and candidates in power, reserve all places for their meetings as a habit, overriding the campaigns of other parties. Equal opportunities for every

candidate were lost. Therefore, the authorities in charge of such places should be informed to give equal opportunity to every party in allocating places for election propaganda meetings.

Use of Public Property for the Promotion of Political Parties and Candidates

191. Under Article 104 B (4) (a) of the Constitution, the Election Commission / the Commissioner of Elections is vested with power during the period of an election to prevent the use of any movable and immovable property belonging to the government for the promotion or the demotion of the election of a party, independent group or candidate contesting at the election. At the beginning of the election the Commissioner of Elections issued necessary guidelines to the officers and institutions in charge of government property including the Secretaries to the Ministries, **with copies** to Secretary to the President, Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretary to the Cabinet, Auditor General, Director General of the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery and Corruption, Additional Secretaries to all Ministries, Heads of three armed forces, Inspector General of Police, Returning Officers of all Districts and District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections. The circular No. PRE / 2015/43 dated 22.11.2014 under the heading of ***“Prevention of the Misuse of the Property belonging to the Government and Government Corporations, Statutory Boards, and the Limitation of the Recruitments / Promotions / Transfers of the Officers, Employees during the Period of the Presidential Election”*** has been sent by post and is annexed to this report as **Eighth Schedule**.

192. Centers for receiving complaints were established at the Elections Secretariat and also at District Secretariats to receive complaints from various organizations and candidates about violations of above circulars during the election period. After receiving complaints regarding the misuse of public property for the promotion of political parties/candidates as above, the relevant government institutions were questioned and were given instructions to stop such violations. There were noticeable complaints namely, related to the misuse of government vehicles and buildings, use of government officers to promote the candidates, distribution of goods among voters that were purchased by spending government funds, use of stamps issued to Members of Parliament for campaign purposes of candidates, use of public functions for the victory of candidates and undue influence of voters through government officials. Action was taken by the police and special officials deployed by the Commissioner of Elections to prevent these actions, but it was not possible to completely eliminate such actions because of the advocacy of some government officers and police officers for these illegal activities. Therefore, it is proposed to file a document on such complaints and the action to be taken in this regard at the Elections Secretariat.

193. One of the reasons for this is the way elections are being held in Sri Lanka. The presidential election, parliamentary elections, provincial council elections and local government elections are held periodically, and those in power who hold people's representative positions often target the candidates who are contesting the election and use the state resources in their custody, to promote them. This situation is further exacerbated by the fact that those in power are taking every possible action to somehow win over their relatives who are contesting the elections, which is still a trend in Sri Lanka.

194. The failure of the higher officials who are in charge of the management of government resources to perform their duties and the failure to follow the instructions of the election administrators are the direct causes for such situation. Majority of officers assist the Commissioner of Elections for an unbiased, free and fair election, but there are some others who are reluctant to follow the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections and sometimes give advice to the political parties and candidates about the way of not following such instructions. In order to avoid this situation, laws to take strict disciplinary action against the officers who do not follow the instructions issued by the Commissioner of Elections, suspension of the seats of elected persons who are found guilty of using government resources for the promotion of candidature and also punishing them appropriately, and holding every election in Sri Lanka especially the Presidential Election and the Parliamentary Election on one day, will be of some help.

Use of Electronic and Print Media

195. Electronic and print media provide information to the voter at the time of an election. It is often through media that the competing political parties, groups as well as candidates, carry their future plans after victory, to the common votes, for the development of the country. Media is expected to impartially report information to the candidates of contesting parties or groups that are contesting and if they do not act in a non-partisan manner, it is going to be a gross injustice to another party. The duty of the media, whether public or private, is to convey the truth to the voter as it is. The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution enables the Commissioner of Elections to issue media guidelines to the state media for the prevention of publishing programs which promote or prejudice any party or candidate during the period of an election and to appoint a Competent Authority, when such guidelines are contravened. Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution enables only to issue media guidelines to all media but steps to be taken when they are violated are not given.

196. Apart from issuing media guidelines as above to control media during the Presidential Election period, the Commissioner of Elections called up the heads of government and private media to the Elections Secretariat and gave verbal instructions. It was expected to create a self censorship through this meeting. In addition, complaints of media violations were forwarded to relevant agencies and necessary instructions given. There was an incident where the Commissioner of Elections had to personally visit a government media institution as it was violating the media guidelines at the eve of the 2015 Presidential Election and block the campaign.

197. To assist in the holding of a free and fair election it is not important whether the media belongs to the state or to the private sector. If such institution violates media guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Elections, firstly they can be informed not to do so and to follow media guidelines. If they fail they should be warned that reporting of election news would be suspended until the end of the election. Legislation should be enacted to prevent the reporting of election news until the end of the election when media ignores the guidelines. Otherwise, the intervention of the election management body on behalf of political parties or candidates who are affected by the activities of the media will be minimal.

Holding Public Ceremonies During the Election Period.

198. Government officials have to organize various public ceremonies at district level, even during the election period. Especially, the Government Agent / District Secretary who is the District Returning Officer have to take the lead in organizing these ceremonies. Generally, people's representatives who are participating in these functions represent the government and make speeches promoting the contesting candidates and often the contesting candidates participate in these events. In such an environment, it is a question of how justifiable it is to organize such ceremonies by the same authorities who are organizing the election. At such instances the voter may also have a false view that the Department of Election also indirectly provides an opportunity to promote the government party. This situation was evident in several districts at this election too. Therefore, the Commissioner of Elections informed the respective parties to stop or postpone such activities and not to involve the Government Agents / District Secretaries who are functioning as Returning Officers in charge of the election, in such activities. In terms of the election law, promoting the candidature by conducting ceremonies during the election period is an offence. Therefore, laws have to be brought in to conduct ceremonies without the participation of political parties or candidates, even if they are essential and pre planned. Steps have to be taken in the future to amend the laws not to organize any

ceremony, except national level public ceremonies without the permission of the Commissioner of Elections, when an election is declared and to take necessary disciplinary action against the government officers who do not act accordingly.

Electoral Process That Includes All Eligible Citizens

199. The legal provisions to elect the President are enshrined in the Constitution and in the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981. The powers vested with the Commissioner of Elections to administer the holding of an election are described in section 107 of the Presidential Elections Act. Sections 66 to 87 describe that activities relating to the organization of preliminary activities of an election and especially the offences, corruptions and illegal activities relating to the electoral process and punishments for violating them.

200. In terms of Seventeenth and Eighteenth Amendments to the Constitution the Commissioner of Elections has the responsibility of implementing the powers of the Election Commission until it is established. According to the Article 103 (2) of the Constitution, holding of free and fair elections has to be the objective of the Election Commission. The powers and duties of the Election Commission are explained in the Article 104 B of the Constitution and it states that the enforcement and securing of all laws with respect to the holding of an election and referendums is the duty of the Election Commission. Article 104 B (2) of the Constitution states that it is the duty of government authorities that are in charge of enforcement of laws to assist the Commission in the enforcement of laws.

201. Under Article 104 C of the Constitution, the powers of the Election Commission to use the police at an election are described. Every police officer is responsible for conducting a free and fair election in accordance with the instructions of the Election Commission. The police are subject to the command and control of the Commission. According to Section 119 A of the Presidential Elections Act they should act according to the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections. According to the aforementioned legal provisions, the Commissioner of Elections, the Inspector General of Police and the public officers, who are vested with the responsibility of enforcing the law of the Presidential Elections Act, are responsible for holding a free and fair election. However, it is noteworthy that at this Presidential election, the contesting political parties made complaints against the security forces and Police Special Task Force. It should be noted that if the Commissioner of Elections decides to involve the security forces in any function, he should inform the President and take action to obtain

the services of the security forces, with the President's approval. Even though the STF was under the Inspector General of Police, generally they were not be deployed for normal duties of an election but were engaged only to provide security, on the request of the Commissioner of Elections, to the places identified as places with special security need. However, according to the complaints received from Kandy, Kurunegala and Colombo districts they were accused of giving unlawful coverage to the leading persons' of the government, distributing goods to voters on various reasons, and attempting to undermine the activities of officers who implemented the law etc.,. Considering this situation, steps were taken to inform the Secretary to the Ministry of Defense and the IGP to immediately stop them, if the allegations were true. However, I believe that it is very important that these institutions act in such a way the respect and confidence of the public in regard to the security forces and Police Special Task Force is not jeopardized.

202. A Presidential Election has to be conducted within a period of 7-8 weeks after the declaration of the election and this Presidential Election had to be conducted within a period of four week from the date of nominations. Voters and candidates expect that the officers who are vested with authority to implement the election law will do this duty accurately during this period. The behavior of officers impacts upon the conduct of a free and fair election. If these officers follow the normal routine administrative procedures and work in a sleepy and lethargic manner, it is going to be thoroughly unfair to the voter and the candidate. This situation can be averted only if all those officers who are responsible put a coordinated effort with diligence and encourage others also to talk in time. When this does not happen voters as well as political parties/ candidates and civil organizations rise up against the injustice caused and make complaints to the Commissioner of Elections. Such status – quo was evident at this election period too.

203.1 Sri Lanka is a pioneering country in the Asian region to exercise universal franchise. But the percentage of rejected votes in Sri Lanka is very high due to several reasons i.e. conducive environment for free and fair elections is not created because of the obstacles to enforce the election laws; and the instructions on the manner of marking the ballot paper at various elections are multifarious. Electoral process is more formal at present in view of the need for presenting an identity document at the polling station to identify the voter. But there were reports at recent elections where many voters could not cast their vote because they were not aware of the need for an identity document to prove identity. Therefore, a voter education programme called "Vote is your right" was launched

by the Department of Elections during the election period as was done in the provincial council elections in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

203.2 The objective of this program was to educate the voter about the preparation of the environment for holding of a free and fair election, about the things that the voter should take to the polling station to cast vote as well as the manner of casting the vote. The intention was to create the confidence in the voter that the necessary environment has been created by the Returning Officer and the police to travel freely from home to the polling station without any interruption and to cast the vote freely and fairly at the polling station according to his discretion. Steps were taken to educate the postal voter who casts his vote by post as well as the voter who visits the polling station and casts his vote and in order to eliminate suspicion /misbeliefs of the political parties/ candidates and the postal voters about the postal voting system, steps were also taken to inform them that these activities were carried out in a transparent manner.

203.3 An awareness program was held for the voters with the coordination of the District Returning Officers, District Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections, to educate voters in Northern and Eastern provinces, who had little understanding of the process of casting the vote as well as the Tamil persons in the estates, people working in the public and private sector in the urban areas, those who were working in the private sector in major cities such as Colombo and Kandy, etc., people in all the cities where the violations take place related to the presidential election, particularly in Jaffna and Kilinochchi districts, and in areas of Chilaw, Arachchikattuwa, Wennappuwa, Madampe, Wategama, Gampola, Nawalapitiya, Galnewa, Eppawala, Wanduramba, Hambantota, Ambalantota, Kolonnawa, Moneragala and Bibile. Though this program was planned to be implemented from 27 December 2014 to 05th of January 2015, the process of making awareness of voters proceeded until the poll day 2.00 pm, taking into consideration the inability to end the awareness of the public during the scheduled time frame. Parties of some contesting candidates criticized the conduct of awareness programme for voters on the days nearing the poll day and on the poll day. Some of the claims made in opposition to such measures appeared to be instigated. However, the position of the Department of Elections was that all voters should be educated and encouraged a maximum number of voters to vote, as this was absolutely necessary for a free and fair election.

203.4 During the “Vote is Your Right” campaign, the response of the people to the Department of Elections was very high. Therefore, it is imperative that the Department of Elections makes it essential

to educate the voter at every election in future, through a network established with the support of election observer organizations and village level voluntary organizations.

204. As per the Article 104 C of the Constitution, police officers are responsible to the Election Commission for carrying out the duties assigned to them and all government officials are obliged to comply with the instructions issued by the Commissioner of Elections addressed to all government and statutory bodies, including secretaries of ministries regarding the prevention of the use of state resources. The Commissioner of Elections as well as the District Returning Officers have instructed the police as well as other relevant public officers to prevent such election law violations. However, the complaints received by the Commissioner of Elections from District Returning Officers and the public have confirmed that both the police and the state officials failed to follow the orders of the Commissioner of Elections. IGP and the Commissioner of Elections have instructed about the task assigned to police officers at an election and even the basic law of the country, the Constitution, has provided necessary legal provisions some continue a silent policy on violating of election law and it is a major impact on the democratic election system. Similarly, the lethargy of state officials towards the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections has made it impossible to ensure a free and fair election. There were some instances that some officials did not follow the instructions or delayed them but also shown to the political parties / candidates the way of getting rid of these instructions. Considering this situation, the environment needed for a free and fair election has to be created by handing over the necessary powers to the Police Commission to receive and investigate complaints that the police officers are not properly performing their functions during the election period and to take legal action against those found guilty and by assigning powers to relevant authorities for disciplinary matters of public officers to act on the other state officials who ignore the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections during the election period.

Part XIII

Evaluation

205. Although this presidential election had to be organized in a very short period of time compared to the previous presidential elections, the Department of Elections did not face any serious obstacles in organizing the activities of the election due to the unity of the public service. Due to the excellent support of Heads of all Ministries, Departments and the Chairmen of State Corporations and Statutory Boards and all their staffs at the request of the Commissioner of Elections, the Elections Department has received constant support from other staff thereof for this work. Undertaking the responsibilities by all officers individually as well as collectively in the conduct of an election and engaging in election duties without allowing room for criticism or complaints, are equally important. There were no complaints against any officer who engaged in election duties and that proved the effort made by government officers to conduct a free and fair election. It should be noted that the manner in which the Government employees acted in this election and their excellent support has been respected and appreciated.

206. With the support of the Government Agents, particularly in the Mannar, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts, the relevant District Returning Officers in the 22 electoral districts did their duty with a great sense of responsibility. The actions taken by all of them to finish the task in time, and planning the duties assigned to them should be commended. At the district level, the District Returning Officers worked with great commitment, with the assistance of the District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections, the major facilitators to the Returning Officers, and the interest shown in making the election a success by working day and night, must be appreciated. Senior officers of all districts extended the maximum support required by the Returning Officers in all matters pertaining to the election. All these officers in the public service and Corporations / Boards are specially thanked for the assistance rendered to carry out the activities of the election successfully.

207. A separate unit under a Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police was established by the Inspector General of Police to carry out the activities relating to the election. During the election period, for a period of about two months, whole staff of the Police Department was assigned to duties relating to the prevention of illegal activities relating to the election, and for the poll and counting duties, in addition to their day to day duties. Hence, the way the police performed duties to ensure a free and fair election is greatly appreciated.

208. All printing activities of the Department of Elections relating to the election were undertaken by the Department of Government Printing. This activity commenced at the eve of the declaration of the election notice, and included the printing of all Acts, regulations, instruction sheets and forms. The support provided by the Government Printer and his staff in printing the above material and the ballot papers within the specified time period, securing hundred percent confidentiality, is greatly appreciated.

209. Along with the issuing of the election notice, the Postal Department commenced the task of safely handing over the most important documents among District Returning Officers, the Department of Elections, government institutions, other institutions and voters, providing free postage facilities on the request made by the Commissioner of Elections. Under this official poll cards of about 15,044,490 voters had to be handed over to the relevant addresses; packets of postal ballot papers for about 541,452 postal voters had to be distributed among the offices of relevant certifying officers and delivered them back to the offices of the District Returning Officers at the end of marking postal ballots and appointment letters of about 200,000 poll staff had to be handed over to the relevant offices without delay. The support provided by the Post Master General with his staff to promptly deliver the above documents and thereby to make the election success, is greatly appreciated.

210. Department of Railways, Sri Lanka Central Transport Board and the Private Bus Owners' Association assisted in transporting voters and poll officers to the polling stations and back to their homes and Sri Lanka Central Transport Board and the Private Bus Owners' Association provided their support in transporting ballot boxes and poll staff under special rates. The contribution made by them in this regard is appreciated.

211. The contribution made by the Sri Lanka Navy on the request made by the Commissioner of Elections to transport secured goods together with the ballot boxes and the poll staff, to the polling stations in the islands of Jaffna electoral district and Baththalangunduwa polling station in Puttalam district and by the Sri Lanka Air Force to bring them back, has to be greatly appreciated.

212. The service rendered by Sri Lanka Telecom, Electricity board, National Water Supply and Drainage Board by providing telephone facilities, electricity and water facilities to conduct preliminary activities of the election, counting of votes and declaration of the result without any interruption, etc., is greatly appreciated.

213. Contesting candidates, political parties as well as the general public have the right to obtain information regarding the arrangements made in respect of the election and it is very important for them to be aware of the relevant arrangements to minimize the spread of unwanted rumors and suspicions among people. Other than the generally important information regarding the election, all electronic and print media published media releases, notices etc., which were important for the general public, on time. Assistance extended in this regard by the heads and the staff of electronic and print media is very high. I am thankful to the Director of News and his staff for their assistance provided in covering the whole period of the Presidential Election, especially the event of declaring the result.

214. I take this opportunity to thank the heads of all local election observer organizations and their staff and all other observers, who observed the activities relating to the Presidential Election all institutions and individuals who have provided information immediately to the Commissioner of Elections, each Returning Officer and the Inspector General of Police, when there were violations of election laws, and assisted in holding a free and fair election.

215. I would like to commend at this occasion, the heads and all members of the Commonwealth observer group, observers of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia and the observer group of the Association of Asian Election Authorities, who visited the country on the request made by the Commissioner of Elections, to observe the Presidential election.

216. The Department of Elections is solely responsible for holding the election after the election is declared. After fixing dates to hold an election the Department of Election has the responsibility of completing many duties simultaneously during a specified period of time. Part of these activities is statutory and other part is practical. Officers of the Department of Elections are also vested with the task of enforcing election laws. Accordingly, it was noticeable that the officials of the head office as well as all the district Elections Offices were working day and night to achieve their objectives in the wake of various obstacles and difficulties. They were not concerned about the difficulties in performing duties continuously for a long time. Effectiveness in carrying out the election related duties by the entire staff of the Department of Elections, from the most senior officer to the temporary / casual employees and their sense of responsibility became a key factor in successfully concluding this election. It is with great pleasure that I note that I greatly appreciate the invaluable service and contribution made by all of them in making this Presidential Election a success in order to enhance the dignity and reputation of the public service.

217. I would like to thank all those who assisted in properly performing the various tasks assigned to them as stated above to make the Presidential Election held on 8th January 2015 a success.

Mahinda Deshapriya

Commissioner of Elections

(Up to 13 November 2015)

**Description of numerical tables relating to
the report of
the Presidential Election**

Table I

Presidential Election - 2015
The Number of Polling Stations Used for the Presidential Election and the
Classification of the Buildings Used

District	Number of Electoral Districts	Number of Centers Allotted for Female Voters	Classification of Polling Stations according to the Buildings				Polling Stations
			Number of public school building	Number of other government buildings	Number of other public buildings	Number of temporary polling station buildings	
Colombo	1,053	103	565	113	323	75	1,076
Gampaha	968	85	478	86	186	22	1,053
Kalutara	540	93	397	44	176	16	633
Kandy	825	-	610	45	170	-	825
Matale	323	1	278	8	37	1	324
Nuwara Eliya	423	2	387	11	27	-	425
Galle	703	-	393	51	259	16	703
Matara	444	11	327	17	104	7	455
Hambantota	410	1	278	30	102	-	411
Jaffna	526	-	518	1	7	-	526
Kilinochchi	95	1	77	-	19	-	96
Mannar	70	-	69	-	1	-	70
Vavuniya	134	-	123	2	5	4	134
Mullaitivu	130	-	107	-	23	-	130
Batticaloa	362	52	376	12	26	-	414
Digamadulla	464	-	424	14	26	-	464
Trincomalee	285	-	262	4	19	-	285
Kurunegala	925	9	691	36	207	-	934
Puttalam	384	13	333	20	50	5	400
Anuradhapura	608	-	418	21	169	-	608
Polonnaruwa	287	1	213	13	62	-	288
Badulla	515	1	441	31	41	-	516
Moneragala	351	-	265	15	71	-	351
Ratnapura	624	-	457	12	155	-	624
Kegalla	569	-	411	41	117	-	569
Total	12,018	373	8,898	627	2,382	146	12,314

Presidential Election - 2015

Table II

Particulars of the Candidates who made Deposits

No.	Name of Candidate	Party
1	Baththaramulle Seelarathane Thero	Jana Setha Peramuna
2	Mr. M.B. Themini-mulla	Okkoma Wasiyo Okkoma Rajawaru Sanvidanaya
3	Mr. Pani Wijesiriwardane	Socialist Equality Party
4	Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya	United Socialist Party
5	Mr. Rajapaksha Percy Mahendra	United People's Freedom Alliance
6	Mr. Jayantha Kulathunga	Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party
7	Mr. Wimal Geeganage	Sri Lanka National Front
8	Mr. Palle Watte Gamaralalage Maithripala Yapa Sirisena	New Democratic Front
9	Mr. A.M. Illias	Independent
10	Mr. Ibrahim Nasthar Mohomad Miflar	United Peace Front
11	Mr. Polgampala Ralalage Chaminda Anuruddha Polgampala	Independent
12	Mr. Duminda Nagamuwa	Frontline Socialist Party
13	Mr. A.S.P. Liyanage	Sri Lanka Labour Party
14	Mr. Sundaram Mahendran	Nawa Sama Samaja Party
15	Mr. Katugampala Appuhamilage Prasanna Priyankara	Democratic National Movement
16	Mr. Rajapaksha Arachchilage Namal Ajith Rajapaksha	Our National Front
17	Mr. Rathnayaka Arachchige Sirisena	Patriotic National Front
18	Mr. Sarath Manamendra	Nawa Sihala Urumaya
19	Mr. Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya

Presidential Election - 2015

Arrival of the Candidates to hand over Nominations and the Particulars relating to the Submission of Nominations

No.	Name of Candidate	Arrival a.m.	Time of Handing Over Nominations a.m.
1	Baththaramulle Seelarathane Thero	9.00	9.13
2	Mr. M.B. Themimulla	8.35	9.14
3	Mr. Pani Wijesiriwardane	9.45	9.52
4	Mr.Sirithunga Jayasuriya	9.00	10.36
5	Mr. Rajapaksha Percy Mahendra	10.25	10.48
6	Mr.Jayantha Kulathunga	9.35	9.50
7	Mr.Wimal Geeganage	9.43	10.35
8	Mr. Palle Watte Gamaralalage Maithripala Yapa Sirisena	9.10	10.05
9	Mr. A.M.Illias	9.35	10.02
10	Mr. Ibrahim Nasthar Mohomad Miflar	9.50	10.03
11	Mr.Polgampala Ralalage Chaminda Anuruddha Polgampala	10.00	10.45
12	Mr. Duminda Nagamuwa	8.45	9.18
13	Mr. A.S.P. Liyanage	9.40	9.48
14	Mr. Sundaram Mahendran	9.25	10.12
15	Mr. Katugampala Appuhamilage Prasanna Priyankara	9.25	10.07
16	Mr. Rajapaksha Arachchilage Namal Ajith Rajapaksha	9.40	10.00
17	Mr. Rathnayaka Arachchige Sirisena	10.05	10.20
18	Mr. Sarath Manamendra	9.05	10.01
19	Mr. Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	9.50	10.25

Table IV

Presidential Election - 2015

Details of the Number of Postal Voting Applications Received for the Presidential Election and the Accepted and the Rejected Number of them

District	Number of Application Received	Number of Rejected Applications	Number of Accepted Applications
Colombo	28,254	2,192	26,062
Gampaha	46,360	3,633	42,726
Kaluthara	32,465	3,468	28,997
Kandy	47,356	8,974	38,382
Matale	20,242	2,912	17,330
Nuwara Eliya	16,856	3,240	13,616
Galle	36,481	5,598	30,883
Matara	25,694	1,299	24,395
Hambantota	20,262	3,740	16,522
Jaffna	15,110	782	14,328
Kilinochchi	3,041	343	2,698
Mannar	2,749	203	2,546
Vavuniya	4,390	1,125	3,265
Mullaitivu	2,719	166	2,553
Batticaloa	10,987	2,172	8,815
Digamadulla	25,494	3,184	22,310
Trincomalee	15,357	279	15,101
Kurunegala	71,581	4,647	66,934
Puttalam	13,117	3,142	9,975
Anuradhapura	55,755	11,611	44,144
Polonnaruwa	20,326	6,113	14,213
Badulla	33,803	6,661	27,142
Moneragala	21,077	4,726	16,349
Ratnapura	25,475	3,845	21,630
Kegalle	32,002	1,466	30,536
Total	626,953	85,521	541,452

Table V

Presidential Election - 2015
Details of the Temporary Identity Cards issued for the
Presidential Election

District	Number of newly issued Temporary Identity Cards	Number of Updated Identity Cards	Total
Colombo	7,354	-	7,354
Gampaha	13,750	472	14,222
Kalutara	12,447	1,196	13,643
Kandy	12,950	203	13,153
Matale	8,063	81	8,144
Nuwara Eliya	10,090	983	11,073
Galle	12,549	7	12,556
Matara	7,152	860	8,012
Hambantota	8,673	2,303	10,976
Jaffna	2,664	672	3,336
Kilinochchi	1,233	915	2,148
Mannar	631	541	1,172
Vavuniya	1,278	67	1,345
Mullaitivu	2,953	-	2,953
Batticaloa	2,897	1,323	4,220
Digamadulla	7,272	-	7,272
Trincomalee	4,094	-	4,094
Kurunegala	21,418	52	21,470
Puttalam	5,497	44	5,541
Anuradhapura	18,717	413	19,130
Polonnaruwa	11,790	27	11,817
Badulla	5,642	4,910	10,552
Moneragala	3,677	2,955	6,632
Rathnapura	15,670	60	15,730
Kegalle	8,148	50	8,198
Total	206,609	18,134	224,743

Presidential Election - 2015

Details of the number of Electors, whose names were in the Electoral Register under each District but were reported as Dead or Abroad prior to the Poll Day of the Presidential Election

District	Number of Electors reported as Dead	Number of Electors Reported as gone Overseas
Colombo	3,592	18,755
Gampaha	11,722	20,682
Kalutara	2,605	10,358
Kandy	2,865	12,950
Matale	1,046	9,941
Nuwara Eliya	1,071	17,094
Galle	2,731	14,709
Matara	1,966	6,185
Hambantota	1,444	7,472
Jaffna	1,265	6,090
Kilinochchi	147	1,061
Mannar	170	2,692
Vavuniya	226	1,712
Mullaitivu	114	1,272
Batticaloa	819	20,896
Digamadulla	1,433	9,165
Trincomalee	595	8,424
Kurunegala	4,644	33,748
Puttalam	1,687	18,799
Anuradhapura	1,847	13,728
Polonnaruwa	932	7,815
Badulla	1,803	5,059
Moneragala	970	1,427
Ratnapura	2,062	4,521
Kegalla	2,179	9,272
Total	49,935	263,827

Presidential Election - 2015

Table VII

Details of the Number of Officers Deployed for the Election in each District

District	Total number of officers required			Number of Officers Deployed from the District			Total
	Assistant Returning Officers	Senior Presiding Officers	Other Polling Station Staff	Assistant Returning Officers	Senior Presiding Officers	Other Polling Station Staff	
Colombo	748	1076	12668	746	545	6667	22450
Gampaha	1001	1053	13179	538	825	12054	28650
Kalutara	106	633	7365	82	511	7287	15984
Kandy	170	825	9677	149	800	9652	21273
Matale	327	324	3181	217	324	3181	7554
Nuwara Eliya	368	531	5657	228	456	5582	12822
Galle	663	1156	6856	591	1133	6854	17253
Matara	501	1068	5534	393	1068	5525	14089
Hambantota	427	411	4002	286	401	3984	9511
Jaffna	227	548	4030	170	542	4119	9636
Kilinochchi	30	114	848	23	109	827	1951
Mannar	31	80	707	31	76	707	1632
Vavuniya	35	146	2168	25	136	1153	3663
Mullaitivu	71	130	1045	47	117	1045	2455
Batticaloa	128	462	3637	97	440	3617	8381
Digamadulla	354	978	3885	327	978	3885	10407
Trincomalee	245	285	2886	225	230	2801	6672
Kurunegala	954	934	10358	950	934	10358	24488
Puttalam	459	562	6455	244	465	6445	14630
Anuradhapura	164	608	5350	114	608	5350	12194
Polonnaruwa	332	342	3262	171	290	2934	7331
Badulla	472	708	7581	422	683	7531	17397
Moneragala	309	351	2912	142	351	2912	6977
Ratnapura	538	1110	7749	447	1110	7729	18683
Kegalle	482	569	6118	292	569	6118	14148
Total	9142	15004	137110	6957	13701	128317	310231
			161256			148975	

Details of the number of complaints received by the National Complaints Center with respect to the Presidential Election

Summary as at 08.01.2015

District	Severe complaints (Violence)	Miscellaneous (Violation of Laws)	Complaints on the Poll Day	Post election Complaints	Total
Colombo	13	254	50	2	319
Gampaha	13	106	60	2	181
Kalutara	4	55	11	2	72
Kandy	23	37	13	8	81
Matale	6	21	2	2	31
Nuwara Eliya	2	23	11	0	36
Galle	3	46	22	0	71
Matara	6	35	17	1	59
Hambantota	13	23	13	1	50
Jaffna	-	12	7	1	20
Kilinochchi	-	2	0	0	2
Mannar	-	4	2	0	6
Vavuniya	-	9	2	0	11
Mullaitivu	-	3	1	0	4
Batticaloa	7	10	11	1	29
Digamadulla	7	31	8	1	47
Trincomalee	6	46	11	0	63
Kurunegala	9	47	14	2	72
Puttalam	13	18	30	5	66
Anuradhapura	19	49	13	1	82
Polonnaruwa	17	41	9	0	67
Badulla	8	34	12	0	54
Moneragala	3	23	7	2	35
Ratnapura	7	63	8	1	79
Kegalle	3	26	8	3	40
District General	3	218	0	1	222
Total	185	1236	342	36	1799

Table IX

Presidential Election - 2015

Details of the Number of counting Halls in Each District

District	Number of Counting Premises	Number of Normal Ballot Counting Centers	Number of Postal Vote Counting Centers	Total
Colombo	2	125	15	140
Gampaha	4	110	23	133
Kalutara	2	67	15	82
Kandy	6	79	25	104
Matale	2	30	10	40
Nuwara Eliya	1	35	9	44
Galle	3	54	16	70
Matara	1	48	12	60
Hambantota	1	34	9	43
Jaffna	1	36	8	44
Kilinochchi	1	7	0	7
Mannar	1	6	0	6
Vavuniya	1	9	6	15
Mullaitivu	1	7	0	7
Batticaloa	1	28	5	33
Digamadulla	1	29	10	39
Trincomalee	2	21	7	28
Kurunegala	4	99	40	139
Puttalam	3	40	6	46
Anuradhapura	1	40	25	65
Polonnaruwa	1	23	8	31
Badulla	3	46	18	64
Moneragala	1	28	9	37
Ratnapura	3	64	10	74
Kegalle	2	50	18	68
Total	49	1,115	304	1,419

Presidential Election - 2015
Particulars of Compact Discs of Electoral Registers issued in
relation with the Presidential Election

Electoral District	Polling Division	No. of Copies Sold	Income Earned
Colombo	Dehiwala	1	2,000.00
	Ratmalana	1	2,000.00
	Colombo District	6	90,000.00
	Maharagama	1	3,000.00
	Kotte	1	2,000.00
Gampaha	Gampaha District	3	45,000.00
Kalutara	Kalutara District	4	40,000.00
	Bandaragama	1	3,000.00
	Bulathsinhala	1	2,000.00
	Kalutara	1	3,000.00
	Beruwala	2	6,000.00
Kandy	Galagedara	1	4,000.00
	Nawalapitiya	1	2,000.00
	Harispattuwa	1	2,000.00
	Pathadumbara	1	2,000.00
	Theldeniya	1	1,000.00
	Hewaheta	1	2,000.00
	Gampola	1	3,000.00
	Whole district	4	60,000.00
Matale	Matale District	4	20,000.00
Nuwara Eliya	Nuwara Eliya District	5	37,500.00
	Nuwara Eliya	1	2,500.00
Galle	Galle District	4	40,000.00
	Galle	1	2,000.00
Matara	Akuressa	1	2,000.00
	Deniyaya	1	2,000.00
	Devinuwara	1	2,000.00
	Matara Whole	4	30,000.00
Hambantota	Hambantota District	3	22,500.00
Jaffna	Jaffna Whole	5	50,000.00
	Kilinochchi	1	2,000.00
Vanni	Mannar	1	2,000.00
	Vavuniya	3	7,000.00
	Vanni	6	30,000.00
	Mullaitivu	2	2,000.00
Batticaloa	Batticaloa District	3	15,000.00
	Kalkuda Tamil	1	15,000.00
	Batticaloa Tamil	1	
	Paddiruppu Tamil	1	

Presidential Election - 2015
Particulars of Compact Discs of Electoral Registers issued in
relation with the Presidential Election

Table X

Electoral District	Polling Division	No. of Copies Sold	Income Earned
Digamadulla		5	37,500.00
Trincomalee	Seruwila	1	2,000.00
	Trincomalee Tamil	1	2,000.00
	Muttur Tamil	2	4,000.00
	Trincomalee District Tamil / Sinhala	5	25,000.00
Kurunegala	Kuliyapitiya	1	3,000.00
	Bingiriya	1	2,000.00
	Dodamgaslanda	1	2,000.00
	Whole District	4	60,000.00
Puttalam	Whole District	4	30,000.00
	Puttalam Tamil / Sinhala	4	8,000.00
Anuradhapura	Anuradhapura District	3	22,500.00
	Anuradhapura East	1	2,000.00
Polonnaruwa	Whole	4	20,000.00
Badulla	Badulla	1	2,000.00
	Welimada	1	2,000.00
	Hali Ela	1	2,000.00
	Haputale	1	2,000.00
	Haputale Tamil	1	2,000.00
	Uva Paranagama	1	2,000.00
	Badulla District	6	60,000.00
	Passara	1	2,000.00
	Uva Paranagama Tamil	1	2,000.00
Moneragala	Moneragala District	5	25,000.00
Ratnapura	Whole	5	50,000.00
	Nivitigala	1	1,500.00
	Balangoda	1	1,500.00
	Pelmadulla	1	1,500.00
	Rakwana	1	1,500.00
	Ratnapura	1	1,500.00
Kegalle	Mawanella	3	5,000.00
	Yatiantota	1	2,000.00
	Aranayake	1	2,000.00
	Galigamuwa	1	2,000.00
	Ruwanwella	1	2,000.00
	Deraniyagala	2	4,000.00
	Kegalle District	3	30,000.00
Total		160	983,000.00

Table XI

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS - 08.01.2015
Detailed statement on the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate according to each Electoral District
ALL ISLAND RESULT

Name of the Candidate (According to the order in the Ballot Paper)	ELECTORAL DISTRICT																TOTAL						
	COLOMBO	GAMPAHA	KALUTARA	MAHANUWARA	MATALE	NUWARA ELIYA	GALLE	MATARA	HAMBANTOTA	JAFNA	VANNI	BATTICALOA	DIGAMADULLA	TRINCOMALEE	KURNEGALA	PUTTALAM		ANURADHAPUR	POLONNARUWA	BADULLA	MONARAGALA	RATNAPURA	KEGALLE
Athurus Mohamed Illias	702	930	547	799	306	462	612	384	322	978	356	323	187	169	682	380	372	107	670	214	588	528	10,618
Ibrahim Mifhar	978	859	559	1,103	392	1,054	597	356	376	1,620	563	698	356	327	839	437	548	166	1,038	275	696	542	14,379
Pasanna Priyankara	181	192	121	182	87	152	143	107	83	360	113	108	55	44	177	81	76	40	153	51	165	122	2,793
Wimal Gegganage	126	140	80	116	57	110	90	82	57	178	68	74	36	36	102	43	58	22	106	28	130	87	1,826
Srithunga Jayasuriya	525	566	416	628	285	729	392	294	242	975	300	258	197	214	457	270	288	129	563	210	545	357	8,840
M.B. Themimulla	214	216	178	312	119	271	169	129	97	568	133	157	88	89	173	107	86	53	249	65	206	167	3,846
Pani Wijesiriwardane	346	281	210	318	97	291	190	133	85	615	216	180	69	88	196	117	104	43	244	43	230	181	4,277
Duminda Naigamawa	715	780	695	723	251	433	835	352	267	610	191	306	234	270	465	306	324	336	502	240	516	590	9,941
Panagoda Don Prince Soboman Anura Liyanage	1,007	872	605	1,028	394	1,191	498	448	307	1,398	574	882	543	387	724	406	469	257	748	223	787	603	14,351
Malithrapala Sirisena	725,073	669,007	349,404	466,994	145,928	272,605	293,994	212,435	138,708	253,574	141,417	209,422	233,360	140,338	476,602	202,073	238,407	147,974	249,524	105,276	292,514	252,333	6,217,162
Rawanthika Peduru Arachchi	786	668	560	1,003	380	1,068	462	373	301	942	453	641	438	341	637	339	464	298	723	237	750	572	12,436
Anuruddha Polgampala	274	257	171	328	152	349	193	138	102	508	114	187	117	99	216	94	129	59	261	77	245	190	4,260
Baltharamulle Secarathana Thero	479	409	206	277	88	202	199	166	116	329	72	89	57	52	228	69	98	44	170	66	198	136	3,750
Sarath Mananendra	321	399	332	554	241	434	278	231	253	677	235	370	169	164	441	148	245	103	383	158	492	247	6,875
Anarchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	943	1,249	979	1,306	649	889	995	804	734	978	358	522	446	263	1,374	579	901	370	1,052	567	1,379	837	18,174
Mahinda Rajapaksa	562,614	664,347	395,890	378,585	158,880	145,339	377,126	297,823	243,295	744,54	34,377	41,631	121,027	52,111	558,868	197,751	281,161	105,640	249,243	172,745	379,053	278,130	5,768,090
Namaal Rajapaksa	716	1,033	808	1,204	500	846	755	662	565	1,150	400	441	307	237	1,138	491	685	292	1,052	508	1,217	719	15,726
Sundaram Mahendran	236	169	130	285	135	242	185	140	105	623	218	238	92	89	181	85	113	36	265	90	253	137	4,047
Jayantha Kulathunga	124	122	93	163	81	99	98	93	61	214	67	59	39	38	124	74	105	27	124	43	120	93	2,061
NO OF VALID VOTES	1,296,360	1,342,496	751,984	855,908	309,022	426,766	677,811	515,150	386,076	340,751	180,225	256,586	357,817	195,356	1,041,624	403,850	524,633	255,996	507,070	281,116	680,084	536,771	12,123,452
NO OF REJECTED VOTES	15,334	14,647	8,381	10,993	3,653	7,229	6,516	4,891	3,351	10,038	3,416	2,580	2,625	1,805	9,285	4,300	4,500	1,790	7,871	3,449	7,656	6,515	140,925
TOTAL NO OF VOTES POLLED (INCLUDING REJECTED) VOTES	1,311,694	1,357,143	760,365	866,901	312,675	434,095	684,327	520,041	389,427	350,789	183,641	259,166	360,442	197,161	1,050,909	408,150	529,133	257,786	514,941	284,565	687,740	543,286	12,264,377

