



**REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF ELECTIONS**  
on the Fifteenth Parliamentary General  
Election of Sri Lanka  
held on 17th August 2015







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**Mahinda Deshapriya**  
Commissioner of Elections

\* Prior approval of the Election commission needs to be obtained to extract contents, schedules or tables in this report.

## *Preface*

The Election Commissioner's report on the 15th Parliamentary Elections held on August 17, 2015 was expected to be released less than a year after the election. But we regret that it took more than three years to prepare this report due to the fact that the action had to be taken on the delay in the local authorities' elections, technical errors in the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance had to be corrected and four-year strategic plan of the Election Commission had to be formulated after its establishment on November 13, 2015.

I would like to thank all those who helped to prepare this report.

**Mahinda Deshapriya,**  
Commissioner of Elections  
(2011 -2015)

Election Office  
Rajagiriya.  
31.03.2019.



## CONTENTS

	<i>Page No.</i>
Laws Applicable to Holding Parliamentary Elections	01
Official Term of Parliament	01
Nominations	01
Recognized Political Parties	02
Preliminary Arrangement Relating to the Election	04
Electoral Register	05
Polling Divisions, Polling Districts and Polling Stations	05
Giving Permission to Vote at another Polling Station	06
Postal Voting Facilities	06
Official Poll Cards	07
Use of Identity Documents at the Polling Station to Identify the Voter	08
Indelible Ink	08
Dead or Overseas Electors	09
Provision of Transport for Persons with Physical Disabilities	09
Granting Employees Sufficient Leave to be Able to Vote	09
Staff Requirement	10
Transport Requirement	11
Security	11
The Right of Contesting Political Parties and Independent Groups to Send Election - Related Material Free of Charge by Mail	12
Broadcasting Political Speeches on Radio and Television	13
Government Aid to Recognized Political Parties	13
Election Monitoring	14
Local Monitoring Agencies	14
Foreign Observation Agencies	14
Establishment of Complaint Centers	15
Setting Up Notified Election Offices and Election Campaigning	15
Avoiding Misuse of Public Resources	16
Electronic and Print Media Criteria or Guidelines	17
Ethics to be adhered to by Political Parties and Candidates	17
Election	18
Counting of Ballots	21
Tabulating and Declaration the Results	24
Expenditure Incurred on the Election	26
Observations and Recommendations	27
Election Staff	27
Nominations	28
Postal Voting	29
Using State Property to Promote Political Parties and Candidates	29
Media Guidelines	30
Protect the Voting Rights of Private Sector Employees and of Workers in Emergency and Essential Services who have lost Postal Voting Facilities	31
Election Campaigns	31
Enforcement of Election Laws	32
Court Actions In Relation To Parliamentary Elections	32
Conclusion	33

## *Schedules*

	<i>Page No.</i>
I. The Gazette of declaration that the fourteenth parliament was dissolved	37
II. The Gazette contains information on the returning officers appointed to each Electoral District	39
III. Granting adequate leave to enable employees to vote	41
IV. Guidelines to be followed by monitoring organizations and observers authorized for monitoring the election	42
V. Relevant letter informing authorized representatives of parties / groups and leaders of independent groups as well as candidates through them on the withdrawal of notified election offices during the “period of silence” and restrictions on campaigning	43
VI. Media guidelines to be followed by electronic and print media organizations and activists	45
VII. Code of ethics to be adhered to by contesting candidates	49
VIII. Media release of the commissioner of elections on the exhibition of posters, cutouts and banners and distribution of leaflets, motorcades and campaigning through loudspeakers	55
IX. Extraordinary gazette issued to obtain the assistance of public officers for the prevention of misuse of public property and to conduct the election properly	56
X. Names of persons elected as members of parliament for each electoral district	58
XI. Extraordinary Gazette notification No. 1928/25 dated 21.08.2015 The statement under article 99 A of the constitution (Persons elected under the national list)	67
XII. Extraordinary Gazette notification No. 1929/4 dated 24.08.2015 The statement under article 99 A of the constitution (Persons elected under the national list)	69

## *Statistical Notes*

I. Details of the number of members to be elected for electoral districts, the number of candidates to be nominated by a nomination paper, and the amount of deposits to be made by an independent group	73
II. Details of the nomination papers submitted, accepted and rejected and the number of candidates	74
III. Sale of Electoral Registers (As CDs)	75
IV. Classification of polling stations by number of registered electors	78
V. Number of polling stations used for the Parliamentary Election and classification of buildings used	79
VI. Details of postal vote applications received for the Parliamentary Election and the accepted and rejected number of them	80
VII. Particulars of temporary identity cards issued in relation to the Parliamentary Election	81
VIII. Information relating to the number of electors listed in the electoral register under each districts in respect of the parliamentary election, but were reported as dead and gone abroad before the date of the election.	82
IX. Particulars of the number of officers deployed for the election at each district	83
X. Details pertaining to the number of counting halls relating to each district	84
XI. All island result according to each electoral district	85
XII. Number of votes obtained by recognized political parties / independent groups and the number of members to be elected	87
XIII. Number of members to be elected on national basis	88
XIV. Full expense report relating to the Parliamentary Election	89
XV. Summary of complaints as at 17.08.2015	91
XVI. Particulars of registration of displaced electors	92

# **Report of the Commissioner of Elections on the Parliamentary Election held on 17.08.2015**

## **Laws Applicable to Holding Parliamentary Elections**

THE Second Republican Constitution, passed in 1978, directly empowers the Executive President of the country to issue the Notice of Dissolution of Parliament for holding a parliamentary election, as well as to accept nominations for the election and to determine election dates. Even in the Presidential Election, if the President decides to hold the Presidential Election before the due date, the President of the Republic is constitutionally allowed to declare his intention to hold the Presidential Election in advance and nomination dates and election dates of this election will be decided by the Commissioner of Elections.

2. The first session of the Seventh Parliament, which was elected according to the Parliamentary Election held on April 08, 2010, began on April 22, 2010. The Seventh Parliament was dissolved on June 26, 2015 and the President's Notification in that regard under Article 70 of the Constitution and Section 10 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No.1 of 1981 was published by the President in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1920/38 of 26.06.2015. According to this announcement, the nomination period commenced at sunrise on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and will continue till 12 noon on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and August 17, 2015 was set as the date for the election of Members of Parliament.

## **Official Term of Parliament**

3. Although it seemed easy to plan the affairs since the Department of Elections has to prepare for the Parliamentary Election within six months after the Presidential Election on January 8, 2015, increasing the number of candidates who were actually contesting at the Parliamentary Election compared to the Presidential Election, and the competition between the candidates and the political parties in the election, would inevitably make the organization more complicated. Hence, taking into consideration the background of the election, the activities of the Elections Secretariat and the district level were carried out on the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections.

## **Nominations**

4. In terms of Section 6 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, it was decided to appoint the District Secretary as the Returning Officer of the electoral district and to accept nominations at the District Secretariat. The details of the matter were published by the Commissioner of Elections in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1920/39 dated 27 June 2015. The District Secretary of Vavuniya Administrative District also functioned as the Returning Officer for the Vanni electoral district, which comprises three administrative districts, the District Secretary of Jaffna Administrative District functioned as the Returning Officer of the Jaffna electoral district which consists of two Administrative Districts and the District Secretary of the Ampara Administrative District was functioned as the Returning Officer of the Digamadulla electoral district. Action was taken to appoint all District Senior Deputy/ Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections as Assistant Returning Officers by the relevant Gazette and in addition, by the Extraordinary Gazette notification No. 1920/40 dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015, an additional number of Assistant Returning Officers were appointed to assist the Returning Officer.
5. Deposits for independent groups were made at the District Election Offices or District Secretariats from the date of publication of the Proclamation of the election under Section 16(1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act viz., on June 26, 2015 until 12 noon on July 12, 2015, the day before the last day for the receipt of nominations.
6. By the date the President publishes the Proclamation relating to the holding of the Parliamentary Election, the valid electoral register was the 2014 electoral register. The number of Members of Parliament to be elected from each electoral district in terms of the order published in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1853/3 dated 10.03.2014 under Article 98 (8) of the Constitution, was to be elected at this Parliamentary Election as per this electoral register.

Details of the number of members to be elected by electoral district are given in the Note No. I Column 3 of this Note specifies the number of candidates to be nominated for each electoral district on behalf of each party or an independent group in terms of section 15 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act and the deposit of an amount of Rs. 2000 which was to be made by an independent group for each candidate under Section 16 (1) of the Act.

7. Awareness guidance was sent on 29.06.2015 informing all the Returning Officers of the procedures for accepting the nomination. The Returning Officers were informed by this regarding the nomination process and the reports to be submitted to the Commissioner of Elections after the acceptance of nominations. Instructions to notify representatives of political parties / independent groups present at the announcement of the nomination decisions were sent to all Returning Officers on 12.07.2015 and it was directed to provide all the representatives with a document containing such information.
8. Based on the experience of the previous elections, the Returning Officer was instructed to issue an Advisory Manual to inform the authorized persons arrived to hand over the nomination papers on how to submit the nomination papers without getting rejected. In addition, it was also advised to keep a separate Assistant Returning Officer in the nomination hall to clarify the issues that need to be addressed before handing over the nominations.
9. A letter was sent with the specimens of the nomination forms dated 03.07.2015 informing all political party secretaries who were expected to contest and in relation with the submission of the National List or the list to be submitted under Article 99 (a) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Accordingly, a list of 303 candidates from 17 recognized political parties were submitted during the nomination period. The names of the persons were submitted to the National List and details pertaining to the party were published in the Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 1923/2 dated 13.07.2015.
10. During the nomination period, total number of 537 nominations namely, 312 nominations from political parties and 225 nominations from

independent groups were received on behalf of all electoral districts to contest the parliamentary election. After rejecting 12 nominations from recognized political parties and 24 nominations submitted by independent groups, the total number of nominations accepted was 501. Of that total, 300 were nominations handed over by recognized political parties and 201 by independent groups. At this election, the highest number of political parties *viz.*, 21 contested for the Colombo electoral district and the highest number of independent groups *viz.*, 30 was reported from the Batticaloa electoral district. A total of 6151 candidates contested the parliamentary election. Of them 3653 candidates of recognized political parties contested under 300 nominations and 2498 candidates of independent groups contested under 201 nominations; for all electoral districts. Of those candidates, 196 were to be elected as Members of Parliaments. The details of the submission of nominations, rejected nominations and the number of candidates are given in Note II.

#### **Recognized Political Parties**

11. In terms of Section 7 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, there were 64 recognized political parties at the time of the declaration of the parliamentary election. If a recognized political party wishes to contest the election after the date on which the election is published in the Gazette, the Secretary of the party shall inform it in writing to the Commissioner of Elections within seven days from that date. However, for the purpose of educating the recognized political parties in this regard, a meeting of all recognized political party secretaries was convened at the Elections Secretariat on 02.07.2015 and all parties participated. Senior police officers as well as representatives of election monitoring organizations were present for the event. All party secretaries were briefed on the nomination process and advised to give a written notice of their independent willingness to contest the election. Accordingly, thirty-five parties had submitted letters before the due date to announce that they would contest the election.
12. Section 12 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act states that within seven days from the date of the publication of a Proclamation or Order in the

Gazette requiring the holding of an election, the secretary of any recognized political party may submit a request to the Commissioner of Elections for a new approved symbol instead of the approved mark of them. When such a request was received, the Commissioner had to make an order by replacing the symbol adopted by that party with another approved symbol that was not an allotted symbol of another recognized political party. Accordingly, new election symbols have been requested by the six political parties instead of the election symbols that have so far been existed. This was approved by the Commissioner of Elections and the following are the names of the respective parties, the election symbols so far used and the details of the newly allotted symbols.

<b>Name of the party</b>	<b>Previously Approved Symbol</b>	<b>Newly Approved Symbol</b>
1.Jathika Hela Urumaya	Conch Shell	Diamond
2.United People's Party	Fish	Mobile Phone
3.Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha	Orange	Ship
4.Sri Lanka National Front	Cricket Bat	Flower Bud
5.Frontline Socialist Party	Lantern	Sledgehammer
6.Bodu Jana Peramuna (Eksath Lanka Maha Sabha)	Fountain Pen	Cobra

13. In terms of Section 13 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act the Commissioner of Elections has the power to dictate which of the rival faction of a recognized political party should be that party. Accordingly, the Commissioner may, in order to remove such difficulties, issue in his absolute discretion, an order to the Returning Officer for that electoral district that any of these fractions is a recognized political party or none of the fraction is that recognized political party. There were two recognized political parties that made counter-claims under the respective provisions. The Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya and the Jathika

Sangwardhena Peramuna are the two parties. Due to the difficulties that could have arisen during the parliamentary election, the Commissioner of Elections acted under Section 13 of the Parliamentary Elections Act to examine and determine which claimants should be recognized as the Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya and the Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna respectively.

14. Accordingly, a discussion was held with the two fractions of the Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya at the Elections Secretariat on 03.07.2015. There, both fractions agreed on the positions of Chairman and Treasurer and the Commissioner of Elections accepted the decision of two fractions to accept Mr. M. M. S. Weerawardene as temporary secretary for the purpose of contesting the parliamentary election. However, the fractions were informed that if they fail to resolve the issue by agreement or court proceeding, they will have to be treated as a party consisting of two fractions in the future.
15. A discussion between the two fractions regarding the Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna was held on 06.07.2015 at the Elections Secretariat. However, since the two fractions failed to reach an agreement on the post of Secretary of the Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna, it was decided that the Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna was a party without a secretary until the issue was resolved through a judicial or negotiated process. As a result, the party was not eligible to contest the parliamentary election.
16. Approval was given to two requests made by the recognized political parties after the announcement of the parliamentary elections to change the names used by them. Accordingly, the name of the party was changed to "Our Sri Lanka Freedom Front" as per the request made by the Secretary General of the Sri Lanka National Front on 29.06.2015 and according to a request made by the Chief Secretary of the Jathika Hela Urumaya party on 02.07.2015 the name of the party was changed to the 'United National Front for Good Governance '.
17. At a meeting held on 02.07.2015, to inform political parties relating to the parliamentary elections scheduled for August 17, 2015, the party secretaries were summoned and informed on nomination process, appointment of authorized agents,

appointment of polling agents and delegation of powers, appointing agents relating to the issuance of postal ballot papers and marking of postal ballot papers, facilities to send election-related leaflets, broadcasting facilities for election campaigning and financial assistance to recognized political parties.

18. In addition, a letter dated 04.07.2015 was sent to all party secretaries informing that all contesting candidates should declare their assets / liabilities and a letter dated 06.07.2015 was sent to all recognized political party secretaries informing detailed instructions on the process of receiving nominations, in particular, regarding the measures to be taken when running political party propaganda offices.
19. The Meetings for Permanent Representatives were held at the Elections Secretariat to educate the Secretaries of the contesting political parties. The meeting was attended by party secretaries and their representatives, representatives of election monitoring organizations recognized by the Commissioner of Elections and senior police officers including the Inspector General of Police. As a result, the Department of Elections was able to inform the competing candidates about the issues that need to be addressed, and the political parties were able to obtain the necessary instructions from the Commissioner of Elections. Participation of the Inspector General of Police and senior officials in these meetings gave the political parties the opportunity to submit and consult them on the issues encountered at the organization of activities relating to the elections.
20. In terms of Section 127 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, every recognized political party contesting at this election shall be entitled to receive a sum calculated at the rate of 50 cents per vote polled for that party at the last preceding Parliamentary election, if that party has obtained not less than one per centum of the total number of valid votes polled for that electoral district at the last preceding General Election. Accordingly, three (3) political parties that contested this election were able to obtain these grants as per the votes obtained at the 2010 parliamentary election. Paragraph 70 and 71 outlines the approved government allowance for the parties so entitled.