Table XII

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
COLOMBO DISTRICT**

CANDIDATE	COLOMBO NORTH	COLOMBO CENTRAL	BORELIA	COLOMBO EAST	COLOMBO WEST	DEHIWALA	RATMALANA	KDONNAMA	KOTTE	KADUVELLA	AMISSAWELLI	HOMAGAMA	MAHARAGAM	KESBEVA	MORATUWA	POSTAL VOTE	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	51,537	82,495	31,469	35,167	23,915	30,955	29,554	56,835	34,614	68,886	42,728	63,563	51,480	61,116	48,599	12,160	725,073
	75.07%	81.28%	66.97%	67.45%	78.99%	65.63%	55.76%	58.39%	58.09%	48.98%	45.03%	44.84%	48.86%	44.94%	50.63%	48.42%	55.93%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	16,423	17,779	15,148	16,601	6,164	15,932	23,144	39,767	24,663	70,970	51,351	77,415	53,327	74,189	46,885	12,856	562,614
	23.92%	17.52%	32.24%	31.84%	20.36%	33.78%	43.66%	40.86%	41.39%	50.46%	54.12%	54.61%	50.62%	54.56%	48.85%	51.19%	43.40%
Panagoda Don Prince	101	185	78	47	21	34	29	90	41	70	66	74	57	57	49	8	1,007
Soloman Anura Lijanage	0.15%	0.18%	0.17%	0.09%	0.07%	0.07%	0.05%	0.09%	0.07%	0.05%	0.07%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.08%
Ibrahim Mifflar	90	298	36	32	14	39	26	129	17	57	61	55	37	45	39	3	978
	0.13%	0.29%	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	0.05%	0.13%	0.03%	0.04%	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%	0.08%
Ruwantihika Peduru	75	131	37	33	15	17	25	86	27	81	80	53	38	56	28	4	786
Arachchi	0.11%	0.13%	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.09%	0.05%	0.06%	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.06%
Arachchi Rathnayaka	61	73	37	23	12	32	30	80	39	84	112	128	66	83	78	5	943
Sirisena	0.09%	0.07%	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.07%	0.06%	0.08%	0.07%	0.06%	0.12%	0.09%	0.06%	0.06%	0.08%	0.02%	0.07%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	59	120	31	25	12	28	18	62	17	64	67	70	27	54	45	3	702
	0.09%	0.12%	0.07%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.05%	0.07%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.01%	0.05%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	50	69	21	36	19	9	22	27	22	41	57	36	39	40	30	7	525
	0.07%	0.07%	0.04%	0.07%	0.06%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%
Namal Rajapaksa	48	39	30	32	13	14	31	50	33	84	80	80	49	70	57	6	716
	0.07%	0.04%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.02%	0.06%
Duminda Nagamuwa	39	59	22	31	8	26	29	46	22	80	84	67	65	85	31	21	715
	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.09%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.03%	0.08%	0.06%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	29	32	16	21	12	12	15	28	10	31	19	23	38	30	27	3	346
	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
Sundaram Mahendran	28	25	10	18	22	14	10	15	6	8	28	21	7	7	14	3	236
	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.07%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	25	44	7	14	9	8	11	21	7	27	26	26	16	17	14	2	274
	0.04%	0.04%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Sarath Manamendra	25	43	7	16	11	6	9	22	7	35	39	33	17	24	25	2	321
	0.04%	0.04%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
M.B. Themiminulla	17	26	15	11	6	5	10	18	12	15	15	19	7	21	14	3	214
	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	15	19	5	3	8	9	7	8	14	18	16	21	12	14	11	1	181
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Baththaramulle	10	22	16	13	8	21	24	38	28	75	30	50	47	53	24	20	479
Secelaratana Thero	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.08%	0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	9	17	2	5	4	3	7	10	3	5	11	15	13	12	7	3	126
	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Jayantha Kulathunga	8	21	3	9	2	5	3	4	6	11	10	13	11	10	4	4	124
	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%
Valid Votes	68,649	101,497	46,990	52,137	30,275	47,169	53,004	97,336	59,588	140,642	94,880	141,762	105,353	135,983	95,981	25,114	1,296,360
	98.36%	98.80%	98.85%	98.73%	98.94%	98.75%	98.73%	98.71%	98.83%	98.92%	98.92%	98.97%	98.86%	98.99%	99.01%	97.91%	98.83%
Rejected Votes	1,146	1,237	547	668	325	599	680	1,275	703	1,534	1,032	1,481	1,220	1,393	958	56	15,334
	1.64%	1.20%	1.15%	1.27%	1.06%	1.25%	1.27%	1.29%	1.17%	1.08%	1.08%	1.03%	1.14%	1.01%	0.99%	2.09%	1.17%
Total Polled	69,795	102,734	47,537	52,805	30,600	47,768	53,684	98,611	60,291	142,176	95,912	143,243	106,573	137,376	96,939	25,650	1,311,694
	77.75%	78.14%	79.08%	78.88%	75.35%	79.86%	80.37%	81.76%	80.46%	82.01%	81.65%	81.90%	82.10%	83.37%	84.13%	98.42%	82.67%
Registered Number of Electors	89,771	131,482	60,109	66,941	40,609	59,812	66,793	120,617	74,934	173,355	117,472	174,909	129,801	164,774	115,219	4	1,586,598

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
GAMPAHA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATE	WATTALA	NEGOMBO	KATANA	DIVULAPITIYA	MEERIGAMA	MINUWANGODA	ATTANAGALLA	GAMPAHA	JA-ELA	MAHARA	DOMPE	BIVAGAMA	KELANIYA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	56,541	53,331	58,507	40,112	45,202	51,581	50,380	53,922	58,669	55,334	38,491	48,667	37,884	20,386	669,007
	59.32%	67.10%	51.49%	46.33%	46.53%	48.09%	47.56%	45.48%	52.01%	45.97%	41.00%	48.94%	53.16%	49.93%	49.83%
	38,001	25,432	54,355	45,813	51,244	54,929	54,777	63,962	53,481	64,314	54,714	50,173	32,856	20,296	664,347
Mahinda Rajapaksa	39.87%	32.00%	47.83%	52.91%	52.75%	51.21%	51.71%	53.95%	47.41%	53.43%	58.29%	50.46%	46.11%	49.71%	49.49%
	108	110	84	67	69	61	57	57	62	51	38	56	46	6	872
	0.11%	0.14%	0.07%	0.08%	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%	0.06%	0.01%	0.06%
Ibrahim Miflar	84	83	64	64	53	66	91	54	53	61	62	56	63	5	859
	0.09%	0.10%	0.06%	0.07%	0.05%	0.06%	0.09%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.09%	0.01%	0.06%
	82	64	119	95	104	125	86	102	89	94	109	89	79	12	1,249
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	0.09%	0.08%	0.10%	0.11%	0.11%	0.12%	0.08%	0.09%	0.08%	0.08%	0.12%	0.09%	0.11%	0.03%	0.09%
	69	62	77	75	81	73	100	61	73	112	104	62	63	21	1,033
	0.07%	0.08%	0.07%	0.09%	0.08%	0.07%	0.09%	0.05%	0.06%	0.09%	0.11%	0.06%	0.09%	0.05%	0.08%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	65	48	48	30	55	54	44	44	41	33	26	27	35	16	566
	0.07%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%
	60	50	47	57	51	55	50	85	52	87	52	75	34	25	780
Duminda Nagamuwa	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.07%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.07%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.08%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%
	59	65	84	83	82	88	98	70	70	68	72	49	35	7	930
	0.06%	0.08%	0.07%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%	0.09%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.08%	0.05%	0.05%	0.02%	0.07%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	57	62	57	45	48	53	48	40	49	63	51	46	45	4	668
	0.06%	0.08%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.01%	0.05%
	32	22	30	11	14	21	17	21	24	20	14	18	8	5	257
Anuruddha Polgampala	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
	26	16	35	23	27	30	40	42	28	25	32	34	30	21	409
	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%
Sarath Manamendra	25	42	35	26	28	39	35	28	27	32	36	22	19	5	399
	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
	23	17	12	11	17	21	22	7	4	8	11	8	6	2	169
Sundaram Mahendran	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
	21	17	22	19	18	25	26	23	24	30	19	13	19	5	281
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
	20	22	19	14	20	11	16	13	10	12	16	4	9	6	192
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Prasanna Priyankara	17	19	19	20	17	21	19	13	14	17	11	13	14	2	216
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
	14	13	7	8	11	10	9	14	16	11	6	8	10	3	140
M. B. Theminiyulla	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
	7	7	14	10	6	7	16	6	11	9	7	13	5	4	122
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Jayantha Kulathunga	95,311	79,482	113,635	86,583	97,147	107,270	105,931	118,564	112,797	120,381	93,871	99,433	71,260	40,831	1,342,496
	98.62%	98.92%	98.69%	99.20%	99.10%	99.09%	99.04%	98.98%	98.62%	99.05%	99.07%	99.01%	98.81%	98.42%	98.92%
	1,332	871	1,505	701	880	986	1,024	1,222	1,584	1,154	878	997	859	654	14,647
Rejected Votes	1.38%	1.08%	1.31%	0.80%	0.90%	0.91%	0.96%	1.02%	1.38%	0.95%	0.93%	0.99%	1.19%	1.58%	1.08%
	96,643	80,353	115,140	87,284	98,027	108,256	106,955	119,786	114,381	121,535	94,749	100,430	72,119	41,485	1,357,143
	80.22%	75.65%	80.02%	80.42%	78.62%	81.41%	80.40%	81.33%	79.52%	81.32%	82.14%	82.52%	80.02%	97.10%	82.88%
Registered Number of Electors	120,471	106,213	143,885	108,529	124,679	132,981	133,023	147,280	143,843	149,453	115,356	121,702	90,122	1,637,537	

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
KALUTARA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	PANADURA	BANDARAGAMA	HORANA	BULATHSINHALA	MATUGAMA	KALUTARA	BERUWALA	AGALAWATTA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	46,820	48,469	42,065	28,341	38,668	44,804	53,280	33,995	12,962	349,404
	50.15%	43.81%	41.85%	42.66%	45.17%	47.49%	56.96%	42.67%	46.46%	46.46%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	45,908	61,199	57,633	37,311	45,984	48,851	39,424	44,750	14,830	395,890
	49.18%	55.32%	57.34%	56.17%	53.72%	51.78%	42.15%	56.17%	53.15%	52.65%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	84	154	120	123	148	92	96	154	8	979
	0.09%	0.14%	0.12%	0.19%	0.17%	0.10%	0.10%	0.19%	0.03%	0.13%
Ibrahim Miflar	79	73	71	42	76	55	79	79	5	559
	0.08%	0.07%	0.07%	0.06%	0.09%	0.06%	0.08%	0.10%	0.02%	0.07%
Duminda Nagamuwa	71	89	76	74	96	92	93	79	25	695
	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.11%	0.11%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.09%	0.09%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	59	94	77	64	59	48	73	67	6	547
	0.06%	0.08%	0.08%	0.10%	0.07%	0.05%	0.08%	0.08%	0.02%	0.07%
Namal Rajapaksa	57	118	107	95	114	82	88	142	5	808
	0.06%	0.11%	0.11%	0.14%	0.13%	0.09%	0.09%	0.18%	0.02%	0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	54	68	62	79	94	60	113	67	8	605
	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.12%	0.11%	0.06%	0.12%	0.08%	0.03%	0.08%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	37	75	52	78	94	58	75	87	4	560
	0.04%	0.07%	0.05%	0.12%	0.11%	0.06%	0.08%	0.11%	0.01%	0.07%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	34	36	25	11	20	24	20	21	15	206
	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%
Sarath Manamendra	33	45	48	39	49	27	38	53	0	332
	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.03%	0.04%	0.07%	0.00%	0.04%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	31	73	64	49	57	43	37	55	7	416
	0.03%	0.07%	0.06%	0.07%	0.07%	0.05%	0.04%	0.07%	0.03%	0.06%
M.B. Theminiyulla	20	24	19	19	20	20	28	25	3	178
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	20	31	22	29	30	25	27	19	7	210
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%
Sundaram Mahendran	14	21	13	17	26	6	15	18	0	130
	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	12	15	11	17	15	12	13	20	6	121
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	10	22	22	24	27	23	23	18	2	171
	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	7	10	13	8	12	12	14	14	3	93
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%
Wimal Geeganage	5	12	17	11	8	8	4	11	4	80
	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%

Valid Votes	93,355 98.78%	110,628 99.11%	100,517 99.06%	66,431 98.93%	85,597 98.77%	94,342 99.05%	93,540 98.99%	79,674 98.76%	27,900 97.75%	751,984 98.90%
Rejected Votes	1,152 1.22%	999 0.89%	952 0.94%	716 1.07%	1,063 1.23%	905 0.95%	951 1.01%	1,002 1.24%	641 2.25%	8,381 1.10%
Total Polled	94,507 82.30%	111,627 83.37%	101,469 82.82%	67,147 81.76%	86,660 79.51%	95,247 80.77%	94,491 80.74%	80,676 80.64%	28,541 98.43%	760,365 84.73%
Registered Number of Electors	114,828	133,887	122,511	82,123	108,996	117,931	117,033	100,040		897,349

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
MAHANUWARA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	GALGEDARA	HARISPATHTHUWA	PATHADUMBARA	UDDUMBARA	THELDENIYA	KUNDASALE	HEWAHERA	SENKADAGALA	MAHANUWARA	YATINUWARA	UDNUWARA	GAMPOLA	NAWALAPITTYA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	21,466	51,156	26,762	27,722	18,150	32,930	24,167	26,062	10,200	30,194	25,984	33,293	32,619	17,880	378,585
	51.34%	41.26%	40.87%	59.09%	48.56%	43.97%	45.53%	41.54%	33.21%	47.86%	40.13%	41.73%	43.98%	48.18%	44.23%
	19,818	71,533	37,840	18,472	18,624	41,238	28,049	36,127	20,316	32,298	38,018	45,328	40,233	19,100	466,994
Maithripala Sirisena	47.39%	57.69%	57.79%	39.37%	49.83%	55.06%	52.84%	57.59%	66.14%	51.19%	58.71%	56.81%	54.25%	51.47%	54.56%
	79	153	101	112	80	90	106	49	26	88	87	151	173	11	1,306
	0.19%	0.12%	0.15%	0.24%	0.21%	0.12%	0.20%	0.08%	0.08%	0.14%	0.13%	0.19%	0.23%	0.03%	0.15%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	72	149	88	129	56	85	111	61	10	78	76	130	146	13	1,204
	0.17%	0.12%	0.13%	0.27%	0.15%	0.11%	0.21%	0.10%	0.03%	0.12%	0.12%	0.16%	0.20%	0.04%	0.14%
	47	108	64	66	63	49	56	48	24	42	59	68	95	10	799
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	0.14%	0.17%	0.07%	0.11%	0.08%	0.08%	0.07%	0.09%	0.09%	0.13%	0.03%	0.09%
	46	148	85	58	68	75	91	45	19	45	82	132	127	7	1,028
	0.11%	0.12%	0.13%	0.12%	0.18%	0.10%	0.17%	0.07%	0.06%	0.07%	0.13%	0.17%	0.17%	0.02%	0.12%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	44	117	90	80	65	65	112	57	19	74	87	161	128	4	1,103
	0.11%	0.09%	0.14%	0.17%	0.17%	0.09%	0.21%	0.09%	0.06%	0.12%	0.13%	0.20%	0.17%	0.01%	0.13%
	42	119	90	66	49	73	95	49	23	58	61	131	144	3	1,003
Ibrahim Miflar	0.10%	0.10%	0.14%	0.14%	0.13%	0.10%	0.18%	0.08%	0.07%	0.09%	0.09%	0.16%	0.19%	0.01%	0.12%
	39	82	57	44	31	32	46	31	15	28	48	61	105	9	628
	0.09%	0.07%	0.09%	0.09%	0.08%	0.04%	0.09%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.07%	0.08%	0.14%	0.02%	0.07%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	30	77	52	36	30	41	48	31	8	35	37	50	74	5	554
	0.07%	0.06%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.05%	0.09%	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.10%	0.01%	0.06%
	26	121	65	25	37	59	44	53	18	47	61	65	70	32	723
Duminda Nagamuwa	0.06%	0.10%	0.10%	0.05%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.06%	0.07%	0.09%	0.08%	0.09%	0.09%	0.08%
	22	37	37	14	18	24	30	18	2	16	26	39	42	3	328
	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.01%	0.04%
Anuruddha Polgampala	19	31	19	22	17	23	30	12	6	18	20	29	37	2	285
	0.05%	0.03%	0.03%	0.05%	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.01%	0.03%
	16	35	23	13	29	23	17	25	7	15	25	43	42	5	318
Pani Wijesiriwardane	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.08%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.01%	0.04%
	15	46	30	11	15	20	33	31	5	11	29	37	25	4	312
	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%
M.B. Theminiulla	11	19	20	12	11	20	14	10	5	9	13	14	22	2	182
	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
	10	37	27	10	11	20	17	17	7	21	19	22	44	15	277
Prasanna Priyankara	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%
	8	10	8	15	14	10	2	4	3	9	9	11	10	3	116
	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Wimal Geeganage	5	20	22	10	9	13	11	5	2	3	13	20	26	4	163
	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%
	41,815	123,998	65,480	46,917	37,377	74,890	53,079	62,735	30,715	63,089	64,754	79,785	74,162	37,112	855,908
Valid Votes	99.08%	98.92%	98.46%	98.99%	98.64%	98.95%	98.75%	98.69%	98.71%	98.83%	98.84%	98.74%	98.16%	98.40%	98.73%
	390	1,356	1,023	479	517	794	673	834	401	748	763	1,020	1,393	602	10,993
	0.92%	1.08%	1.54%	1.01%	1.36%	1.05%	1.25%	1.31%	1.29%	1.17%	1.16%	1.26%	1.84%	1.60%	1.27%
Rejected Votes	42,205	125,354	66,503	47,396	37,894	75,684	53,752	63,569	31,116	63,837	65,517	80,805	75,555	37,714	866,901
	77.85%	79.61%	77.90%	80.83%	79.47%	79.78%	77.63%	78.34%	77.75%	79.38%	79.61%	79.05%	79.06%	98.26%	82.63%
	54,214	157,463	85,375	58,637	47,685	94,870	69,243	81,149	40,020	80,420	82,298	102,219	95,567	1,049,160	
Total Polled	Registered Number of Electors														

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
MATALE DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	DAMBULLA	LAGGALA	MATALE	RATHHOTA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	57,657 56.82%	33,821 60.20%	26,684 41.93%	32,235 45.52%	8,483 50.13%	158,880 51.41%
Maithripala Sirisena	42,652 42.03%	21,511 38.29%	36,052 56.65%	37,319 52.70%	8,394 49.60%	145,928 47.22%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	205 0.20%	175 0.31%	123 0.19%	141 0.20%	5 0.03%	649 0.21%
Namal Rajapaksa	158 0.16%	136 0.24%	65 0.10%	137 0.19%	4 0.02%	500 0.16%
Ibrahim Miflar	104 0.10%	59 0.11%	91 0.14%	134 0.19%	4 0.02%	392 0.13%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	92 0.09%	73 0.13%	101 0.16%	125 0.18%	3 0.02%	394 0.13%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	90 0.09%	52 0.09%	77 0.12%	86 0.12%	1 0.01%	306 0.10%
Duminda Nagamuwa	79 0.08%	39 0.07%	54 0.08%	72 0.10%	7 0.04%	251 0.08%
Sarath Manamendra	75 0.07%	50 0.09%	44 0.07%	71 0.10%	1 0.01%	241 0.08%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	74 0.07%	72 0.13%	96 0.15%	134 0.19%	4 0.02%	380 0.12%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	66 0.07%	42 0.07%	72 0.11%	102 0.14%	3 0.02%	285 0.09%
M.B. Themnimulla	36 0.04%	22 0.04%	25 0.04%	36 0.05%	0 0.00%	119 0.04%
Anuruddha Polgampala	36 0.04%	30 0.05%	40 0.06%	45 0.06%	1 0.01%	152 0.05%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	30 0.03%	12 0.02%	15 0.02%	28 0.04%	3 0.02%	88 0.03%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	27 0.03%	11 0.02%	28 0.04%	31 0.04%	0 0.00%	97 0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	27 0.03%	17 0.03%	9 0.01%	25 0.04%	3 0.02%	81 0.03%
Prasanna Priyankara	25 0.02%	13 0.02%	11 0.02%	34 0.05%	4 0.02%	87 0.03%
Sundaram Mahendran	24 0.02%	33 0.06%	36 0.06%	40 0.06%	2 0.01%	135 0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	15 0.01%	10 0.02%	14 0.02%	17 0.02%	1 0.01%	57 0.02%
Valid Votes	101,472 98.95%	56,178 98.98%	63,637 98.80%	70,812 98.50%	16,923 99.14%	309,022 98.83%
Rejected Votes	1,074 1.05%	581 1.02%	773 1.20%	1,079 1.50%	146 0.86%	3,653 1.17%
Total Polled	102,546 77.79%	56,759 80.71%	64,410 76.47%	71,891 77.06%	17,069 98.49%	312,675 82.35%
Registered Number of Electors	131,831	70,323	84,225	93,296		379,675

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
NUWARA-ELIYA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	NUWARA- ELIYA MASKELIYA	KOTAMALE	HANGURANKETHA	WALAPANE	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	171,578	36,343	25,645	32,340	6,699	272,605
	73.01%	59.48%	47.53%	50.59%	52.37%	63.88%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	57,718	23,821	27,389	30,354	6,057	145,339
	24.56%	38.99%	50.76%	47.48%	47.35%	34.06%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	831	133	97	128	2	1,191
	0.35%	0.22%	0.18%	0.20%	0.02%	0.28%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	730	115	85	136	2	1,068
	0.31%	0.19%	0.16%	0.21%	0.02%	0.25%
Ibrahim Miflar	705	93	97	155	4	1,054
	0.30%	0.15%	0.18%	0.24%	0.03%	0.25%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	493	97	122	171	6	889
	0.21%	0.16%	0.23%	0.27%	0.05%	0.21%
Namal Rajapaksa	479	92	113	161	1	846
	0.20%	0.15%	0.21%	0.25%	0.01%	0.20%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	469	87	86	84	3	729
	0.20%	0.14%	0.16%	0.13%	0.02%	0.17%
Duminda Nagamuwa	285	44	39	64	1	433
	0.12%	0.07%	0.07%	0.10%	0.01%	0.10%
Sarath Manamendra	282	42	51	56	3	434
	0.12%	0.07%	0.09%	0.09%	0.02%	0.10%
Anuruddha Polgampala	250	38	23	38	0	349
	0.11%	0.06%	0.04%	0.06%	0.00%	0.08%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	246	62	79	72	3	462
	0.10%	0.10%	0.15%	0.11%	0.02%	0.11%
M.B. Theminiyulla	199	27	18	26	1	271
	0.08%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.01%	0.06%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	195	27	21	44	4	291
	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.07%	0.03%	0.07%
Sundaram Mahendran	156	19	35	32	0	242
	0.07%	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.00%	0.06%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	141	19	17	21	4	202
	0.06%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.05%
Prasanna Priyankara	112	16	12	12	0	152
	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	71	14	13	12	0	110
	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	56	10	14	18	1	99
	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%

Valid Votes	234,996 98.35%	61,099 98.36%	53,956 98.07%	63,924 98.38%	12,791 98.04%	426,766 98.31%
Rejected Votes	3,939 1.65%	1,018 1.64%	1,064 1.93%	1,052 1.62%	256 1.96%	7,329 1.69%
Total Polled	238,935 78.90%	62,117 79.57%	55,020 77.44%	64,976 79.05%	13,047 95.82%	434,095 81.27%
Registered Number of Electors	302,836	78,068	71,053	82,193		534,150

Table XII

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
GALLE DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	BALAPITIYA	AMBALANGODA	KARANDENIYA	BANTARA FLPITIYA	HINDUMA	BADDEGAMA	RATGAMA	GALLE	AKMEEMANA	HABARADUWA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	23,283 58.45%	32,871 55.15%	34,983 63.13%	42,015 59.08%	47,464 57.58%	43,369 56.57%	36,209 60.57%	23,184 36.69%	39,604 52.77%	38,028 58.86%	16,116 53.49%	377,126 55.64%
Maithripala Sirisena	16,196 40.66%	26,187 43.93%	19,752 35.65%	28,287 39.78%	34,022 41.27%	32,347 42.19%	23,038 38.54%	39,547 62.58%	34,807 46.38%	25,932 40.14%	13,879 46.06%	293,994 43.37%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	60 0.15%	78 0.13%	109 0.20%	108 0.15%	171 0.21%	133 0.17%	77 0.13%	48 0.08%	105 0.14%	92 0.14%	14 0.05%	995 0.15%
Aithurus Mohamed Ilias	39 0.10%	46 0.08%	53 0.10%	79 0.11%	78 0.09%	108 0.14%	49 0.08%	41 0.06%	44 0.06%	72 0.11%	3 0.01%	612 0.09%
Ibrahim Miflar	38 0.10%	55 0.09%	55 0.10%	82 0.12%	87 0.11%	68 0.09%	46 0.08%	41 0.06%	66 0.09%	52 0.08%	7 0.02%	597 0.09%
Namal Rajapaksa	32 0.08%	51 0.09%	88 0.16%	123 0.17%	106 0.13%	141 0.18%	57 0.10%	24 0.04%	57 0.08%	64 0.10%	12 0.04%	755 0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince Solomon Anura	27 0.07%	41 0.07%	44 0.08%	38 0.05%	83 0.10%	56 0.07%	50 0.08%	57 0.09%	47 0.06%	48 0.07%	7 0.02%	498 0.07%
Liyanaage	25 0.06%	78 0.13%	129 0.23%	119 0.17%	78 0.09%	95 0.12%	55 0.09%	46 0.07%	74 0.10%	96 0.15%	40 0.13%	835 0.12%
Duminda Nagamuwa	20 0.05%	30 0.05%	38 0.07%	41 0.06%	63 0.08%	81 0.11%	34 0.06%	53 0.08%	56 0.07%	43 0.07%	3 0.01%	462 0.07%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	20 0.05%	32 0.05%	20 0.04%	28 0.04%	35 0.04%	37 0.05%	18 0.03%	17 0.03%	33 0.04%	32 0.05%	6 0.02%	278 0.04%
Sarath Manamendra	18 0.05%	28 0.05%	31 0.06%	48 0.07%	68 0.08%	58 0.08%	44 0.07%	22 0.03%	34 0.05%	31 0.05%	10 0.03%	392 0.06%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	18 0.05%	17 0.03%	17 0.03%	17 0.02%	26 0.03%	20 0.03%	18 0.03%	22 0.03%	17 0.02%	16 0.02%	2 0.01%	190 0.03%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	14 0.04%	15 0.03%	20 0.04%	20 0.03%	22 0.03%	21 0.03%	4 0.01%	24 0.04%	27 0.04%	15 0.02%	17 0.06%	199 0.03%
Baththaramulle Seelarithana Thero	13 0.03%	20 0.03%	17 0.03%	18 0.03%	26 0.03%	33 0.04%	16 0.03%	14 0.02%	17 0.02%	15 0.02%	4 0.01%	193 0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	10 0.03%	14 0.02%	11 0.02%	19 0.03%	25 0.03%	23 0.04%	15 0.03%	14 0.02%	19 0.02%	17 0.02%	2 0.01%	169 0.03%
M.B. Themiminulla	7 0.03%	9 0.02%	2 0.00%	11 0.03%	15 0.03%	12 0.03%	8 0.03%	8 0.02%	7 0.03%	9 0.03%	2 0.01%	90 0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	4 0.02%	14 0.02%	14 0.03%	20 0.02%	17 0.02%	17 0.02%	16 0.01%	9 0.01%	16 0.01%	11 0.01%	5 0.01%	143 0.01%
Prasanna Priyankara	4 0.01%	11 0.02%	21 0.03%	27 0.03%	28 0.02%	31 0.02%	21 0.03%	14 0.01%	16 0.02%	12 0.02%	0 0.00%	185 0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	3 0.01%	7 0.02%	6 0.04%	10 0.04%	14 0.03%	17 0.04%	8 0.04%	5 0.02%	8 0.02%	18 0.02%	2 0.00%	98 0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	39,831 99.04%	59,604 98.95%	55,410 99.03%	71,110 99.20%	82,428 99.05%	76,667 98.79%	59,783 99.20%	63,190 99.30%	75,054 99.03%	64,603 99.12%	30,131 98.66%	677,811 99.05%
Valid Votes	388 0.96%	635 1.05%	541 0.97%	574 0.80%	790 0.95%	941 1.21%	480 0.80%	447 0.70%	738 0.97%	572 0.88%	410 1.34%	6,516 0.95%
Rejected Votes	40,219 76.10%	60,239 79.76%	55,951 77.10%	71,684 80.09%	83,218 82.59%	77,608 81.15%	60,263 77.08%	63,637 79.86%	75,792 80.48%	65,175 80.68%	30,541 98.89%	684,327 83.49%
Total Polled	52,852	75,524	72,572	89,500	100,757	95,641	78,182	79,685	94,175	80,778	819,666	

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
MATARA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	DENIYAYA	HAKMANA	AKURESSA	KAMBURUPITIYA	DEVINUWARA	MATARA	WELIGAMA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	44,273	46,635	42,860	40,084	35,795	34,191	40,715	13,270	297,823
	57.39%	64.15%	57.70%	63.06%	59.32%	48.96%	55.36%	55.87%	57.81%
Maithripala Sirisena	31,716	25,164	30,647	22,939	24,092	35,248	32,247	10,382	212,435
	41.12%	34.62%	41.26%	36.09%	39.93%	50.47%	43.85%	43.71%	41.24%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	182	144	138	103	79	52	99	7	804
	0.24%	0.20%	0.19%	0.16%	0.13%	0.07%	0.13%	0.03%	0.16%
Namal Rajapaksa	145	145	116	72	68	34	71	11	662
	0.19%	0.20%	0.16%	0.11%	0.11%	0.05%	0.10%	0.05%	0.13%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	102	80	66	45	45	50	56	4	448
	0.13%	0.11%	0.09%	0.07%	0.07%	0.07%	0.08%	0.02%	0.09%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	95	66	71	39	35	25	46	7	384
	0.12%	0.09%	0.10%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.07%
Ibrahim Miflar	95	56	58	38	29	24	52	4	356
	0.12%	0.08%	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.07%	0.02%	0.07%
Duminda Nagamuwa	90	70	37	38	30	30	35	22	352
	0.12%	0.10%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.09%	0.07%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	84	67	72	36	32	34	45	3	373
	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.01%	0.07%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	70	63	45	35	21	21	33	6	294
	0.09%	0.09%	0.06%	0.06%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%
Sarath Manamendra	59	41	40	26	21	20	20	4	231
	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%
Sundaram Mahendran	51	28	14	14	12	6	15	0	140
	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
M.B. Theminiyulla	33	19	15	10	17	16	18	1	129
	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	32	23	23	10	19	10	12	4	133
	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%
Prasanna Priyankara	28	17	16	10	8	15	11	2	107
	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	28	26	23	14	9	16	19	3	138
	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	23	27	22	16	9	31	26	12	166
	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	17	14	14	13	2	8	18	7	93
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	15	10	8	18	16	5	7	3	82
	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Valid Votes	77,138 98.73%	72,695 98.98%	74,285 99.23%	63,560 99.00%	60,339 99.22%	69,836 99.08%	73,545 99.28%	23,752 98.83%	515,150 99.06%
Rejected Votes	990 1.27%	748 1.02%	575 0.77%	639 1.00%	473 0.78%	652 0.92%	534 0.72%	280 1.17%	4,891 0.94%
Total Polled	78,128 80.04%	73,443 80.01%	74,860 79.83%	64,199 78.75%	60,812 77.28%	70,488 81.04%	74,079 79.27%	24,032 98.51%	520,041 83.36%
Registered Number of Electors	97,610	91,791	93,769	81,524	78,690	86,984	93,450		623,818

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	MULKIRIGALA	BELIATTA	TANGALLE	THISSAMAHARAMA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	52,202	39,513	62,739	78,546	10,295	243,295
	64.58%	63.65%	65.18%	59.99%	64.45%	63.02%
Maithripala Sirisena	27,601	21,912	32,598	50,977	5,620	138,708
	34.14%	35.29%	33.87%	38.93%	35.18%	35.93%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	205	107	162	250	10	734
	0.25%	0.17%	0.17%	0.19%	0.06%	0.19%
Namal Rajapaksa	155	93	136	176	5	565
	0.19%	0.15%	0.14%	0.13%	0.03%	0.15%
Sarath Manamendra	81	30	67	73	2	253
	0.10%	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.01%	0.07%
Ibrahim Miflar	78	65	85	147	1	376
	0.10%	0.10%	0.09%	0.11%	0.01%	0.10%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	75	44	60	128	0	307
	0.09%	0.07%	0.06%	0.10%	0.00%	0.08%
Duminda Nagamuwa	68	28	76	82	13	267
	0.08%	0.05%	0.08%	0.06%	0.08%	0.07%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	65	57	60	116	3	301
	0.08%	0.09%	0.06%	0.09%	0.02%	0.08%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	64	39	53	79	7	242
	0.08%	0.06%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.06%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	63	64	63	129	3	322
	0.08%	0.10%	0.07%	0.10%	0.02%	0.08%
M.B. Theminiyulla	31	14	17	35	0	97
	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%
Sundaram Mahendran	30	25	21	28	1	105
	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	25	26	31	27	7	116
	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	24	12	29	36	1	102
	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
Prasanna Priyankara	20	20	15	28	0	83
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	20	10	11	18	2	61
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	16	15	16	36	2	85
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	14	9	9	24	1	57
	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%
Valid Votes	80,837 99.19%	62,083 99.12%	96,248 99.12%	130,935 99.17%	15,973 98.84%	386,076 99.14%
Rejected Votes	658 0.81%	553 0.88%	851 0.88%	1,102 0.83%	187 1.16%	3,351 0.86%
Total Polled	81,495 80.92%	62,636 80.06%	97,099 80.82%	132,037 80.60%	16,160 97.81%	389,427 84.13%
Registered Number of Electors	100,711	78,234	120,148	163,818		462,911