### **Preliminary Arrangement Relating to the Election**

21. Holding of the Parliamentary Election within a few months after holding the Presidential Election on January 8, 2015 facilitated the preliminary arrangement of this election. However, this task was made easier by summoning all the District Returning Officers and Senior Deputy/ Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections to Colombo and advising them on how to properly carry out the work in consultation with the Heads of institutions that assist the fundamental organizational activities.
22. In addition to summoning major contributors to the Department of Elections as well as the District Returning Officers in organizing the election activities such as the Postal Department, Ceylon Transport Board, Electricity Board and Telecommunication organizations and advising them by the Commissioner of Elections, District Returning Officers were instructed to summon regional heads at the district level to discuss the preliminary arrangements.
23. From the very beginning of the preliminary organizational work of the election, the Department has held discussions with the Postal Department on matters relating to immediately exchange of documents of the Elections Secretariat with the government institutions and obtain free postal facilities. As a result of informing the Postal Department it was allowed to send matters under the "Emergency Election Papers" and "Priority Services" for free of postage. In relation to the general election, the Department of Posts was entrusted with a huge task to accomplish within a very short period of time, viz., submitting postal voting applications to the Returning Officers, referring postal voting insured packets to Certifying Officers and Returning Officers, distributing official poll cards to electors, facilitating party secretaries as well as independent group leaders to send electioneering material free of charge; and the success of its staff led by the Post Master General facilitated the basic organizational work.
24. Although it was convenient to print the same type of ballot paper for all 22 electoral districts at the presidential election, the Government Press had to print different ballot papers for the 22 electoral districts at the parliamentary election. In addition,

lists of candidates who are contesting at the electoral district level were also printed to hand over to each household with official poll cards. Several rounds of discussions were held with the Government Printer in this regard, which enabled the timely completion of these tasks. Necessary arrangements were made in consultation with the Sri Lanka Telecom for the purpose of obtaining additional telephone facilities for the Election Secretariat and District Election Offices during the election period, the Ceylon Electricity Board for uninterrupted power supply, the Sri Lanka Transport Board, Private Bus Owners Association and the Railway Department for necessary transport facilities. It should be noted that the full support of the above institutions was given to the Department of Elections to make the preliminary matters of the election a success.

### **Electoral Register**

25. The 2014 Electoral Register was also used for the Parliamentary Elections held on August 17, 2015 as the revision of the 2015 electoral register was at its preliminary stage as of 26.06.2015, when parliamentary elections were announced and as the 2014 electoral register was in force at that time. The preliminary proceedings were facilitated by the fact that the electoral register for 2014 was the electoral register used for the Presidential Election held on 08.01.2015 and obtaining copies of the 2014 electoral register, which is sufficient for two elections, taking into account the possibility of holding the General Election thereafter once the Presidential Election held in 2015. The total number of registered voters according to the 2014 electoral register was 15044490 and as in the last Presidential Election the electoral register was issued as CDs at the request of recognized political parties and independent groups contesting the parliamentary election. Delivering as CDs was easy. Details of the number of electoral register CDs sold to competing parties / groups are shown in Note III.

### **Polling Divisions, Polling Districts and Polling Stations**

26. According to the Registration of Electors Act No. 44 of 1980, each polling division and polling district, which is in force at the moment, shall

be deemed to be a polling division and polling district for the purposes of Section 3 of the Parliamentary Elections Act. The polling divisions and polling districts of the 2014 electoral register, which were valid at the time the parliamentary elections were announced, are valid for the purpose of the parliamentary election.

27. In terms of Section 24 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the notice of the election published in the Gazette should include the details of the polling stations relating to the polling districts situated in each electoral district. Although the Act stipulates that the number of votes in a polling district should not exceed 1500 and the inconvenience of the voters should be minimized in establishing the polling districts, in practice there may be instances where the statistics are changed when constituting the polling districts and polling stations.

28. Inspection of the suitability and amenities available at the polling stations is usually done by the Returning Officer in the immediate vicinity of the election. However, since the Presidential Election held in January 2015, a few months before this parliamentary election, and the polling station used for that purpose could be used for the parliamentary election, the Returning Officers were able to make use of the same polling stations with only minor changes. A small number of polling stations that were used for the Presidential Election were set up elsewhere based on the requests made by voters, political parties and voluntary organizations after the election.

29. Staff Officers of the District Elections Office will select the polling stations and prepare them for the election with the assistance of Grama Niladhari and Divisional Secretaries. For practical reasons, when the number of votes in a particular polling district is very high, there will be separate queues for females, males, or the number of queues will be increased according to the serial numbers of voters or separate polling stations will be established for male and female voters. The number of polling stations according to the number of registered voters for each polling station and the respective classification of buildings used for polling stations are indicated in Note IV and Note V, respectively.

### **Giving Permission to Vote at another Polling Station**

30. Under the provisions of the Amendment Act No. 15 of 1988, to the Parliamentary Elections Act, a voter who has a reasonable fear to vote at a given polling station may seek permission from the Commissioner of Elections to cast his vote at another polling station under Section 127 (b) of the Parliamentary Elections Act. Such requests had to be made by a voter within a week after the publication of the notice for the nomination period. However, that period was extended by the Commissioner of Elections until 13.07.2015 viz., the deadline for the nomination period.
31. As in past elections, at this election also this facility was provided only to electors who have a reasonable fear of going to their polling stations in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Those who have been temporarily staying in the districts of Puttalam, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Trincomalee and Kurunegala due to the war situation in the Northern and Eastern Provinces have been given the opportunity to submit their applications to the election offices in the respective districts. In order to obtain the necessary information, the electoral registers of the districts where they originally resided were also displayed in the districts where the displaced voters were temporarily residing. The relevant details are given in Note XVI.

### **Postal Voting Facilities**

32. Organizing postal voting is an important part of an election. In terms of Section 26 (3) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, applications to be treated as a postal voter shall be made to the Returning Officer so as to reach him not earlier than the seventh day and not later than the fourteenth day after the date of publication of the Proclamation or Order requiring the holding of an election. Accordingly, the time limit for filing applications for postal voting is limited to one week. However, as stated in the Parliamentary Elections Act, a candidate is also allowed to cast his vote by post, and whether he is a candidate is decided after the nomination period. Hence, the Commissioner of Elections has decided to accept postal voting applications until 13.07.2015 viz., the deadline for receiving nominations, as at the last elections.

33. Since it is the responsibility of the Returning Officers to facilitate those who are entitled to vote by post, a letter dated 30.06.2015 was sent to all Returning Officers providing instructions in that regard. Meanwhile, action was taken to send letters dated 29.06.2015 to the Commanders of the three Armed Forces, the Inspector General of Police and the Director General - Civil Security Department to make aware them on postal voting. Further, Secretaries to all Ministries, Provincial Chief Secretaries and Heads of Departments were sent a letter dated 01.07.2015 informing to provide facilities to all public servants who are eligible for election duties, to vote by post.
34. In order to facilitate postal voting applicants to complete their applications quickly, offices of all Returning Officers and all Divisional Secretariats displayed the electoral registers in volumes and provided information using CDs. In particular, centers for providing necessary information through CDs have been implemented in 19 selected institutions as a remedy to the congestion when a large number of public sector employees in the Colombo District apply for postal voting. The Headquarters of the three Armed Forces and the Police Headquarters were provided with CDs of the Electoral Register of the whole island to facilitate speedy access to information. Employees of the Sri Lanka Transport Board were provided with facilities for applying for postal voting by providing copies of the electoral register of the district to relevant depot offices of the Sri Lanka Transport Board. In addition, a program has been implemented to provide information on the requests of applicants received through No. 1919 of the Government Information Center and to inquiries made to the computer division of the Elections Secretariat and District Elections Offices, through e-mail or fax or telephone. Steps were taken to educate postal voting applicants through Heads of Ministries and Departments as well as electronic and print media that they can obtain information from all the above sources.
35. In the last elections, as well as in the parliamentary elections, there were requests to apply for postal voting from many state and semi-governmental agencies that were not authorized to apply for postal votes under the existing legal provisions. Among them there were requests from the Ministry of

Health asking facilities to those who work in health care especially to doctors, nurses and health staff; and they said that the failure to do so would hinder the proper functioning of the health service on the poll day. Meanwhile, requests have been made for those working on the ports, airports and highways, and pointed out that even though leave should be approved in accordance with the provisions of the Act to allow employees to vote, if it does, it will pose obstacles to the running of the institution. However, the Secretaries of the political parties were informed of the need to bring amendments to the Election Acts in future elections and the relevant institutions were informed that postal voting facilities could not be provided without amending the Act.

36. After checking the postal vote applications received within the stipulated time period, the postal voters register was prepared according to the information in the accepted postal vote applications and certified on 22.07.2015. A CD containing the particulars of postal voters was provided to all political parties and independent groups contesting the electoral district. Facilities were also available to pay for additional copies. Issuing of postal votes was held on 24.07.2015 at the offices of all Returning Officers, giving the opportunity for one representative from each competing political parties and independent groups to participate in each group of issuing the postal votes. The program to hand over insured packets of postal voting, which were prepared to be sent by post to the Certifying Officers, at the temporary post offices established in all the Returning Officers' Offices was prepared by discussing with the Post Master General.
37. Postal ballot packets were issued to the Certifying Officers by insured mail. Instructions on the way of keeping them safe until postal voting date, the way of recording the relevant information in the journal provided to the Certifying Officers and to inform Authorized Agents of all political parties and independent group leaders competing for the election that they can observe the situation by sending an agent on the day for marking the postal votes, were sent to all Certifying Officers. The PAFFREL and CMEV organizations were also allowed to appoint one representative each to monitor postal voting. Instructions on postal voting to inform postal voting applicants were sent through

media releases and by letters to relevant offices in general. All Police Stations were informed by the IGP to provide security to the relevant places on the day of postal voting. The date allocated for postal voting at Zonal Education Offices, Divisional Education Offices and National Schools was on 03.08.2015 enabling teachers assigned for the A / L examination held in August 2015 to vote without difficulty. In general, 05.08.2015 and 06.08.2015 were reserved for the postal voting of all the other offices. It is advised to hand over the marked packets to the postal mail on the same day after marking the postal ballot at the Certifying Officers' Offices on 03.08.2015, 05.08.2015 and 06.08.2015 and the Certifying Officers were informed to hand over the remaining packets at the end of postal voting on 03.08.2015 and 06.08.2015, to the Assistant Returning Officer, deployed by the Returning Officer to observe the activities of that day. The postal ballot packs left over during the prescribed three days were taken into the custody of the Returning Officer and the relevant postal voters were allocated two more days to visit the office of the Returning Officer and mark the postal vote.

38. 627,728 applications were received for postal voting at the parliamentary election. Out of which 59,368 were rejected for various reasons and 567,780 applications were accepted. The number of postal voting applications received at each electoral district level, the number of rejected and accepted applications of them are given in Note VI.
39. As at past elections, immediately after the conclusion of the parliamentary election, necessary arrangement was made to monitor the amount of postal ballot packets issued to each Certifying Officer and the quantity marked. The remainder has been carefully scrutinized and monitored whether the balance amount has been correctly handed over to the Returning Officer. Thereby necessary arrangements were also made to disprove the perception often made by political parties that Certifying Officers would save packets, mark them incorrectly, and submit them later.

#### **Official Poll Cards**

40. In terms of Section 27 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the Returning Officer shall send to each elector whose name appears in the electoral

register an official poll card in such form as may be determined by the Commissioner of Elections, and specifying the name and number of the electoral district, the name, qualifying address, and registration number of the elector as stated in the register, the polling division, the polling district, the polling station allotted to the elector and the date and hours of the poll. However, the Act also states that such official poll cards should not be sent to postal voters and voters who have been permitted to cast their votes at any other polling station under Section 127 (b) of the Act. These official ballot papers must be sent by ordinary mail to reach the elector at least 07 days before the election date.

41. Due to the computerization of the electoral register, such inputs also facilitate the printing of official poll cards using computerized data. Action was also taken to print in the Sinhala or Tamil language that applied to the voter. Samples of official poll cards are obtained from the Returning Officers, printed by the Elections Secretariat through selected institutions and once again handed over to the Returning Officers for the purpose of distributing them to the electors. The staff of the Returning Officer will inspect each of the official poll cards and seal them with the relevant rubber stamps to identify official poll cards belonging to the postal voters, those who have died or gone abroad and hand them over to the regional postal superintendents for the distribution. Instructions were given to the postal authorities to hand over official poll cards to the post on 29.07.2015, carry out the special distribution on 02.08.2015 and 09.08.2015 and to complete the distribution on 10.08.2015. Electors were given the opportunity to obtain their official poll cards, which were unable to be distributed after 10.08.2015 and remained at post offices, from the Post Office after verifying their identity. The Post Master General had instructed the regional postal superintendents to give the opportunity to inspect the lists of those who had visited the post office and received official poll cards, if political parties or independent groups request to inspect those.

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

42. In terms of the Elections (Special Provisions) Act No. 14 of 2004, the elector must be identified

according to the National Identity Card before a ballot paper is issued to him/ her at the polling station. However, considering that the National Identity Cards had not been issued to all voters, the Commissioner of Elections agreed in a judicial proceeding to consider other identity documents for identification of the voter until the National Identity Cards are issued to all voters. Accordingly, in addition to the National Identity Card, a valid Passport, valid Driving License, Government Pensioners' Identity Card, Elders Identity Card, Identity Card issued for the Clergy by the Department for Registration of Persons are also accepted and it was also ordered that those who do not have such identification documents should obtain a temporary identity card issued by the Department of Elections to be submitted at the polling station. Steps have been taken to create awareness among electors in that regard by issuing media releases as well as holding media discussions and publishing notices.

43. Since the 2014 electoral register is valid for the parliamentary election, temporary identity cards obtained at the Presidential Election held on 08.01.2015 could be re-validated and used for this election also. However, a program to issue temporary identity cards for electors who haven't at least a temporary identity card, as well as a program to issue National Identity Cards was implemented together with the Department for Registration of Persons and election monitoring organizations. Considering that the majority of electors who did not have any identity card were Tamil-speaking people in the plantation sector, Returning Officers, District Election Officers, Divisional Secretaries, Grama Niladharis and Estate Superintendents jointly implemented a program to issue temporary identity cards to electors who had no identity cards. The number of temporary identity cards issued by the District Elections Office in this manner was 82,819 and there were 125,366 identity cards updated in relation with the last election. The relevant details are given in Note VII.

#### **Indelible Ink**

44. Subsections 38 (1) (a) and (b) of the Act stipulate that any voter requesting a ballot paper at the polling station shall be duly checked and marked with the appropriate mark. Section 38 (3) (b) of the

Parliamentary Elections Act states that the "appropriate mark" means the mark made with indelible ink on the voter's little finger. It is expected to prevent voters from voting more than once, and since all voters who are currently voting at the polling station are identified by an identity card, it is necessary to discuss whether there is a need to continue to do so. However, even in countries that use more successful methods to identify the voters than the identity documents currently in use in Sri Lanka, the voter marking with the indelible ink is still in place. Hence, considering this as an opportunity to build public confidence in free and fair elections this should not be excluded.

45. However, in the process of using inaccessible ink, orders are made expecting to mark 350 voters at one polling station with one ink pen. Accordingly, a large amount of foreign exchange has to be spent for this purpose. There were instances of criticism from voters as well as contested candidates due to the improper functioning of the indelible ink used at the previous elections. Therefore, it is wise to practice this system as long as the voter as well as the political parties / groups contesting a free and fair election need to mark the voter with indelible ink.