Table XII

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
JAFFNA DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	KAYTS	WADUKKODAI	KANKASANTHURAI	MANIPAY	KOPAY	UDUPPIDDI	POINT PEDURU	CHAVAKACHCHERI	NALOR	JAFFNA	KILINCHCHI	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	8,144	20,873	18,729	26,958	27,161	18,137	17,388	23,520	24,929	17,994	38,856	10,885	259,574
	55.48%	69.58%	73.11%	75.67%	77.44%	78.68%	77.90%	77.23%	79.87%	77.91%	72.11%	69.17%	74.42%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	5,959	7,791	5,705	7,225	6,211	3,937	4,213	5,599	5,405	4,502	13,300	4,607	74,454
	40.60%	25.97%	22.27%	20.28%	17.71%	17.08%	18.88%	18.38%	17.32%	19.49%	24.68%	29.27%	21.85%
Panagoda Don Prince Solomon Anura Liyanage	70	133	125	178	193	108	87	142	110	81	161	10	1,398
	0.48%	0.44%	0.49%	0.50%	0.55%	0.47%	0.39%	0.47%	0.35%	0.35%	0.30%	0.06%	0.41%
Ibrahim Mifflar	67	163	169	155	213	125	96	215	112	71	215	19	1,620
	0.46%	0.54%	0.66%	0.44%	0.61%	0.54%	0.43%	0.71%	0.36%	0.31%	0.40%	0.12%	0.48%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	63	90	40	60	77	53	18	51	35	24	92	12	615
	0.43%	0.30%	0.16%	0.17%	0.22%	0.23%	0.08%	0.17%	0.11%	0.10%	0.17%	0.08%	0.18%
Namal Rajapaksa	55	108	102	123	180	93	65	123	52	41	184	24	1,150
	0.37%	0.36%	0.40%	0.35%	0.51%	0.40%	0.29%	0.40%	0.17%	0.18%	0.34%	0.15%	0.34%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	51	78	87	96	105	79	59	127	55	52	180	9	978
	0.35%	0.26%	0.34%	0.27%	0.30%	0.34%	0.26%	0.42%	0.18%	0.23%	0.33%	0.06%	0.29%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	38	107	94	137	114	82	49	97	74	41	123	22	978
	0.26%	0.36%	0.37%	0.38%	0.33%	0.36%	0.22%	0.32%	0.24%	0.18%	0.23%	0.14%	0.29%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	34	122	105	128	118	50	47	96	79	66	115	15	975
	0.23%	0.41%	0.41%	0.36%	0.34%	0.22%	0.21%	0.32%	0.25%	0.29%	0.21%	0.10%	0.29%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	33	102	77	103	156	65	59	81	67	40	149	10	942
	0.22%	0.34%	0.30%	0.29%	0.44%	0.28%	0.26%	0.27%	0.21%	0.17%	0.28%	0.06%	0.28%
Sarath Manamendra	30	67	61	71	88	59	44	76	34	33	106	8	677
	0.20%	0.22%	0.24%	0.20%	0.25%	0.26%	0.20%	0.25%	0.11%	0.14%	0.20%	0.05%	0.20%
Duminda Nagamuwa	26	78	51	69	89	43	38	69	40	31	66	10	610
	0.18%	0.26%	0.20%	0.19%	0.25%	0.19%	0.17%	0.23%	0.13%	0.13%	0.12%	0.06%	0.18%
Sundaram Mahendran	22	50	38	69	73	47	41	56	50	27	77	73	623
	0.15%	0.17%	0.15%	0.19%	0.21%	0.20%	0.18%	0.18%	0.16%	0.12%	0.14%	0.46%	0.18%
Baththaramulle Seelarithana Thero	19	39	42	43	41	24	11	29	22	11	41	7	329
	0.13%	0.13%	0.16%	0.12%	0.12%	0.10%	0.05%	0.10%	0.07%	0.05%	0.08%	0.04%	0.10%
Anuruddha Polgampala	18	55	59	63	56	44	36	51	44	14	63	5	508
	0.12%	0.18%	0.23%	0.18%	0.16%	0.19%	0.16%	0.17%	0.14%	0.06%	0.12%	0.03%	0.15%
Prasanna Priyankara	16	30	40	44	51	30	22	29	34	15	39	10	360
	0.11%	0.10%	0.16%	0.12%	0.15%	0.13%	0.10%	0.10%	0.11%	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.11%
Jayantha Kulathunga	14	23	19	20	22	17	12	19	15	12	37	4	214
	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.06%	0.06%	0.07%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.07%	0.03%	0.06%
M.B. Themiminulla	11	66	58	69	93	45	28	62	44	33	56	3	568
	0.07%	0.22%	0.23%	0.19%	0.27%	0.20%	0.13%	0.20%	0.14%	0.14%	0.10%	0.02%	0.17%
Wimal Geeganage	8	22	15	16	33	14	7	14	11	8	26	4	178
	0.05%	0.07%	0.06%	0.04%	0.09%	0.06%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.05%
Valid Votes	14,678	29,997	25,616	35,627	35,074	23,052	22,320	30,456	31,212	23,096	53,886	15,737	340,751
	96.74%	96.64%	96.89%	97.38%	96.86%	97.57%	97.48%	96.97%	97.93%	98.20%	96.52%	97.20%	97.14%
Rejected Votes	495	1,043	822	960	1,138	574	576	953	660	423	1,940	454	10,038
	3.26%	3.36%	3.11%	2.62%	3.14%	2.43%	2.52%	3.03%	2.07%	1.80%	3.48%	2.80%	2.86%
Total Polled	15,173	31,040	26,438	36,587	36,212	23,626	22,896	31,409	31,872	23,519	55,826	16,191	350,789
	68.79%	65.18%	41.82%	67.05%	64.79%	60.26%	63.36%	60.75%	68.25%	71.16%	70.58%	95.10%	66.28%
Registered Number of Electors	22,057	47,621	63,217	54,567	55,891	39,204	36,138	51,702	46,699	33,050	79,093	529,239	

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
VAVUNIYA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	MANNAR	VAVUNIYA	MULLAITIVU	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	45,543	55,683	35,441	4,750	141,417
	85.13%	75.17%	78.95%	61.24%	78.47%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	6,824	16,678	7,935	2,940	34,377
	12.76%	22.51%	17.68%	37.91%	19.07%
Ibrahim Miflar	160	212	185	6	563
	0.30%	0.29%	0.41%	0.08%	0.31%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	159	213	195	7	574
	0.30%	0.29%	0.43%	0.09%	0.32%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	136	164	151	2	453
	0.25%	0.22%	0.34%	0.03%	0.25%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	100	128	67	5	300
	0.19%	0.17%	0.15%	0.06%	0.17%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	78	146	124	8	356
	0.15%	0.20%	0.28%	0.10%	0.20%
Namal Rajapaksa	74	143	176	7	400
	0.14%	0.19%	0.39%	0.09%	0.22%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	68	148	135	7	358
	0.13%	0.20%	0.30%	0.09%	0.20%
Sarath Manamendra	61	91	81	2	235
	0.11%	0.12%	0.18%	0.03%	0.13%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	57	78	78	3	216
	0.11%	0.11%	0.17%	0.04%	0.12%
Sundaram Mahendran	46	91	69	12	218
	0.09%	0.12%	0.15%	0.15%	0.12%
Duminda Nagamuwa	44	74	68	5	191
	0.08%	0.10%	0.15%	0.06%	0.11%
M.B. Theminiyulla	32	57	44	0	133
	0.06%	0.08%	0.10%	0.00%	0.07%
Anuruddha Polgampala	32	53	29	0	114
	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.00%	0.06%
Prasanna Priyankara	29	45	37	2	113
	0.05%	0.06%	0.08%	0.03%	0.06%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	23	30	19	0	72
	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.00%	0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	19	26	23	0	68
	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.00%	0.04%
Jayantha Kulathunga	15	20	32	0	67
	0.03%	0.03%	0.07%	0.00%	0.04%
Valid Votes	53,500 98.35%	74,080 98.18%	44,889 97.71%	7,756 98.75%	180,225 98.14%
Rejected Votes	895 1.65%	1,371 1.82%	1,052 2.29%	98 1.25%	3,416 1.86%
Total Polled	54,395 68.48%	75,451 68.78%	45,941 71.87%	7,854 93.90%	183,641 72.57%
Registered Number of Electors	79,433	109,705	63,920		253,058

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
BATTICALOA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	KALKUDHA	BATTICALOA	PADIRUPPU	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	60,342	97,779	44,485	6,816	209,422
	83.72%	80.39%	81.76%	80.55%	81.62%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	10,337	21,473	8,216	1,605	41,631
	14.34%	17.65%	15.10%	18.97%	16.22%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	259	351	266	6	882
	0.36%	0.29%	0.49%	0.07%	0.34%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	208	269	163	1	641
	0.29%	0.22%	0.30%	0.01%	0.25%
Ibrahim Miflar	154	276	262	6	698
	0.21%	0.23%	0.48%	0.07%	0.27%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	135	226	160	1	522
	0.19%	0.19%	0.29%	0.01%	0.20%
Namal Rajapaksa	114	165	160	2	441
	0.16%	0.14%	0.29%	0.02%	0.17%
Sarath Manamendra	84	168	118	0	370
	0.12%	0.14%	0.22%	0.00%	0.14%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	64	153	98	8	323
	0.09%	0.13%	0.18%	0.09%	0.13%
Duminda Nagamuwa	63	156	83	4	306
	0.09%	0.13%	0.15%	0.05%	0.12%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	59	116	81	2	258
	0.08%	0.10%	0.15%	0.02%	0.10%
Sundaram Mahendran	55	104	71	8	238
	0.08%	0.09%	0.13%	0.09%	0.09%
Anuruddha Polgampala	47	86	54	0	187
	0.07%	0.07%	0.10%	0.00%	0.07%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	38	87	55	0	180
	0.05%	0.07%	0.10%	0.00%	0.07%
M.B. Theminiyulla	37	81	38	1	157
	0.05%	0.07%	0.07%	0.01%	0.06%
Prasanna Priyankara	25	51	31	1	108
	0.03%	0.04%	0.06%	0.01%	0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	20	32	22	0	74
	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.00%	0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	19	22	18	0	59
	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	15	42	31	1	89
	0.02%	0.03%	0.06%	0.01%	0.03%
Valid Votes	72,075 98.97%	121,637 99.10%	54,412 98.86%	8,462 98.83%	256,586 99.00%
Rejected Votes	747 1.03%	1,106 0.90%	627 1.14%	100 1.17%	2,580 1.00%
Total Polled	72,822 69.32%	122,743 71.16%	55,039 62.82%	8,562 97.13%	259,166 70.97%
Registered Number of Electors	105,056	172,499	87,612		365,167

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
DIGAMADULLA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	AMPARA	SAMANTHRAI	KALMUNAI	POTUVIL	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	76,409	46,827	45,411	81,547	11,917	262,111
	61.10%	84.63%	89.81%	77.55%	54.89%	73.25%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	47,658	7,797	4,683	22,425	9,713	92,276
	38.11%	14.09%	9.26%	21.33%	44.74%	25.79%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	238	55	26	113	14	446
	0.19%	0.10%	0.05%	0.11%	0.06%	0.12%
Namal Rajapaksa	166	42	22	74	3	307
	0.13%	0.08%	0.04%	0.07%	0.01%	0.09%
Duminda Nagamuwa	104	35	26	63	6	234
	0.08%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.03%	0.07%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	81	124	94	235	9	543
	0.06%	0.22%	0.19%	0.22%	0.04%	0.15%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	77	121	68	165	7	438
	0.06%	0.22%	0.13%	0.16%	0.03%	0.12%
Ibrahim Miflar	55	92	61	140	8	356
	0.04%	0.17%	0.12%	0.13%	0.04%	0.10%
Sarath Manamendra	50	33	31	53	2	169
	0.04%	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.01%	0.05%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	46	48	31	65	7	197
	0.04%	0.09%	0.06%	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	30	38	24	86	9	187
	0.02%	0.07%	0.05%	0.08%	0.04%	0.05%
Sundaram Mahendran	28	19	12	29	4	92
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	23	26	14	52	2	117
	0.02%	0.05%	0.03%	0.05%	0.01%	0.03%
M.B. Theminiyulla	21	20	14	31	2	88
	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	21	14	9	11	2	57
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	19	14	11	24	1	69
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	15	7	5	7	2	36
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Jayantha Kulathunga	13	8	7	9	2	39
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Prasanna Priyankara	10	13	12	19	1	55
	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Valid Votes	125,064 99.28%	55,333 99.26%	50,561 99.33%	105,148 99.24%	21,711 99.28%	357,817 99.27%
Rejected Votes	911 0.72%	412 0.74%	342 0.67%	802 0.76%	158 0.72%	2,625 0.73%
Total Polled	125,975 77.76%	55,745 69.37%	50,903 71.44%	105,950 69.64%	21,869 98.02%	360,442 77.39%
Registered Number of Electors	161,999	80,357	71,254	152,147		465,757

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	SERUWILA	TRINCOMALEE	MUTUR	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	26,716	12,056	7,132	6,207	52,111
	51.12%	19.21%	10.85%	42.46%	26.67%
Maithripala Sirisena	24,833	49,650	57,532	8,323	140,338
	47.52%	79.11%	87.54%	56.94%	71.84%
Duminda Nagamuwa	118	60	71	21	270
	0.23%	0.10%	0.11%	0.14%	0.14%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	102	74	76	11	263
	0.20%	0.12%	0.12%	0.08%	0.13%
Namal Rajapaksa	75	77	79	6	237
	0.14%	0.12%	0.12%	0.04%	0.12%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	70	140	174	3	387
	0.13%	0.22%	0.26%	0.02%	0.20%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	63	114	160	4	341
	0.12%	0.18%	0.24%	0.03%	0.17%
Ibrahim Miflar	60	113	142	12	327
	0.11%	0.18%	0.22%	0.08%	0.17%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	44	97	70	3	214
	0.08%	0.15%	0.11%	0.02%	0.11%
Sarath Manamendra	44	55	62	3	164
	0.08%	0.09%	0.09%	0.02%	0.08%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	35	77	46	11	169
	0.07%	0.12%	0.07%	0.08%	0.09%
M.B. Theminiyulla	18	42	26	3	89
	0.03%	0.07%	0.04%	0.02%	0.05%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	18	34	36	0	88
	0.03%	0.05%	0.05%	0.00%	0.05%
Wimal Geeganage	14	14	7	1	36
	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	14	38	31	6	89
	0.03%	0.06%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%
Anuruddha Polgampala	13	53	31	2	99
	0.02%	0.08%	0.05%	0.01%	0.05%
Jayantha Kulathunga	10	18	10	0	38
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	9	21	14	0	44
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	5	26	20	1	52
	0.01%	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
Valid Votes	52,261 99.16%	62,759 98.72%	65,719 99.30%	14,617 99.42%	195,356 99.08%
Rejected Votes	442 0.84%	816 1.28%	461 0.70%	86 0.58%	1,805 0.92%
Total Polled	52,703 71.15%	63,575 73.09%	66,180 69.08%	14,703 97.36%	197,161 76.76%
Registered Number of Electors	74,070	86,978	95,804		256,852

Table XII

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
KURUNEGALA DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	GALGAMUWA	NIKAWERATIYA	YAPAHUWA	HIRIYALA	WARIYAPOLA	PANDUWASNUWARA	BANGIRIYA	KATUGAMPOLA	KULYAPITTYA	DAMBADENIYA	POLGAHAWELA	KURUNEGALA	MAWATHAGAMA	DODANGASLANDA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	46,848	40,015	49,289	38,538	34,499	32,197	37,574	41,990	39,115	41,422	31,108	31,429	33,243	28,010	31,591	556,868
	59.66%	55.47%	57.25%	52.68%	57.92%	55.73%	54.28%	55.13%	50.61%	55.31%	51.92%	45.02%	47.84%	53.45%	48.47%	53.46%
Maithripala Sirisena	31,027	31,444	36,058	33,944	24,562	25,172	31,166	33,655	37,528	32,964	28,365	37,895	35,591	23,847	33,384	476,602
	39.51%	43.59%	41.88%	46.40%	41.24%	43.57%	45.02%	44.19%	48.55%	44.02%	47.34%	54.28%	51.22%	45.50%	51.22%	45.76%
Arachchige Rathnayaka	139	138	125	112	88	68	83	87	91	106	69	72	92	79	25	1,374
	0.18%	0.19%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.12%	0.12%	0.11%	0.12%	0.14%	0.12%	0.10%	0.13%	0.15%	0.04%	0.13%
Namal Rajapaksa	109	121	126	94	73	60	58	53	82	72	55	49	82	85	19	1,138
	0.14%	0.17%	0.15%	0.13%	0.12%	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.11%	0.10%	0.09%	0.07%	0.12%	0.16%	0.03%	0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince	63	67	73	70	31	35	47	49	45	40	38	48	64	46	8	724
	0.08%	0.09%	0.08%	0.10%	0.05%	0.06%	0.07%	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.07%	0.09%	0.09%	0.01%	0.07%
Soloman Anura Liyanage	53	73	71	70	47	47	36	69	89	39	55	51	62	63	14	839
	0.07%	0.10%	0.08%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%	0.05%	0.09%	0.12%	0.05%	0.09%	0.07%	0.09%	0.12%	0.02%	0.08%
Ibrahim Mifflar	50	57	65	60	28	35	42	36	47	35	29	47	51	45	10	637
	0.06%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.07%	0.07%	0.09%	0.02%	0.06%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru	45	34	49	35	31	21	29	24	34	29	20	23	34	26	7	441
	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.05%	0.05%	0.01%	0.04%
Sarath Manamendra	44	62	54	48	52	31	41	48	70	46	39	32	50	47	18	682
	0.06%	0.09%	0.06%	0.07%	0.09%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.09%	0.06%	0.07%	0.05%	0.07%	0.09%	0.03%	0.07%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	35	32	38	35	25	23	28	25	37	30	25	37	40	34	13	457
	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.02%	0.04%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	25	8	16	15	16	10	13	13	6	13	7	10	17	10	2	181
	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	24	20	30	24	33	21	30	41	59	29	22	32	40	33	27	465
	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.08%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%
Duminda Nagamuwa	14	9	18	14	15	10	12	9	20	17	15	21	20	17	5	216
	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	11	12	12	16	12	10	6	14	13	8	16	5	20	13	5	173
	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
M.B. Themimimulla	10	10	17	27	8	10	14	15	15	6	16	9	20	11	8	196
	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	10	7	11	18	15	4	14	12	13	11	19	25	19	20	30	228
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.02%
Baththaramulle	8	16	16	12	13	12	12	8	18	13	8	10	16	10	5	177
	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Seelarathana Thero	8	13	13	9	7	5	8	4	9	8	3	12	13	6	6	124
	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Prasanna Priyankara	7	5	9	7	9	5	9	11	3	3	10	8	7	7	2	102
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Wimal Geeganege	78,530	72,143	86,090	73,148	59,564	57,776	69,222	76,163	77,294	74,891	59,919	69,815	69,481	52,409	65,179	1,041,624
	99.24%	99.10%	99.25%	98.86%	99.25%	99.31%	99.26%	99.00%	99.27%	99.18%	99.28%	99.17%	98.81%	99.03%	98.74%	99.12%
Valid Votes	602	658	654	847	448	403	517	768	568	621	435	583	834	512	835	9,285
	0.76%	0.90%	0.75%	1.14%	0.75%	0.69%	0.74%	1.00%	0.73%	0.82%	0.72%	0.83%	1.19%	0.97%	1.26%	0.88%
Rejected Votes	79,132	72,801	86,744	73,995	60,012	58,179	69,739	76,931	77,862	75,512	60,354	70,398	70,315	52,921	66,014	1,050,909
	76.46%	76.71%	76.19%	75.59%	78.12%	78.51%	78.97%	81.40%	77.49%	79.86%	78.06%	78.80%	77.54%	75.38%	98.63%	82.98%
Total Polled	103,488	94,910	113,858	97,886	76,817	74,100	88,306	94,505	100,474	94,560	77,321	89,332	90,682	70,204	1,266,443	
	Registered Number of Electors															

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
PUTTALAM DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	PUTTALAM	ANAMADUWA	CHILLAW	NATHHANDIYA	WENNAPPUWA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	58,844	31,026	42,187	29,934	35,218	4,864	202,073
	69.82%	36.89%	48.50%	47.11%	46.75%	50.58%	50.04%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	24,235	52,225	43,928	33,119	39,523	4,721	197,751
	28.76%	62.10%	50.50%	52.12%	52.46%	49.09%	48.97%
Ibrahim Miflar	161	88	84	50	54	0	437
	0.19%	0.10%	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.00%	0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	156	62	91	52	42	3	406
	0.19%	0.07%	0.10%	0.08%	0.06%	0.03%	0.10%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	131	67	65	33	43	0	339
	0.16%	0.08%	0.07%	0.05%	0.06%	0.00%	0.08%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	125	63	84	52	50	6	380
	0.15%	0.07%	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.06%	0.09%
Namal Rajapaksa	123	149	91	50	75	3	491
	0.15%	0.18%	0.10%	0.08%	0.10%	0.03%	0.12%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	107	168	146	76	82	0	579
	0.13%	0.20%	0.17%	0.12%	0.11%	0.00%	0.14%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	98	40	64	30	37	1	270
	0.12%	0.05%	0.07%	0.05%	0.05%	0.01%	0.07%
Duminda Nagamuwa	50	59	68	40	82	7	306
	0.06%	0.07%	0.08%	0.06%	0.11%	0.07%	0.08%
M.B. Theminiyulla	43	13	27	9	14	1	107
	0.05%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	#DIV/0!
Sarath Manamendra	43	31	28	23	22	1	148
	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	32	18	31	20	15	1	117
	0.04%	0.02%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	31	16	16	12	18	1	94
	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	29	23	14	7	11	1	85
	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	22	13	14	4	19	2	74
	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	20	16	16	8	20	1	81
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	17	9	19	11	9	4	69
	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.04%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	10	7	12	9	5	0	43
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Valid Votes	84,277 98.65%	84,093 99.08%	86,985 98.88%	63,539 99.13%	75,339 99.05%	9,617 98.91%	403,850 98.95%
Rejected Votes	1,151 1.35%	778 0.92%	985 1.12%	558 0.87%	722 0.95%	106 1.09%	4,300 1.05%
Total Polled	85,428 67.96%	84,871 75.12%	87,970 74.44%	64,097 71.24%	76,061 71.63%	9,723 97.47%	408,150 73.81%
Registered Number of Electors	125,702	112,978	118,171	89,975	106,183		553,009

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	MEDAWACHCHIYA	HOROWPOTHANA	ANURADHAPURA EAST	ANURADHAPURA WEST	KALAWEWA	MIHINTALE	KEKIRAWA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	35,772	31,847	38,947	42,349	54,008	26,032	32,563	19,643	281,161
	59.01%	52.90%	51.69%	55.03%	55.92%	52.71%	51.96%	45.82%	53.59%
Maithripala Sirisena	24,261	27,662	35,779	33,791	41,612	22,860	29,410	23,032	238,407
	40.02%	45.95%	47.49%	43.91%	43.09%	46.28%	46.93%	53.72%	45.44%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	121	109	110	148	172	88	122	31	901
	0.20%	0.18%	0.15%	0.19%	0.18%	0.18%	0.19%	0.07%	0.17%
Namal Rajapaksa	99	97	76	103	130	78	78	24	685
	0.16%	0.16%	0.10%	0.13%	0.13%	0.16%	0.12%	0.06%	0.13%
Ibrahim Miflar	71	72	61	92	88	54	87	23	548
	0.12%	0.12%	0.08%	0.12%	0.09%	0.11%	0.14%	0.05%	0.10%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	49	82	53	82	89	41	60	13	469
	0.08%	0.14%	0.07%	0.11%	0.09%	0.08%	0.10%	0.03%	0.09%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	47	67	46	79	112	45	62	6	464
	0.08%	0.11%	0.06%	0.10%	0.12%	0.09%	0.10%	0.01%	0.09%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	36	46	46	72	59	26	56	31	372
	0.06%	0.08%	0.06%	0.09%	0.06%	0.05%	0.09%	0.07%	0.07%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	28	63	32	42	47	24	46	6	288
	0.05%	0.10%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.07%	0.01%	0.05%
Sarath Manamendra	28	32	36	39	47	31	22	10	245
	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.06%	0.04%	0.02%	0.05%
Duminda Nagamuwa	22	36	61	34	75	36	42	18	324
	0.04%	0.06%	0.08%	0.04%	0.08%	0.07%	0.07%	0.04%	0.06%
Anuruddha Polgampala	18	15	14	20	22	17	21	2	129
	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	14	14	9	16	18	10	19	5	105
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	12	14	12	23	16	10	21	5	113
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
M.B. Theminimulla	11	10	11	20	14	4	14	2	86
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	10	9	19	13	26	12	13	2	104
	0.02%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	8	9	8	12	14	10	13	2	76
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	8	9	16	16	18	5	13	13	98
	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	5	8	11	6	13	7	4	4	58
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Valid Votes	60,620 99.30%	60,201 99.23%	75,347 99.14%	76,957 99.07%	96,580 99.21%	49,390 99.18%	62,666 99.12%	42,872 98.85%	524,633 99.15%
Rejected Votes	426 0.70%	468 0.77%	651 0.86%	720 0.93%	771 0.79%	406 0.82%	559 0.88%	499 1.15%	4,500 0.85%
Total Polled	61,046 74.45%	60,669 74.81%	75,998 77.89%	77,677 75.64%	97,351 77.78%	49,796 76.87%	63,225 75.78%	43,371 98.25%	529,133 83.10%
Registered Number of Electors	81,996	81,099	97,576	102,691	125,162	64,778	83,431		636,733

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
POLONNARUWA DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	MINNERIYA	MEDIRIGIRIYA	POLONNARUWA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Maithripala Sirisena	32,744	32,875	72,875	9,480	147,974
	50.22%	53.89%	62.86%	68.42%	57.80%
Mahinda Rajapaksa	31,747	27,623	41,961	4,309	105,640
	48.69%	45.28%	36.19%	31.10%	41.27%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	137	73	149	11	370
	0.21%	0.12%	0.13%	0.08%	0.14%
Duminda Nagamuwa	120	60	145	11	336
	0.18%	0.10%	0.13%	0.08%	0.13%
Namal Rajapaksa	91	73	123	5	292
	0.14%	0.12%	0.11%	0.04%	0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	61	60	130	6	257
	0.09%	0.10%	0.11%	0.04%	0.10%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	58	73	165	2	298
	0.09%	0.12%	0.14%	0.01%	0.12%
Ibrahim Miflar	38	36	82	10	166
	0.06%	0.06%	0.07%	0.07%	0.06%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	37	28	35	7	107
	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	35	32	56	6	129
	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%
Sarath Manamendra	28	14	58	3	103
	0.04%	0.02%	0.05%	0.02%	0.04%
M.B. Themimulla	23	9	19	2	53
	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	14	8	20	1	43
	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	14	14	15	1	44
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	12	10	35	2	59
	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	11	3	13	0	27
	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Prasanna Priyankara	10	10	20	0	40
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	10	5	21	0	36
	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%
Wimal Geeganage	8	1	13	0	22
	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Valid Votes	65,198	61,007	115,935	13,856	255,996
	99.25%	99.50%	99.27%	98.99%	99.31%
Rejected Votes	491	307	850	142	1,790
	0.75%	0.50%	0.73%	1.01%	0.69%
Total Polled	65,689	61,314	116,785	13,998	257,786
	78.77%	79.11%	79.87%	98.49%	83.94%
Registered Number of Electors	83,395	77,505	146,225		307,125

Table XII

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
BADULLA DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	MAHIYANGANAYA	WIYALUWA	PASSARA	BADULLA	HALIELA	UVA PARANAGAMA	WELIMADA	BANDARAWELA	HAPUTALE	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	42,718	23,518	20,202	20,062	25,420	25,337	27,874	31,272	19,725	13,115	249,243
	56.69%	59.72%	42.99%	46.40%	46.80%	51.74%	48.00%	48.12%	39.84%	49.94%	49.15%
Maithripala Sirisena	31,495	15,128	25,598	22,659	27,797	22,894	29,431	32,766	28,725	13,031	249,524
	41.80%	38.42%	54.47%	52.41%	51.17%	46.75%	50.68%	50.42%	58.02%	49.62%	49.21%
Namal Rajapaksa	213	112	128	51	126	91	91	122	107	11	1,052
	0.28%	0.28%	0.27%	0.12%	0.23%	0.19%	0.16%	0.19%	0.22%	0.04%	0.21%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	191	110	132	68	149	101	93	105	97	6	1,052
	0.25%	0.28%	0.28%	0.16%	0.27%	0.21%	0.16%	0.16%	0.20%	0.02%	0.21%
Ibrahim Mifflar	151	82	186	61	118	71	115	106	141	7	1,038
	0.20%	0.21%	0.40%	0.14%	0.22%	0.14%	0.20%	0.16%	0.28%	0.03%	0.20%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	91	53	96	41	85	45	71	95	80	13	670
	0.12%	0.13%	0.20%	0.09%	0.16%	0.09%	0.12%	0.15%	0.16%	0.05%	0.13%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	90	51	122	45	92	70	57	92	101	3	723
	0.12%	0.13%	0.26%	0.10%	0.17%	0.14%	0.10%	0.14%	0.20%	0.01%	0.14%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	71	36	75	43	71	58	55	66	79	9	563
	0.09%	0.09%	0.16%	0.10%	0.13%	0.12%	0.09%	0.10%	0.16%	0.03%	0.11%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	71	61	125	47	111	81	56	69	123	4	748
	0.09%	0.15%	0.27%	0.11%	0.20%	0.17%	0.10%	0.11%	0.25%	0.02%	0.15%
Sarath Manamendra	60	41	50	17	53	29	30	54	41	8	383
	0.08%	0.10%	0.11%	0.04%	0.10%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	0.08%	0.03%	0.08%
Duminda Nagamuwa	38	38	69	47	49	56	56	63	62	24	502
	0.05%	0.10%	0.15%	0.11%	0.09%	0.11%	0.10%	0.10%	0.13%	0.09%	0.10%
Sundaram Mahendran	33	31	48	13	37	18	27	21	33	4	265
	0.04%	0.08%	0.10%	0.03%	0.07%	0.04%	0.05%	0.03%	0.07%	0.02%	0.05%
Prasanna Priyankara	27	14	23	6	33	10	7	13	17	3	153
	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.01%	0.06%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
M.B. Themiminulla	23	21	36	22	35	23	20	29	36	4	249
	0.03%	0.05%	0.08%	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.03%	0.04%	0.07%	0.02%	0.05%
Anuruddha Polgampala	23	17	33	15	50	20	23	34	46	0	261
	0.03%	0.04%	0.07%	0.03%	0.09%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.09%	0.00%	0.05%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	18	14	37	16	30	20	29	33	44	3	244
	0.02%	0.04%	0.08%	0.04%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%	0.09%	0.01%	0.05%
Jayantha Kulathunga	15	31	9	5	9	12	12	7	22	2	124
	0.02%	0.08%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.04%	0.01%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	14	7	8	5	23	11	10	12	10	6	106
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	9	14	19	11	34	19	18	22	18	6	170
	0.01%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%
Valid Votes	75,351 98.78%	39,379 97.96%	46,996 98.12%	43,234 98.56%	54,322 98.12%	48,966 98.75%	58,075 98.87%	64,981 98.54%	49,507 98.27%	26,259 98.41%	507,070 98.47%
Rejected Votes	930 1.22%	822 2.04%	900 1.88%	630 1.44%	1,040 1.88%	621 1.25%	664 1.13%	966 1.46%	874 1.73%	424 1.59%	7,871 1.53%
Total Polled	76,281 79.70%	40,201 78.37%	47,896 76.15%	43,864 79.49%	55,362 79.19%	49,587 79.10%	58,739 78.91%	65,947 79.31%	50,381 77.26%	26,683 98.31%	514,941 82.99%
Registered Number of Electors	95,715	51,295	62,901	55,185	69,909	62,689	74,436	83,147	65,209		620,486

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
MONERAGALA DISTRICT**

CANDIDATES	BIBILA	MONERAGALA	WELLAWAYA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	37,987	50,408	76,069	8,281	172,745
	60.72%	61.69%	62.87%	52.26%	61.45%
Maithripala Sirisena	23,704	30,381	43,678	7,513	105,276
	37.89%	37.18%	36.10%	47.41%	37.45%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	140	179	241	7	567
	0.22%	0.22%	0.20%	0.04%	0.20%
Namal Rajapaksa	138	150	210	10	508
	0.22%	0.18%	0.17%	0.06%	0.18%
Ibrahim Miflar	87	93	89	6	275
	0.14%	0.11%	0.07%	0.04%	0.10%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	81	54	98	4	237
	0.13%	0.07%	0.08%	0.03%	0.08%
Duminda Nagamuwa	72	41	120	7	240
	0.12%	0.05%	0.10%	0.04%	0.09%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	62	62	88	2	214
	0.10%	0.08%	0.07%	0.01%	0.08%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	61	68	77	4	210
	0.10%	0.08%	0.06%	0.03%	0.07%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	61	78	80	4	223
	0.10%	0.10%	0.07%	0.03%	0.08%
Sarath Manamendra	46	46	65	1	158
	0.07%	0.06%	0.05%	0.01%	0.06%
Sundaram Mahendran	28	22	38	2	90
	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	19	33	25	0	77
	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	17	24	24	1	66
	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
M.B. Theminimulla	16	18	29	2	65
	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Prasanna Priyankara	14	16	21	0	51
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	14	17	12	0	43
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	11	14	15	3	43
	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	7	12	9	0	28
	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Valid Votes	62,565 98.78%	81,716 98.66%	120,988 98.90%	15,847 98.68%	281,116 98.79%
Rejected Votes	775 1.22%	1,113 1.34%	1,349 1.10%	212 1.32%	3,449 1.21%
Total Polled	63,340 76.31%	82,829 76.92%	122,337 82.04%	16,059 98.23%	284,565 83.75%
Registered Number of Electors	83,003	107,678	149,116		339,797

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
RATNAPURA DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	EHELIYAGODA	RATNAPURA	PELMADULLA	BALANGODA	RAKWANA	NIVITHIGALA	KALAWANA	KOLONNA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	45,606	54,989	34,975	44,798	42,940	46,275	32,336	65,270	11,864	379,053
	58.14%	55.24%	50.64%	51.81%	51.99%	58.01%	61.50%	59.00%	56.56%	55.74%
Maithripala Sirisena	32,106	43,608	33,095	40,501	38,366	32,188	19,508	44,089	9,053	292,514
	40.93%	43.80%	47.92%	46.84%	46.45%	40.35%	37.10%	39.85%	43.16%	43.01%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	140	169	137	168	209	202	138	207	9	1,379
	0.18%	0.17%	0.20%	0.19%	0.25%	0.25%	0.26%	0.19%	0.04%	0.20%
Namal Rajapaksa	92	134	118	151	183	179	127	223	10	1,217
	0.12%	0.13%	0.17%	0.17%	0.22%	0.22%	0.24%	0.20%	0.05%	0.18%
Panagoda Don Prince Solomon Anura Liyanage	65	87	99	112	136	126	54	105	3	787
	0.08%	0.09%	0.14%	0.13%	0.16%	0.16%	0.10%	0.09%	0.01%	0.12%
Ibrahim Miflar	58	71	91	102	113	110	45	104	2	696
	0.07%	0.07%	0.13%	0.12%	0.14%	0.14%	0.09%	0.09%	0.01%	0.10%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	58	90	109	114	115	107	55	102	0	750
	0.07%	0.09%	0.16%	0.13%	0.14%	0.13%	0.10%	0.09%	0.00%	0.11%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	52	52	64	69	86	99	44	73	6	545
	0.07%	0.05%	0.09%	0.08%	0.10%	0.12%	0.08%	0.07%	0.03%	0.08%
Duminda Nagamuwa	50	46	42	79	62	58	51	115	13	516
	0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	0.09%	0.08%	0.07%	0.10%	0.10%	0.06%	0.08%
Sarath Manamendra	44	53	51	59	74	83	43	84	1	492
	0.06%	0.05%	0.07%	0.07%	0.09%	0.10%	0.08%	0.08%	0.00%	0.07%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	42	85	67	82	93	96	48	73	2	588
	0.05%	0.09%	0.10%	0.09%	0.11%	0.12%	0.09%	0.07%	0.01%	0.09%
Sundaram Mahendran	26	19	33	40	35	43	22	35	0	253
	0.03%	0.02%	0.05%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.00%	0.04%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	22	21	38	36	29	37	21	26	0	230
	0.03%	0.02%	0.06%	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
M.B. Theminiulla	19	21	26	32	27	43	15	22	1	206
	0.02%	0.02%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.05%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.03%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	18	31	28	28	25	24	14	23	7	198
	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%
Prasanna Priyankara	17	21	23	23	27	26	10	17	1	165
	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Anuruddha Polgampala	16	27	28	43	31	37	31	30	2	245
	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.05%	0.06%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%
Wimal Geeganage	8	14	17	23	20	20	9	17	2	130
	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Jayantha Kulathunga	4	14	21	14	18	19	9	21	0	120
	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.00%	0.02%
Valid Votes	78,443 99.19%	99,552 98.93%	69,062 98.81%	86,474 98.85%	82,589 98.78%	79,772 98.82%	52,580 99.04%	110,636 98.85%	20,976 98.47%	680,084 98.89%
Rejected Votes	638 0.81%	1,074 1.07%	834 1.19%	1,009 1.15%	1,023 1.22%	956 1.18%	511 0.96%	1,285 1.15%	326 1.53%	7,656 1.11%
Total Polled	79,081 82.23%	100,626 83.09%	69,896 83.27%	87,483 82.09%	83,612 81.48%	80,728 83.96%	53,091 84.58%	111,921 79.52%	21,302 98.48%	687,740 84.90%
Registered Number of Electors	96,170	121,108	83,934	106,575	102,618	96,156	62,773	140,748		810,082

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015
DISTRICT RESULTS BY POLLING DIVISION
KEGALLE DISTRICT**

Table XII

CANDIDATES	DEDIGAMA	GALIGAMUWA	KEGALLE	RAMBUKKANA	MAWANELLA	ARANAYAKA	YATIYANTOTA	RUWANWELLA	DERANIYAGALA	POSTAL VOTES	TOTAL
Mahinda Rajapaksa	36,838	28,608	30,452	27,400	28,561	20,742	30,890	30,922	28,741	14,976	278,130
	52.87%	55.11%	55.54%	54.12%	41.16%	51.04%	52.62%	52.79%	54.05%	51.21%	51.82%
Maithripala Sirisena	32,163	22,699	23,853	22,690	40,066	19,297	26,970	26,984	23,648	14,163	252,533
	46.16%	43.73%	43.51%	44.82%	57.74%	47.48%	45.94%	46.06%	44.47%	48.43%	47.05%
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	108	80	66	80	79	91	116	98	104	15	837
	0.16%	0.15%	0.12%	0.16%	0.11%	0.22%	0.20%	0.17%	0.20%	0.05%	0.16%
Namal Rajapaksa	76	59	76	75	77	77	103	76	93	7	719
	0.11%	0.11%	0.14%	0.15%	0.11%	0.19%	0.17%	0.13%	0.17%	0.02%	0.13%
Ibrahim Miflar	72	58	43	37	87	56	66	65	54	4	542
	0.10%	0.11%	0.08%	0.07%	0.13%	0.14%	0.11%	0.11%	0.10%	0.01%	0.10%
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	66	46	29	53	75	51	104	60	85	3	572
	0.09%	0.09%	0.05%	0.10%	0.11%	0.13%	0.18%	0.10%	0.16%	0.01%	0.11%
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	62	66	51	49	77	59	39	68	46	11	528
	0.09%	0.13%	0.09%	0.10%	0.11%	0.15%	0.07%	0.12%	0.09%	0.04%	0.10%
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	60	56	39	48	85	54	107	64	86	4	603
	0.09%	0.11%	0.07%	0.09%	0.12%	0.13%	0.18%	0.11%	0.16%	0.01%	0.11%
Duminda Nagamuwa	51	76	71	46	71	57	52	71	66	29	590
	0.07%	0.15%	0.13%	0.09%	0.10%	0.14%	0.09%	0.12%	0.12%	0.10%	0.11%
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	35	33	29	38	41	31	55	37	49	9	357
	0.05%	0.06%	0.05%	0.08%	0.06%	0.08%	0.09%	0.06%	0.09%	0.03%	0.07%
M.B. Themimulla	21	13	12	16	30	10	15	22	25	3	167
	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.05%	0.01%	0.03%
Anuruddha Polgampala	21	20	17	18	28	18	21	15	30	2	190
	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.06%	0.01%	0.04%
Sarath Manamendra	18	28	20	21	22	30	36	24	43	5	247
	0.03%	0.05%	0.04%	0.04%	0.03%	0.07%	0.06%	0.04%	0.08%	0.02%	0.05%
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	17	9	17	12	23	9	18	9	17	5	136
	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%
Pani Wijesiriwardane	16	15	17	8	18	13	43	17	30	4	181
	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.07%	0.03%	0.06%	0.01%	0.03%
Jayantha Kulathunga	16	13	10	8	4	6	15	10	9	2	93
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Sundaram Mahendran	13	10	11	9	16	19	24	18	17	0	137
	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.05%	0.04%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.03%
Prasanna Priyankara	12	13	9	9	20	16	12	15	15	1	122
	0.02%	0.03%	0.02%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%	0.00%	0.02%
Wimal Geeganage	7	9	5	11	9	5	17	6	14	4	87
	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.03%	0.01%	0.02%
Valid Votes	69,672	51,911	54,827	50,628	69,389	40,641	58,703	58,581	53,172	29,247	536,771
	98.98%	98.38%	98.86%	99.11%	98.89%	98.98%	98.64%	99.02%	98.67%	98.12%	98.80%
Rejected Votes	715	855	630	457	778	417	809	577	717	560	6,515
	1.02%	1.62%	1.14%	0.89%	1.11%	1.02%	1.36%	0.98%	1.33%	1.88%	1.20%
Total Polled	70,387	52,766	55,457	51,085	70,167	41,058	59,512	59,158	53,889	29,807	543,286
	80.17%	78.32%	77.91%	78.19%	77.42%	77.17%	80.16%	80.49%	80.91%	97.61%	83.60%
Registered Number of Electors	87,800	67,375	71,183	65,337	90,627	53,207	74,244	73,498	66,607		649,878

**Schedules relating to
the Report of
the Presidential Election**

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අංක 1889/31 - 2014 නොවැම්බර් මස 20 වැනි බ්‍රහස්පතින්දා - 2014.11.20
No. 1889/31 - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

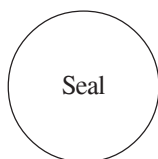
(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Proclamations, & c., by the President

BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

Proclamation



MAHINDA RAJAPAKSA

KNOW YE that by virtue of the powers vested in me by paragraph (3A) of Article 31 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, I, Mahinda Rajapaksa, President, do by this Proclamation, hereby declare my intention of appealing to the People for a mandate to hold office, by election, for a further term.

Given at Colombo on the 20th day of November in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen.

By Order of His Excellency,

LALITH WEERATUNGA,
Secretary to the President.

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අංක 1889/35 - 2014 නොවැම්බර් මස 21 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2014.11.21
No. 1889/35 - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2014

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT, No. 15 OF 1981

Order under Section 02

WHEREAS the President has by proclamation made under paragraph (3A) of Article 31 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1889/31 of November 20th, 2014, declared his intention of appealing to the people for a mandate to hold office, by election, for a further term.

And whereas the Commissioner of Elections is required, upon the making of a Proclamation under that paragraph, to take a poll for the Election of President.

Therefore, I, Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in me by Section 2 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 as amended by Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 16 of 1988, do by this Order fix –

- (i) December Eighth, 2014 as the date of nomination of candidates for such election ;
- (ii) Election Secretariat, Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya as the place of nomination of candidates for such election ;
and
- (iii) January Eighth, 2015 as the date on which the poll for such election shall be taken.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,
Commissioner of Elections.

Election Secretariat,
Rajagiriya,
21st November, 2014.

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අංක 1889/36 - 2014 නොවැම්බර් මස 21 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2014.11.21

No. 1889/36 - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2014

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT, No. 15 OF 1981

Notice Under Section 7 (1)

IN the exercise of the powers vested in me by Section 7 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, I, Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections do hereby appoint the Returning Officers mentioned by designation in Column II of the Schedule for each Electoral District in the corresponding entry in Column I of that Schedule.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA
Commissioner of Elections.

Rajagiriya,
21st November, 2014.

SCHEDULE

Column I

Column II

No. 01 - Colombo	District Secretary, Colombo Administrative District
No. 02 - Gampaha	District Secretary, Gampaha Administrative District
No. 03 - Kalutara	District Secretary, Kalutara Administrative District
No. 04 - Mahanuwara	District Secretary, Kandy Administrative District
No. 05 - Matale	District Secretary, Matale Administrative District
No. 06 - Nuwara Eliya	District Secretary, Nuwara Eliya Administrative District
No. 07 - Galle	District Secretary, Galle Administrative District
No. 08 - Matara	District Secretary, Matara Administrative District
No. 09 - Hambantota	District Secretary, Hambantota Administrative District
No. 10 - Jaffna	District Secretary/Government Agent, Jaffna Administrative District
No. 11 - Vanni	District Secretary/Government Agent, Vavuniya Administrative District
No. 12 - Batticaloa	District Secretary/Government Agent, Batticaloa Administrative District
No. 13 - Digamadulla	District Secretary/Government Agent, Ampara Administrative District
No. 14 - Trincomalee	District Secretary/Government Agent, Trincomalee Administrative District
No. 15 - Kurunegala	District Secretary, Kurunegala Administrative District
No. 16 - Puttalam	District Secretary, Puttalam Administrative District
No. 17 - Anuradhapura	District Secretary, Anuradhapura Administrative District
No. 18 - Polonnaruwa	District Secretary, Polonnaruwa Administrative District
No. 19 - Badulla	District Secretary, Badulla Administrative District
No. 20 - Moneragala	District Secretary, Moneragala Administrative District
No. 21 - Ratnapura	District Secretary, Ratnapura Administrative District
No. 22 - Kegalle	District Secretary, Kegalle Administrative District

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT, No. 15 OF 1981

Notice Under Section 7 (1)

IN the exercise of the powers vested in me by Section 7 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981, I, Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections do hereby appoint the Assistant Returning Officers mentioned by designation in Column II of the Schedule for each Electoral District in the corresponding entry in Column I of that Schedule.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA
Commissioner of Elections.

Rajagiriya,
21st November, 2014.

SCHEDULE

*Column I**Column II*

No. 01 - Colombo	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Colombo Administrative District Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Colombo Administrative District
No. 02 - Gampaha	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Gampaha Administrative District Administrative Officer, Elections Office, Gampaha Administrative District
No. 03 - Kalutara	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Kalutara Administrative District
No. 04 - Mahanuwara	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Kandy Administrative District
No. 05 - Matale	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Matale Administrative District
No. 06 - Nuwara Eliya	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Nuwara Eliya Administrative District
No. 07 - Galle	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Galle Administrative District
No. 08 - Matara	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Matara Administrative District
No. 09 - Hambantota	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Hambantota Administrative District
No. 10 - Jaffna	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Northern Province Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Jaffna Administrative District Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Kilinochchi Administrative District
No. 11 - Vanni	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Northern Province Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Mannar Administrative District Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Mullaitivu Administrative District
No. 12 - Batticaloa	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Batticaloa Administrative District
No. 13 - Digamadulla	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Ampara Administrative District
No. 14 - Trincomalee	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Trincomalee Administrative District
No. 15 - Kurunegala	Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Kurunegala Administrative District Administrative Officer, Elections Office, Kurunegala Administrative District
No. 16 - Puttalam	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Puttalam Administrative District
No. 17 - Anuradhapura	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Anuradhapura Administrative District
No. 18 - Polonnaruwa	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Polonnaruwa Administrative District
No. 19 - Badulla	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Badulla Administrative District
No. 20 - Moneragala	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Moneragala Administrative District
No. 21 - Ratnapura	Senior Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Ratnapura Administrative District
No. 22 - Kegalle	Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Kegalle Administrative District

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අංක 1892/8 - 2014 දෙසැම්බර් මස 08 වැනි සඳුදා - 2014.12.08
No. 1892/8 - MONDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2014

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ACT, No. 15 OF 1981

Notice under Section 21

NOTICE is hereby given under Section 21 of the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 that






- (i) the election to the office of President is contested ;
- (ii) a poll for such election will be held on Thursday the Eighth January, 2015 between 7 o'clock in the forenoon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon ; and
- (iii) the names of the candidates at such election in the order in which such names will be printed on the ballot papers, the symbol allotted to each such candidate and the name of the political party or the name of the elector nominating each such candidate, are as specified in the Schedule hereto.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,
Commissioner of Elections.

Election Secretariat,
Rajagiriya,
08th December 2014.

SCHEDULE

<i>Name of Candidate as in the ballot paper</i>	<i>Name of Political Party / Name of the Elector nominating the Candidate</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
Aithurus Mohamed Illias	Badur Jamal Mohamed Nasrullah	
Ibrahim Miflar	United Peace Front	
Prasanna Priyankara	Democratic National Movement	
Wimal Geeganage	Sri Lanka National Front	
Sirithunga Jayasuriya	United Socialist Party	
M.B. Themini-mulla	Okkoma Wasiyo Okkoma Rajawaru Sanvidanaya	
Pani Wijesiriwardane	Socialist Equality Party	
Duminda Nagamuwa	Frontline Socialist Party	
Panagoda Don Prince Soloman Anura Liyanage	Sri Lanka Labour Party	
Maithripala Sirisena	New Democratic Front	
Ruwanthilaka Peduru Arachchi	Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya	
Anuruddha Polgampala	Mailan Achchige Don Asanka Nandana Srinath	
Baththaramulle Seelarathana Thero	Jana Setha Peramuna	
Sarath Manamendra	Nawa Sihala Urumaya	

<i>Name of Candidate as in the ballot paper</i>	<i>Name of Political Party / Name of the Elector nominating the Candidate</i>	<i>Symbol</i>
Arachchige Rathnayaka Sirisena	Patriotic National Front	
Mahinda Rajapaksa	United People's Freedom Alliance	
Namal Rajapaksa	Our National Front	
Sundaram Mahendran	Nawa Sama Samaja Party	
Jayantha Kulathunga	Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party	

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අංක 1895/44 - 2015 ජනවාරි මස 02 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2015.01.02
No. 1895/44 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 02, 2015

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – 08TH JANUARY 2015

Ending of Presidential Elections Propaganda 48 hours prior to the Day of Poll

ALL propaganda activities in relation to Presidential Election Scheduled to be held on 08th January, 2015 must be ended by midnight 12 o'clock on 05th January, 2015. This duration named as period of silence from this moment to the end of poll, no electronic or print media should engage in any form of publicity in promoting or demoting any candidate. As the final election campaigns of political parties and independent groups are conducted on the 05.01.2015, news and information of such meetings can be permitted to be published / broadcast on 06.01.2015. On that day publishing / broadcasting / televising any form of commercial advertisements that promote any candidature / party, or publishing / broadcasting, any articles, documentaries / programmes of any political importance should not be done.

Through electronic media, on both days inclusive of 06.01.2015 and 07.01.2015, and on 08.01.2015 until 1800 hrs, programmes on development in the recent past, future development programmes, programmes on implementing budget proposals, programmes on war victory, either in the form of new telecasts or repeat telecasts of such could either lead to promotion of candidates and through programmes about the religious observances and various other functions in which the competing candidates have taken part, should not be televised or broadcast either as new or repeat telecasts and such articles, reports and advertisements for promotion of candidates should not be published in print media during the silent period.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA
Commissioner of Elections.

Elections Secretariat
Sarana Mawatha
Rajagiriya
02nd January, 2015.

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අංක 1890/2 - 2014 නොවැම්බර් මස 24 වැනි සඳුදා - 2014.11.24
No. 1890/2 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

**MEDIA GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE ELECTRONIC AND PRINT MEDIA RELATING TO
THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON 08TH JANUARY 2015**

Introduction

FREEDOM of expression and reporting of correct and unbiased views and information by the radio, television and print media is an integral symbol and a basic characteristic of democracy. The manner in which the media use their freedom carries an obligation to serve the society and public as a whole. The media institutions have a responsibility to conduct their operations in a professional manner and to respect the rights of readers and viewers. The media must enrich the daily life of the people through information, education and entertainment. They must provide for the fair discussions and debates of matters of public concern. Similarly, news reporting and editorials should be unbiased.

Expression of views of a controversial nature should give fair representation to opposing sides of issues. Consideration should be given to provide an adequate time /space for the requests made by individuals, groups and organizations to present their views on these issues.

During the period of election, the media have a special responsibility to encourage the participation of the public in the democratic process and to ensure that the presidential candidates have the opportunity to be informed on the different matters.

Taking the above mentioned expectations into consideration and having regard to the powers vested in me, the following guidelines are formulated to be followed by all Media Institutions during the period of future elections.

In terms of Article 104 B (5)(a) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as amended by the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Amendments and the powers, duties and functions conferred, imposed and vested in the Commissioner of Elections and in particular to ensure voting at the above election shall be free, equal and by secret ballot, I, Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections, do hereby give the following guidelines to be followed by all electronic and print media.

1. All telecasting, broadcasting and print media shall be balanced and impartial in their reporting of presidential election related matters and shall not discriminate against any candidate or any party leader in granting access to airtime and allotting space in the newspapers ;
2. All media institutions shall provide accurate, balanced and impartial information in their news bulletins and current affairs ;
3. Owing to the tendency for editorial opinion to be confused and biased, electronic media are urged not to broadcast editorial opinions. However, if editorial opinion is broadcasted for any reason whatsoever, it is obliged also to broadcast and telecast materials to the contrary as well, if a request is received ;
4. It is an obligatory part of the news and current affairs section of all institutions not to air any programme during the campaign period, unless the contents of the programme are balanced ;
5. If any material is broadcast covering an incident or event with comments of any candidate, all other parties that have any interest or are concerned or are likely- to be affected should also *be* given coverage in the same news item or programme. If it is not possible to do so during the broadcast, the coverage should be given on the following day ;
6. Any documentary programme or special programme that is broadcast during the period of election should disclose the names of the script writer, announcer and the editor ;
7. Discussions, debates and such programmes which were published or broadcasted on earlier occasions should not be repeated or re-broadcasted during the 48 hour period prior to the date of poll ;
8. Air time of any programme or news bulletin should not be utilized for unsubstantiated allegations against candidates contesting presidential election until the presidential election is concluded ;
9. All institutions shall act carefully to not give any advantage or to cause any disadvantage to a candidate on airing news or programmes not related to the election such as coverage of official functions and crimes.
10. Coverage by the Radio or Television of speeches / views expressed by the President or Prime Minister or Government Ministers should be treated as a coverage given for the political party to which he belongs and therefore leaders of rival political parties contesting for the election should be given similar programmes. The print media should similarly provide equal space and priority to all the contesting political parties in publishing special discussions, reporting of campaign meetings.
11. A candidate should not be given special favours in air time or in the print media to promote his/her election or to cause any disadvantage to any other candidate.
12. Refrain from publishing or broadcasting lectures, interviews, etc. with public officers which promote any contesting candidate.
13. All the electronic media institutions should act fairly in selecting participants for panel discussions and as such, the composition of a discussion should be balanced. Refrain from directing programmes to cause any disadvantage to any representative who has poor language proficiency. When publishing interviews of politicians with poor language proficiencies, print media shall not create uncomfortable situations to them. Information obtained through vague and incomprehensible questions to understand should not be published.
14. All phone-in programmes should give fair opportunities for all callers irrespective of the content of their questions or suggestions. Directors and others engaged in organizing such phone-in programmes should be answerable for such imbalanced phone-in programmes.
15. If any Chairperson, Member of the Board of Directors or employees of any electronic or print media institution actively engages in political activities, such activities may cause conflicts in balanced broadcasting. Hence, such persons shall inform of the following in writing to the management.

- (a) The level of involvement of such persons ;
 - (b) The nature and level of such persons' employment ;
 - (c) Extent of involvement of such persons in programme making.
16. When an individual holding a leading post in a recognized political party (Leader, Chairman, Secretary, National Organizer, Treasurer, Deputy Leader, Vice Leader, Senior Deputy Chairman or a post with such similar powers) and holding a dominant offices as Chairman/ member of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive/ Chief Editor of a media institution, and if he is a presidential candidate or if his/her party contesting directly or under a recognized alliance, such person should refrain from actively engaging in duties of his/her post of such media institution *alias* directing such media . If such person is contesting as a candidate while holding a leading office in a contesting party at an election, he/she should refrain from directing programmes of a political nature in television or radio media institution and he/she should also not publish his/ her own political articles through that media ;
 17. When a person refuses to participate in a discussion or interview and chooses not to offer reasons for absence, the media institution shall respect that position. Dramatic devices such as an empty chair may not be employed to underline a refusal but it is encouraged to employ a simple and direct announcement in that instance ;
 18. **A broadcaster who broadcasts or print media that publishes the result of an opinion poll should identify the organization that conducted the poll, the organization of person that commissioned and paid for the poll, methodology employed, the sample size, margin of error and the fieldwork date. In addition the broadcaster or publisher should state that the poll reflects the public opinion only at the time of the poll was taken.**
 19. No programme where a candidate promotes candidature of another contestant be broadcasted or telecasted ;
 20. Media personnel should not engage in taking photographs or videoing inside of polling stations or postal voting stations as the Commissioner of Elections has prohibited such activities without his written consent. Any illegally obtained photographs or video recordings should not be published in newspapers or through electronic media ;
 21. It is considered vital that a period of silence prevails just before the date of poll to enable the voter to contemplate and consider the pros and cons of various policies announced and promises made by political parties and candidates during the election campaign. **The electronic and print media are therefore requested to refrain from broadcasting, televising or printing of discussions, debates, advertisements, etc. related to the election at least for 48 hours prior to the date of presidential election.**

Management of all print and electronic media are kindly requested to adhere and observe these guidelines till the results of the Presidential Election held on 08th January 2015 are issued, thus cooperate with us in conducting a free and fair election.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya,
24th November 2014.

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අංක 1894/18 - 2014 දෙසැම්බර් මස 24 වැනි බදාදා - 2014.12.24
No. 1894/18 - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2014

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2015

**SUSPENSION OF BROADCASTING OF PRESENT AND PREVIOUS STATEMENTS
EXPRESSED BY A CANDIDATE TO PROMOTE ANOTHER CANDIDATE**

“IN terms of the provisions in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as amended by the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Amendments and the powers vested in the Election Commission *alias* Commissioner of Elections and in particular to ensure voting at such elections shall be free and fair which is the objective of the Election Commission, whereas the powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed by law in force in relation to the aforesaid election should be implemented, accomplished and fulfilled, and the conducting of an election is not only including into the aforesaid powers, duties and functions but also not limited only to them, and whereas the duty of the Commissioner of Elections is to enforce and secure every law in relation to the conduct of an election, following rules are given hereby .”

- * All media institutions shall refrain from broadcasting news, feature articles or in the form of advertisements which are about the activities and speeches conducted by a contesting candidate to promote the candidature of another candidate, after the date of nomination.
- * Comment of a candidate which was made prior to handover the nominations by another contesting candidate of this Presidential Election should not be broadcast without the written approval of the candidate who made such comment.

Owners and Heads of all Media Institutions are kindly informed to consider these rules as directions issued to conduct a free and fair election and as media guidelines to be followed. It is also eagerly and kindly requested to perform as such and thereby co-operate with the Department of Elections to conduct a free and fair election.

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.
24th December, 2014.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,
Commissioner of Elections.

Secretaries to all Ministries,
 Secretary of the Public Service Commission,
 Chief Secretaries of all Provincial Councils,
 Secretary of the Nation Police Commission,
 All District Secretaries,
 Secretaries to Governors of all Provinces/ Secretaries to Provincial Council Ministries,
 Secretaries of Public Service Commissions of all Provinces,
 Heads of all Departments,
 Chairmen/ General Mangers of all Government Corporations/ Statutory Boards

Presidential Election – 2015

Prevention of the Misuse of the Properties belong to the Government and Government Corporations, Statutory Boards during the Period of Presidential Election and the Limitation of the Recruitments / Promotions / Transfers of the Officers, Employees during the Period of the Presidential Election

Presidential Election is to be held in future and the nomination notice in that regard was published on 21.11.2014. In terms of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the period from that date to the end of declaring the result after holding the Presidential Election is mentioned as “the period of Presidential Election”. This circular is issued to make aware all leadeing officers especially Secretaries to the Ministries who are in charge of state properties and present administration about the prevention of misusing state properties to promote or demote a Presidential candidate during this period and to limit the recruitment of Government Officers/ employees etc.

02. In terms of Article 104 (B) (4) (a) of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, the Election Commission or the Commissioner General of Elections shall have the power during the period of an election, to prohibit the use of “any movable or immovable property belonging to the State or any public corporation” for the purpose or promoting or preventing the election or any candidate or any political party or independent group contesting at such election by any candidate or any political party or any independent group contesting at such election. Since the Election Commission has not been established by now the present Commissioner of Elections can implement these powers. Under sub Article (b) of such Article it shall be the duty or every person or officer in whose custody or under whose control such property is for the time being, to comply with and give effect to such direction given by the Election Commission.

03. During the previous elections also, this Department has received complaints that all State owned vehicles such as motor cars, jeeps, etc., and aircrafts like helicopters and aero planes, had been used for election propaganda. It is, therefore, emphasized that the responsibility of maintaining the vehicle pool during the election period by preventing the use of State vehicles, including the vehicles assigned to officers and hired vehicles, for election propaganda of any political party, independent group or a candidate, lies with all State officers under whose custody the State vehicles are. Running charts of all vehicles, except for the

assigned vehicles, should be regularly maintained during this period and these charts should be daily checked by a staff officer and he/she should be satisfied that the vehicles have not been used for propaganda of the Presidential election. Since some cases were reported at the previous elections where government vehicles were used for political advancement by placing false minutes stating that they were used for official duties, it is necessary to ensure that government vehicles are not used for such fraudulent issues.

No other vehicle other than two vehicles reserved for His Excellency the President's Security Division can run without the unique registration number assigned by the Department of Motor Traffic. Therefore, no any Minister, Deputy Minister, their staff member or anyone else can use the vehicles of the State or the public institutions without the proper registration number. Hence, the Secretaries to the Ministries / Heads of Departments should ensure that the vehicles belonged to all departments, public institutions are not running with the garage numbers (fake numbers).

04. Public offices, buildings, schools, other public buildings or circuit bungalows are public properties. Therefore, these buildings should not be used for political meetings, political discussions, etc. It is totally prohibited to provide circuit bungalows, rest houses, holiday resorts belonging to the State free of charge to those who are engaged in propaganda activities of the Presidential election. Also, persons staying at such places should not be allowed to engage in promoting presidential candidates. Any propaganda notices, posters, cutouts, etc., of political Presidential candidates should not be allowed to be displayed in State buildings or in their premises.

05. (i) It is likely that statements related to the Presidential election are made when various kinds of mobile services, exhibitions, opening ceremonies, are held during the Presidential election period by spending government finance and with the participation of persons connected with politics. Such statements may adversely affect the candidacy of candidates, who appear in the Presidential election. I would like to emphasize that it is appropriate to refrain from holding such occasions during this Presidential election period, since complaints can be received regarding the promotion of a Presidential candidate or prejudice of another candidate that may be caused due to the holding of such ceremonies. Immediate notice has to be given to inform me if essential mobile services to meet the needs of the public have been scheduled prior to issuing the nomination notice of the Presidential election, and are to be held during this Presidential election period. Then you will be advised about the procedure to be followed. However, this restriction is not applicable for the mobile services conducted by the Department of Registration of Persons or the Registrar General's Department. It is emphasized to ensure that such mobile services are also carried out with the presence of officers only.

)ii(During this period, distribution projects such as the distribution of state lands, grants of land title deeds of state lands or house ownerships, subsidies, fertilizer, agricultural equipment for plantation industries or cultivation, sports goods, equipment for self employment, bicycles, Solar power lights, building materials for housing construction, etc, at any place and programmes such as issuing of housing loans/ compensation programs should be suspended. Further, issuing of announcements and preparation of lists in this regard should

not be done by public officers during this period since these incidents give rise to complaints regarding the offence of treating voters and promotion of Presidential candidates through these projects and programmes. Also, distribution of forms for the provision of housing loans and for the provision of building materials should also be suspended. However, if there are already stipulated deadlines for projects / programs of urgent needs or if there is an emergency specific need arises, I have to be notified. Then appropriate advices will be issued in that regard. It should also be noted that such projects / programs should be implemented without providing any special advantage (or prejudice) to any Presidential candidate and only relevant officers should participate in it.

06. (i) *Furthermore, in relation to this Presidential election no officer of State or public corporation should be allowed to work for the promotion of a Presidential candidate or against any Presidential candidate, during office hours or by obtaining duty leave in office days, and disciplinary actions should be taken against such officers / employees.*

(ii) *Staff Officers of public service, including Secretaries to the Ministries, staff officers of the Corporations/ statutory boards, peace officers such as Grama Niladhari/ Forest Officers and members of the armed forces, who has no political rights, shall not directly or indirectly participate in or encourage the activities that promote or prejudice any Presidential candidate, not only during his office hours, but also in his off hours and holidays. That is, the principle of not allowing all officials without political rights to engage in political activities must be strictly enforced.*

(iii) *Further, it is kindly expected that the Chairmen and directors of corporations and Statutory Boards will abstain in any kind of promotion or prejudice of any Presidential candidate during this period of election.*

07. (i) In terms of the 18th Amendment, the limitations of the 17th Amendment will not affect the matters governing under the administrative powers of the Public Service Commission and the Judicial Services Commission. Hence, it is hereby informed that when nominations for the Presidential election are called, it should be abstain from any recruitment, appointment and promotion of public institutions except for recruitments, appointments, promotions and transfers, which are duly mandated under the powers of such Commissions.

(ii) Normal transfers of all public officers, including the teachers and principals of Government Schools, who are expected to be engaged in duties of the Presidential election, shall be suspended for two weeks from 21.11.2014 until two weeks after the closing of the Presidential election and when the transfers of either state or public corporation officials who are not assigned for election duties, are carried out during the Presidential election period, all authorities should take steps to make transfers according ensuring that such transfers have not been carried out on the political grounds.

(iii) During this presidential election period foreign travels of officers on essential reasons such as for scholarships, higher education, medical treatment, pilgrimages are not expected to restrict. Therefore, there is no need to obtain prior approval from the Commissioner of Elections regarding the officers traveling overseas for such purposes.

However, prior approval is required, if the officers are grouped together and travelled overseas during this period. However, since granting permission is considered for foreign travels, if there are very urgent reasons and reasons which cannot be delayed, it is better to request on such occasions in advance.

(iv) This Circular is not applicable when the Secretary to the Ministry expects to promptly implement an all island programme relating to the recruitments/ promotions of officers, which has been commenced before the declaration of the Presidential Election and for other formal recruitments / promotions relevant to the public service or State Institutions, affecting the entire island and without any political interventions.

(v) Furthermore, if it is possible to confirm that when the officers / teachers / principals have to be transferred during the Presidential election period due to a special urgency (i.e. disciplinary action, sympathetic conduct on the request of the officer, providing teachers essential for a school, etc.) and those transfers are not due to political events or if there is no complaints / accusations in that regard, the approval can be granted once the Elections Secretariat is informed on such transfers.

08. (i) **No space should be allowed for irregularities since complaints were received at the previous elections regarding a trend in using public property, especially, government institutions and officers to promote candidates. It is kindly informed not to allow any officer to perform any irregularity, such as attachment of public officers / public sector institutions and vehicles belonged to the State / government institutions or hired vehicles to promote the party / candidate (or to prejudice) by submitting various facts such as for urgent duties or special development projects in the areas where the elections are to be held, as the complaints received at previous elections in that regard. Also, the special projects should be adjourned during the Presidential election period.**

09. This restriction in this Presidential election, which prevents the use of state property for the promotion or prevention of the election of a candidate should be strictly enforced without any loosening. Further, Ministry Secretaries are kindly requested to instruct Heads of all departments, state corporations and other institutions under each Ministry, in this regard. Similarly, the Ministry Secretaries and Heads of Institutions are required to ensure that all officers of these institutions comply with these instructions and guidelines.

10. I would like to emphasize the Article 104 B(2) of the Constitution where it is mentioned that it is the duty of all authorities of the State charged with the enforcement of all laws of Presidential election, to cooperate with the Commissioner of Elections/ The Election Commission to secure such enforcement.

11. Kindly consider that it is the responsibility of the Chief Secretary and Secretaries of the relevant Provincial Council Ministries to make aware the Chief Ministers and other Ministers of Provincial Councils on the matters in this circular letter and making aware the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and ministerial staff will be vested with the Secretary to the Ministry.

12. Also, the Secretaries of Commissions should be made aware the Chairmen and Members of the Commissions about the circular, when applicable.

13. In addition to the facts in the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the relevant officers to refrain from misusing State properties as the chief accounting officer or the accounting officer of your Ministry/ Department/ institution.

14. As usual, recognized political parties and election monitoring organizations will be made aware of the issues mentioned in this letter and "the Operating Center for Complaints on Elections, consisting of representatives of the Election Department, Police Officers, Political Party agents and the agents of Election Monitoring Organizations" will investigate the complaints submitted relating to the facts that have been mentioned here and it is further kindly mentioned that in the election petitions and in the other judicial proceedings taken by the aggrieved party, it is possible to submit information regarding the matters not complying with the instructions given above.

**Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections**

Copies

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01. Secretary to the President | - For information |
| 02. Secretary to the Prime Minister/ Secretary to the Cabinet | - For information |
| 03. Auditor General, Auditor General Department | - For information |
| 04. Director General, Commission for Investigating Bribery and Corruption Enquires | - For information |
| 05. Additional Secretaries to all Ministries acting | - For information and |
| 06. Heads of three Forces / Commander of the Civil Defense Force | - For information and to take necessary action |
| 07. Inspector General of Police | - For information and to inform the officers enforcing the election laws |
| 08. All Returning Officers | - To report me promptly with regard to the complaints received regarding the activities against the instructions and orders given in this letter and to take necessary steps to prevent such acts |
| 09. All District Senior Deputy/ Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections | - For information and to send a copy of this letter to Heads of all the public institutions, all the Divisional Secretaries and Municipal Commissioners, Secretaries of Urban Councils and the Pradeshiya Sabhas of your district, and to inform them to act in accordance with the above instructions |

Notice of the Department of Elections

Presidential Election – 08 January 2015**Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981****The need to refrain from Violating Election Laws**

- 01. It is prohibited to display flags, hanging flags, notice boards, banners, stickers, candidate photographs, election symbols, other marks, unique propaganda phrases or pictures at unauthorized places to promote the contesting candidates**

In terms of Presidential Elections Act flags, hanging flags, hand bills, placards, notices, photos, election symbols, unique propaganda wordings, unique symbols of candidates etc., that can be used to promote the party / candidate can be exhibited only at the premises of the meeting on the date of the candidate's meeting is held.

However, on the basis of a agreement entered between the candidates / party secretaries contesting in 2005, the IGP and the Election Commissioner placards are permitted to exhibited only in the notified election offices of candidates and according to the agreement in 2010, it is also permitted to decorate a fair distance outside of the meeting premises attended by the contesting Party Leader / presidential candidate. Such decoration shall be begun on the previous afternoon of the day of the meeting and shall be removed in the next morning of the meeting.

It is kindly communicated to all citizens that the displaying of tiling boards in all other public places, including presentation of advertising boards in private houses adjacent to common roads to be shown to the public, is illegal. Disguised to the establishment of party/ candidate offices, decorations at the places where no real office exists or on the roads near offices is also strictly prohibited. It is also illegal to engage in party / candidate promotion activities to be shown to public either through TV channels or through Digital Screens (visual displays), even though they are in the permitted announced offices.

- 02. Limitation of exhibition of flags, hanging flags and stickers on vehicles for the promotion of parties / candidates**

It is kindly informed that the exhibition of a flag or a banner, for the promotion of a party/ candidate, in any other public or private vehicle except for the vehicle of which the candidate or the voting agent appointed by the candidate for the whole island travel during the election period, is illegal.

It is announced to all those who fitted such boards to remove the propaganda boards / banners etc., that have been installed for party candidates, and it is inadequate to place a small wax paper to cover the picture of candidate or party logo only.

Also, it is kindly informed to the public that the Ministry secretaries and heads of state institutions have been informed to take steps to fully cover or remove such boards every

time it appears that the party / candidate promotion through propaganda boards set up for various functions.

Through the Inspector General of Police all Provincial / District senior Police officers have and OICs were informed to take steps to remove the afore said illegal propaganda boards / banners / stickers.

03. Conducting demonstrations or processions during the election period

Conducting vehicle parades, motor bikes or cycling parades for the promotion of the party / candidate will be strictly prohibited during the campaign period from the date of the nominations until a week after the declaration of the results of the Presidential election. The Inspector General of Police has issued instructions to the Police Officers to prevent such rallies and to take action against those who violate such laws.

04. It is kindly informed that since the persons engaged in illegal activities to promote the party or candidate using the candidate's picture, election symbol or other symbol or phrase or picture as in the above manner committing a punishable offence, the Police Department was informed to remove such unauthorized displays and further, I kindly informed that the persons who promote parties/ candidates through these illegal displays can be considered as those who violate and normalize the law to disturb the maintenance of the optimum environment for a free and fair election.
05. In addition, it has already been communicated to all leading politicians to take steps to immediately remove such unauthorized displays by their supporters to eliminate the lack of confidence of the people in the elections due to such illegal activities. It is earnestly anticipated that all good politicians and law-abiding political activists will remove such propaganda boards without delay.
06. The support of all politicians and all citizens is necessary to enforce election laws and conduct a free and fair election. Therefore, all citizens all parties concerned are kindly requested to extend their fullest cooperation in that regard.

**Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections**

Note - 01. Complaints on the violation of election laws in the manner described earlier or in any other way can be made to Coordinating Center for Election Complaints established in the District Secretariat / Kachcheri / or District Election Office and to the Election Complaints Investigation Center at the Elections Secretariat and also to relevant police stations, senior police officers of districts as well as police headquarters.

02. Sections relating to the offences and corruptions of the election cited in the Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981 are exhibited on the website of the Department of Elections, www.slections.gov.lk.

Media Release No. 28

Presidential Election – 08 January 2015
Campaigning of Candidates through Telephone Networks

Complaints have been received to the effect that propaganda messages of presidential candidates were conveyed through various telephone networks. Complaints were also being received about the organized activities of sending short messages to telephone subscribers for promoting political parties and candidates. These complaints were also added that these propaganda activities which perform without the prior consent of the subscribers will lead to interrupt the conduct of free and fair election. Therefore, all contesting candidates and their supporters of this election are kindly informed that it is suitable to refrain from campaigning through telephone networks without the consent of the subscribers and causing harm to their personal freedom. Such propaganda activities during the 48 hour period before the polls would be treated as contravention of election laws.

02. Further, it is also notified that an action will be taken to inform all fixed line and mobile telephone service providers to abstain from transmitting such organized recorded messages or short messages to subscribers without their consent or their prior knowledge.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.
01.01.2015

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION – 2015**Distribution of Financial Assistance and Material Aids to Promote Parties/ Candidates**

Complaints relating to the unlawful actions of distributing various material goods, collecting information to provide financial aids, by the politicians or societies, through government or private places and religious places *viz.* temples, kovils, churches and mosques, to promote the candidature of the candidates who are contesting to the presidential election which is to be conducted on 08th January 2015, is being increased.

Complaints about the distribution of material goods, photographs and handbills and the political propaganda activities of candidates, by the field officers who are in charge of distributing government sector subsidies to the general public, are also received.

Though the accuracy of these complaints are not confirmed, distribution of material goods as well as promises made to provide material or financial aids, is an offence which can be punished under election law and this offence will be severely developed due to the distribution of handbills, documents, photographs to promote a party/ a candidate while distributing some material goods.

Therefore, all politicians, political activists, and activists of various societies are hereby informed to refrain from distributing or making promises to distribute any material or financial aid in any manner to promote a party/ a candidate during this active election period. Further, all the chief incumbents with other Bhikkhus, Catholic/Christian Priests, Hindu Swamis and Islam Moulavis are kindly and respectfully requested to refrain from providing facilities to any person to distribute material goods or to conduct such ceremonies or to make political statements during the religious ceremonies at any temple, kovil, church or mosque, to promote any party/ candidate.

If programmes for distributing material aids including clothes, foods and other goods and field programmes which are implemented through Government Policies have been organized by now, all relevant politicians and organizations are kindly informed to implement these programmes after the date of 08th January 2015.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Election Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya
02.01.2015

Note:

This rule is not applicable to the subsidy programmes carried out for the citizens who were displaced by various calamities due to recent unfavorable weather conditions. But the promotion of a party/ a candidate should not be done at such incidents.

Notice to Postal Voters

Vote is Your Right.

1. No one can obstruct your right to use your vote as you please in a free and confidential manner.
2. No one has the right to influence how you should use your vote. And no one can know which candidate you voted.
3. At no time, do not allow the marked ballot paper to be shown or hand over to anyone else. Requesting and doing so is a punishable offense.
4. Go to your office on time on the scheduled day and use your vote according to your wishes, without any fear or suspicion.
5. The Department of Elections is bound to conduct elections properly, to safeguard confidentiality of your vote, and counting the votes and declare the results correctly.