#### **Dead or Overseas Electors**

46. To dispel the contention of political parties and voters that other persons go to the polling station on behalf of the deceased or overseas voters to cast their votes, the program used to record the dead and overseas voters in the electoral register, which would be supplied to the polling station has been implemented in this election too as in the past elections. Even if the amendment is included in the electoral register of those who died till 01<sup>st</sup> June 2014, the date of eligibility for the formulation of the valid electoral register for the year 2014, considering that the names of those who died during the period after the June 01, 2014 up to August 17, 2015, the poll day, were also included in the electoral register action was taken to collect the details of deceased and overseas voters who have died and went abroad until 15.07.2015 viz., before the date of poll, from Grama Niladharis before 23.07.2015. According to these details, the Returning Officers were instructed to place the letter "D" in front of the deceased voters' names in the electoral register and to place the letter "A" before

the overseas voters. In addition, it was instructed to place a seal, either "dead" or "reported abroad," in the electoral register provided to the polling station as well as in the official poll card sent to the voters concerned. If such voters arrives at the polling stations, they are subjected to be inspected by the Senior Presiding Officer of the polling station and the officers in charge of polling stations were advised to make them sign a declaration in terms of section 43 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, if they decide to issue a ballot. Details of the number of persons who had gone abroad and died in each electoral district are given in Note VIII.

#### **Provision of Transport for Persons with Physical Disabilities**

47. In terms of Section 83 (4) (d) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, upon written application made to Returning Officer in the electoral district by any person with a medical recommendation, so as to reach him seven days before the day on which a poll is to be taken, that such person is unable, by reason of any physical disability to convey himself to and from the poll on foot or in any public transport service, can obtain a permission to use any vehicle for the purpose of conveying himself to and from the poll. All District Returning Officers have been advised in this regard by sending a letter dated 20.07.2015 and the Commissioner of Elections has issued a press release informing voters. At the same time, when selecting buildings as polling centers, the Returning Officers were instructed to select polling stations to enable the elderly and the disabled persons to reach the polling station, whenever possible.

#### **Granting Employees Sufficient Leave to be Able to Vote**

48. In terms of Section 122 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, any person, being the employer of any other person who is entitled to vote in person at an election, shall, upon application in writing in that behalf made by such other person, grant such other person leave, without loss of pay, for such continuous period, not less than four hours in duration, as that person may deem sufficient to enable such other person to vote in person at that election. However, as in all previous elections at this Parliamentary Election too, there were

complaints from employees that their employers were not giving them enough leave to go to the polling station. Considering this situation, the department, in consultation with the Human Rights Commission as in the last Presidential Election, has taken into consideration the distance to the polling station and set guidelines for the number of holidays to be approved and steps were also taken to inform the Department of Labor about this and the employers through it. Steps have been taken also by the Ministry of Labor to inform the employers by publishing newspaper advertisements that they should act according to the criteria introduced by the Department of Elections. The relevant newspaper advertisement is attached to this report as the First Schedule.

### **Staff Requirement**

49. All District Returning Officers and Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections were called to the Elections Secretariat on 29.06.2015 to advise to take necessary measures for the counting of officers and vehicles for the voting, counting and basic organizational activities of the Parliamentary Election and the relevant written instructions were sent on 02.07.2015. Though it is suggested that the officials deployed in the Presidential Election should be selected from the census lists as the Parliamentary Election has to be organized within a short period after the 2015 presidential election, it was later advised to carry out a census on staff and vehicle requirements in view of the annual transfers of officers in 2015 and other reasons. Forms for this purpose were sent to the District Returning Officers immediately.
50. Considering the fact that this election is also an island-wide poll as the Presidential Election and it is necessary to obtain a large staff and vehicles, the Returning Officers were instructed to inform the officers in charge of all the departments and institutions in all districts to release all eligible officers as well as vehicles belonging to the institute for election duty. Meanwhile, considering the situation faced in the last elections all Ministries, Departments and government institutions were informed through the Secretary to the President to provide details of all eligible officers in service as well as all vehicles belonging to the Institute as per the request of the Commissioner of Elections.
51. The Returning Officers were instructed to calculate the district staff requirement based on the number of votes and to make arrangements to obtain officers from the nearest districts or Colombo reserves when there are no officers to suit the needs of the district and to hand over the surplus to the deficient districts, if any. In calculating the polling officer requirement at the polling station, it was advised to deploy 8/9 officers for a single queue up to 1,200 votes. When the number of votes exceeds 1,200, there would be two queues and it was advised to deploy about 15/16 officers for them. It was also advised to attach 10,000 to 12,500 votes and about 40/50 officers to one counting hall, for counting the ordinary ballot papers, and to enter 1,500-2,000 packets containing ballot papers and to deploy 10/15 officers to one counting hall, for counting postal ballot papers.
52. After the details of the officers of all government institutions and the teachers of schools were received, it was instructed to categorize the officers as Assistant Returning Officers, Senior Presiding Officers, Junior Presiding Officers and Clerks under the relevant salary categories and to train them at district level. Training of Assistant Returning Officers at government offices in Colombo District was conducted by the Commissioner of Elections at the Elections Secretariat.
53. The need for all districts in relation to voting, counting and preliminary organizational activities was 160,718 officers, of which 155,100 were found within the district. Superfluous of officers was reported from Kandy, Kurunegala and Colombo districts and these officials were deployed to election duties at districts where there was insufficient staff. Steps have been taken to provide Assistant Returning Officers from the Colombo Reserve for the duties of counting and duties of Zonal Assistant Returning Officers in many districts. Returning Officers were informed that instead of using only the officers in the same district for polling and counting, action should be taken whenever possible to deploy officers in another nearby district who do not have personal contacts with the district political authority or other officials. Staff requirement for polling and counting duties for each district is outlined in Note IX.

## **Transport Requirement**

54. One of the primary responsibilities of the Returning Officer under transport program is organization of preliminary activities of an election, transporting of goods including ballot boxes to the polling station at the polls and transporting them back to the District Returning Officers' offices after the polls and making transport arrangements to make it easier for electors to go to the polling station on the poll day. The Department of Elections has to find a large number of vehicles, as polls throughout the country take place at a specific time on a single day. Accordingly, it is mandatory to obtain all releasable vehicles at the government and semi government agencies in their districts and in addition to obtaining more vehicles through the Ceylon Transport Board, Private Bus Association and on a rental basis. As a preliminary step, discussions with top officials of the Ceylon Transport Board and Regional Transport Boards were held at the Elections Secretariat and offices of the District Returning Officers, and discussions with the van owners were held to obtain rental vans and a special tariff mechanism was introduced for rental vehicles in particular.
55. Senior Presiding Officers in charge of polling stations, as well as Zonal Assistant Returning Officers in charge of overseeing the activities of several polling stations, were allowed to use their private vehicles on a mileage cost basis. Senior Presiding Officers were only allowed to use vans or jeeps as they would have to carry the voting equipment and officers, if they used their personal vehicle. For this purpose a special tariff scheme was adopted instead of the approved rates for public officers.
56. The Police and Postal Departments that are in the forefront of the election will also need a large number of vehicles from the beginning of the polls. Though they expected to obtain the required vehicles from the Returning Officer, the Commissioner of Elections grant the approval to obtain the required vehicles on an approved hire basis due to the lack of excess vehicles with the Returning Officers. In the 2015 Parliamentary Election too, the Puttalam District Returning Officer had to provide transport facilities to the electors who were displaced from the Mannar

District and temporarily resided at Puttalam district. These transports were made available on request of the registered electors in the Mannar polling division but were temporarily residing in the Kalpitiya Divisional Secretariat area. A large number of contesting political leaders submitted lists requesting transport facilities as they expected to travel to the Mannar district on the election day. But the inspection revealed that such groups were supplementary listed voters and it was informed that if there were displaced voters, they would be provided with transport facilities and they would be able to travel under the protection provided to them by the Returning Officer.

57. There was a need to collect large quantities of fuel to provide transportation facilities since it was an election that covers the entire island. Considering these facts the Commissioner of Elections summoned the officials of the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation to explain about the fuel requirements and instructed the District Returning Officers to call upon the local officials of the Petroleum Corporation and fuel station owners and explain them the need to stockpile fuel.
58. Providing transport facilities to electors is equally important when facilitating transport at an election. Because though many voters have private vehicles they cannot travel to the polling station on the poll day by them and as per the requirements of the election, the vehicles of the SLTB and private bus Associations have been rented by the Returning Officer. So if a formal program is not implemented, voters will have a lack of public transport and then the transportation problems may arise. As a result, discussions were held in particular with the Sri Lanka Transport Board and the private bus Association and steps were taken to make the necessary facilities to travel to their polling stations on poll day by charging.

## **Security**

59. The Inspector General of Police, on the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, is responsible for enforcing the election laws from the announcement of the election until a week is elapsed from declaring the results at the end of the election. According to the 17<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, the Inspector General of Police is

responsible for providing the number of police officers requested by the Commissioner of Elections after an election is declared. In this context, the Commissioner of Elections, Returning Officers, competing political party leaders and candidates expect that the police will perform their duties properly in enforcing election law.

60. Discussions were held with the senior officials including the Inspector General of Police and political party secretaries and necessary decisions were taken on matters relating to the provision of security for the places where the nomination is received, voting, counting of votes and results declaration and on the matters with regard to the removal of unauthorized posters, cutouts and banners under the enforcement of election laws. At the district level, the District Returning Officers, in consultation with top-level police officers at the local level, authorized representatives and independent group leaders, make relevant decisions regarding the need for safety at the district level. During these discussions, the political parties had the opportunity to make face to face discussions on past election experiences with the implementation of election law and to discuss the issues faced by the political parties or candidates during the election campaign.
61. With the announcement of the election, a unit was established at the Elections Secretariat under the direction of a Deputy Inspector General of Police, and a separate unit was formed at the district level under the supervision of a Superintendent of Police or an Assistant Superintendent of Police, to enforce the election laws. Steps were also taken to set up special police units at divisional secretariats or other government agencies as in the Presidential Election centralizing the areas which were determined on the size of the district and that have been decided to provide special security. For the police units thus formed, Assistant Returning Officers and a separate staff were also assigned and representatives of political parties as well as representatives of election monitoring organizations were given the opportunity to observe the activities there.
62. The police was given a major role to play, such as providing necessary security to the Election Secretariat and Offices of the District Returning

Officers / District Elections Offices from the announcement of the election, providing security for candidates who require special police protection, deploying two police officers for all polling stations at the time of election in general and officers for mobile police patrols, bringing the ballot boxes to the counting centers safely after the poll, providing security to the relevant centers until the results are published, as well as taking steps to safeguard law and order for a week after the results are published. The Inspector General of Police took the necessary steps to accomplish this task successfully.

### **The Right of Contesting Political Parties and Independent Groups to Send Election- Related Material Free of Charge by Mail**

63. In terms of Section 125 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, the secretary of a recognized political party or the group leader of an independent group whose party or group is contesting an election in an electoral district shall, at any time between the last day of the nomination period and the day which is the tenth day before the day of the poll to be taken at such election, be entitled to send free of any charges for postage to each elector, whose name appears in the register of electors for such electoral district, one postal communication by ordinary post containing matter relating to such election only. Steps were also taken to inform the Post Master General of this regard on 21.07.2015. When sending the postal communication to the voter, the Postmaster General decided on the handing over the matter to the mail, length of the mail, the seal, the arrangement and the manner in which the message would be sent and these instructions were sent to secretaries of all contesting political parties and independent group leaders on 14.07.2015.
64. The above mentioned circular issued by the Post Master General has shown those who are authorized to deliver the postal messages to the post offices as well as the details of the post offices to be handed over and in particular that these postal messages should be kept open for inspection. These instructions were given to the competing political parties and the leaders of independent groups through the Returning Officer in charge of each district.

65. Complaints were received at the Parliamentary Election on two irregularities committed using the free mail facility. Steps were taken to notify the relevant Superintendents of Posts through the Post Master General on an attempt by an independent group candidate in the Galle District to post election documents of a candidate contesting from another party in the Galle District, and an attempt by an Independent Group candidate in Badulla District to send the election documents of a candidate of another party under the free postal facility and to stop the transmission of such mail messages immediately.

### **Broadcasting Political Speeches on Radio and Television**

66. In terms of Section 126 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, every recognized political party or independent group which has submitted a nomination paper in respect of any electoral district shall, subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Chairman of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Service or Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation, be entitled, upon application made in that behalf within one week from the last day of the nomination period, to the use of broadcasting facilities during the period commencing from the day after the last day fixed for making such application and ending seventy-two hours prior to the commencement of the poll.

67. In the case of radio broadcasts, if the party or group has submitted nomination papers for one electoral district it was entitled to a period of thirty minutes, if a party or group contesting up to 14 electoral districts and has nominated no fewer than one hundred and thirty- two candidates, it was entitled to the total of sixty minutes and if any party or group that has nominated over 14 electoral districts and over one hundred and thirty-two candidates, it was entitled to a total of ninety minutes. Section 126 (6) states that no candidate shall, save and except as provided in this section, directly or indirectly use broadcasting facilities for the purpose of promoting his own election.

68. Within the stipulated time period of the Parliamentary Act, requests were received from twelve political parties and two independent groups for radio propaganda, which were referred to the

Chairmen of Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation. In addition, the relevant Chairmen were informed of the parties and groups that obtained facilities of radio broadcasting, as well as the duration of the airtime possessed by each competing party and group together with the relevant legal provisions.

69. Since the Act does not stipulate that political radio should be provided free of charge, there are concerns about the cost involved. Hence, considering the fact that the Act states that political parties and independent groups should be provided with air propaganda facilities and that this facility was provided free of charge for the previous parliamentary elections, broadcasting facilities were provided free of charge at this election.

### **Government Aid to Recognized Political Parties**

70. If a recognized political party has received less than one percent of the total valid votes cast in the previous general election and has handed over the nomination papers to the respective electoral district in the general election to be paid, they are entitled to receive grant in accordance with Section 127 of the Parliamentary Elections Act.

71. That figure is 50 cents for each vote taken by the party. Accordingly, the United People's Freedom Alliance, the United National Party and the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi who contested the 2015 General Elections were entitled to receive government funding. The following is the amount of government aid paid to each party and the total amount of government aid paid to them.

<b>Party Name</b>	<b>The number of votes received in the 2010 election for the contesting electoral districts</b>	<b>Amount Paid (Rs.)</b>
United People's Freedom Alliance	4,846,388	2,423,194.00
United National Party	2,357,057	1,178,528.50
Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	233,190	116,595.00
<b>Total Amount Paid</b>		<b>3,718,317.00</b>

## **Election Monitoring**

### **Local Monitoring Agencies**

72. No election law permits election monitoring, but with the concurrence of the competing political parties a number of observer organizations with experience in this regard were given permission to observe the voting as at the last elections and they are given below.

- ❖ People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)
- ❖ Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)
- ❖ Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE)
- ❖ Movement for Free & Fair Election (MFFE)
- ❖ Mothers and Daughters of Lanka (MDL)
- ❖ National Polls Observation Center (NPOC)
- ❖ Transparency International Sri Lanka (TI-SL)
- ❖ Sri Lankan Alumni & Professionals Association (SLAPA)

73. A discussion on the functions of the election monitoring organizations was held at the Elections Secretariat on 09.07.2015 and action was taken to obtain a detailed report on the functioning and members of all the observing organizations present for election monitoring. Since the selected organizations were permitted to remain in the polling stations while monitoring the election, the guidelines to be followed by the observer organizations and observers authorized to observe the polls have been introduced in this general election and the relevant guidelines are outlined in the Schedule 02.

74. The People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL) and the Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) were authorized as monitoring agencies that could deploy both static and mobile monitoring at polling stations. The Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE), the Mothers and Daughters of Lanka (MDL) and the Movement for Free and Fair Elections (MFFE) were allowed to deploy mobile observers only to the access points of the polling station premises. The Executive Director, Co-Convener and Chief Coordinator of the above institutions were permitted to inspect any polling station in the country and the District Representatives of the respective organizations were

permitted to inspect any polling station in the relevant district. The Executive Director of Transparency International Sri Lanka (TI-SL), the National Organizer of the National Polls Observation Center (NPOC), the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Sri Lankan Alumni and Professionals Association (SLAPA) were given the opportunity to visit any polling station in the country.