Instructions to the Voter in the Statement of Identity

- Prior to signing the declaration by the voter, who has sent the ballot paper and other documents under his Certifying Officer in charge, shall see that
 - I. The form of identity document sent to the voter under the custody of the said officer and the envelope containing the ballot, and
 - II. The serial number of the ballot paper specified in the identity statement is that of the ballot, which was handed over to him.

Thereafter, the voter shall sign the declaration in front of the officer, who shall act as his witness.

- Immediately after voting, the ballot paper, which is provided by the voter, shall be folded, the small envelope shall be obtained from the witness that has been provided with the words "Ballot Paper Envelope " on it, enclosed the marked ballot paper in it without showing the front of the ballot paper and affixed the envelope. The envelope should then be sealed by the voter in front of his Witness / Certifying Officer.
- Subsequently, sealed ballot paper envelope together with the declaration of identity duly filled by the voter and certified by the certifying officer by signing and placing his official stamp, shall be enclosed in the other large envelope, which was addressed to the Returning Officer, affixed and handed over to your witness / Certifying Officer for immediate send.

- Reading the instructions behind the identity declaration is mandatory.
- Kindly inform the other postal voters of the advice given here.

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya.
15 December 2014

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections
Telephone 011-2868441/42/43
Fax 011-2868368
E mail: info@sselections.gov.lk

Presidential Election – 2015

Directions for the Guidance of Votes

As there are more than three candidates contesting for the Presidential Election Scheduled to be held on the 8th January, 2015, a voter may mark his ballot, his vote for a candidate and may mark his second and third preferences or if he wishes may mark his vote only.

02. If a voter had not specified his second or third preferences on his ballot paper but clearly marks a vote for any candidate for whom he votes, such ballot paper is accepted and will be counted. However, any ballot paper in which a voter has not marked a vote but specified second preference or third preference only or both such preferences only, will be void and will not be counted due to not marking a vote.

03. Directions for the guidance of voters specified in the 3rd schedule to the Presidential Elections Act as appears below.

3.1 Voter may mark the figure “1” in the space provided for whom he votes

3.2 Voter may specify his second preference by making the figure “2”

3.3 Voter may indicate his third preference by marking the figure “3”

04. If a voter intends to mark only the vote on his ballot paper,

4.1 as long as the mark he had placed on such ballot paper does not reveal the identity of the voter and if the intention of the voter is expressed, considered valid

4.2 marked ballot paper with a symbol other than the figure “2” or “3” such ballot papers can also be considered valid

05. If a voter expects to cast his vote only for one candidate, he may mark the figure “1” or “X” in the space provided on the right hand side of the ballot paper opposite the symbol and the name of the candidate for whom he votes, he may do so without marking the figure “2” or “3” as mentioned in the 3rd paragraph above.

06. Any ballot paper in which a voter has-

6.1 not voted for any candidate, or

6.2 voted for more than one candidate; or

6.3 marked “1” for a candidate and “X” for another candidate; or

6.4 Specified a second preference or a third preference only or both

6.5 Placed any mark on the ballot paper by which he may afterwards be identified

Such ballot papers will be void and will not be counted.

Mahimda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya
20.12.2014

Media Release - No. 31

Presidential Election - 2015
Granting of leave to private sector employees to enable them to cast their votes at national elections without loss of pay or their private leave

In terms of the Section 110 of the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981' the leave necessary to every employee for the purpose of voting should be afforded by their respective employers. This should necessarily be implemented at the Presidential Election which is to be held on 08.01.2015 also.

Paragraph 12.3 in the Chapter XII of the Establishment Code which is for the special leave of the public officers also states that a public officer should be granted a special paid leave, minimum period of four hours, for such a continuous period as he may deem necessary, to enable him to cast his vote at an Presidential Election.

However, since there have been several complaints from the private sector employees that they have not been granted leave to exercise their franchise at previously held elections as there is no methodology of granting special leave stipulated by a written order, the Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Labour Affairs, Commissioner General of Labour and Commissioner of Elections were convened for a discussion with the Hon. President, Hon. Commissioners, the Secretary of Law and with other officers of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on 22.12.2014 and according to their consent Hon. Commissioner requested the preparation a formulae/ calculation based on the distance and the time, to grant leave to the private sector employees to enable them to cast their votes at a national election. Therefore, the Department of Elections has recommended the following table for the use by private sector employers to grant leave to their employees to cast their votes.

Distance from his/ her place of work to his/ her polling station	Minimum period to be granted
40 km or less	½ day
40 - 100 km	1 day
100 - 150 km	1 ½ days
Above 150 km	2 days

The minimum period to be granted is suggested in the above table. But there can be several occasions where three days leave as may be deemed necessary to grant to employees who will need three days to travel from their places of work to the prescribed polling station and return.

Every employee should request their leave in writing and every employer should prepare and exhibit a document including the persons applied for the special leave and the period of leave granted to them.

The employers are kindly requested, to follow the aforesaid recommendations which were prepared according to the agreement made in the discussion of the Human Rights Commission with the Secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Labour Affairs, Commissioner General of Labour and me, considering the guidelines of the Human Rights Commission, to grant sufficient period of leave to their employees for them to cast their votes.

Elections Secretariat
 Sarana Mawatha,
 Rajagiriya
 05.01.2015

Mahinda Deshapriya,
Commissioner of Elections.

Presidential Election - 2015**Meeting with Competing candidates / representatives - 21.11.2014**

Minutes of the Meeting with the Secretaries and Permanent Representatives of recognized Political Parties held at the Auditorium of the Election Secretariat.

Present:

1.	Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero	-	Jana Setha Peramuna
2.	Mr. Sunil Watagala	-	Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna
3.	Mr. Champani Padmasekera	-	Sri Lanka Freedom Party
4.	Mrs. Shayamila Perera	-	Nawa Praja Peramuna
5.	Mr. Shaleel Munasinghe	-	Nawa Praja Peramuna
6.	Mr. A. Dissanayake	-	Democratic United National Front
7.	Mrs. Sepalika Gamage Weerasinghe	-	Janasetha Front
8.	Mr. Sarath Manamendra	-	Nawa Sihala Urumaya
9.	Mrs. Ruvini Pathirana	-	Nawa Sihala Urumaya
10.	Mr. Lalith Rohana Liyanage	-	Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
11.	Mr. Sarath Athukorale	-	Kandurata Janatha Peramuna
12.	Mrs. Dammika de Silva	-	United Socialist Party
13.	Mr. M.K. Piyaratne	-	United Socialist Party
14.	Mr. Shaan Kuhawarthan	-	Democratic Peoples Party
15.	Mr. Paany Wijesiriwardhene	-	Socialist Equality Party
16.	Mr. Nishantha Sriwarnasinghe	-	Jathika Hela Urumaya
17.	Mr. Lalitha Hewagamage	-	National Unity Alliance
18.	Mr. Y.L.S. Hameed	-	All Ceylon Makkal Congress
19.	Mr. Indika Gallage	-	Democratic Party
20.	Mr. I.W.G. Priyanjith Vitharana	-	National Freedom Front
21.	Mr. Piyasena Dissanayake	-	Sri Lanka National Front
22.	Mr. Shantha Herath	-	United People's Freedom Alliance
23.	Mr. M. Vinayagmoorthy	-	Ceylon Worker's Congress
24.	Mr. Duminda Nagamuwa	-	Frontline Socialist Party
25.	Mr. Sujith Kuruvita	-	Frontline Socialist Party
26.	Mr. V. Nallanadar	-	Democratic Tamil National Alliance

27.	Mr. T. Siddharthan	-	Democratic People's Liberation Front
28.	Mr. Palitha Gamage	-	United People's Freedom Alliance
29.	Mr. A.D. Susil Premajayantha	-	United People's Freedom Alliance
30.	Mr. Patali Champika Ranawaka	-	Jathika Hela Urumaya
31.	Mr. Kapila Gamage	-	National Freedom Front
32.	Mr. Tissa Yapa	-	Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
33.	Mr. Dammika Fernando	-	Maubima Janatha Pakshaya
34.	Mr. Asanka Nawaratne	-	Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya
35.	Mr. Jeevantha Dissanayake	-	Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya
36.	Mr. M. Asath Saaly	-	Muslim Tamil National Alliance
37.	Mr. Ravi Karunanayake	-	United National Party
38.	Mr. Mano Ganeshan	-	Democratic People's Front

Officials of the Department of Elections in Attendance

1.	Mr. U. Amaradasa	-	Addl. CE (PE)
2.	Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake	-	Addl. CE (LAE)
3.	Mr. M.M. Mohomed	-	Addl. CE (Legal & Investigation)

The meeting commenced at 15.10 hours and Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections presided and welcomed all present at the meeting.

At the commencement the Commissioner of Elections stated that today's meeting was convened in pursuant to the agreement reached at the last meeting with the political party representatives in order to discuss matters relating to enforcement of election laws and the progress of electoral revision 2014. In the meantime H.E. the President conveyed his intension to hold a Presidential Election to the Commissioner of Elections and in this backdrop action was taken to invite Secretaries of other political parties other than the parties already invited and some of the party Secretaries were invited to this discussion over the telephone in a hurry. He further stated that all registered political parties have not been called for this meeting and only the political parties represented in Parliament, parties which are represented in Parliament but are represented by permanent representatives and other parties that appointed representatives for the purpose of electoral register 2014 which are engaged in active politics were invited for this meeting.

02. Thereafter the Commissioner of Elections invited the attention of the audience to the minutes of the previous meeting and stated that given the Presidential Election proclaimed. Certain matters resolved at the previous meeting would not be possible to implement for the time-being and that the proposal made by Mr. Sunil Watagala, representative of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, to develop a mechanism to enable the Sri Lankan expatriates to cast their vote at elections could not be deliberated at this moment.

It was brought to the notice of the meeting that if a resolution on providing an opportunity for those who engaged in essential duties to cast their votes, has been adopted by Parliament, there is a possibility to implement such proposal even at this juncture and that the Department of Elections has already formulated a draft thereon which has already been referred to party Secretaries. The Commissioner of Elections said that the possibility to formulate a mechanism for those who serve at highway tollgates to cast their vote by post a similar facility accorded to employees of Sri Lanka Railways and Transport Board.

03. The Commissioner of Elections also stated that the number of political parties that have already made security deposits for the Presidential Election was one and that the incumbent president was to contest the election according to the gazette notification issued by the President proclaiming his intensions to contest the Presidential Election. Speaking further the Commissioner of Elections stated that since the incumbent President had been a Member of Parliament he could contest the Presidential Election as a independent candidate sans a recognized party symbol and that no political party has informed their intension to contest or not to contest the Presidential Election as yet.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that action could be taken to inform all other parties in writing that they should inform the Commission of their intension whether to contest or not to contest the upcoming the Presidential Election or whether to support any candidate at the election and that if any political party informs that it intends to remain uncommitted and neutral at the election such parties cannot be called for the meetings/discussions to be held. However, such parties have to pursue action to intimate their intension directly to the Department of Elections. Provided the permanent representative of such party might participate in the affairs of the Complain Investigation Committee and in party Secretaries meetings.

04. The Commissioner of Elections further informed the gathering that even though it was deliberated at the aforesaid meetings that a proper mechanism should be developed to grant adequate leave for the employees of Estate and Private Sector to cast their vote at national elections, action would be taken to bring this matter to the notice of all stakeholders this might the fact that there is no possibility to work out postal voting facility for such employee. He also said that it was expected to take action to create awareness through the Ministry of Labour on the need to grant leave for electors to cast their vote while safeguarding the democratic rights of the employees/labourers of the estate sector visiting them at their work stations and he further said that Mr. K. Marimuttu, representative of Lanka Worker's Congress (Political Wing) had made representations in this regard on several occasions and was to submit a comprehensive report thereon compiled by him and that the views of the Department of Elections on granting an opportunity for those engage in essential services to vote at elections in order to safeguard their franchise were to be submitted to the Legal Draftsman.

05. The Commissioner of Elections highlighted that if any person wishes to contest the upcoming Presidential Election he/she should either represent a recognized political party or be a present or former Member of Parliament or else a Member of National State Assembly.

06. Mr. Udaya Gammanpila, who participated in the previous meeting representing Jathika Hela Urumaya had stated that one of the big issue that arises in enforcing election laws is the removal of cutouts and large scale photographs of candidates displayed on vehicles and pointed out the importance of issuing a specimen banner by the Department of Elections to be displayed at election campaigns alongside the letter permitting political parties to set up party offices. The Election Commissioner referring to this proposal said that it was expected to issue such banner to authorized party offices.

Moreover, the Commissioner of Elections mentioned that Mr. Udaya Gammanpila had proposed to allow each candidate to display limited number of cutouts at public places at district level in order to prevent violation of existing laws and that this was taken for extensive discussion at several meetings conducted with the party representatives and also that special attention was focus to make arrangements to grant approval for each party to display a equal number of cutouts at public places on the agreement of all political parties. He further stated that it was possible to grant

approval to display such cutouts at only approved party offices on a similar proposal made in 2005 and that it is possible to make a decision thereon after a further discussion in this regard.

07. The Commissioner of Elections invited the attention of the gathering to one of the special matter deliberated at the aforesaid meeting and stated that mobile service is being organized by the Department of Elections in collaboration with the Department of Registration of Persons and CAFFE in districts of Trincomalee, Badulla etc. to issue the electors who do not have National Identity Card with them and that PAFFERAL, CMEV and NPOC are organizing such mobile services in other parts of the island.

The Commissioner of Elections inform the gathering that action had been taken to provide the participants in the meeting of 2014.11.07 with all necessary figures including the number of electors in the electoral register without National Identity Card numbers. He further said that the total number of registered electors was approximately 15 billion and nearly 1 million out of such number do not have their NIC number recorded in the electoral register. He went on to say that one could not specifically say that the entire number of 1 billion electors do not have their NICs for example the total number of electors without the NIC number in Gampaha District is 98,000 however one could assume that more than half of that number do have either the NIC or valid driving license or passport and that it was reported that there were nearly 400,000 electors without identity cards at the last Provincial Councils Election and out of that number more than 100,000 were issued with temporary Identity cards for the purpose of casting vote at the election. The Department of Registration of Persons had announced that it could only issue 200,000 NICs within a period of 2 months working at its full force and therefore the Commissioner of Elections requested party representatives to take expeditious action at party level to encourage the public to obtain their NICs and to assist the Department of Elections to provide NICs to the highest number of people. However, since no elector should be denied his right to vote at national elections the Commissioner of Elections highlighted the need to work with dedication and enthusiasm by all stakeholders in order to make this endeavor a success. The Commissioner further stated that his Department would take action to issue a temporary Identity Card to any elector who has lost his NIC/valid ID on the poll day itself at his/her request as was done earlier and that such incidents has taken place at previous election and that his Department had taken prompt action to issue temporary ID card to the relevant elector irrespective of his caste and creed when such request was substantiated beyond doubt. The Commissioner also reminded that the Department had taken action to prevent certain MPs from casting their vote at polling centers on grounds of failure to produce a valid Identity Card

and said that no elector is allow to cast his/her vote unless he/she produces a valid Identity Card and therefore requested all the representatives to looking to this matter and take necessary action to encourage the public to obtain either the NIC or other valid Identity Card.

08. The Commissioner of Elections while announcing the progress of the electoral revision 2014 for the information of particularly the parties present for the first time in the discussion said that the electoral register for the current year was certified on 2014.10.31, and that the supplementary register incorporating the displaced persons in Northern and Eastern provinces had reach its final stages. The Commissioner specifically said that the persons whose names are included in this supplementary register could only be able to cast their vote at the forthcoming Presidential Election as displaced electors. He also said that a soft copy (CD) of the electoral register could be issued at the request of the parties to contest the upcoming Presidential Election and that it is essential for the contesting parties to confirm the fact that they field only one contestant from the party to the election. When the parties that contest the election informs in writing their desire to contest the election and upon making the security deposits, the relevant CD could be issued to them he further said.

09. The Commissioner of Elections addressing the meeting said that certain parties inquired him as to why the electoral register for 2014 is used for the Presidential Election instead of using the register for 2013 as was done at the last Provincial Council Election and went on to state that the Department is taking action to use the electoral register for 2014 for the upcoming Presidential Election since the total increase in the 2014 register is more than 300,000 compared to the 2013 register and since the Department has no power or ethical right to breach the democratic right of said number of novel voters to cast their vote and also since such breach cannot be allowed according to the conscious.

10. Thereafter the Commissioner of Elections invited the attention of the gathering the issues come up when sports ground / esplanade are allocated to conduct propaganda meetings at elections and said that it was the UNP and the Democratic Party which encountered this kind of issues mostly at the last Provincial Council election and that he had to intervene to resolve some of the issues and highlighted the need to pursue action by all parties to prevent the recurrence of such issues at future elections. If any party tries to retain a particular sports ground / esplanade for a longer period of time without assigning any acceptable reason the Department of Election would take action to take over such sports ground and recalled the incident where a sports ground at Maharagama had been

reserved for a floral exhibition for over a long period of time during the time of last Provincial Councils election and said at a time like this where a national election has been proclaimed the priority should be given to election propaganda activities when to reserving sports grounds but not to conduct exhibitions of that nature. He also said that action would be taken to inform the relevant authorities in writing. He requested Mr. Susil Premjayanth, the Secretary of United People's Freedom Alliance to forward the itinerary of the propaganda meetings where the President is to address to the Department of Elections in time. This would enable to minimize such issues by preventing the propaganda meetings of other candidates being held in such sports ground / esplanade on the schedule dates. However, he further warned that legal action would be taken against the parties which show no interest to carry out propaganda activities but try to reserve certain sports ground / esplanade for a longer period of time strategically and that the action would be taken to prevent sports grounds being reserved for no purpose during election time and would leave no room to reserve bare lands adjacent to such sports grounds with a willful intension to impeding the conduct of propaganda meetings in the sports grounds. Commissioner also said that if the political parties would reserve the play grounds, halls well in time for their propaganda meetings, the number of complaints received by him would considerably go down.

The Commissioner of Elections inform the meeting that since it would be possible to identify the parties that keenly contest the election and the proxy parties upon the handing in of nominations. Action would be taken shortly to draw up a time table of the proposed propaganda meetings of each party and particularly such meetings where the President is to attend.

A party representative raising an issue said that if regularities took place in and around Colombo Municipal Council area in allocating a play grounds and inquired how this is addressed at the forthcoming election. The Commissioner of Elections answering said that no party had made any written complain thereon and had any party made such complain he could have taken action to inquire from the relevant authorities regarding such irregularities. He also said that even though some are of the view that it is of no use to complain regarding these activities to the Election Commission or Human Rights Commission, it was possible to make vital decisions regarding complaints received by the Human Rights Commission and requested the party representatives to bring to his notice or to that of the relevant returning officer of any issue pertaining to allocation of play grounds / esplanade.

11. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the court case pertaining to the conduct of election to Pudukudiiruppu and Muhudubada Pattu Pradeshiya Sabhas was taken in for hearing on 2014.11.12 and was deferred again on grounds of absence of the plaintiffs and their attorneys and that it was very distressing.

12. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake, representative of UNP expressing his views said that he is pleased to note that the Commissioner of Elections is carrying out his duties very independently and requested not to hold the Presidential Election on 2015.01.08. He also requested to pursue action to deploy European, Asian and Indian election observer groups in addition to local observer groups to observe the forthcoming Presidential Election and he went on to say that large scale cutouts of the incumbent president could be seen in most areas on every lamp post even prior to the proclamation of the Presidential Election and that this would intensify during the election period. He also said that some of the activists of that party single handedly were setting up party offices in violation of election laws and pointed out that every candidate should be accorded equal rights to use mass media and should be granted air time reasonably. He also said that even though the staff of the Department of Elections headed by the Commissioner of Elections is executing its duty with extreme efficiency however all action should be taken prior to which anything can happen since it would be of no avail to follow up certain activities after the damage is done and requested earnestly to look into these matters in time.

The Commissioner of Elections said that he would take note of these matters and that various parties had made various views on the date of the election and that the necessary proclamation had already been prepared to hold the election on the day it is possible to hold such election in a manner not causing any hindrance to His Holiness the Pope's visit to Sri Lanka. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters regarding the display of cutouts on lamp posts said that any other candidate would take opportunity to display his cutouts in that fashion during the nomination period. He also mention that action would be taken to request the respective Municipal Councils to remove such cutouts if they are displayed free of charge. For example, it is the Mayor of Colombo who has the authority to remove such cutouts displayed within the Colombo city and that he as the Commissioner of Elections would only be empowered to remove them through police only after the date of nomination and he would take immediate action to remove them thereafter.

Mr. Mano Ganeshan expressing his views said that the relevant authorities should be informed in writing and in reply the Commissioner of Elections said that written communication would be sent to a relevant authorities once the security deposits in respect of the candidate concerned was made.

Mr. Sunil Watagala pointed out that proper action should be taken to address these in terms of the provisions of Environment Act, National Thoroughfares Act etc.

The Election Commission stated that the action in this regard does not depend merely on the provisions of legislations but on the consciences and the ethical conduct of the people. However, he said that if any violation of law is reported prompt action would be taken to regarding such violations.

The Commissioner of Elections answering the query by Mr. Ravi Karunanayake regarding the media usage said that according to the 18th Amendment to the Constitution the Commissioner of Elections is only empowered to make media guidelines and that on certain occasions private media is seen more bias than the public media and also that it is not fair to accuse only the public media for being bias and also that it is expected to pursue action to educate both the private and public media regarding the manner in which the media should act during an election once the election activities of the upcoming election gets underway. The Commissioner of Elections went out to point out that even the party secretaries and candidates can raise with the media demanding equal opportunity to all candidates in media usage.

Explaining matters regarding the observer groups to be deployed at the upcoming Presidential Election, the Commissioner of Elections said that inviting foreign observers for election observations dates back to the later part of 20th Century i.e. 1988 where a violent and unrest atmosphere prevailed and that it is sad to note that we are still inviting foreign observers treating it as a tradition even today where there is not such violence situation. He also said that the presence or absence of foreign observers would have no impact on the election results and that the request would be taken in to consideration and action taken to inform Association of South Asian Election Bodies and the other relevant institutions to send foreign observers for election monitoring. The Commissioner of Elections also stated that even though Mr. Tissa Attanayake, General Secretary, UNP had requested to deploy election observers from the date of issue of notice calling for

nominations, it is not practical to deploy observer groups from that date however, it is expected to deploy them for a maximum possible time duration.

Mr. Ravi Karunanayake, speaking again requested to deploy observers particularly in counting centres where a number of issues reported to have taken place.

The Commissioner of Elections responding Mr. Karunanayake said that action will be taken definitely to suspend the counting if it is established that any influence or threatening to election officers/observers had been taken place during the counting process and pointed out that the suspicion constantly raised by opposition activists regarding the election process or the counting procedure would only result in confusions in the minds of supporters of the opposition and that if any party criticizers the election system and the Department would only lead to a situation where their own supporters would refrain from going to the polling stations.

He also said that the reason for deploying both local and foreign observers to monitor the election is not because the Department of Elections engagers in malpractices but to create a confidence in the minds of the general public and to safeguard the voting right of the public as orchestrated in the motto “Vote is Your Right” and also to establish transparency in the election activities. He also said that neither the Commissioner of Elections nor any officer of the Department of Elections has any interests, opposition or loyalty towards any party and that it is none of the duties of the Department to protect or topple any government and emphasis that the Commissioner of Elections and his Department always stands for the protection of “The State”.

He stated that it is expected to deploy local observers in counting centres particularly to observe the counting of preference votes and that even though it had been reported that regarding that certain counting centres in Matale, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala areas had been attacked only after the conclusion of the counting and certain other such incidents had not been properly reported and he was of the view that such a scenario would not take place in future and that every possible action would be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents at the forthcoming election. The Commissioner of Elections requested the participants to refrain from deploying proxy candidates in counting centres in their numbers and stated further that it is expected to deploy representatives of election observer groups and officer nominated by the Commissioner of Elections and a representative of District Secretary would be deployed to receive complaints in each districts.

13. The Commissioner of Elections inviting the attention to the matter raised at the previous meeting regarding a discussion conducted by certain District Secretaries with public officers in order to canvas their support to protect the government citing the benefits offered to public officers through budget proposals, said that he looked into the matter and that it was revealed that it was only an official meeting and no any miscreant had taken place. He also pointed that he was to discuss with the Secretaries to Ministries and would make every attempt to conduct the election the best possible manner.

14. Mr. Sunil Watagala raising an issue pointed out that malpractices take place in respect of transfers of Police officers during the election period and requested that special attention be focused thereon and that a register containing the particulars of all police officers from the rank of DIG to OIC be maintained to count such malpractices.

In response thereto the Commissioner of Elections that action had already been taken in that regard and a written request for such particulars was to be dispatched to the senior DIG on that day itself. The Commissioner of Elections also said that nearly 75 OICs had already been transferred up to them and that it was the Secretary to the Ministry who has the authority to transfer IGP and ASPs and officers holding higher ranks and the authority to transfer the officers below that rank is vested with the IGP, subject to the concurrence of the Secretary to the Ministry. He further said that if any party has any issue in this regard they can complain it to the Human Rights Commission and that it is expected to discuss with OICs in each province regarding this matter with the assistance of Mr. Nimal Punchihewa, Director Legal of the Election Commission.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that he alone cannot take action in that regard if any police officer had not made any complain what so ever regarding such transfers up to them.

Mr. Mano Ganeshan speaking at this occasion inquired as to what action would be taken regarding the police officers who have already been transferred. Commissioner specifically pointed out that transfer of police officer could easily be withheld after 2014.11.22 but no action could be taken regarding the police officers who had already been transferred.

Mr. Mano Ganeshan expressing his views said that his party as an accountable political party strongly opposes such transfers. Joining him Mr. Sunil Watagala endorse his views and said his party to expresses its opposition to these transfers and requested the Commissioner to take action exercising the powers vested by him.

The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters said that even PAFFREL had made a complaint with him in that regard and that it would be specifically noted that Mr. Mano Ganeshan and Mr. Sunil Watagala and also PAFFREL had made their opposition regarding these transfers with a view to pursuing suitable action against these transfers in future. He however, inform that he as the Commissioner of Elections would take proper action during the election period regarding these malpractices if taking place irrespective of whether any party makes no complain regarding such malpractices.

15. The Commissioner of Elections also said that he would not expect to take action on certain matters during the election period and for example confirming casual labourers in their post if carried out in a proper manner since the circular to provide for the confirmation had already been issued and also he would not expect to suspend the provision of relief to the public through the budgetary provisions. He also said that two political parties had complain to him that one of the prominent politician had instructed the district secretary to take action to conduct mobile services and emphasize that it is inappropriate to conduct mobile services at a time when a national election had been declared. Pointing out the importance of Presidential Election to a country the Commissioner stated that such Presidential Election should be free and fair and it should be appeared to be free and fair and that conducting an election in a transparent manner would gain goodwill and reputation to the country and that even though he has no powers as enjoyed by the Indian Election Commission he would take all possible action to conduct the forthcoming Presidential Election as a national election with transparency while enforcing all election related laws.

Explaining matters regarding allegation that dates for the election are fixed according to whims and fancies of astrologers, the Commissioner emphasized that the citizenry of the country belongs to the both categories who believe in or do not believe in astrology and therefore what matters here is not the astrology but the franchise of the people and pointed out that the history

provides us with ample evidence that certain parties which carried out their election campaigns according to astrological guidance saw their party loosing the election.

16. Raising an issue Mr. Sunil Watagala inquired about the status quo of the powers vested in the Commissioner of Elections with regard to the exercise of police powers and said that since it is Armed Forces that are deployed in election duties particularly in Northern and Eastern provinces, a problem arises as to whether it is the military power or the police power to be in effect in such areas. He explaining further said that even though some political party representatives request that military forces be deployed for security purposes at elections which would lead to various malpractices and that since the Commissioner of Elections is capable to exercise police powers under the powers vested him in under Section 119 of the relevant Act and requested the Commissioner to exercise his powers drawing his special attention to this matter.

In response thereto the Commissioner of Elections said that exercising police powers would be taken in for discussion in due course and that he could believe deploying military forces in Northern and Eastern provinces during election period would cause no problematic situation. He pointed out that some instances could be cited where the opposition had secured the election victories in areas where the military was deployed at previous elections and that one could not make presumption to the effect that deploying military personnel would result in the victory or defeat of certain party given the fact that the opposition enjoyed the power of the Northern Provincial Council. Moreover, the Commissioner stated that he could say on his personal experience that if peoples' engagement is active in any particular area they have the possibility to mitigating the issues cropping up.

The Commissioner of Elections went on to say that military personnel had been deployed to establish security during pre and post election periods and that seeking the assistance of military forces would not be the decisive factor in an election and he further said that if it is reported that any military group causes hindrance to free and fair election action would be taken thereon immediately.

17. Mr. Champani Padmasekere, representative of UPFA speaking at this occasion inquired the Commissioner whether he takes action to renew the temporary identity card issued for the last provincial councils elections to be used at the forthcoming Presidential Election.

Answering query the Commissioner said action would be taken to renew the temporary identity card used in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by pasting a sticker thereon. Mr. Sunil Watagala questioned the Commissioner whether he takes action to establish complaint investigation unit to be operational during the election period and the Chairman said that action would be taken as usual to set up the said unit.

The Commissioner of Elections requested Mr. Kapila Gamage, representative of National Freedom Front who is engaged in reporting particulars of persons relocated in Estates and in Colombo area to submit his report early and asked Mr. Sunil Watagala also to find and report such particulars of displaced electors.

18. Thereafter, the Commissioner of Elections inviting the attention of the gathering towards the future activities of the Presidential Election explained that it is only the persons whose names are included in the supplementary electoral register i.e. the electors registered in Mannar, Vavuniya, and Mullaitivu districts would be eligible to cast their vote as displaced electors at the forthcoming election and that in case a single elector comes forward to cast his vote he cannot be allow to cast his vote into a ballot box in order to protecting the secrecy of ballot and in such circumstances such elector would have to cast his vote at a polling station in the area he has being registered as the elector.

The Commissioner of Elections said that no person would be allowed to impersonate others at polling stations using their National Identity Cards and that action would be taken to hand such culprits over to the police and also that in any event where a suspicions arrivers regarding any voter turned out at the polling stations the SPO is empowered to obtain a declaration from such voters under his hand and also stringent action would be taken against in this regard.

19. The Commissioner of Elections informed the meeting that receiving of postal vote application would closed on 2014.12.04 for the forthcoming Presidential Election and that no application received thereafter would not be entertained since a limited time duration is left to arrange everything for the election. He also said that it is expected to issue postal votes on 2014.12.15 and under the prevailing situation this date would be subject to slight variations and that the closing date for issuing temporary identity card would be 2014.12.31.

Moreover, the time table of the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Examination was taken into consideration in determining the final date for receiving nominations and since there are several schools situated in close proximity to the Election Department the Commissioner said that if 2014.02.09 was fixed as the date of receiving nominations it would prejudice the rights of school children who are considered the future of the country since the O./L. examination is scheduled to be held on such date as well and that it was decided to receive nominations on 2014.02.08 with a view to avoiding the disturbances that would otherwise be caused to the students sitting for O./L. examination. He also said that the final day for receiving nominations was determined taking into consideration of all these factors and further that in determining the date of the poll action was taken to fixed the date so as to cause no hindrance to the visit of his holiness the Pope in Sri Lanka and also to avail the highest possible number of days for the election.

The Commissioner of Elections said that he believes that all parties would act with due responsibility and enthusiasm to conduct the forthcoming Presidential Election in a free and fair manner mitigating the issues and invited the meeting to come out with issues or any other matter need to be raised and since no one so came out the Commissioner expressing his gratitude for all those who were present concluded the meeting at 16.30 hours.

Mahinda Deshapriya

Commissioner of Elections

Presidential Election - 2015**Meeting with Competing candidates / representatives - 05.12.2014**

Minutes of the Meeting with the Secretaries and Permanent Representatives of recognized Political Parties held at the Auditorium of the Election Secretariat.

Present:

1.	Mr. Champani Padmasekera	-	Sri Lanka Freedom Party
2.	Mr. K. Marimuttu	-	Ceylon Worker's Congress
3.	Mr. Shantha Herath	-	United People's Freedom Alliance
4.	Mrs. Shayamila Perera	-	New Democratic Front
5.	Mr. Udaya Gammanpila	-	Jathika Hela Urumaya
6.	Mr. Srinath Perera	-	United Socialist Party
7.	Mr. S. Wijesanthiran	-	Up-Country People's Front
8.	Mr. Sarath Athukorala	-	Up-Country People's Front
9.	Mr. S. Ajith Kumara	-	Up-Country People's Front
10.	Mr. G. Rajakumar	-	Eelan People's Democratic Party
11.	Mr. V. Thirunavukarasu	-	Nawa Sama Samaja Party
12.	Mr. S. Mahendran	-	Nawa Sama Samaja Party
13.	Mr. Suranimala Rajapaksa	-	United National Party
14.	Mr. Daya Pelpola	-	United National Party
15.	Mr. Joseph Michael Perera	-	United National Party
16.	Mr. R. Yogarajah	-	United National Party
17.	Mr. Sunil de Silva	-	Democratic Party
18.	Mr. Ananda Mahawadu	-	Democratic Party
19.	Mr. Indika Gallage	-	Democratic Party
20.	Mr. Manjula Senanayake	-	Our National Front
21.	Mr. Senaka de Silva	-	Our National Front
22.	Mr. Lalith Rohana Liyanage	-	Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
23.	Mr. Tissa Yapa	-	Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
24.	Mr. Y.L.S. Hameed	-	All Ceylon Makkal Congress

Officials of the Department of Elections in Attendance

1.	Mr. U. Amaradasa	-	Addl. CE (PE)
2.	Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake	-	Addl. CE (LAE)
3.	Mr. M.M. Mohamed	-	Add. CE (Legal & Investigation)

The meeting commenced at 15.10 hours and Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections presided and welcomed all present at the meeting.

The Commissioner of Elections inviting the attention of the meeting to the succinct minutes of the meeting of 2014.11.21 said that he is regretted to inform that no action could be taken to formulate a mechanism to grant postal voting rights to employees of health sector and those who engage at highway tollgates of highways as discussed at the last meeting. He also said that since it was not possible to pass through such proposals in the form of a formal Act now it is impossible to formulate a mechanism to grant them postal voting rights at the forthcoming Presidential Election.

02. He further said that all stakeholders should draw their attention to work out a proper mechanism to grant sufficient leave for employees of Estate sector and those who engage in employment in Colombo and suburbs to go back to their villages to cast their vote and emphasized that the parties including those representing estate workers, working in alliance or in association with United People Freedom Alliance and new Democratic Front should focus their attention to this matter. He went on to say that the party representatives of the parties that has made the security deposits already should take this matter into their consideration.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that even though the employees of garment factories and other similar factories are provided with transport facilities by the management of the respective garment factory, the employees of the hotel sector do not have similar opportunities and as a result they encounter immense hardships to go back to their home towns to cast the vote. Reminding of the arrangements initiated by Mr. Pichchei Antonymuttu to grant leave for those who work in Colombo, Kandy, Galle and other areas to enable them to cast their vote he highlighted the need to invite Mr. Antonymuttu that discuss this matter and to formulate a similar mechanism at this Presidential Election as well and the meeting consented thereto.

Explaining matters the Commissioner of Elections proposed to appoint a committee comprising of a representative from United People's Freedom Alliance, a representative from New Democratic Front, Mr. Srinath Perera, Attorney at Law, Mr. K.S.M. Perera PC, Mr. K. Marimuttu, Mr. R. Yogarajah, Mr. Shantha Herath, permanent representatives to study this matter further in association with the Department of Elections and the Ministry of Labour and to develop a suitable mechanism for the purpose and also a committee comprising Mr. Anura Jayasinghe and Mr. Suranimala Rajapakse to formulate a suitable

mechanism for employees in free trade zones to go back to their home town to cast their vote.

03. The Commissioner of Elections also informed that it is expected to request hospital Directors and respective district returning officers to make arrangements to employee doctors and other professional serving in hospitals on a roaster on the polling day and to release those who reside in distant areas and engage those who reside in close proximity to the hospitals and to attach those who cannot be released from service to go to cast their vote to first aid units and to grant them postal voting rights.

04. He also said that it is expected to request all political parties in writing to intimate their stand at the election whether to remain neutral or to support openly to a certain candidate after 2014.12.18, the date on which nomination for the Presidential Election is received. He further said that if any party is prove to have addressed the propaganda meetings of the parties they support, the privilege accorded to such candidate/party will be denied and the relevant rules and regulations in that regard would be strictly imposed.

05. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matter regarding setting up of party offices pointed that at the last election it was possible to set up a party office at each polling division however this time it is allowed to set up only one such office in a district and also that representatives of many political parties had inquired with him whether it is possible to allow to set up district party offices in each 160 polling divisions on the consent of the candidates. He said that this should be decided upon by the candidates during the election period and that permanent representatives do not have the authority for the same and went on to said that the decision in this regard could be arrived at if observations whether it is suitable or not could be obtained and if all parties are in agreement thereto.

However, he said that 17 political parties and 02 independent candidates have made security deposits already and that even though it is impossible to make presumptions at this moment regarding whether all parties would demand such opportunity to be granted. However, he asked the representatives to submit if they have any objection thereto which could be recorded for future purposes. On this occasion several representatives present expressing their views said

that if any candidate request the Commissioner in writing for permission for the purpose it would be appropriate to grant such permission to set up party offices. The Commissioner of Elections reiterated that the permission to display banners in the party office was granted on a request made by Mr. Siritunga Jayasooriya, representative of United Socialist Party on a previous occasion and that what is more important here was to have the consent of all candidates and permanent representatives thereon and also that setting up of party offices would make the presence of an active representative of the candidate available and also that it would make it easier to communicate messages/notices to the candidates.