75. As in the last Presidential Election in the Parliamentary Election too, the local monitoring bodies were allowed to monitor the counting halls / premises of the halls / halls for tabulation of results. During the observation of the polling stations, all Returning Officers and observation organizations were informed that only one observation organization, representing all the observation organizations in the district, could appoint one representative for each hall according to the size of the hall. The observers were informed that the details of such appointees should be submitted to the Commissioner of Elections or the Returning Officer before the election date and obtain the approval. The board of directors, officers and all observers of all observer organizations authorized to observe voting and counting proceedings were required to make a pledge before engaging in election duties. These pledges were to be taken over by the relevant observation agencies and forwarded to the Commissioner of Elections when requested.

### **Foreign Observation Agencies**

76. Requests were made from the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) to make participated observers to monitor the parliamentary election. Thirty five observers were present at the event and the team visited Sri Lanka on 08.08.2015 and 09.08.2015. All observers met with the Commissioner of Elections on 10.08.2015 at the meeting to explain the matters relating to polling and counting as well as the program to attach them to each district. The Returning Officers were informed that once the observers were assigned to each district, the coordinating officers and the security arrangements, as well as the program for observing the polling and counting of votes, should be organized by the Returning Officers. In addition, a monitoring team from the European Union and the Commonwealth

participated, and the Department of Elections only intervened to provide the necessary information to that observers and to provide the assistance of the Returning Officers.

### **Establishment of Complaint Centers**

77. If the parties concerned are to be convinced that the election law is in place with regard to complaints made by various political parties, candidates, civil organizations and the public at the time of the polls there should be a mechanism for prompt investigation of those complaints and decision making. Otherwise, the perception that complaining are useless and that law enforcement officers are not fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, is socialized. This situation may also create an incentive for those who are undermining the election laws and will inevitably lead to a loss of credibility in the elections. Recognizing this situation, steps have been taken to enforce the election laws by formally establishing complaint centers at this Parliamentary Election as was done in the last Presidential Election.

78. At this parliamentary election, the main Complaint Center was established at the Elections Secretariat under the supervision of the Commissioner of Elections and under an Additional Commissioner of Elections and two retired Assistant Commissioners of Elections. A team of police officers was also attached for this purpose under a Deputy Inspector General of Police and a Superintendent of Police, representing the Inspector General of Police. Opportunity was given for the representatives of political parties as well as representatives of observation organizations to monitor the activities of this Complaint Center that commenced its activities on the last day for receiving the nominations.

79. Simultaneously, a district level complaint center which was headed by the District Returning Officer was established under a Superintendent of Police or an officer of Assistant Superintendent of Police level and a team of police officers, covering all districts. An Assistant Returning Officer has been employed full time under the Returning Officer as the in charge of these complaint centers. Representatives of political parties who were contesting in the district as well as representatives of observer organizations were given the opportunity to

participate in monitoring the activities of the complaint center.

80. In addition to the national and district level complaints centers, regional level complaints centers were established with a police team under an Assistant Returning Officer and a Police Inspector identifying the size and traffic difficulties of the districts and areas where special protection should have been given during the last elections. Returning Officers were advised to establish these complaint centers after the end of the nomination period. In addition, regional coordinating offices, with the help of two Assistant Returning Officers and three Police Officers, were deployed using all Divisional Secretariats and other public places to monitor the activities on the day before the election and the day of the election.

81. Complaints Centers thus formed were intended to facilitate for political party candidates, civil organizations and especially the public to make immediate complaints about election law violations. The main objective of the establishment of Complaints Centers was to create a conducive environment for the voter to go to the polling station on the poll day and cast their votes freely and fairly by creating a mechanism to receive complaints, to take immediate action on them and providing solutions to them in a fair manner.

### **Setting Up Notified Election Offices and Election Campaigning**

82. In terms of section 73 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, a recognized political party or independent group contesting for each electoral district is entitled to establish its own party offices or notified election offices at electoral district level, polling division and polling district levels. In terms of the provisions of the Act the District Returning Officer as well as the OIC of the respective area should be informed of the election offices set up. Party secretaries were also notified in this regard during the discussions on the receiving of nominations and all-party secretaries were informed in writing on 06.07.2015 regarding the notified election offices and campaigns. Accordingly, the competing parties and group leaders were briefed to complete in three copies using the colored forms as per the type of office set up, to obtain the recommendation of the Grama

Niladhari for them, to submit the same to the District Returning Officer and obtain two copies with the approval of the Returning Officer, hand over them to the OIC of the area, keep the copy with the approval of the OIC at the office and the need to display a photocopy of the letter of approval at the party office whenever possible.

83. Contesting parties / groups were also advised on the procedure to be followed in setting up of notified election offices; opening hours of offices as well as that the establishment of offices of two parties / groups should not be located nearby and not to engage in campaigning to promote or prejudice a candidate of another party or group. Whether the establishment of offices and other related activities were carried out as per the instructions was checked by the representatives of the Returning Officers as well as the relevant Police mobile services. During such investigations steps have also been taken to revoke licenses of offices which were not set up in accordance with instructions and campaigned in particular to promote candidates of other parties and groups.

84. Steps will be taken to notify authorized agents of the competing parties / groups and independent group leaders, as well as candidates, of the removal of notified election offices and limiting propaganda especially during the "silent period" of the election, i.e. 48 hours before the date of the election. A media release issued in this regard is attached as the Fifth Schedule.

85. The Department of Elections, together with the police, has taken every possible action in relation to the enforcement of the election laws set forth in the Parliamentary Elections Act. Action was taken to provide the necessary background for a free and fair election based on the complaints received from the competing political parties / independent groups, civil organizations and the public. The Commissioner of Elections issued a media release considering the agreements reached by the two parties, i.e. Secretaries of political parties and leaders of independent groups, in particular, regarding the displaying of posters, cutouts, banners, distribution of leaflets, motorcades and loudspeaker campaigns. The announcement is attached as the Eighth Schedule.

## **Avoiding Misuse of Public Resources**

86. In terms of sub Article 104 B (4) (a) and 104 B (5) (c) (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, as amended by the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, the Commissioner of Elections is empowered to prevent the use of any immovable or movable property belonging to the Government for the purpose of promotion or prevention of the election of any candidate who is contesting the election. The amendments also include provisions for obtaining the assistance of state officials to conduct the elections. Subsection 3 (a) of Article 49 of the Nineteenth Amendment states that the Commissioner of Elections is entitled to such powers even if the Election Commission is not established at the time of the Parliamentary Elections. Considering the issues faced at the Presidential Election on January 08, 2015 and as a measure to ensure that they are not repeated the Department of Elections published the Extraordinary Gazette notification No. 1923/4 dated 13.07.2015 on the instructions relating to the misuse of public resources and obtaining the assistance of public officials for election duties. This gazette notification has been included in the report as Schedule 9. In addition, these instructions were made available to all competing political parties and independent groups and were mailed to all government agencies.

87. In all previous elections, it is normal for the ruling party to do its best to misuse state resources to promote candidates who represent it, and prejudice the opposition. But after the Seventeenth Amendment, the Election Commission, or the Commissioner of Elections at the moment, is empowered to take measures to prevent the misuse of public resources. Hence, it must be said that this situation was high in this election, as the parties in power did their best to prevent such actions. Use of state property for political purposes, organizing various ceremonies, distributing goods to the public and implementing special concessions programs spending public money, employing government officials for political activities, recruiting new persons to the public service, transfers and promotions in the public service as per the political interest were often seen in past elections. Since politicians as well as top government officials were

aware of matters pertaining to the Nineteenth Amendment those who did so had to refrain from such measures after the election was announced. In the event of an unavoidable necessity on the instructions of the Commissioner of Elections, if any government agency has to recruit, promote or transfer employees, it should be informed to the Commissioner of Elections and obtained prior approval. As a result of make aware various civic organizations, election monitoring organizations and the public there was a tendency to submit such information immediately to the complaints centers at the district level. It is also noteworthy that the candidates of the same party reported information of the same party's candidates when they committed such offences in addition to giving information about the candidates who were contesting in the opposite political parties.

88. The Gazette Extraordinary issued for the purpose of preventing the misuse of state property and obtaining the assistance of public officials for conducting elections properly is attached to this report as the Ninth Schedule.