A representative at this occasion pointed out that party offices to promote the incumbent President had already been set up in almost every part of the island and that since the other candidates should also be promoted in that fashion they also should allow to set up party offices. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters said that the Commissioner would be authorized to take action in that regard only after the nomination is over as per the relevant Election Act and that action had already been taken to inform all district secretariats and all police stations to take action to remove all decorations, cutouts, illegal party offices by 12.00 midnight on 2014.12.07 and also that the police should hold the responsibility to remove such cutouts and party offices.

Several other representatives pointed out that it was state functions where most of the banners, cutouts are displayed at. Explaining matters the Commissioner said that all institutions had been informed to hoist national flag only at such functions.

06. Mr. Srinath Perera, Attorney at Law, representative of United Socialist Party inquired whether providing refreshments at election period become illegal as per the relevant Election Act. The Commissioner pointed out that even though a number of instances where violation of such laws had been reported, no party had instituted action in Courts in that regard. Citing an example he said that it was telecast on the media that the devotees observe Sil were provided with Sil Clothes in an obvious manner promoting a certain candidates at the Uva Provincial Council Election and no one ventured to take legal action against that. He also said that had any party **recoused** to legal action it would have been possible to unseat the relevant candidate upon his election to the council.

Mr. Indika Gallage of the Democratic Party said that it is not possible to resort to legal action against certain issues without the sanction of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Elections pointed out that it is a state institution that should institute action through the Attorney General and the any person can seek redress from the Superior Court regarding such issues in reply Mr. Indika Gallage said again that illegal cutouts and pandolls etc. should be removed and that the state media should bring under a certain control and certain media institutions appear to take action to act in a most undisciplined manner. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters said that the powers vested in the Election Commissioner to control state media had been repealed by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution and as a result the Commissioner will only be authorized to do so from the date of receiving nominations under Section 117 of Presidential Election Act and therefore all necessary action would be taken and that even though it is possible to have some control over the programmes related to the election telecast over the national television and national radio but ITN is a public company. However, the Commissioner said that no one has made any written complaint to the effect that public media act in a bias and indiscipline manner and also that mere expression of views would not help in any way to prevent misconducts and that any party can inform such media institutions to act more responsibly and in a discipline manner as public media.

The Commissioner went on to say that he has received information from informal channels that a hideous scheme is being plan to print forged ballot papers through the Navy however no party has taken any measure until then to bring this matter to the notice of the Navy Commander and get a verification of the allegation and this situation would have great impact on the credibility of the election and therefore he would take action to consult the Navy Commander in that regard in writing. Speaking further the Commissioner said that when it was rumored that an identity card printing machine at the Department of Registration of Persons had gone missing he took action to inquire the Commissioner of Registration of Persons regarding the same and the latter confirmed that such a thing had not taken place whereas no other party took action to get a verification as such and also emphasize that mere accusation without the necessary action in that regard would be of no use.

He said that he believe that such a misconduct could not have taken place within the Navy. However, if such a thing had actually happened action would be taken to inform the Navy Commander in writing and call for a explanation in order to avoid such a mislead being carried out.

Mr. Daya Pelpola speaking at this occasion request the Commissioner to take action regarding the report going the round regarding a particular transfer in the Government Press. The Commissioner answering the question said that the particular internal transfer appeared to be suspicious and action had already been taken to make due involvement and resolve the issue.

Mrs. Shirmila Perera asked the Commissioner what the measures he would take regarding the reports that a new batch of employees had been recruited to the confidential section of the Government Press.

The Commissioner of Election emphasize that if new employees had been recruited to the confidential section of the Government Press action would be taken to inform in writing the Government Press to carry out the election related activities without deploying a new employees and to extend its assistance to conduct a free and fair election while preserving the credibility since leaving room for rumors that can sabotage the credibility of a national election.

07. The Commissioner of Elections emphasize that even though the Presidential Election Act allows to keep party offices open on the poll date at polling divisions level, all such party offices within 500 meters from the polling station should be wound up on the prescribe day and that such party offices had not been allowed to keep open as would lead to election malpractices such as **thugery**, threatening, distribution of hand bills and also that action would be taken to nullify the polling at any polling area where opening of such party offices would caused any issue causing a considerable influence on the independent view of the public.

Mr. Daya Pelpola questioned as to who should seek approval to set up party offices. The Commissioner said that these party offices are considered illegal until the agents are pointed. Approval would be granted at the request of the party secretaries to party offices after the receiving of nominations on 2014.12.08 and that such party offices would be inspected for their

such approval after 2014.12.12 he further said that a proper application had already been provided to candidates who had made a security deposit to appoint their agents which could be obtained from district election offices after 2.00 p.m. on 2014.12.08.

08. The Commissioner of Elections informed the meeting that some have questioned him as to why he does not take any action to prevent violations of election laws and election malpractices. However, he had already taken so many measures to enforce/uphold election laws, to mitigate/prevent election malpractices being taken place and that if any party is interested to get to know of such measures such information could be published on the official Website of the Election Department and elicited the views of the meeting thereon.

09. Mr. Daya Pelpola raising an issue said that 93 new vehicles had been bought to CWE which had been deployed to sell commodity at low prices at rural areas and those vehicles bore huge billboards depicting the incumbent president which according to him was a violation of election laws. The Commissioner of Elections answering the question said that action would be taken in that regard and also that those vehicles could be utilize to sell commodity at low prices however they could not be used for promotion of any candidate and that the Secretary to the Ministry of Trade Mr. G.K.D. Amarawardene would be informed thereof in writing.

10. Another representative pointed out that a large number of digital panels were used in many parts of the country to promote the incumbent president who is a candidate of the forthcoming election. The Commissioner of Elections in reply said that any entity can use such panels to display their trade advertisements but no one could used them to telecast notices/news of any political party or the images of the candidates. He further said that doing so would be injurious to the election laws and if the party concern to take no action to remove such panels it would compel us to remove them in road day light and requested the representatives to inform the Department of Elections of any areas where such digital panels were erected.

Mr. Indika Gallage speaking again said that huge cutouts hang against lamp posts posed a threat and a disturbance to transportation activities and that it is the police but not the Commissioner who is vested with the responsibility to remove them. The Commissioner of Elections informed that no party has challenged the statement made by the Police Media

spokesman that police has no power to remove such cutouts citing that police has such powers under the National Thoroughfares Ordinance and that he as the Commissioner of Elections had taken to inform that to the Colombo and Kotte Municipal Councils and the other local government authorities. He also mentioned that Mr. Upul Jayasuriya, President of the Bar Association had taken action to inform the Municipal Councils in writing requesting them to remove such cutouts. However, the Commissioner said that he had made a statement to the effect that the relevant parties should take action to remove cutouts by 2014.12.08. He also pointed out that he would receive powers to remove cutouts only after the date of receiving nominations and that it was appropriate for any candidate to display such cutouts after he announcing his desire to contest the election and also that a candidate becomes an obvious candidate once he makes a security deposits and action had already been taken to inform in writing all the candidates about the actions and omissions to be performed by candidates. Commissioner also said that he would take action to remove all advertising boards from Welikada Junction to Rajagiriya Junction from midnight 2014.12.07.

If unlawful display of cutouts continued he said it would impede the conduct the free and fair election and that protecting or toppling governments is not his concern and would dedicate to protect the state at the expense of own life.

11. The Commissioner of Elections informed the meeting that in response to the request made at the last meeting to encourage people whose NIC numbers were not mentioned in the electoral register for 2014 to obtain NIC or other valid ID card, certain politicians attempted to conduct mobile services for the purposes. However, action had to be taken to stop them in order to avoid conflict which may arise as a result of organizing such mobile services by political parties or the government during election period.

12. The Commissioner of Elections said that it was very pathetic situation that Ven. Athuraliye Rathana Thero, Chairman of Jathika Hela Urumaya was unable to reserve the Colombo Municipal Ground even for a non election campaign purpose. Mr. Udaya Gammanpila, representative of Jathika Hela Urumaya said that they didn't resort to complaint that to the Election Commissioner since it was not an issue arise in the election campaign

process. The Commissioner said that if such incident continued to happen any party can complain thereof to the Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council in writing.

Mr. Senaka de Silva, Chairman of the National Front said that his party makes every possible attempt to prevent playgrounds/esplanades being reserved for unjustifiably and that his party had so far been unable to reserve at least a small hotel hall for their propaganda activities. The Commissioner of Elections said that he would explore the possibility of bringing under the Department of Elections playgrounds/esplanades and halls that are not allow to reserve without a valid reason and that the Commissioner would take up this matter at the discussion scheduled for the following day i.e. 2014.12.06. He also said that the security measures and the vehicular arrangements made for the nomination day would be discussed at the meeting which is scheduled at 10.30 p.m. on 2014.12.06 the matters regarding allocation of playgrounds and other matters could be raised at this meeting and resolving such issues through dialogue and mutual agreement becomes more important towards conducting a free and fair election the Commissioner said.

Moreover, if itinerary of the meetings where the President is scheduled to address could be given to the Department in advance it would be important in allocating playgrounds other political meetings.

13. The Commissioner of Elections highlighting the transfers effect in the Department of Police said that it was not possible to take action regarding the transfers effected prior to 2014.11.19. However, he said that he would not allow any transfer take place in the future and he has suspended the transfers of OICs effected on the advice of the Secretary to the Ministry.

He also said that he had requested the IGP to submit him the details pertaining to the previous work stations and the new work stations of OICs who had been transferred and that such information could be made available once they are received.

14. Another representative inquired as to whether the Commissioner can intervene to prevent the Secretaries to Ministries from stepping on to political propaganda stages and engage in propaganda activities. Answering the question the Commissioner said that such incident have

been reported in the recent past and pointed out that it will be noted that this issue was recently taken and as the Commissioner he has taken action to mitigate such effects.

15. Mr. Y.L.S. Hameed of Akhila Ilankai Makkal Congress raising an issue said that certain media air programmes in an unreasonable or unethical manner and that one presenter of a certain channel who has links to political misusing his right to speech question the one Minister who had been invited to a political programme in an embarrassing manner. He said that this is a clear misuse of media and questioned as to what one should do address this situation.

The Commissioner of Elections expressing his pleasure over the manner politicians are subject to harassment during the said programme pointed out that he would take action to write to the particular journalist and to invite the attention of all media institutions to the media guidelines that elaborates the manner in which media should perform during elections.

16. Mrs. Shirmila Perera of New Democratic Front stated that a certain programme telecast over the ITN had continued to attack her and uses her name directly to insult her.

The Commissioner of Elections said that he would take note of this matter to be raised in the ITN Chairman and look into the matter and take necessary action.

17. The Commissioner of Elections also said that he would not take action to suspend the activities related to the confirmation of casual employees with 180 days of continues of service as proposed at the last budget and that permission would be granted to recruitment to posts that demand expertise and professional qualifications. He also said that the appointments to competitive examinations too will be allowed and that action would become necessary to suspend recruitment, appointment to certain non staff grade posts since it was reported that certain malpractices were taking place. The examination other than those conducted by the Department of Examinations and other professional bodies would have to be suspended in this contest. Another representative said that a large number of employees in the health sector who were appointed by Mr. Maithripala Sirisena a presidential candidate was being fired and that he was made aware that chances were that they would be re-appointed again. Pointing out that any mislead if any would caused a prejudice to the legitimacy of the election, the Commissioner said

that the relevant parties had been informed thereof and that action would be taken to inform the relevant authorities that it would be appropriate to give appointments to the officers without organizing functions for the purpose if the terminated employees are re-appointed.

18. The Commissioner of Elections further said that all representatives who genuinely contributed in these meetings though they do not contest the election would be called for all meetings and that in the meantime general sessions too would be held unless which the main opposition party of the country would be denied opportunity to participating in these meetings.

19. On this occasion Mr. Suranimala Rajapakse, tabling an unlawful letter address to the Depot Management of CTB by the Chairman, Nidahas Sevaka Sangamaya of CTB securing the postal vote of the CTB employees pointed out the damage a letter of that nature could caused and requested copy of the letter be distributed among all parties concerned. The Commissioner of Elections emphasize that the letter reveals that arrangements were made to escort relevant employees from their residences to obtain their postal vote through Depot Management, said that such attempt was unprecedented and that action would be taken to deploy election officers to handle postal voting at CTB and in any case it was proved that postal voting was not free and fair to nullify the election.

20. The Commissioner of Elections speaking on deployment of local and foreign election observers at the election said that the Commonwealth had been requested to send in an advance party and accordingly an advance party comprising of five members soon would arrived in the island and another advance observation party would come in close proximity to the election.

He also said that requests had been sent FEMBOSA and AAEA to send a team of 60 observers to the island and the PAFFREL had requested permission to bring in 35 observers and action would be taken to issue an official letter granting permission for the same.

The Commissioner of Elections further said that bringing in foreign observers to the country would incur a huge amount of money which makes it impossible to bring in a large team at one time and therefore observers from University Grandaunts' and Professionals Organization, Sri Lanka Bar Association would be called in. Some representatives questioned whether the

observers would be deployed to monitor the polling or the counting and whether the observer would be allowed to enter the counting centres answering the Commissioner said that it is expected to allow a limited number of observers to enter the counting centres and that more information regarding that would be announced in due course. He further said that there are would be 1200 counting centres and that a fair mechanism would be worked out to deploy around 300 election officers to those counting centres. He went on to say that accuracy of the election does not depend solely on observer organizations monitoring the election or not and that monitoring procedure is followed only to ensure the transparency at the election.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that the Department of Elections holds the responsibility of counting centres and counting halls and that all parties would be held responsible to prevent malpractices being taking place.

21. Mrs. Shairmila Perera raising an issue said that ballot papers used for previous elections were found laying at various places which might give rights to previous issues. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters ensured that no malpractice whatsoever at taken place in that regard and said that such ballot papers were found lying on road and in one counting centre due to the negligence of certain officers and that such ballot papers were marked and were counted and also that ballot papers counted of three districts are kept in his custody to be submitted as evidence if and when necessary.

The Commissioner of Elections further stated that disadvantage of making statements causing suspicious in the election process is not to the detriment of the Commissioner of Elections, Department of Elections or to the government but to the detriment of the candidate themselves and requested not to entertain suspicion towards the Department of Elections or the Commissioner at any time. He also requested all parties to adhere to an appropriate course of action to resolve issues if any and to refrain from criticizing them in public and acting in such manner causing damages to the credibility placed in the Department by the public. He also requested to educate those who level criticism through various websites on this matter if possible.

22. Mr. Suranimala Rajapakse, representative of UNP questioned as to what measures would be taken to combat the violent actions taken by supporters of the government during the election. The Commissioner of Elections answering the question said that it was timely question and that action had already been taken to inform the police in writing in that regard. He went to said that the police could have prevented the unfortunate incident took place in Mawathagama and Beruwala and expressed his surprise over the inability of the police to take in to custody the names suspect of the incident took place at Mawathagama. He also said that the police had been inform thereof and another reminder was to be sent that day to the police asking for explanation.

23. The Commissioner of Elections informed the meeting that it would be appropriate to invite Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) Mr. Gamini Nawaratne and DIG (Legal) Mr. Gamini Dissanayeke to the next meeting of permanent representatives and also to arrive at a common consensus at the meeting and that those who participate in the meetings conveyed for Presidential candidates/Polling Agents/Secretaries should pursue action to present their views and issues in a discipline manner with self control.

24. The Commissioner of Elections who emphasize that CDs containing the electoral register for 2014 would be issued to presidential candidates, stated that such CDs could be issued to the United National Party even though it does not contest the election since it provided its active participation in the electoral revision.

The Commissioner of Elections expressing his confidence that he would get all necessary support from all parties and particularly from permanent representatives as usual to conduct the forthcoming Presidential Election in a free and fair manner, asked the participants to come up with their issues or views if any and as no one raised any issue the Commissioner expressed his gratitude for all who were present and concluded that meeting at 16.50 hours.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Presidential Election - 2015**Meeting with Competing candidates / representatives - 12.12.2014**

Minutes of the Meeting with the contesting candidates / representatives held at the Auditorium of the Election Secretariat.

Present

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1. | Mr. S.V.C. Alexandra | - | Sri Lanka Labour Party |
| 2. | Mr. Shantha Herath | - | United People's Freedom Alliance |
| 3. | Mr. Shaleela Munasinghe | - | New Democratic Front |
| 4. | Mr. Namal Rajapaksa | - | Our National Front |
| 5. | Mr. Sarath Manamendra | - | Nawa Sihala Urumaya |
| 6. | Mr. Ruwan Thilaka Peduru Arachchi | - | Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya |
| 7. | Mr. M.S.M. Cabeer | - | representative of Presidential Candidate Mr. Aithurus Mohomad Illias |
| 8. | Mr. Siritunga Jayasooriya | - | United Socialist Party |
| 9. | Mr. W.A. Sunil | - | Socialist Equality Party |
| 10. | Mrs. Sepalika Gamage Weerasinghe | - | Jana Setha Peramuna |
| 11. | Mr. Jayantha Kulatunga | - | Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party |
| 12. | Mr. Sarath Athukorale | - | Up-Country People's Front |
| 13. | Mr. Dasun Nagashena | - | New Democratic Party |
| 14. | Mr. Senadheera Gunathilake | - | Frontline Socialist Party |
| 15. | Mr. S.M. Krishantha Priyadharshana | - | Frontline Socialist Party |
| 16. | Mr. Ravi Karunanayeke | - | United National Party |
| 17. | Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa | - | New Democratic Party |
| 18. | Mr. K. Rassman | - | United Peace Front |
| 19. | Mr. I. Miffjaar | - | United Peace Front |
| 20. | Mr. B.J. Nazmullah | - | representative of Presidential Candidate Mr. Idurus Mohomad Illiyas |

Officials of the Sri Lanka Police

1. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne - Senior DIG (Admin./Elections)
2. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake - Deputy Inspector (Legal)

Officials of the Department of Elections

1. Mr. U. Amaradasa - Addl. CE (PE)
2. Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake - Addl. CE (LAE)
3. Mr. M.M. Mohammed - Addl. CE (Legal & Investigation)

Attended during the meeting in progress

1. Mr. Susil Premjayanth - United People's Freedom Alliance

The meeting commenced at 16.35 hours and Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections presided and welcomed all present at the meeting.

02. At the commencement of the meeting the Commissioner of Elections said that the candidates to contest the Presidential Election to be held on 2015.01.08 and their representatives were invited for the meeting and inquired Mr. Shantha Herath who were present at the meeting as a representative of United Peoples' Freedom Alliance whether Hon. Minister, Susil Premajayanth, Secretary of the United People's Freedom Alliance would participate in the meeting representing Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse incumbent President and Presidential Candidate and requested Mr. Herath to inform Mr. Susil Premajayanth that nobody is present at the meeting to represent the incumbent president. In reply Mr. Herath said that it is Mr. Susil Premajayanth who has been appointed to represent the incumbent president and the former requested him to participate in this meeting to represent him who is absent due to unavoidable circumstances.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that even though Mr. Shantha Herath is in the position of his appointment letter the UPFA should appoint a representative to represent the president and that it is possible to appoint the party secretary and polling agent and one another representative for the purpose. He also said that he had informed all candidates orally and in writing as well about the meeting being held today and that Mr. Susil Premajayanth had been informed of the meeting and expressed his belief that Mr. Premajayanth would come even a little late.

Mr. Shantha Herath speaking again said that this happened today due to unavoidable circumstances and it would not be repeated in future. The Commissioner of Elections stressing the need for all candidates to take part in these meetings said that no candidate can appear for another candidate and that if any candidate expresses that he appeared for another candidate he would not be entitled for party offices.

Moreover, the Commissioner pointed out that various views proposals as well as criticism and allegations too may come up at these meetings however the meeting paves the way to make decisions on various matters and also to arrive at conclusions and agreements. He also said that it is not appropriate to released to media the issues discussed at this meeting and such arguments and issues are being debated solely for enhancing the comprehension awareness of all stakeholders and obtaining their consent for the conduct of free and fair election. The Commissioner also highlighted that the participants may share their impartial views with the media regarding the consensus reached at the meeting and the views they expressed etc.

03. The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that candidates can appoint their authorized agents until mid night 2014.12.14 and that the hard copies of such appointments should be sent to the respective election offices well in time with a copy to the relevant district secretariats. He said that by doing so the appointments already made would not stand cancelled and that action would be taken to inform each and every candidate thereof and also that the appointments made after the prescribe date would be treated as invalid. He also said that if any candidate thinks that the time allocated to send the hard copy of the appointment to the relevant district secretary is not sufficient he may handover the hard copy to the Election Secretariat and a copy thereof sent to the district secretary through Fax and action would be taken to send the hard copy received at the Election Secretariat to the district secretary immediately on its receipt.

04. The Commissioner of Elections went on to say that the regional agents of the candidates should be appointed before 2014.12.21 and that incumbent president Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse and presidential candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena only had taken action to made the relevant appointments and therefore they only would be entitled to appoint observers to observe the issue of postal votes to be held shortly and further said that the number of agents to be deployed at issuing centers would be intimated to the appointment authorities of such agents. The

Commissioner of Election informed the meeting of the number of agents that could be appointed for each district and that even though issuing of postal votes for Mullaitivu, Mannar and Kilinochchi districts is done postal ballot boxes would not be sealed in those districts and since Kilinochchi comes under the Jaffna Electoral District the marked postal votes of Kilinochchi would be sent to the Returning Officer of Jaffna electoral district and the marked postal ballots of Mullaitivu and Mannar districts would be sent to the Returning Officer of Vavuniya electoral district and therefore counting of postal votes would not take place in the said Mullaitivu, Mannar and Kilinochchi districts.

The Commissioner of Elections spelled out that postal voting will be marked on 23rd and 24th December 2014, that postal voting can be monitored by the agents of candidates and such agents should be appointed by the authorized or agent. He also said that since it has been reported that certain malpractices would be taken place at depots of the Central Transport Board where postal voting is schedule, and also that a certain chief of a trade union is trying to observe the manner in which all postal voters of SLCTB are going to cast their postal vote, special attention would be taken in that regard and that no room would be left for such malpractices to take place and also action would be taken to attach election officers at such depots to oversee the postal voting. Mr. Susil Premajayanth on this occasion said that he had taken action to inform the relevant depot authorities not to take note of the letters of the chief of trade union concerned. He further said that he would request all his party supporters to give their utmost assistance to conduct a postal voting in due and proper manner.

Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse, representative of UNP pointed out that he had received information to the effect that malpractices are likely to take place at Maharagama Depot when postal voting takes place and that employees of the depot had been pressurized to show their marked postal vote to the depot management and therefore it would be more appropriate if the postal voting of Maharagama Depot could be held at Maharagama Divisional Secretariat.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that he had received information that action had been taken unprecedentedly to force all employees of Narahenpita CTB Headquarters to apply for postal voting and to let the depot management see marking the postal vote and said that it is expected to deploy election officers to supervise postal voting at CTB depots and in case

anything happens at postal voting action would be taken to nullify the postal voting of such depots where malpractices take place. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) pointed out that action had been taken to deploy Police officers at each and every postal voting center and all action would be taken on the instructions and orders of the Commissioner of Elections. He requested all parties not to have any fear or doubt in that regard and to inform the police over the telephone if any issue comes up and the police is ready to take prompt action in that regard.

Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse, questioned as to where the marked postal votes of members of Armed Forces and SLCTB employees are kept until they are counted. The Commissioner of Elections in reply said that the parcels containing marked postal votes sent by post are placed in the safe in the District Secretariats and the sealed envelopes containing postal votes marked on 2014.12.23/24 are to be handed over to the post on that day itself and that those who fail to mark postal votes on 2014.12.23 and 24 could mark their postal votes on 2014.12.30 at respective District Secretariats. The Commissioner of Elections further said that the postal votes unmarked would remain at the District Election Offices and that agents could be deployed at all postal voting centers and requested the gathering to pursue action to educate the general public that the fact that to which candidate the postal vote was cast could never be disclosed.

The Commissioner of Elections also said that around 1,200 among the postal voters in Mullaitivu area are civil security farm labourers and that he had received reports to the effect that there exist an unfounded fear that these labourers would have to show their marked postal votes to the management and emphasized that no room would be left for such thing to take place and that election officers would be deployed at the centre concerned as well.

05. The Commissioner of Elections speaking further said that invitation had been sent to several foreign election monitoring organizations to monitor the Presidential Election and that four candidates had raised their objections with proofs to substantiate regarding inviting European Union to send in observers for monitoring purposes. He therefore said that action would not be taken to invite European Union he further said that it would be possible to invite Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) and Federation of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) without a common consensus of the candidates since Sri Lanka is a member

of those organizations. However since Sri Lanka is not a member of the European Union such consensus is necessary to invite it and taking into consideration of the objections of certain candidates the European Union was not invited he said. He further stated that if the Ambassadors of EU make a request to conduct mobile observations by such Ambassadors such request would be considered to grant permission to conduct regular mobile monitoring without entering into polling stations for counting centers.

The Commissioner of Elections explained further that even though a limited number of observers could be permitted to enter counting centers, their certification would not be required to establish the accuracy of counting process and emphasize that in the case the counting agents do not agree with the results issued by the Chief Counting Officer at the conclusion of the counting process, a recount would be done subject to a maximum of two count at the request of the counting agents unless such result would be declared as the final result and also that the monitoring organizations are allowed to enter into counting centers not on any legal right they have but to ensure the transparency of the election process. He also said that instructions had been issued to do a recount even without a request from the agents, if the difference between the first and the second places in the counting at a centre is trivial, or the Chief Counting Officer deems necessary. The Commissioner of Elections highlighted that he would ensure that no malpractice would take place in the counting in favour of the government or against the opposition and questioned as to how the UNP won the Colombo Municipal Council and Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi won the Northern Provincial Council if such malpractices took place. He further stated that despite the propaganda campaign launched by various parties over the internet that malpractices would take place in connection with the counting the winning at the election depends totally on the manner the general public cast their vote and that officers would never act to distort the vote cast by the public or their preference.

The Commissioner of Elections request further to have no unfounded fear or doubt regarding the accuracy of the counting process as the agents of the candidates who would sign the relevant results sheets, are deployed at counting centers. He also said that the doubt in this regard would cause distrust in the minds of the general public towards the election system in Sri Lanka and that since those who create doubts towards the election system violate election laws in the same manner done by the breaches of election laws, the disadvantage thereof is equally

casted on all parties and emphasized that getting rid of the mentality assuming that officers of the Department of Elections or any other election officer would resort to any corruption or malpractices, is very vital.

06. Speaking further, the Commissioner of Elections said that media institutions such as National Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Radio Corporation had already been instructed in terms of Section 117 of Presidential Election Act on the manner they should performed during an election and that it is expected to inform the chairpersons of such institutions that a copy of the notice would be sent to contesting political parties and to the Complaint Investigation Committee.

07. The Commissioner of Elections said further that even though no party had obtained proper permission yet to set up party offices, cutouts displayed at places appeared to be party offices would not be removed and that arrangements had been made through the police to remove cutouts displayed at various parts of the island and labourers would be deployed to remove such posters and cutouts and informed that Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) had given instructions to all relevant police officers and OICs in that regard. He explained further that approval had been granted to employee casual labourers to remove posters and cutouts in the following manner; three labourers for small police stations, four labourers for middle level police stations, five labourers for police stations in metropolis and two labourers each for a SP and for a ASP. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) stated that the police take action to remove these illegal banners/cutouts with a view to convincing the general public that a free and fair election is conduct without any influence of any party or individual.

He also said that banners/cutouts printed with messages of gratitude and compliments to various candidates are displayed in government offices including police stations and that he would issued orders to remove them as well and it is expected to bring this matter to the notice of all candidates he went on to request to make complaints regarding the display of banners/cutouts etc.

On this occasion presidential candidate Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya said that such banners/cutouts could be seen in almost every part of the island and that they are displayed in a very displeasing manner violating the relevant laws and also that he did not opine that it is necessary to make complaints in particulars to remove such banners.

On this occasion the statement alleged to have made by the police media spokesman that the police has no powers to remove posters/cutouts was taken up at for discussion at the meeting and Mr. Siritunga Jayasuri, presidential candidate expressing his views said that it is regretted to note that police media spokesman had made such a statement in public and that making such statement at a time when a presidential election has been declared would lead to the erosion of respect the general public placed in the police. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) explaining the matters said that the display of banners/cutouts is a clear violation of election laws which amounts to a committal of an offence and that it is undoubtedly the police that should pursue action regarding such offence. The common consensus of the gathering was that it cannot be allowed to let the entire police department be subject to discredit or a statement made by a single officer and therefore the police media spokesman should make a clarification regarding his own statement. Accordingly, the Commissioner of Elections informed that he would take action to request the police media spokesman not to make such public announcements. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG said that the media spokesman himself should undoubtedly rectify his own statement.

08. Mr. Indika Gallage pointed out that the posters/cutouts to promote incumbent president are displayed at the depots and tollgates on expressways which amount to the offence of displaying the picture of the candidate. The Commissioner stated that that he had received a large number of complaints regarding the display of such posters and that he would be compelled to include in his report the unlawful display of posters which is continued to commit and requested Mr. Susil Premajayanth to inform those who put up these banners/cutouts to remove them. Commissioner also said that several citizens have made complaints with him regarding the display of cutouts carrying the image of incumbent president at private residencies on either side of the expressway and that displaying them for the view of the public is violation of election laws and requested the police officers to remove such cutouts.

09. The matter of reserving playgrounds / esplanades for election propaganda work was taken up for discussion and Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse said that when he requested for permission to use the playground belonging to the Maharagama Urban Council for a propaganda rally, Maharagama Urban Council had taken to allocate the ground for a propaganda rally of Mr. Wimal Giganage, presidential candidate of Sri Lanka Jathika Peramuna giving no regard to the letter issued by the Department of Elections to the Maharagama Urban Council requiring the Council to reserve it to Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse and also that all parties should be granted equal opportunities to carry out their election propaganda work. The Commissioner of Elections answering said that if such opportunities are not accorded to a certain candidate he would find it difficult to suppress the order he had made to suspend the election of the relevant electorate. Further, the Commissioner of Elections requested Mr. Susil Premajayanth to inquire from Mr. Wimal Giganage regarding his public statement to the effect that he would appear for the incumbent president Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse a presidential candidate. He also pointed out that a large number of complaints are received on a daily basis regarding the allocation of playgrounds/esplanades particularly in Biyagama, Kelaniya, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Kotmale, Attanagalle, Kotte, Maharagama, Wellawaya, Tissa, Tangalle and Mulkirigama including Colombo city and that if the situation continued stern action i.e. to declare that the election be suspended until the situation becomes normal, would have to be taken regarding that.

Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse at this point said that the allocation of Maharagama Urban Council esplanade to Mr. Wimal Giganage despite the letter of the Commissioner of Elections was very unfair. The Commissioner explaining matters thereon said that suitable action should be taken against the Maharagama Urban Council and its secretary, that not taking proper action on such occasions would cause prejudice to all parties and that there should be a proper law in exercise in a country and all parties should be held responsible to given effect to such laws. Mr. Susil Premajayanth on this occasion said that he would take expeditious action to inform Mr. Wimal Giganage in this regard.

Mr. Ravi Karunanayake said that he was grateful to the Commissioner of Elections for his efforts to conduct a free and fair election and asked as to what should be done if the police take no action to remove the banners/cutouts displayed. The Commissioner in replying said that the opposition should not come forward to remove them but should complain to the Department

of Elections and also to the police regarding the places where such posters are displayed unlawfully and that complaints in that regard could also be made to the courts.

10. Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya speaking on this occasion said that the National Rupavahini Corporation and the ITN took steps to telecast live at the political rally held at Anuradhapura with the participation of the incumbent president and that CSN Channel 2 telecasted it. The Commissioner in reply said that even though he cannot intervene with the affairs of CSN Channel being a private institution, he would focus his attention to what the State owned National Rupavahini and ITN have done. The Commissioner went on to said that he would take action to inform all the candidates and the parties that promote them that since this act is a challenge to the legitimacy of the election he would have to submit in court the information in his position when this is taken up for hearing in courts.

Further, the Commissioner said that Mr. Srinath Perera PC, and Mr. Daya Pelpola, representatives of UNP and others made complaints in that regard to him in this morning and requested to take up matter for discussion at this meeting and informed that he would take action to inquire from the ITN and Lakhanda Radio Station whether they aired programme free of charge or whether a certain he was charged so the amount so charged and to ask them to provide similar opportunities for other parties also and to ask the CSN channel to grant an opportunities for the rest of the candidate to telecast their political meetings over the channel making the relevant payment. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake speaking at this occasion said that he questioned today in parliament as to how much money was charged by ITN to telecast the programme concerned and no minister was present in the parliament and two months time was requested to give an answer to the question.

11. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake also pointed out that it has been reported that the employees of Urban Development Authority had been forced to gather at Maradana Railway Station on 2014.12.13 at 9.30 a.m. and they were not in a position to disobey such orders. The Commissioner in reply said that since 2014.12.13 was a public holiday it was not possible to prevent such a thing from taking place however this would be recorded as a complaint.

12. One of the representative brought to the notice of the meeting that he had received reports that arrangements had been made to hold a rally in Matara with the participation of the President on the Christmas day and the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture had made arrangements to deploy 200 CTB buses on the payment of Rs.5,000/- each to transport supporters to the rally. The Commissioner said action would be taken to inform the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture in writing to conduct the scheduled meeting of farmer communities on another day and that so many complaints had been received in that regard.

13. The Commissioner in reply to the serious allegation leveled against the Government Printer that new set of employees had been recruited to the confidential division of the Government Press, said that he would look into the allegation and that the Human Rights Commission who had inquired the government press regarding the matter.

14. The Commissioner of Elections requested to obtain the permission to set up election campaign offices before 2014.12.14 and informed that the supervision of such offices would take off the ground from that day and that carrying out propaganda work on digital screens alongside highways is strictly prohibited and that action would be taken to inform the relevant parties to remove the digital screen used for propaganda work of the UDA which fixed at the Independent Arcade Shopping Mall.

15. The Commissioner of Elections elicited the opinion of the meeting as to whether the permission should be granted for authorized agents and electoral agents of the candidates to display flags, posters and cutouts on their vehicles since they too conduct meeting without the participation of party leaders. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake said that if such permission be granted it would lead to a chaos situation and Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya too pointed out that granting such permission at district level would suffice i.e. only the district leader should be given such permission.

It was finally concluded that this permission should remain unchanged.

16. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake expressing his views inquired whether it is possible to deploy agents of the candidates in the buses transporting ballot boxes from polling centers to counting

centers. The Commissioner of Elections explaining matters emphasized that no fraud or malpractice whatsoever takes place in connection with the transport of ballot boxes and such ballot boxes are transported to and from the counting centers by Senior Presiding Officer who are pointed statutorily and they are public officers who execute a honorable service and no public officer has any need to seek the win or the defeat any candidate. He further said that the Department of Elections and as well as the election officers are dedicated in every moment of their service to conduct a free and fair election and that he as the Commissioner of Elections can give an assurance in that regard and pointed out that the assumption that ballot boxes are replaced in transportation is only a myth.

Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya said that the influence of the government to persuade the public to vote in their favour is immense and that attention should be focused on the malpractices taking place prior to ballot boxes being transported and said that sort of influence on the public before the date of poll is very pathetic.

17. The Commissioner of Elections said that a complaint to the effect that the letter issued by the Mobitel to coincide the programme to provide pensioners / senior citizens with mobile phones, clearly promotes a candidate was received this morning.

18. The Commissioner of Elections also inform that when it was reported that a ploy to print fraudulent ballot papers using the printing machine brought down by Sri Lanka Navy and commit an election malpractice thereby, action was taken to inquire from the Navy Commander regarding the same and that he does not believe that the Navy Commander would indulge in such illegal action. He pointed out that since he received reports that an attempt was made to print fraudulent National Identity Card and he inquired the Commissioner General for Registration of Persons and got a confirmation that a thing was never taking place and also that action had already been taken to inform all political parties in that regard in writing.

The Commissioner of Elections also stated that the candidates and their agents may look into the complaints to receive by the Election Monitoring Centre at any time.

19. Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya said that it would be more appropriate if all candidates are provided with the license to use loudspeakers all over the island since such loudspeakers could

be used at pocket meetings and requested such license be granted. Mr. Gamini Nawaratne, Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) said that loudspeakers could only be used at permitted venues for rallies and therefore license could be issued to use them as at meetings conducted at a specific location and that such licenses could not be issued to be effective for the whole Island. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, inviting the attention to the Supreme Judgment 38/2005 regarding an event took place at Weligama said that the police has no power to issue license to use loudspeakers to be used islandwide as cited in the judgment of the Chief Justice and therefore the required license should be obtained from the respective police station if anyone intense to carry out propaganda work by distributing hand bills it is possible to address the gathering using a megaphone by informing thereof to the nearest police station. The Commissioner further said that it would be more appropriate to provide the candidate with opportunity and security when he so demand. Mr. Gamin Nawaratne said that since the presence of opposition activists too is possible at such places this may lead to unwanted problems. The Commissioner again pointed out that if a bare land with sufficient space could be used to distribute handbills as requested by Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya, giving permission to use loudspeakers at such places could be taken into consideration. However, a prior notice and approval should have been obtained.

20. Mr. Ravi Karunanayeke said that it is essential for local election monitoring teams to discuss with the IGP and the Commissioner of Elections regarding the affairs of the forthcoming election. He also said that the election monitoring organizations such as PAFFREL and CaFFE have inform that they have their views/proposals/complaints to be made regarding the propaganda work of the presidential election, election laws and the acts of candidates/supporters. The Commissioner pointed out that election monitoring organizations such as PAFFREL and CaFFE regularly visit the Election Secretariat to meet him to discuss various matters but they have not informed him at any such occasion that they need a special meeting with me to express their views/proposals /complaints. The Commissioner however to requested Mr. Karunanayeke to present at this moment any matters as pointed by the said organizations. However, the Commissioner giving due consideration to the request made by Mr. Karunanayeke said that an opportunity can be granted if those parties need to discuss any matter with him and such meeting could be held at the Election Secretariat. The Commissioner also reminded that these monitoring organizations had taken action in the past to issue media statements to the effect that it was possible to prevent malpractices taking place in the counting of ballots had they been given an

opportunity for them to stations their observers at each and every counting halls and emphasize that it is not necessary for any election monitoring organization to provide counting process and issue a certificate of the accuracy of such counting and that the counting is done accurately without a doubt.

21. The Commissioner of Elections informed that complaints regarding public employees and Ministry Secretaries engaging in election propaganda work and that a certain newspapers had carried reports that the Defence Secretary had attended a political meeting held at Homagama and action would be taken to bring this matter to the notice of the Secretary to the President in writing.

22. The Commissioner of Elections further said that almost all presidential candidates except for the candidate of Socialist Equality Party had already tendered their statements of assets and liabilities and expressed his belief that he too would tender his statement of assets and liabilities by 2014.12.15.

23. On this occasion Ms. Sepalika Gamage, representative of Ven. Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero presidential candidate, said that the Ven. Thero had not received security officers and that when the Thero was travelling to Ratmalana Sirisa Studio to participating Satana Programme the police had stopped and searched his vehicle which compelled the Thero to wait at the place for an undue duration.

The Commissioner explaining matters said that it had been informed to provide all candidates with sufficient security taking into account of the treats they are faced with an at least two security officers are provided for each candidate and that they be provided with additional security when they travel to other areas for propaganda work away from their residential areas.

Mr. Sarath Manamendra speaking on this occasion said that several propaganda meetings were arranged in a single day and due to the vehicular congestion on the road it take such long time to travel to the venues and therefore his propaganda work are immensely hampered and inquired where it is possible to provide him with a motorcycle to travel the venues of such meetings.

On this occasion Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) requested to inform the police when the candidates travel to attend political rally or media programmes away from their residencies which would enable the police to arrange the necessary security without much difficulty and that it is possible to provide motorcycle if needed on such occasions.

The Commissioner of Elections further explained that it is possible to make arrangements to avoid difficulties of transportation if the candidate informed us about such difficulties and said that is not possible to provide proxy candidates with such facilities however this facility would be made available for those candidates who make request in that regard.

The Senior DIG (Admin. and Elections) said that the police has the capacity to provide security when a candidate requests such security and at least two uniform police officers would be deployed for each candidate and that five security officers out of ten deployed for the security of presidential candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena had been sent back and also that if any candidate requests for security officers at his preference it is possible to provide such officers.

The Commissioner of Elections pointing out that the assistance of all parties is necessary to conduct the forthcoming presidential election in a free and fair manner and that all parties should act responsibly and with due diligence, requested the participants to present any matter or any issue if any and since no such matter was raised concluded the meeting at 18.40 hours after thanking the all for their participation.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Presidential Election - 2015**Meeting with Competing candidates / representatives - 19.12.2014**

Minutes of the Meeting with the contesting candidates / representatives held on 19.12.2014 at 1030 hrs at the Auditorium of the Elections Secretariat.

Present:

1. Mr. Siritunga Jayasuriya - United Socialist Party
2. Mr. Champani Padmasekara - Sri Lanka Freedom Party / United People's Freedom Alliance
3. Mr. M. K. Piyaratne - United Socialist Party
4. Mr. Anura Jayasinghe - United People's Freedom Alliance
5. Mr. Jayantha Kulatunga - Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party
6. Mr. Gamini Ranasinghe - Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party
7. Mr. Kapila Gamage - National Freedom Front
8. Mr. R. I. M. Ilyas - Presidential Candidate
9. Mrs. Shyamila Perera - New Democratic Front
10. Mr. Shaleela Munasinghe - New Democratic Front
11. Mr. Sapumal Walawatte - Sri Lanka National Front
12. Mr. I. Miffler - United Peace Front
13. Mr. Ruwan Thilaka Peduru Arachchi - Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya
14. Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa - New Democratic Party
15. Mr. Dasun Nagashena, Attorney at Law - New Democratic Front
16. Mr. A. S. P. Liyanage - Sri Lanka Labor Party
17. Mr. S. V. C. Alexander - Sri Lanka Labor Party
18. Mr. R. Yogarajan - United National Party
19. Mr. W. A. Sunil - Socialist Equality Party
20. Mr. H. W. Nihal Premakumara - Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya
21. Mr. Y. L. S. Hameed - All Ceylon Makkal Congress
22. Mr. Sumith Wijesinghe - United People's Freedom Alliance
23. Mr. Susil Premajayanth - United People's Freedom Alliance
24. Rev. Battaramulle Seelarathana Thero - Jana Setha Peramuna
25. Mr. Kabeer Hashim - United National Party
26. Mr. Palitha Gamage - United People's Freedom Alliance
27. Mr. M. A. Sumanthiran - Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi

28. Mr. Daya Pelpola - United National Party

Representatives of local monitoring organizations (Did not participate in the full discussion due to a discussion held with the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka)

1. Mr. Keerthi Tennakoon - The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE)
2. Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi - People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)
3. Mr. Rasanga Harischandra - National Polls Observation Center (NPOC)
4. Mr. Manjula Gajanayake - Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)

Officers of Sri Lanka Police Department

1. Mr. Gamini Navaratne - Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police
(Administration / Elections)
2. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake - Deputy Inspector General of Police (Legal)
3. Mr. P. B. Nikahetiya - Deputy Inspector General of Police
(Transport & Communication)
4. Mr. L. H. P. Cooray - Superintendent of Police, Officer Commanding
Field Force

Officers of the Department of Elections

1. Mr. U. Amaradasa - Additional Commissioner of Elections (Parliament)
2. Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake - Additional Commissioner of Elections
(Local Authorities)
3. Mr. M.M. Mohamed - Additional Commissioner of Elections
(Legal and Investigation)

The meeting commenced at 1030 hours and Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections presided and welcomed all present at the meeting. After enquiring the representatives of each of the presidential candidates to find out who would participate the Commissioner of Elections stated that it is a pleasure to see a large number of representations.

02. The Commissioner of Elections has stated that the Authorized Agents and Polling Agents of the Presidential Candidates for the forthcoming Presidential Election have already been

appointed. He also informed to take action to appoint Agents for Polling Divisions and inform in that regard before 21.12.2019.

03. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the amendments have been issued in respect of matters which have been informed of postal voting in the previous discussions. According to the opinion of the regional OICs as well as the district authorities and the proposals of the various parties, the postal voting of the Police Department has been put to hold on 26.12.2014 in addition to the two days dated 23.12.2014 and 24.12.2014, which were designated as postal voting days.

This program will be implemented because if postal voting is done on the same two days there will be a lack of security for other postal voting centers, especially in depots etc., that are causing problems, the political propaganda meetings of the relevant two days too have not been suspended, the security of the country should be a priority and the postal voting process should be more accurate.

However, the official ceremony for the 10th tsunami commemoration *viz.*, “State Safety Day 2015” is schedule to be held in Hambantota on 26.12.2014 by the Ministry of Disaster Management. Hence, it was made clear that no police stations in the Hambantota district would be included to this and they will mark their postal voting on 24.12.2014 as scheduled as a sufficient number of police officers would be needed to employ for this official function.

Further pointing out the Commissioner of Elections said that postal voting will be held on 23.12.2014 and 24.12.2014 at Functional Divisions such as Civil Defense Force Headquarters, Presidential and Ministerial Security Division and postal voting for officers of District Secretariats will be held on 26.12.2014 and postal voting for election offices will be held at District Secretariats on 30.12.2014 as they supervising the postal voting. It has been stated at this meeting that the officers of any military camp, office or institution, if they fail to mark their postal vote on 23.12.2014 or 24.12.2014, will be allowed to mark it at the District Secretariat on 30.12.2014 and all parties were asked to take action to inform the relevant authorities of the process.

04. The Commissioner of Elections stated that in order to break the popular misconception that the postal voting would be able to reveal who the candidate was, it was decided to send a special leaflet this time in addition to the general letter sent to the postal voter informing them of acceptance of the postal vote. These leaflets have been distributed in areas especially, the depot where complaints have been received and election monitoring organizations such as PAFFREL have helped to spread the advertisement to as many people as possible.

05. Responding to a query raised by Mr. M. A. Sumanthiran, Representative of the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi Party, the Commissioner of Elections explained that for those who have been

rehabilitated from the Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi areas and there after recruited as civil defense officers have not been given postal voting rights at the last provincial council election because they were farm workers at the time, though they were salaried as civil defense officers.

There was no need for them to be on duty as it was an election in a limited number of districts at the time, but the IGP had informed that the assistance of them would need for the police during this national election. Hence, steps have been taken to grant postal voting rights to them, the Commissioner of Elections informed. The Commissioner of Elections stated that steps have been taken to ensure that the postal voting of these civil security officers is done properly under the supervision of election officials, and also, before the postal voting day, the election officials will be sent to the polling stations to advise civil defense officers. Therefore, he requested not to leave any doubts regarding this process.

At this point again, Mr. M. A. Sumanthiran pointed out that if these civil defense officers are to be used as an aid to the police for election purposes, their postal voting should be marked at the respective police stations and not at the military camps and he also questioned the reasons for not doing so. Also, it is justified not to give them the postal vote last time and it was also asked since they are submissive and rehabilitated, how to be ensured that they will not be subjected to any pressure at the postal voting in military camps.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that complaints had been received that there will be some impact on the postal voting of these civil defense officers and that all necessary measures have been taken to prevent such an incident. However, any party concerned could deploy observers to monitor the postal voting of these civil defense officers, and the voting would be nullified if any irregularities were found to affect their vote.

The matter was discussed at length in the House and various opinions and suggestions were raised. Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya of the United Socialist Party pointed out that there is a reasonable suspicion on the marking of postal votes of these civilian guards in the respective military camps and therefore it would be preferable to formulate a system to carry out the relevant postal voting elsewhere.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that after much discussion, it has been decided to grant them the postal voting rights. Since steps have been taken to grant postal voting rights to civil defense officers in the Padaviya – Kantale area too even in the courts it could be questioned on the reason for not giving these officers that opportunity. He also said that they would consider a mechanism to carry out their postal voting elsewhere and they would take all possible measures to ensure their postal voting was free and fair.

Senior DIG (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne stated that this is in effect according to a request made by the IGP to the Commissioner of Elections to grant postal voting rights to civil defense officers as they planned to deploy as two per each police mobile vehicles during the election period.

The Commissioner of Elections convened the Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Administration) to explain to the House what arrangements have been made to carry out the postal voting process in a transparent manner. The Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Administration) explained the manner in which election officials were assigned to these areas and the Commissioner of Elections instructed that several officers (at least five) who could perform duties in Tamil language should be deployed in these areas.

The Commissioner of Elections also pointed out that in the Jaffna district, the civil defense officers who have postal voting rights are also possible to be attached to the police mobile services once their voting is over and thereby expand the security measures. The Commissioner of Elections further stated that in the event of any irregularity in any postal polling station, the Commissioner of Elections shall take all necessary measures in accordance with the provisions of the Act, that is “the Commissioner of Elections can take all necessary measures to ensure a free and fair election.”

06. The Commissioner of Elections informed that the Human Rights Commission summoned the Chairman of the Central Transport Board, the Government Printer, the Post Master General as well as the Chairman of the Road Development Authority and other parties yesterday (18.12.2014) to inquire into the matter and the Chairman of the SLTB has taken over the responsibility of removing posters / banners displayed on SLTB buses.

The Commissioner of Elections has looked into the use of SLTB buses for the election campaign of the incumbent President and stated that the United People's Freedom Alliance has paid Rs 25 million to the Central Transport Board for the use of the buses and it is stated in the bank statement. He also said that a maximum of 1000 buses per rally would be available for even a genuinely competitive candidate.

07. Speaking further Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya stated that a massive poster of the current President has been put on display at the premises of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation strictly violating the election laws. He said he was extremely concerned about the violation of the law in this way and had taken steps to inform the relevant parties verbally.

The Commissioner of Elections explained that the complaint should be made in writing and that nothing can be achieved without taking any action with the preconceived notion that the result is ineffective. The Commissioner of Elections had also stated that this would be recorded as a

complaint and he further stated that action will be taken to confirm this by sending an election official to the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Daya Pelpola inquired as to why the police did not take action to remove these. He pointed out that it is not justifiable that they do not remove these even though the Department of Elections has given 50 million rupees to the police department to remove them and therefore, they are responsible. He pointed out that if the police do not take action, how to conduct a free and fair election is problematic.

The Commissioner of Elections, explaining the matter at the time, said that it was not possible for the police to take action to remove all the posters / cutouts / banners / advertisements in all parts of the country overnight.

Mr. Daya Pelpola said that it was regrettable that the police had informed Mr. Ranjith Madduma Bandara of United National Party that there were no laborers to remove them when he complained about illegal posters / cutouts / banners found throughout the Moneragala district.

The Commissioner of Elections requested the Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne to take necessary action in this regard.

Mr. Shaleela Munasinghe said that there are many incidents of election law violations in Dambulla, Divulapitiya, Homagama, Minuwangoda and Ratnapura. Hence, all responsible parties including the police and the Elections Department should be vigilant.

Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Nawaratne said that the police would take all possible measures to prevent such irregularities and those measures have already been taken.

Representative of the United National Party Mr. R. Yogarajah said that the digital boards that are being displayed in various places are in strict violation of election laws. He pointed out that these boards are found near the Independence Square and near Parliament roundabout, pointing out that they are the work of Mahinda Chintana program, should be removed immediately. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the digital board located near Independence Square has been removed as per the notice of the Commissioner of Elections and the billboard displayed in the Parliament roundabout would also be removed in the future.

However, the Commissioner of Elections further stated that there are reports that some digital boards have even been received police protection and that if the parties do not take action to remove them, the Department of Elections will remove them.

The Commissioner of Elections informed Mr. Susil Premajayanth to make aware his party supporters and other concerned parties to abstain from such acts.

08. The Commissioner of Elections stated that three foreign election monitoring teams have already come to Sri Lanka for monitoring and that they are expected to refrain from engaging in election monitoring if there are no qualified persons with knowledge on election monitoring as previously reported by political activists. The Gampaha District Secretary has been asked by an observer whether there are any specific reasons for not removing cutouts / posters in the Gampaha area. These observers have come to the conclusion after observing and examining many areas such as the electoral system and the devolution of power in Sri Lanka and they are aware of it and therefore their observations are useful in stopping this illegal propaganda.

09. Responding to a query from Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya, the Commissioner of Elections has told that action was taken to inform the Independent Television Network (ITN) that it is promoting a candidate in an unbalanced manner. Accordingly, it is expected that this media will present their programs in a balanced manner in the future and if they fail to do so, a media release will be issued stating that this channel would be biased. Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya added that after the incident, the inquiry would not be of any use and that the public should be advised to come forward. The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that as the Commissioner of Elections, he could not make such a statement. It was stressed that if a party continues to carry out such acts despite the continued notification, a public statement has to be issued stating that the candidates who are promoted by violating the said laws are violating election laws.

10. In discussing the views expressed here that certain playgrounds / grounds have been unjustly reserved by various parties for a long time, the Commissioner of Elections informed Mr. Daya Pelpola that the Pelmadulla Bus Stand has been reserved from 08th December 2014 to 07th January 2015 by a certain party and if someone is unable to obtain permission to hold a meeting there necessary steps will be taken by then to allocate it and the police will be informed to grant permission.

11. Speaking further Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya has informed about the difficulties that have been affected in their election campaigns. When the land in front of the Wellawatte General Trade Complex was demanded, it did not allow stating that the road may be blocked and the Municipal Commissioner of the Colombo Municipal Council had requested a veterinary report from him.

Focusing on it, the Commissioner of Elections also informed that a special letter will be sent to the Colombo Municipal Commissioner to inquire into the matter and Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya has been asked to submit a copy of the letter issued by the Colombo Municipal

Commissioner. Mr. Ravi Karunanayake pointed out that such an incident had been reported earlier and a plot of land that was not given to him stating that it may block the road has been given to a meeting of the Housing Authority of which the President attended. He further stated that all relevant persons have been informed in writing. The Commissioner of Elections stated that action will be taken to address the matter, when a party lodges a complaint with the Human Rights Commission in this regard naming the Commissioner of Elections as respondent. Since complaints have been received that the Chairmen of Local Authorities are not allowed to hold opposition meetings but allocate space for meetings is essential for the conduct of the election, the Commissioner of Elections requested Mr. Susil Premajayanth to inform district and local politicians of his party in this regard.

12. The Secretary of the Ahila Ilankai Makkal Congress, Mr. Y. L. S. Hameed, stated that Hon. Rishard Bathiudeen who have participated, as a Guest of Honor, in a political discussion organized by a journalist and a Member of Parliament Mr. Sri Ranga recently, has been intentionally embarrassed and allowing him to appear at such press conferences violates the media guidelines issued by the Commissioner of Elections. Because he is not only a journalist but also a representative of a political party that represents parliament.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner of Elections stated that the representatives of Sirasa Media Network who are attending the media briefing today will be informed of this and that they have been informed in writing earlier.

13. Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse pointed out that although it was discussed at the last meeting that the Police Media Spokesperson should have corrected the statement made by the Police Media Spokesman that the police have no right to remove posters / cutouts displayed by the candidates to promote them by violating the election rules, has not been done yet and steps should be taken to rectify it. Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne said that the above officer has tried to say that the posters that were displayed before the nomination day are not election offences and had been misinterpreted. The Commissioner of Elections, who participated in the briefing, cited the discussion note of the last session and said that Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne said that this statement should definitely be corrected by the police spokesman. Accordingly, it was informed that the police spokesman should correct the statement.

14. Mr. Sundaram Mahendran, a candidate of the Nava Sama Samaja Party, pointed out that although the candidates have to be given the opportunity to address the public for the election campaign in any language in Sinhala, Tamil or English, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation has asked them to campaign in Sinhala only. *Commenting on the matter the Commissioner of*

Elections has stated that it would be investigated, action will be taken to inform them to provide the opportunity to the candidates to carry out their campaigns in Tamil, the Chairman will be notified that the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation shall bear the brunt of the cost of the candidates concerned in using a channel that can conduct election campaigns in Tamil and English, if such a statement cannot be aired by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that if the Broadcasting Corporation informs the candidates in writing that they cannot be allowed to campaign in Tamil, action can be taken against the officer so informed in accordance with the Constitution.

15. Since two presidential candidates have already announced that they will stand for the incumbent President, the current President is also responsible for the alleged irregularities / irregularities or statements made by these candidates. Hence, the Commissioner of Elections stated that the current President or his representatives could issue a statement if the respective candidates do not stand for him. However, the Commissioner of Elections stated that these two candidates would not be allowed to set up party offices. They should not use the time allotted for their campaigning for other party promoting and should be used exclusively for their campaign. Some of these candidates are insulting other candidates through the media, public meetings and it is very regrettable, the Commissioner of Elections said. *He also stated that a notice will be given to the National Rupavahini Corporation and the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in writing to make room only for the candidate's speech and not to allow other candidates to be ruthlessly and derisively criticized in the media when they are given the opportunity to campaign for the presidential candidates through the media.*

16. The Commissioner of Elections has instructed all the candidates not to engage in campaigns to canvassing for votes of staff members of government offices and educational institutions. It was also informed that since there are reports that certain parties are working to show the public servants how to vote using a model ballot such acts should be prevented immediately.

17. The Commissioner of Elections once again informed all parties to take steps to appoint representatives before 21.12.2014. The Secretary of the United People's Freedom Alliance and the representative of incumbent President Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksha, Mr. Susil Premajayanth and the representative of the Presidential candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa, have been requested to pay their immediate attention to this matter and it was also pointed out that the other candidates and polling agents were also necessary to pay their attention in this regard immediately.

18. The Commissioner of Elections has informed the House that the President of the Sri Lanka Independent Lawyers Association Mr. P. C. Mendis stated in writing that the representatives of certain election monitoring bodies are bias and have expressed his objection to the conduct of such monitoring bodies. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved through discussions with the Chairman of this organization, Secretary to the Organization Mr. Champani Padmasekara, Treasurer Mr. Saliya Mathew, Mr. Anura Jayasinghe, Mr. Palitha Gamage and Mr. Sumith Wijesinghe, members of this organization and representatives of all these monitoring organizations.

19. Presenting facts Mr. Wijedasa Rajapaksa stated that the OICs of the Maharagama and Kottawa police stations have taken action to remove small posters displayed at various locations that were to announce a campaign meeting of the Presidential candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, when the huge posters / cutouts of the current President were remained unchanged and it was a highly biased act. The Commissioner of Elections has instructed that these two OICs be summoned to the Elections Secretariat for inquiries in that regard.

Senior DIG (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne stated that the respective OICs have removed the posters as the candidate's pictures have been displayed on these posters.

The Commissioner of Elections further clarified that, it would be beneficial to all parties if there is a general agreement that it is not wrong to display a picture of the candidate in addition to information about the date, time, place and the speakers of the relevant meeting, in a poster prepared with a prescribed size to be displayed on canvassing meetings. It was also agreed to by the council.

Senior DIG (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Nawaratne was informed that it has been revealed that the OIC of Police of the area had lit the lamps at the function when an election office was opened at Chilaw and he has been asked to conduct an inquiry into the matter. He said that an inquiry has already been initiated.

20. Rev. Battaramulla Seelarathana Thero, who is also a Presidential candidate, said that when permission is sought from the police to use loudspeakers for election propaganda, he has to face many difficulties as it would take several days to issue such permits.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that on a proposal made by Ven. Battaramulla Seelaratana Thera, it has been decided at this meeting that all police stations would be informed to make it a priority when candidates / representatives are requested to use loudspeakers for electioneering during the election period.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that even though the media has extensively reported that the public bus stand in Mawanella has not been given when it was requested by a political party, actually the respective location was not given because it has never been used for election propaganda meetings. The school playground in the area is usually given as above and since the exams were held on that day, it was not possible to provide the playground. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the meeting had been held elsewhere and the Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Kegalle District had also intervened to find a place to hold the meeting. Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha was not to be blamed for the incident, he added.

21. Disabled voters have the opportunity to accompany an assistant to the polling station to cast their votes in accordance with the act, while the accompanying assistant can mark the voter's ballot paper in the presence of the senior voter. But since some of the disabled people come to the polling station expecting to mark their vote by the Senior Presiding Officer (SPO) without such helpers, there is a common agreement at other elections / polls that the senior presiding officer has the capability to mark the vote of the person who comes before another officer. Hence, the Commissioner of Elections pointed out the necessity of such a move again and all parties agreed to get it back as usual.

22. The Commissioner of Elections stated that steps will be taken to publish a newspaper advertisement asking the relevant employers of institutions / work stations / workplace owners to grant leave to enable employees to go to their hometowns to cast their votes. It was also pointed out the importance of acting all together to provide respective persons the opportunity to cast their votes by publicizing the notices in the same manner. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the Human Rights Commission is also expected to intervene in the matter and it is proposed to work closely with the Commissioner General of Labor in this regard.

23. The Commissioner of Elections expressed his gratitude to the media institutions that have stopped the continuous broadcasting of a speech delivered by the presidential candidate Mr. Maithripala Sirisena that was delivered by him in appreciation of the incumbent President when he was the general secretary of Sri Lanka Freedom Party, after they were informed according to a request made by Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse to stop it. He also said that he informed the President to advise him to suspend this broadcast. Ms. Shamila Perera stated that some organizations are still publishing that advertisement.

24. The Commissioner of Elections has stated that he is confident that all the media will act impartially in the election campaign, and that the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and the Lakhanda Broadcasting Service are expected to work in a more balanced manner than earlier. He also stated that the relevant officials have been appointed to look into the matter. He also stated

that in addition to them several voluntary organizations and election monitoring organizations have also appointed agents to monitor the situation. The Commissioner of Elections stated that action could be taken if party representatives submit clear reports on partisan propaganda.

25. The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that it would be better if the amendments could be added to the bill to provide a place prescribed by the Commissioner of Elections for those who feel that they cannot go to the polling station to cast their vote at a national election due to the necessity of employment, similar to the existing clause of the Act that provides for voters who are unable to cast their ballot at the polling station due to fear of voting and it was the general consensus of the House. However, the Commissioner of Elections pointed out that it is imperative that these amendments be made through Parliament.

26. Mr. Shaleela Munasinghe has stated that he is against the attending of the President for various openings including opening of Mahindodaya laboratories in government schools, opening of post offices etc. and the promotion of his candidature through these meetings. The Commissioner of Elections stated that he also has received other complaints regarding this. The Commissioner of Elections stated that he expects that the incumbent President will not attend any state ceremonies other than state ceremonies and extraordinary anniversaries / occasions which are essential to his official status and the Secretaries of the Ministries have been asked not to invite him for unnecessary ceremonies. The Commissioner of Elections also stated that he will order to video the Mahindodaya festivals and other state festivals and these events/ festivals will be postponed if any party / candidate promotion campaign is found.

27. The Commissioner of Elections stressed that the displaying of current president's pictures even during development activities is illegal and it will establish the offense of promoting a candidate. He said that, presenting a poster that is displaying at Chilaw area as an example, there were similar exhibitions in various parts of the country and that the parties should take steps to remove them without trying to deceive the law. If not, the Department of Elections will take measures to remove them.

Also, cutouts / banners depicting the current President and the Minister of Education are often found in school premises, and since most schools are used as postal voting centers, these must be removed before 22.12.2014. The Commissioner of Elections stated that if not, the Department of Elections will take action to do so. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the Principals will be informed in writing through the Education Authorities to remove the display boards in other provinces and also to summon the Director of National Schools and the Additional Secretaries of the Ministry of Education to the Elections Secretariat to discuss in that regard. Further, if the relevant parties do not take action to remove the posters / cutouts as instructed, they

will be removed by the Department of Elections to clear the obstacles preventing the holding of the election.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that if a party continuously violates election laws without being aware of the laws and morals despite being informed / advised of the election laws, a public newspaper announcement have to be published stating that those candidates promoted by such illegal acts are violating the law and all parties should be made aware of this.

28. The Commissioner of Elections has expressed his regret for the agitation carried out in front of the Elections Secretariat without resorting to such an action even though any party has the opportunity to meet with the Commissioner of Elections whenever there is a problem. It was pointed out that such actions would result in the people not to exercise their franchise due to the collapse of goodwill in the elections.

29. At this point Mr. Daya Palpola stated that the newspapers had reported that about 130,000 voters in overseas are willing to come to Sri Lanka to vote in the next presidential election. A very large number of aircrafts should be used for this number of citizens to arrive in Sri Lanka. So it appears that these voters are not coming to Sri Lanka, but that the government is launching a systematic program to fake their votes.

Commenting on this, the Commissioner of Elections stated that there is no possibility of any such irregularity and that the names of voters in overseas are marked as an *Overseas Voter* in the electoral register sent to the respective polling station. Accordingly, it will be marked as "A" (Abroad). The Commissioner of Elections further stated that if a voter returns to the country after marking so, he / she must present his / her valid passport to cast their votes.

Accordingly, the Commissioner of Elections has stated that notes will be kept to inform the parties concerned that all voters listed in the "A" in front of his / her name in the voter's register have to submit a valid passport to cast their votes at the polling station.

30. The Commissioner of Elections expressed his satisfaction that the police had taken steps to arrest four persons who had engaged in election violence in the Galnewa area. He also expressed his delight to the election monitoring organizations for keeping an eye on such activities. The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is essential to act swiftly in other acts of violence. He also said that the Beruwala Police OIC would be summoned to the Elections Secretariat to inquire about his failure to take proper action regarding the procession held in Beruwala in support of the incumbent President.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is sad that a certain politician has tried to pressure the police to release them when their supporters / supporters have been arrested by the police for election violence. He said that this was indeed a challenge to the law and that all parties should act responsibly to prevent such acts in order to have a free and fair election. It was stated that the law should be strictly enforced against such acts. Because the scars on the law that are caused by these activities of the politicians are not minor.

31. Explaining the facts Mr. M. A. Sumanthiram of Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi Party has stated that the Chief Minister, Minister Mr. Douglas Devananda and other public representatives were present at the District Development Committee meeting at the District Secretariat, Jaffna and the ruling party has created a tense situation in the House due to a protest made by activists of his party against Mr. Douglas Devananda as he making a political speech after the District Secretary submitted the letter issued by the Commissioner of Elections informing them not to discuss political matters at the District Development Committee meeting.

The Commissioner of Elections said that the Jaffna District Secretary would be consulted on the matter and that it would be recorded as a complaint.

Speaking further Mr. Daya Pelpola said that considering the experience as the opposition activists for more than 10 years and current status, there are dark shadows of the onset of a violent situation. Therefore, he requested to take maximum possible action to prevent such a situation.

Senior DIG (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne said that steps have been taken to establish roadblocks and checkpoints in all parts of the country and that all measures have been taken to prevent the maximum possible occurrence of malpractices and not to distrust it.

32. Speaking further Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse stated that steps have been suddenly taken to establish five STF camps and two army camps in Polonnaruwa and it is doubtful that these camps will have any influence in the voting of the people.

Explaining the matter, the Commissioner of Elections stated that the military camp that was established long ago for reconstruction of the Royal College in Polonnaruwa is still there and that there is no military camp at the other place mentioned in the complaint. However, there are complaints that five new STF camps have been set up and that these camps are administered by the Secretary to the Ministry of Law and Order and not the IGP. The Commissioner of Elections further stated that the opposition activists suspect that the camps may have an impact and therefore, the Secretary to the Ministry of Law and Order Mr. Mahinda Balasuriya has enquired about the necessity of maintaining such camps in the relevant area during the election period.

33. The Commissioner of Elections has instructed all parties to take measures to inform the police and ensure the safety even if a small pocket meeting is to be held at the village level. Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse stated that the police had previously provided security to the respective area when a license had been obtained for the loudspeakers to be used at a meeting, but this is not the case now.

Senior DIG (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne reiterated that that a peace breach can be expected at any moment and therefore, it is necessary to be vigilant. He also stated that if the meetings are held, the police should be informed of it in advance and takes measures to ensure safety.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that all police stations in the country will be notified in writing to provide security to the meetings held by the candidates and to ensure the security of mobile security services in case of mobile campaigning.

34. Mr. Wijedasa Rajapakse stated that certain electoral organizers have taken steps to get the OICs transferred at their discretion. The Commissioner of Elections stated that no such action has taken place since the date of the nomination notice on which he was empowered to act in relation to the transfers of the Police and it was also stated that there would be no such thing in the future.

At this point the Mr. M.A. Sumanthiran cited Section 104 C of the Act and pointed out that the Commissioner of Elections has the power to deploy the police at his discretion during the election period and in accordance with the provisions of the Act the police should act as per the orders of the Commissioner of Elections during the respective period. Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse also cited Section 119 B of the Act and pointed out that the police should act on election matters in accordance with the orders of the Commissioner of Elections.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that the Department of Elections needs the support of all parties to conduct this presidential election free and fair and that the public should be free to exercise their franchise free of any influence and that all parties should act with responsibility and diligence. Time was then given to the House to present any other matters if there were to be discussed and as it turned out that there was no such thing, the Commissioner expressed his gratitude for all who were present and concluded that meeting at 1245 Hrs.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections.

Presidential Election - 2015**Meeting with Competing candidates / representatives - 26.12.2014**

Minutes of the Meeting with the contesting candidates / representatives held on 26.12.2014 at 1530 hrs at the Auditorium of the Election Secretariat.

Present:

1. Mr. Atalugamage Ranjith - New Sama Samaja Party
2. Mr. K. Mahendiran - Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
3. Mr. Weerasinghe Arachchige Sunil - Socialist Equality Party
4. Mr. A. Srinath M. Perera - United National Party
5. Mr. Hemantha Wickremasinghe - Our National Front
6. Mr. Anuruddha Polgampola - Presidential candidate
7. Mr. Indika Gallage - Democratic Party
8. Mr. A.U.M. Maufir - Representative (Mr. I.M. Ilyas)
9. Mr. H.P. Thusitha - Representative (Mr. Anuruddha Polgampala)
10. Mr. Srinath Perera - Representative (Mr. Sirithunga Jayasuriya)
11. Mr. Ruwan F. Guruge - Our National Front
12. Mr. Sanka de Silva - Our National Front
13. Mr. Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe - Jathika Hela Urumaya
14. Mr. Champani Padmasekara - Sri Lanka Freedom Party /
United People's Freedom Alliance
15. Mr. Anura Jayasinghe - United People's Freedom Party
16. Mr. Jayantha Kulatunga - Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party
17. Mr. Gamini Ranasinghe - Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha Party
18. Mr. Kapila Gamage - National Freedom Front
19. Mrs. Shyamila Perera - New Democratic Front
20. Mr. Shaleela Munasinghe - New Democratic Front
21. Mr. Sapumal Walawatte - Sri Lanka National Front
22. Mr. I. Miffler - United Peace Front
23. Mr. Ruwan Thilaka Peduru Arachchi - Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya
24. Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapaksa - New Democratic Party
25. Mr. S. V. C. Alexander - Sri Lanka Labor Party
26. Mr. R. Yogarajan - United National Party
27. Mr. Susil Premajayantha - United People's Freedom Alliance
28. Mrs. Sepalika Gamage Weerasinghe - Jana Setha Peramuna
29. Mr. Daya Pelpola - United National Party

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| 30. Mr. K. Marimuttu | - Ceylon Worker's Congress (P. Wing) |
| 31. Mr. Nihal Premakumara | - Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya |
| 32. Mr. Sarath Manamendra | - Nawa Sihala Urumaya |
| 33. Mr. Harendre Gunatilake | - Jathika Hela Urumaya |
| 34. Mr. S.M. Kritshantha | - Frontline Socialist Party |
| 35. Mr. Nuwan Bopage | - Frontline Socialist Party |
| 36. Mr. Azath Salley | - National Unity Front |
| 37. Mr. Upul Jayasuriya | - Bar Association of Sri Lanka |
| 38. Mr. Ajith Pathirana | - Bar Association of Sri Lanka |
| 39. Dr. Nanda Wijeratne | - Sri Lanka Senior Citizens' Conference |
| 40. Mr. S.C .Mayadunne | - Sri Lanka Professionals' Association |

Representatives of local monitoring organizations

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| 1. Mr. Keerthi Tennakoon | - The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) |
| 2. Mr. Harsha Gunasena | - The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE) |
| 3. Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi | - People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) |
| 4. Mr. Rasanga Harischandra | - National Polls Observation Center (NPOC) |
| 5. Mrs. Daya Herath | - Mothers and Daughters of Lanka |
| 6. Mr. Shan Wijetunga | - Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) |
| 7. Mr. Chandrasiri De Silva | - National Election Monitoring Center |
| 8. Mr. Manjula Gajanayake | - Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) |

Officers of Sri Lanka Police Department

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| 1. Mr. Gamini Navaratne | - Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration / Election) |
| 2. Mr. Gamini Dissanayake | - Deputy Inspector General of Police (Legal) |
| 3. Mr. P. B. Nikahetiya | - Deputy Inspector General of Police (Transport & Communication) |
| 4. Mr. L. H. P. Cooray | - Superintendent of Police, Officer Commanding Field Force |

Officers of the Department of Elections

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| 1. Mr. U. Amaradasa | - Additional Commissioner of Elections (Parliament) |
| 1. Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake | - Additional Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) |
| 2. Mr. M.M. Mohamed | - Additional Commissioner of Elections (Legal and Investigation) |

The meeting commenced at 1530 hours and Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya, Commissioner of Elections presided and welcomed all present at the meeting. He also informed the house which candidates / representatives will be participating today.

In addition to the usual observers' representatives, the Senior Citizens Organization affiliated to the University of Colombo organized by Dr. Hemasiri Kuruppu, and representatives of the Association of Scholars headed by former Auditor General Mr. Sarath Mayadunne and the Sri Lanka Bar Association, have been summoned to today's discussion. The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that these organizations are trusted non-political organizations despite any personal political views and if they wanted to make any point in this discussion they could discuss it if they could provide it in writing.

02. The transfer of parties by various parties to support each candidate is a major problem for the Department of Elections in the course of their duties, as there are problems with the appointment of representatives for the counting halls and the preparation of final list of these representatives. Therefore, the Commissioner of Elections requested to complete these transfers on a specific date and stated that no party transfers would be registered after that date. It was further stated to make the candidates aware of this and make it public at a press conference to be held on 29.12.2014. All parties are requested to inform the two main presidential candidates and the party secretaries in this regard.

03. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the postal vote marking of the 2015 Presidential Election was held on 23 and 24.12.2014 and it is a pleasure to note that there were no significant issues reported in this regard. However, only one incident has been reported in the Homagama area. Though Authorized Agents / local Representatives / candidates are not allowed to go from polling station to polling station as of the poll day, it was caused by a party who did not know about it and however it was able to settle the situation.

The Commissioner of Elections expressed his displeasure over the actions of the party, which was distributing a leaflet with the help of a car and stated that the vehicle was seized with the help of a complaint received from a prominent politician. The Commissioner of Elections stated that they have been able to defeat the activities of some parties which have tried to exert pressure on postal voting at the Central Transport Board depots such as Ratnapura, Moratuwa and Alawwa.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that postal voting was due to be held on today i.e. 26.12.2014 at the Police Stations in active divisions and in the Hambantota District and due to a communication failure of the Police Department, postal voting will also be held in Police stations in the Nuwara Eliya and Badulla areas. However, it has been stated that if there are no representatives or observation teams present to monitor the postal voting, they have been advised not to begin the marking

of votes and the Assistant Commissioner of Elections of the respective districts took action to send the election officials to the respective places and to carry out the work properly.

The Commissioner of Elections also stated that the marking of postal votes of other government institutions including the Department of Elections will be held on 30.12.2014 and the Commissioner of Elections stated that though the postal voting of Civil Security Officers was completed without any complaint, a policy decision will be taken to provide them with the postal voting facility next time only on the recommendation of the Senior DIG, if the facility is given to them. Because since all these officers are residents of the nearby villages and are easily accessible to their polling places and they are not in a position to be attached to duty in police uniform, it appears that the cost of postal voting for the relevant officers is futile.

Further, the Commissioner of Elections briefed that the Department of Elections held an awareness campaign in those areas on the day before postal voting and it was reported that Hon. Rajiv Wijesinghe and Hon. Wasantha Senanayake, who were engaged in monitoring in the area, have expressed their happiness in that regard.

Since monitoring of the postal voting activities of the officers of the Civil Security Service could be done with proper supervision, the Commissioner of Elections thanked Mr. M.A. Sumanthiran of Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi Party who expressed his views during the discussion in that regard.

04. Since there are complaints that the posters promoting the President has already be seen on the buses of Sri Lanka Transport Board, the Commissioner of Elections stated that any party interested in this matter could take legal action and as such a situation is reported in Horana, Matugama and Kalutara districts, every effort should be made to prevent this. The Commissioner of Elections stated it is a very pitiful situation that the buses of Sri Lanka Transport Board provided to the Department of Elections for transporting officers for postal voting were found with brushes and pastes used for pasting posters.

05. However, the Commissioner of Elections further stated that it has been reported that Mr. Anura Zoysa, who is the representative of Presidential candidate Mr. Prasanna Priyankara has been assaulted and there has been no complaint from the aggrieved party and that he would seek to inquire from the Galle Police regarding the matter.

06. The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is a shame that a politician had ignored the cancellation of the permit granted regarding the registration of a fake party office in Nittambuwa area which was displaying a large number of cutouts; and the verbal order issued to withdraw the permit granted and maintained the office and the officers who had gone there to remove it had taken under his custody. He also said that during the next week the Department of Elections will remove posters /

cutouts and unauthorized pandas which are found in abundance in areas such as Gampaha, if they do not remove them immediately.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that a letter had been sent to him by a person named J. P. Gamage of Bar Association of Sri Lanka saying not to cover or remove the candidates' faces from posters / cutouts / advertisements by using election officials as it would be difficult for the elite as well as the election officials and at this point it is doubtful whether there is any connection between the above incident and this article. He further added that the letter is expected to be submitted to the police as a complaint if the situation does not recover within today.

07. The Commissioner of Elections has informed them that several foreign election monitoring bodies have already arrived in the country and action was taken to give the mandatory MOD clearance to them to monitor the Northern Province, the delegation comprising 30 officials from the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (Fembosa) is participated in and it is headed by Chief Election Commissioner of Nepal Mr. Sahabdeen Yakub Qureshi, observers of the Commonwealth Election Monitoring Organization is headed by the former President of Guyana and it is also learned that local election monitoring organizations namely, PAFFREL and CMEV are also expected to import several foreign monitoring teams. In addition, the Department of Elections invited the Taiwan Election Monitoring Organization, which has welcomed Sri Lanka's elections / election related activities in the past, to visit Sri Lanka for the Presidential Election this year, but due to the implementation of the "One China" policy that organization could not come to Sri Lanka.

The Commissioner of Elections urged all parties that the Department of Elections has no direct connection to the monitoring work of representatives of the Commonwealth Election Monitoring Team, the Department of Elections only gave them permission to engage in surveillance in the Northern Territory and they do not even use vehicles or translators of the Department of Elections for their purposes. Hence, if a party wants to deal with them then the coordination should be maintained independently rather than through the Department of Elections.

08. The Commissioner of Elections stated that though he had informed all parties to monitor and report the performance of the Independent Television Network and other media in relation to election propaganda, none of the parties has been making such a statement so far. When inquired from the Chairman of the Independent Television Network, he said his channel was implementing freedom of speech and questioned the Commissioner of Elections about the allegations leveled against him and the legal power of the Commissioner of Elections to inquire about it. He further stated that he intends to inform the relevant channel that he has to act for the purity and legitimacy of the election and also urged

the house to monitor the performance of the candidate's promotional activities in the relevant channel and to make observations in writing.

Attorney-at-Law Mr. Srinath Perera pointed out that the Independent Television Network as well as the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation is implementing a strict partisan policy and that reasonable people should not use such media. In his remarks, the Commissioner of Elections stated that the 18th Amendment to the Constitution eliminated the powers of the Commissioner of Elections to control the media and appoint the due authority and that all parties that have contributed to the 18th Amendment to the Constitution have also contributed to it.

09. The Commissioner of Elections thanked Mr. Susil Premjayanth, representative of Preesidential Candidate Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksha and the Secretary of the United People's Freedom Alliance and Mr. Anura Jayasinghe, the representative of the United People's Freedom Alliance for intervening in overcoming various obstacles in the allocation of playgrounds / grounds for election propaganda and said that it was a privilege to show that the issues raised by the police had been solved with the intervention of these gentleman, as some of the grounds / sports grounds cannot be reserved.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that he intervened to provide some playgrounds / grounds at certain places when certain political activists found it difficult to reserve them. However, since these politicians appear to be misrepresenting these facts, they reported to the media that they have taken severe action before the Commissioner of Elections and make these fruitful. Hence, the Commissioner of Elections stated that he would not intervene in the future in respect of the reservation of grounds or grounds if such parties continue to make such statements.

Attorney-at-Law Mr. Srinath Perera pointed out that all parties have to face issues regarding the reservation of the play grounds / grounds and that certain Pradeshiya Sabha Chairpersons directly declare that playgrounds / grounds will not be provided for any party other than the President's meetings and the similar situations can be seen in places like Eheliyagoda, Wellawatte etc. The Commissioner of Elections said that if the playgrounds are not unfairly given, it could be published through the newspapers. However, it is stated to inform them in writing, if there are any such problems, so that they can be made available. The Commissioner of Elections also urged all parties to consider the no. of participants when the large sized grounds allocated for campaign meetings and not to allocate large areas unless a substantial number of people are present.

10. The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that posters leading to the promotion of many candidates are displayed in vehicles violating the election laws and it has to be publicly stated that not only the supporter who displays the posters, but the candidate is violating the law. However, all necessary measures would be taken to enforce the law.

11. The Commissioner of Elections explained that to discuss about the letter of Mr. D.P. Mendis, President of the Sri Lanka Independent Bar Association stated that certain election monitoring organizations are acting in a biased manner, it is expected to hold discussions with Mr. D.P. Mendis, Mr. Champani Padmasekara Secretary of Sri Lanka Independent Bar Association and its Treasurer, Mr. Saliya Mathew, United People's Freedom Alliance representative Mr Anura Jayasinghe, Mr. Shantha Herath, Mr. Sumith Wijesinghe and Mr. Palitha Gamage, including Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Nawaratne and Mr. Ravi Karunanayake could also be summoned as he reported that he wish to take an opportunity to discuss with the election monitoring organizations and it is appropriate to set a date and time to hold this discussion. Mr. Srinath Perera said that it is preferable if other representatives also have the opportunity to participate in this discussion with local / foreign election monitoring organizations to know which election monitoring organizations are biased. However, the Commissioner of Elections stated that it is a long process which will bring many people together and will definitely inform the other parties about the issues raised at the meeting. The Commissioner of Elections stated in reply that although there has been an earlier opportunity to submit written submissions, if there is a need for consultation with foreign observers, no party other than one party has made such an offer. He stated that eight (08) foreign observers were present at the talks and only the representatives of the New Democratic Front Presidential candidate Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse and President's Counsel Mr. Rollence Perera were present. Mr. Rollence Perera and Mr. Shantha Herath who participated in the discussion later were presented the facts and the Commissioner of Elections stated that if any party has any fact they are asked to submit the matter in Sinhala on 22.12.2014 and in English before 22.12.2014 and since there was no such offer, only those who expressed their desire to participate in the discussion could be given the opportunity to consult with the respective monitoring groups.

12. The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is very commendable that the Minister of Education Mr. Bandula Gunawardena has made arrangements to postpone all Mahindodaya schools openings until the end of the election on the request made by the Commissioner of Elections not to allow political promotions to take place at the opening of the Mahindodaya schools. Also, inquiries have been made regarding the release of examination results and the Commissioner of Elections informed the house that he had taken action to inform that there is no harm in releasing the exam results unless the present President is promoting when the students who have passed the examination are taken to the President. The unanimous decision of the house was that there would be no need to suspend the release of examination results due to an election and that it should not embarrass the students.

13. The United People's Freedom Alliance representative Mr. Anura Jayasinghe inquired whether the issuance of temporary identity cards to voters without National Identity Cards could be extended due to the prevailing floods and landslide threats.

Issuing of temporary identity cards for voters without National Identity Cards was scheduled to be completed by 31.12.2014, but the Commissioner of Elections as the reply had stated that considering the present situation, the date has been extended till 03.01.2015.

14. Mr. Anura Jayasinghe raised a question regarding the displaying of digital screens at party offices and said it would be much easier if it could only allow digital screens to be used in district offices and it would be advisable to consult the views of other political parties and reach a conclusion in this regard. He added that he would take care of to display these screens only in the respective district offices only. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner of Elections said that though the use of these digital screens only in district offices is not harmful they are to be used in a manner that does not disturb the public and drivers and if it is found to be an obstacle, the permission could be granted subject to remove them. However, these digital screens do not allow to display the image of the current president or other candidates or party logo. The matter was discussed in the House and some parties said that there is no need to display these digital screens. However, it was finally proposed to discuss the matter further.

The Commissioner of Elections also stated that the bill boards displayed around the Colombo city had been removed since they displayed to promote the incumbent President.

15. Thereafter, by bringing the today's matters to the attention of the House the Commissioner of Elections informed that the permission has been sought and is granted to hold the exercise book distribution ceremony which has been running for a very long time to commemorate the death of Mr. Gamini Athukorala.

16. Informing a very important issue to the House, the Commissioner of Elections said that the consignment of the resignation letter of Mr. Tissa Attanayake to leave his post as General Secretary of the United National Party was seized while they were being preparing in the National Youth Services Council to be sent by his parliamentary stamps and it could be done according to the complaints received from Mr. Rajiv Seneviratne, Head of the Complaints Division of the New Democratic Front, as well as PAFFREL and other monitoring organizations.

The Commissioner of Elections further stated that a book that shows internal disputes of the United National Party was seized while it was printing at a printing press in Maharagama and about fifty thousand (50000) books were seized and were kept in the custody of the Maharagama Police for further court proceedings.

Complaints have been received that a stock of sil clothes worth nearly Rs. 100 crore is ready to be distributed on the next Poya Day and the Commissioner of Elections said that it has been reported that these activities are expected to be funded by the Ministry of Industry, Science and Commerce to make it look like that it was done by a well-known monk and they would be advised not to distribute the sil clothes on the full moon day of January 2015 and to postpone it.

The Commissioner of Elections requested from Mr. Susil Premajayantha to look into the matter and inform the relevant parties to remove the offices from state owned buildings as complaints have been received regarding the use of several abandoned state owned buildings in Nuwara Eliya for setting up offices of by Mr. C. B. Ratnayake.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that it should be of special interest that the complaint received regarding that the Army is planning to forward a letter by the postal mail to the promotion of a candidate and complaints in this regard have been received from PAFFREL as well as TI (Transparency International). He also stated that the letter has also been referred to another non-military civilian organization, but it is reported that they have decided to refrain from referring it and he would inform the Post Master General to take action to send these letters after the election period.

17. Representative of the New Democratic Front, Ms. Shamila Perera, who was present at the occasion said that there is an office near the HSBC in Rajagiriya and if the office is illegally run, immediate action should be taken to remove it. The Commissioner of Elections has instructed the Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Parliament) to look into the matter and remove it if it is not an approved office.

Ms. Shamila Perera further stated that though by law, it is possible to display advertising posters only in vehicles where the candidate is traveling, other vehicles also display stickers / posters to promote the candidate and she also noted that the vehicle bearing GG-2872 had been shown to display such illegal advertising posters.

The Commissioner of Elections stated that Ms. Shamila Perera would be pleased to report on the matter after careful scrutiny though no party has reported the details of such vehicles except complaining that the posters / stickers are being displayed which lead to the promotion of various vehicles. It was further clarified that all citizens are informed thorough a paper advertisement to inform about the vehicles that are engaged in such unlawful activities, through the official website of the Department of Elections or through the Tell Commissioner or by telephone or by fax.

On this occasion, Mr. R. Yogarajah stated that though he had forwarded a complaint in this manner to the official website of the Department of Elections on 07.12.2014 no action had been taken in that regard.

The Commissioner of Elections said that he will be empowered to take action in regard to the violation of election laws from the day the nominations are accepted *viz.*, 08.12.2014 and highest action has been taken regarding all complaints received since then.

18. Representative of the Jathika Hela Urumaya, Mr. Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe has inquired about the actions taken over the complaint made to the Commissioner of Elections regarding the disgracefully assaulting the people of Keviliyamadu village in Batticaloa town while they were holding a peaceful protest on 19.12.2014 demanding their voting rights. Speaking at the meeting, the Commissioner of Elections stated that in addition to Mr. Nishantha Sri Warnasinghe, Ven. Akmeemana Dayarathana Thera had also lodged a complaint and as the people of Keviliyamadu had organized a protest demanding their voting rights to vote for the incumbent President, he would not be able to interfere in a partisan act as the Commissioner of Elections. However, the Commissioner of Elections has stated that all measures have been taken to inform the police as well and action for obtaining voting rights should be taken from June 2015 and that any person can file a court case with sufficient evidence and information as a result of being mistreated. It was also observed that the names of about six persons were not registered in the electoral register for the year 2014 and the rest have permanent residencies at areas like Ampara. The Commissioner of Elections has stated that they are not registered in Batticaloa District as their permanent residencies are in the Ampara District.

19. Mr. Azath Salley pointed out that a certain Deputy Minister said that the Commissioner of Elections do jimarts and his party's candidate, the incumbent President, will definitely be won by through such a strategy and it is a very sad statement and an allegation against the Commissioner of Elections. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner of Elections expressed regret at the statement made by the Deputy Minister and said that the agents appointed by the Deputy Minister's signature will not be used for activities at the polling station. He also requested Mr. Susil Premajayanth to appoint another party by revoking the appointment of the respective Deputy Minister. He further stated that such statements would undermine the confidence of the general public in the elections and thereby hinder the conduct of free and fair elections.

20. Referring to the letter forwarded by Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse signed by General Secretary of the United National Party Mr. Kabir Hashim on behalf of Opposition Leader of Sri Lanka Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, Presidential Candidate, the Commissioner of Elections Sated that that the agreement declared by Mr. Tissa Attanayake stating that it was signed between Hon.

Opposition Leader Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and Mr. Maithripala Sirisena is a fake agreement and it has already taken legal action in that regard and action will be taken to inform Mr. Attanayake to confirm whether he has seen the original version of the agreement and guarantees its accuracy.

The Commissioner of Elections further stated that action will be taken to inform the United Trade Unions Organization at 301, T.B. Jayah Mawatha, Colombo 10, in reporting this information through the print media, whether they see the original version of the agreement in question and they satisfied with its accuracy, and if not, do not violate media guidelines by publishing them. He also emphasized that all measures should be taken whenever an irregularity occurs.

Mr. Azath Sally pointed out the attack on the United National Party office at Sirikotha and the Commissioner of Elections stated that the public is very kindly requested not to stage protests in highways, in front of political party offices and public institutions.

21. An agent pointed out that an incident has been reported in Mathugama area on 25.12.2014, i.e. while the representative and the local organizers of the Nava Sama Samaja Party were traveling in a three-wheeler during the rains, the three-wheeler was deliberately hit by a vehicle that followed, causing minor injuries to the passengers of the three wheeler and a complaint has been lodged with the Matugama Police regarding the incident and no registration numbers could be recorded. The Commissioner of Elections stated that they will seek to inquire from the Matugama Police in that regard. Several representatives of the house stated that there are about 10 Defender vehicles with the same number plate in Nittambuwa. The Commissioner of Elections stated that particulars of these should be submitted in writing together with their photographs so that action could be taken.

Mr. Wijayadasa Rajapakse stated that the police have a responsibility to take appropriate action in this regard and failure to perform that responsibility is an offense under the Police Ordinance. Mr. Srinath Perera also stated that during the local government election period the party offices were allowed to set up only at specific places but at present there are offices with large advertisements almost in every empty land.

The Commissioner of Elections commented that there is a very limited time frame for this election and therefore it is difficult to deploy the election officials for all these activities at once and however, the Department of Elections and the Police have to verify physically whether these offices are licensed or illegal.

22. The Commissioner of Elections then explained following facts about the process from the issuing of ballot boxes to the counting of votes and how the results will be declared.

- i. The ballot boxes will be issued to senior presiding officers at the issuing center and the ballot boxes will have their serial numbers on them and all those numbers are also recorded by the agents of the candidates.
- ii. The ballot papers are placed in one ballot box and its official mark is placed on its back using a randomly selected seal from the 3 seals. Seals of the Agents can also be placed here if needed.
- iii. Agents will also be provided with a copy of the ballot paper account.
- iv. When the ballot boxes are brought from the polling station, a cautious procedure is followed and the carbonized paper of each box is signed by the senior presiding officer and two randomly selected staff members. A paper signed by agents will also be pasted there.
- v. Ballot boxes are also received at the spot where the ballot boxes are issued, then the ballot boxes are sealed, enclosed in a plastic bag, put a lock and brought in very securely. When the ballot box is moved from the polling station to the counting area, it can be observed by any party concerned and the agents can be placed in the counting halls. Therefore, it is very important to appoint agents to the polling stations and counting halls.
- vi. In the counting hall, the polling station belonging to each ballot box will be read aloud. The Serial Numbers marked in the ballot box will then be read aloud. As these numbers are noted by the agents, they will be able to verify that the ballot box brought to the counting center is the one that is issued.
- vii. Since there are five candidates in each party, they will be allowed to monitor all activities.
- viii. At the beginning of the counting process, all the ballot papers are classified on the main table (according to each party). Even if the party seems to have gotten fewer votes, it would be preferable if the agents continue to stay there without leaving the counting hall.
- ix. The ballot papers are never in the hands of the agents, and when the issue of a ballot paper arises, the decision-making power is vested with the Chief Counting Officer after consultation with the prominent representatives of the respective parties.
- x. Although there are no agents / monitors, the Chief Counting Officer handles the matters accurately and reliably.
- xi. Once the ballots are classified as stated above, accuracy is re-assured by checking whether the ballot papers of the other parties are mixed up in the piles.
- xii. After classification, bundles of 50 ballot papers will be prepared. Another group uses a rubber band so that it does not mix. They are re-examined by the third group. Subsequently, two assistant returning officers are super supervised. They are again checked by the Chief Counting Officer. (There will never be a division of ballot papers into bundles of 45 or 55 as per the superstition in various parties.)

- xiii. The results will then be processed and each agent will place their signatures before the name of their candidate.
- xiv. These results will be prepared by the Manual Processing Division and the Computer Section separately and by the Returning Officer. The manual processing results and the computer copy will be re-examined by the Additional Commissioners of Elections.
- xv. Thereafter, the Election Commissioner's signature will be placed on the final result sheet. The result sheet will be sent to the Returning Officer by fax and uploaded to the official website of the Department of Elections three minutes later and will be sent to all the media and the Department of Government Information by fax.

23. The Commissioner of Elections stated that he intends to stage a drama explaining the “Vote is Your Right” in all the areas where the election violence has taken place and that the District Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections has been informed of this. Recalling the bleak memory of Mr. Bharatha Lakshman Premachandran's murder in the Kolonnawa area, he said that such a tragic incident could never be allowed to happen again. He also stated that the program is being implemented exclusively in Kolonnawa and voters in the Kolonnawa area have been intimidated by several acts of violence and Member of the Western Provincial Council Mr. S.M. Marikkar's office has been hit by a shooting today and it is expected that Special Task Force personnel will be deployed in the area.

24. Explaining the establishment of party offices in the counting halls, the Commissioner of Elections stated that arrangements have been made to allocate offices in one locality as one office for the United People’s Freedom Alliance, one office for the New Democratic Front, one office for the leftist candidates and one office for all other candidates. Since there is no preferential vote counting in this election, there are no permits to bring laptops and mobile phones to the counting halls and the communication requirements can be fulfilled using CDMA phones provided by the Department of Elections and they would be allowed to use calculators for necessary calculations.

Mr. R. Yogarajah requested permission to carry a laptop computer as it would be easy to obtain print outs of the result sheets. The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is not possible to allow mobile phones or laptops to be moved into the counting halls as there are already reports that small scale media outlets are working through their agents to formulate a systematic plan to release the results before the results of the Department of Elections. He added that a mobile phone can only be used by the Chief Counting Officer and that it is permitted to move to the premises of the Counting Hall after being checked and sealed.

25. President's Counsel Mr. Srinath Perera inquired whether there is an opinion that the final result of the counting of votes would be released through the Presidential Secretariat and that it would be preferable to clarify the matter. He also reported that since Thai Pongal Festival has been held on 15.01.2015, an organized program is being implemented to give the Tamil people in Colombo city the Thai Pongal holiday without giving leave on election day.

Commenting on this, the Commissioner of Elections stated that no election / poll results will be issued through the Presidential Secretariat at any time and that it is just a false notion. The Human Rights Commission has also decided to grant leave to those who work on election day. The Commissioner of Elections stated that the recommendation of the Department of Elections has also been issued for this purpose and accordingly the Human Rights Commission had approved and announced a half day leave for residents within 40km, one day leave for residents of 40 – 120km distance and a two day leave for residents over a distance of more than 120km.

The Commissioner of Elections further stated that the Human Rights Commission has written to the relevant parties to give the employees sufficient leave to cast their votes and the Department of Elections is planning to publish a newspaper advertisement in this regard as many parties are inquiring about this holiday.

26. Speaking further Mr. Daya Pelpola said that most of the districts have been affected by floods and landslides as the current weather conditions have adversely affected the livelihood of the people. He asked how the people living in these areas can cast their votes. The Commissioner of Elections stated that it is proposed to discuss this matter with the District Secretaries on 27.12.2014. He further stated that such incidents such as the attack on the Sirikotha headquarters could be carried out in the future and the police are inquiring as to what measures have been taken to prevent such acts and when the police mobile services are being implemented; and the general public is truly disappointed with the police's silent policy in the face of terrible acts. Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Nawaratne said that he has called reports on the Sirikotha incident from the relevant OIC and from the Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of the district and they will report to him shortly.

27. Speaking further Mr. Azath Sally pointed out that there is a legitimate question as to where human rights appear when such incidents occurred at some point in the past when the Presidential candidate Mr. Gamini Dissanayake and others had been assassinated and Mr. Bharatha Lakshman Premachandra had been brutally murdered on the road. He further stated that the police officers should be able to perform their duties fairly and freely without interference from any party.

Mr. Upul Jayasuriya also pointed out that the Commissioner of Elections cannot perform the duties of the police and that the Inspector General of Police and the Police Department are committed to this and that the police should act in accordance with the instructions and directives of the Commissioner of Elections regarding the election activities and the police should at least enforce the election laws. He further stated that posters and cutouts are in violation of election laws and that the police should take more responsibility to remove them.

The Commissioner of Elections pointed out that it is appropriate to have a separate discussion with the police on these matters and however the police cannot act alone in the matter of law enforcement and should be supported by all parties. It was further pointed out that all measures will be taken to ensure that the election is free, fair and transparent and if there are problems, the relevant measures could be taken to discuss and take action in that regard. The Commissioner of Elections clarified that any party can take legal action if the police do not take proper action and the allegations that the police were not taking any action to enforce the law were not fair and correct.

Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police (Administration and Elections) Mr. Gamini Navaratne said that although the posters / cutouts / digital screens displayed in the whole island are not capable of being removed at once, they have been removed to the maximum extent possible. He also informed that the removal of posters and cutouts would have been much more complicated if similar posters and cutouts were displayed by the opposition presidential candidate.

28. The Commissioner of Elections then pointed out how the vote should be marked on the ballot paper and the following points were outlined.

- i. Ballot papers with X, 1 or \surd will only be accepted as valid ballot papers.
But if a circle is drawn around the election symbol and a line is drawn under the symbol, they will also be accepted as valid ballot papers.
- ii. Numbers 1, 2 and 3 may only be used if the preference is marked.
- iii. With X you can never apply 1, 2 or 3. Also, the ballot papers will be canceled if the 2 and 3 are used with the cross mark.
- iv. The ballot paper will be invalidated by the large cross marked all over the ballot.
- v. Ballot papers with identification marks are also considered as invalid ballot papers.
- vi. It is preferable to use only X as much as possible in their voting. The X must be in the appropriate box.
- vii. The ballot papers will be determined as valid / invalid in terms of the specific provisions of the Act.

29. Since various parties questioned about the action which will be taken if none of the two main candidates are fail to obtain 50% of votes cast, the Commissioner of Elections pointed out that in such

cases the number of preferential votes cast to them on the ballot papers of the other candidates will be added to the two candidates and then the candidate with the highest number of votes will be selected.

30. On this occasion, Mr. R. Yogarajah stated that in view of all these submissions, no irregularity could be occurred in the casting the votes, transporting ballot boxes to the counting premises or during the counting process and it is preferable, if possible, to inform the general public in this regard before the election date.

The Commissioner of Elections expressed his satisfaction for having confidence in the Department of Elections and said in the future he hoped to provide a clarification in Sinhala, Tamil and English languages through the media in this regard.

31. Commenting on a suggestion of the Bar Association of Galle, the Commissioner of Elections stated that though the Independent Television Network, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, the Lake House, the Government Press and the Department of Elections are said to be acting illegally and that every effort should be taken to prevent it, neither the Department of Elections nor the Election Officers are involved in any malpractices and that there is no such thing as ballot boxes being transferred and that there is only a superstition in this regard and the Commissioner of Elections is assured of that.

32. The Commissioner of Elections also instructed all parties not to allow agents who use alcohol to enter the counting halls and agents assigned to counting halls would be better if they were not working in polling stations during the day. They were also informed to provide instructions to agents to record the number of votes received by their candidate in the counting halls and to verify their accuracy by comparing them with the ballot paper Account. However, the counting process is very accurately done by the Chief Counting Officers even though no observation organization or no agent participated and he also pointed out that guarantee of any party is not necessary to the Department of Elections on the accuracy of the electoral process.

33. The Commissioner of Elections stated that all parties are expected to work with commitment to safeguard legitimacy and integrity of voting process to hold the forthcoming Presidential Election in a free and fair manner and to make it publicly visible. Time was then given to the House to present any other matters if there were to be discussed and as it turned out that there was no such thing, today's vote of thanks was extended to all parties in attendance, and the discussion concluded at 1810 Hrs.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Media Release - 37

Presidential Election - January 08, 2015

The poll to elect the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, was taken on 08.01.2015 from 7.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. In view of the number of complaints on the violation of election laws; violence and illegal activities caused by supporters of some political parties during the period of election commenced from 20.11.2014 the date of proclamation of the intention of H.E. the President of appealing to the people for a mandate and the illegal activities, I am highly delighted that the election could be conducted in a peaceful environment devoid of banners and cutouts in and out of the premises of polling stations. I would like to mention that it is quintessential to take legal action against those who indulged in illegal activities, to take steps to prevent such activities in future, and to take stern action to deter public processions and motor rallies during the active post-poll period. A special request will be made to the Inspector General of Police in this regard. I am glad to state that there were no any complaints of obstructing the voters on their way to the polling stations or in exercising their franchise freely and secretly.

The service rendered by Returning Officers of all Districts/District Secretaries, Divisional Secretaries, other officers and their staff, and the election professionals to make the election a success, is highly commendable. The invaluable role played by the Returning Officers and their staff who shouldered the whole responsibility, especially at the district level was the major factor behind the successful completion of this task within the short time period that was available. It would not be so successful if not for the support of all staff received from the Secretaries of Ministries, other senior officers holding similar positions down to the casual employees in the Public Service and Provincial Public Service, and principals/teaching staff and other staff of schools. My thanks are due to all of them who supported to conduct the election while upholding the dignity and respect of the public service. Additional Commissioners, other staff officers and the whole staff of the Elections Secretariat, Senior/Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of District Election Offices, staff of these offices including casual employees, officers and drivers of other departments and agencies who assisted the Department of Elections were working always following my instructions with exemplary effort without any fear. Though dejected by accusations made against them such as they were working unlawfully and fraudulently in the counting and declaration of results and by unpleasant incidents that took place in areas such as Matara, Mahiyanganaya, Kesbawa, Homagama and Mahara during the previous elections. They were only carrying out my instructions. There were complaints constantly about preliminary organizational activities, statutory functions, problems of reservations of propaganda meetings, illegal campaign activities and about public officers engaging in political activities, misusing of public property disturbing the conducive environment to hold a free and fair election. I appreciate the dedicated service rendered by all these officers and herewith are my thanks to appreciate all of them.

During the first few weeks of the election only a limited number of police officers assigned to Returning Officers, civil officers and the officials of the Department of Elections had to enforce the election laws. My special thanks are due to these officials who were brave enough to face the threats they encountered in removing cutouts and banners and built up public confidence in the election.

I have to further state that the Department of Elections took deterrent action to safeguard election laws, and not to promote or prejudice any political party or a candidate with any malicious intention. The Department of Elections took all possible steps in this regard because the need of the day was to establish the election law. The Department of Elections will take all steps without hesitation to do the same in future as well.

Dedication of Senior Presiding Officers and all poll staff in polling stations who performed their task pleasantly and happily without making any complaint. They worked under trying conditions without the most needed basic requirements in order to safeguard the franchise of the voter when every voter was required to prove their identity with a valid identity document. The dedication of the officers cannot be measured in financial terms. I believe this dedication is appreciated by every Sri Lankan. My sincere thanks are due to the Chief Counting Officers and others who performed the tedious task of counting which was the culmination of the whole election. Taking of the poll, issuing and receiving of ballot boxes, the counting process, welfare activities, transport, counting hall arrangements, public utilities, postal voting, appointment of officers, tabulating results, were some of the activities which were not very obvious at an election. I am grateful to those who performed these tasks.

I regret to recall some violent incidents and illegal propaganda activities of some supporters of candidates and I express my deep condolence to Mr. Shantha Dodangoda a supporter of the opposition in Kahawatte area who succumbed to death after a firing while erecting a stage for a propaganda meeting. In the meantime I wish early recovery to all those who were hospitalized due to violent incidents.

I am thankful to all those who engaged in propaganda work peacefully and lawfully, secretaries of their parties, senior officials of those parties and supporters, permanent representatives of political parties who were members of the complaints investigating committee extended their support to successfully complete the poll. The support of benign politicians was very much useful for the Department to conduct the election freely and fairly.

The attitude of some police officers in some areas was lethargic towards the last few days of the election, but I gratefully appreciate the dedicated service and support extended to me by the Inspector General of Police, Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the subject by elections, Senior Deputy Inspectors General of Police in the Ranges, other Deputy Inspectors General, Senior Superintendents of Police and the Members of the Special Task Force, all law abiding police officers who assisted me with dedication to conduct the election in a just manner.

Appreciable is the service of all senior police officers and others who assisted them at the Complaints Investigation Bureau and Divisional Complaints Centres.

It is my duty as well as responsibility to place on record my thanks to all police officers and officers of the Special Task Force who provided security to all polling stations and counting centres on the poll day and on the days of counting without grumbling about the inconveniences caused to them. I thank specially the Commanders of Tri-Forces and other services officers who were always ready to support the Police Department at any exigency. My thanks are due to the Commanders of the Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Air Force who provided transport by sea and air for the conveyances to and from polling stations in the Northern Province.

During the period of election the Election Observer Organizations were vigilant about the violations of election laws, reported such incidents to the Department of Elections and tried to put the candidates and their supporters on the right track and this keenness is appreciated. I requested Observer Organizations to give publicity only for the incidents that could be proved when making complaints and reports, and the Organizations which responded in consistent to my request, highly appreciated. I earnestly request similar support from the Observer Organizations in future as well, because the support of impartial Observer Organizations is very essential.

Representatives of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) and the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) arrived in Sri Lanka at my request to observe the election. They observed the activities island-wide in the pre-poll period. I believe that the presence of the International Observers was a great boost towards the implementation of the election laws as well as to put the candidates and supporters in the correct path of following the election law. I owe my highest regard to the representatives of these International Observer Organizations for visiting Sri Lanka and making such contribution.

My thanks are due to the Government Printer, staff officers and the staff of the Government Press who printed the ballot papers and other documents within a short period of time, the Post Master General, officers and other staff of the Postal Department who distributed official poll cards, delivered postal ballot paper packets and all urgent election material, Commissioner General of the Department for Registration of Persons and his staff officers and the staff of Ceylon Electricity Board, Sri Lanka Telecom, National Water Supplies and Drainage Board, Sri Lanka Railways, Sri Lanka Transport Board and its staff, all organizations of private transport operators, all those engaged in the private omnibus services, owners of private vehicle owners and drivers who provided hired services required for the election. I thank all Grama Niladharis and Estate Superintendents who assisted in issuing temporary identity cards as an alternative measure to those who did not own a recognized identity document. I thank the Secretary and all officers of the Ministry of Education, Chief Secretaries of all Provincial Councils, Secretaries of Provincial Education Ministries for making the schools available for the election and the heads of all those schools for providing necessary facilities in the schools. My thanks are also due to the authorities of government institutions including Technical Colleges and other establishments for the purpose of counting. My respectful thanks to the Chief Incumbents, Viharadhipathis of

Viharasthanas and other religious dignitaries for making the religious places available to be used as polling stations. My thanks are also due to the owners of private buildings/lands who allowed to use their property for polling stations.

I am grateful to the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and members of same and its Secretaries and the whole staff who extended support to enforce election laws.

Director General and Director News of the Government Information Department and its staff assisted me always in releasing media announcements on time, from the date of nomination notice in conjunction with the Department of Elections in order to provide correct news to the public and to educate the voters, media institutions and their representatives. Gratefully I recall their support.

I express my gratitude to all staff of the School of Computing of the University of Colombo, who supported me in releasing results to the media institutions, and the officers who assisted in checking and rechecking election results at the Elections Secretariat received from the Returning Officers and to the Sri Lanka Telecom for providing electronic facilities for same.

However much the election laws are there, it is with the support of the leaders of political parties, secretaries of parties and voters that a free and fair election could be realized. Therefore, much of the credit should go to the politicians who acted lawfully in the electoral process and the voters who exercised their vote bravely and freely. Turn out of 80% of registered voters under any circumstances is considered a very high percentage. Hence, my respect, gratitude and tribute to all voters who exercised their franchise.

There was a likelihood of building up of a mistrust about the Department of Elections and election officials due to unfounded allegations emanated at propaganda meetings such as the changing of ballot boxes, discrepancies at the count, changing of results at the centres for declaration of results, frauds cultured using new technology, misbelief that to whom the vote has been cast, could be detected, and misinformation about the calculation of the number of members in the Uva Provincial Council. Such misbeliefs could be minimized through awareness programmes carried out through media towards the poll day and a campaign was launched to educate the public on the poll day and the day before, to exercise franchise without any fear, and street drama performed to educate the public. I believe that all these measures were instrumental in elevating the percentage of turn out at the poll.

I, as the Commissioner of Elections and the Department of Elections have been receiving much credit for conducting the election in a just and fair manner. I sincerely thank all those who expressed their appreciation. What I did was to carry out the duty cast upon the Department of Elections in order that a conducive environment is created to exercise the franchise or in other words to provide opportunity to express the will of the people and to take steps to count the vote correctly and declare it accurately. I accept this appreciation in the same humble manner that I received criticisms in the past.

I would like to bring few matters to the notice of all stakeholders in this press release which is generally included to draw the attention of all authorities only in interim or main reports of an election.

- * It is regretted that the numbers of complaints of misusing of public property, that is the use of public property to promote other candidates prejudice some other candidates is on the rise. There are instances that such misuse takes place without the knowledge of the high ranking members of political parties. They cannot be ignored as false allegations.

It is, therefore, necessary that intermediate and specific measures should be taken in regard to such allegations in future elections. It is necessary to consider the proposal to investigate such allegations even after the election.

- * It is likely that one may view the stipulating of guidelines on media as something not feasible or not necessary during an active period of an election in view of the massive changes and new trends taking places in the field of technology. But media i.e. print and electronic (radio and television) still play a major role because majority of our society place much trust on them. It is therefore necessary that all State and private media should follow the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. It is proposed to consider appointing a Special Media Commission to be effective for the period of election, a step that has been taken in countries like Afghanistan.

- * I fully agree with the idea that Corporations such as Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Companies owned by State such as ITN and affiliated companies and media institutions such as the Associated Newspapers Ltd (Lake House), should function as State institutions and not as government institutions, not only the during election periods but at all times for which I stand always.

- * It is an obstacle to conduct a free and fair election when Secretaries of some Ministries and heads of institutions support the activities of certain political parties and candidates and make statements promoting or prejudicing them. This has happened because of the notion expressed by some politicians, that “the Secretaries of Ministries have political rights because they are appointed by H.E. the President” and because some such persons have direct affiliations with politics. I would therefore like to point out that laws should be brought to keep Secretaries of Ministries completely away from politics and maximum effort should be made to appoint officers/specialists who do not have any connection with politics, as Secretaries of Ministries.

- * I also would like to indicate that any amendments to the law related to the conduct of election should be carried out only after wider dialogues with all stakeholders and it is not prudent to bring-in such amendments in a short period of time after consulting only a limited group of people.

- * Once again I thank all those who contributed to conduct the Presidential Election held on January 8, 2015 freely and fairly and conclude that all credit should go to them and that I hold responsibility for shortcomings or drawbacks, if any, therein.

Mahinda Deshapriya
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.
12.01.2015

Post Script

I note with deep sympathy, the demise of the Motor Cycle Rider, Police Constable Mr. G.W.I.K. Fernando assigned to the Department of Elections for a considerable period of time, who met with an accident while on duty.