#### **Electronic and Print Media Criteria or Guidelines**

89. Although media guidelines were issued in several previous polls, the reaction of the media has not been good in that regard. In the last presidential election, the state and private media have continued their campaigns without paying attention to the media guidelines of the Commissioner of Elections. At this election, a draft of the media guidelines was presented to the heads of media outlets, and then action was taken to publish media guidelines with the common agreement reached in consultation with representatives nominated by the heads of media institutions. In the meantime, in accordance with Article 104B (5) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as amended by the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, it was ensured that the Election Commission / Commissioner of Elections is able to issue criteria to be followed by electronic and print media institutions and activists to ensure a free and fair election.

90. According to the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, the Election Commission / the Commissioner of Elections has the authority to issue

citations to any radio or television service or newspaper owner or publisher deemed appropriate by the Commission. The Election Commission/ the Commissioner of Elections is empowered to issue guidelines to all government-related institutions, as well as to take necessary actions when they fail to comply. Criteria may be issued to private media, but it is not clear how they should be handled. However, in view of the above, a committee has been appointed to represent the public and private media as mentioned above, media guidelines were drafted, how they should be arranged was discussed and media guidelines were given to the relevant agencies. Because of these measures, all media outlets had to work in harmony with what was originally agreed upon by their own bodies and maintain self-reliance. This made it possible for the parliamentary elections to be free and fair.

91. The Election Commission / the Commissioner of Elections published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1925/4 dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2015, a set of thirty-four criteria to be followed by electronic and print media institutions and activists enacting free and fair elections. The relevant gazette notification has been attached to this report as Schedule 6.

#### **Ethics to be Adhered to by Political Parties and Candidates**

92. In terms of subsection 8 (8) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, the Election Commission/ the Commissioner of Elections may issue a code of ethics to be adhered to by political parties and candidates during the election. Particularly in the recent provincial council elections, it was a reflection of the manner in which political parties and candidates worked together as winning is their own goal anyway. Considering the obstacles to holding a free and fair election in that regard, the Commissioner of Elections has announced a code of conduct for candidates since the 2012 Provincial Council Elections. Prior to its publication, it was sought to obtain the concurrence of regular representatives of political parties and election monitoring organizations.

93. The Candidate Code of Conduct so commenced was issued at the 2015 General Election affecting all key positions of political parties including leaders, secretaries of political parties, contesting candidates,

politicians representing provincial councils and local authorities, all political party activists and supporters of candidates, as well as candidates of independent groups contesting the election. Under this, clarifications have been made on how all the above persons should comply with election law, general conduct, election campaigns, election dates and counting of votes, declaration of results and other special matters. Political party activists, contesting candidates were expected to devise a mechanism to compete with these instructions and the parties and candidates who acted against these objectives were advised to take action to correct the situation. Publication of the candidates' code of conduct was a good situation to voters and various parties / organizations to complaint on cases of that violate ethics. Steps were also taken to publish the Code of Conduct, which are to be adhered to by the contesting candidates, in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1924/44 dated 23rd July, 2015 and the relevant Gazette is attached to this report as Schedule 7.

## **Election**

94. The parliamentary elections were held on August 17, 2015 according to the notification of the President published in the Gazette Extraordinary No. 1920/38 dated 26.06.2015 under Section 10 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 and Article 70 of the Constitution. The voting period was from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.
95. The date of the election and the counting of votes and the functions related to the declaration of results following the announcement of an election are considered to be the most important moments of the election. One of the main responsibilities of the District Returning Officers is to send officers and secured materials including ballot boxes and ballot papers and documents required to the polling stations on the day before the polling day to conduct the election. Under them, officers should be nominated according to the polling stations and their appointments should be sent by post, ballot boxes, ballot papers and other stationery to the polling station should be placed in line with the centers and the vehicles required for transporting them should be arranged. In this election as well as in the last election, all polling staff except the senior presiding officer in charge of the polling stations were allowed to travel in public transport facilities before 2.00 pm on the day before the polls. Naval assistance was extended to the polling stations especially in the islands of the Jaffna Peninsula.
96. Returning Officers provided transport facilities to all the Senior Presiding Officers in charge of the polling stations as well as the Assistant Returning Officers in charge of overseeing the activities of several polling stations. It is compulsory that Senior Polling Officers in charge of polling stations as well as Zonal Assistant Returning Officers in charge of polling supervision should report to the places designated by the District Returning Officer on the day before the elections. This is because the details of the polling stations attached to these officers are given to them only after they have been reported. Accordingly, any officer in charge of the polling station and supervision is not aware of the polling station he has attached to and the polling stations he has supervised till the date of the election. When they were reported to the Returning Officer in the morning on the day before the poll day, the clarifications were made by the Returning Officers and the District Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections on the measures to be taken to conduct a free and fair election and special instructions issued by the Commissioner of Elections, if there were any at that time. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the officers to accept the relevant appointment letters, go to the respective issuing centers and receive the ballot boxes, ballot papers and other stationery and to travel to the polling station on the same road as instructed by the Returning Officer by the vehicle assigned to the polling station.
97. It is the responsibility of Grama Niladhari of each division to prepare the polling stations with the relevant facilities by the day before the poll day. The Returning Officer will inform the Grama Niladharis through the Divisional Secretaries and get the job done. The Senior Presiding Officer who goes to the polling station assigned to him will consider whether it is suitable to conduct a free and fair election and will ensure the safe keeping of ballot boxes and ballot papers. Thereafter, other officers who report to the polling station before 2.00 pm will be identified and all officers will hold a rehearsal to make aware on how to proceed at the next day's polls. After the rehearsal, female officers are allowed to return to their home or temporary

place of residence, but they are required to report back to the polling station on the poll day before 6 am. It will be a condition. All male officers should spend the night at the polling station with the Senior Presiding Officer. Upon completion of the rehearsal, the Senior Presiding Officer shall re-examine and ensure that there is adequate amount of security items in his possession, as well as stationery and storage materials. In case of any shortcomings, the Returning Officer should be informed by the Zonal Assistant Returning Officer in charge of the supervision of the polling station to fill those shortcomings the before the commencement of the poll.

98. The Zonal Assistant Officer in charge of the supervision of several polling stations will report to the Returning Officer on the day before the election and receive his appointment letter. Thereafter, he has to observe the receipt of the goods by the Senior Presiding Officers of his respective polling stations at the issuing centers. When all of them leave the center, he has to make his field visit to monitor his respective polling stations. He has to visit the respective polling stations, observe them and instruct to hold the rehearsal, if it is not held. If there are any obstacles to holding the elections the following day, he has to discuss and resolve them. In particular, the goods received by the Senior Presiding Officer from the Returning Officer should be re-inspected and verified to ensure that are in order. It is his responsibility to correct any deficiencies of the officers, goods or documents, if any. After the inspection of all the polling stations to be monitored, the first message should be notified by telephone and fax to the Returning Officer that all arrangements are in place to commence the voting at 7.00 am on the next day.
99. The Returning Officer had also instructed that all staff should be reported to the polling station at 6.00 am on the day of the polls and the preliminary matters such as displaying notices with instructions for voters, placing the ballot boxes and preparing the ballot boxes to be sealed, should be completed before the due time. Since the Act authorizes the appointment of two agents of every competing parties and independent groups at each polling station, polling agents were instructed to report to the polling station before 6.30 am on the day of the

election. Prior to the commencement of the polling, checking the electoral registers, ballot boxes, ballot papers and official marks used for voting especially, selecting the official mark which should be placed on the back of the ballot paper should be done with the participation of the agents. Hence, this opportunity was given to establish their confidence in voting. Representatives were also allowed to make sure that there is nothing in the ballot box before the ballot box is sealed and to place their stamps or identifiers on the inside or outside of the ballot box, if required, before or after the ballot box was sealed. If a representative seal is to be placed, a specimen of each seal should be given to the Senior Presiding Officer at the same time.

100. The polling at 12,317 polling stations across the country was able to start uninterruptedly at 7.00 am on August 17, 2015. There were 15,044,490 electors eligible to cast their ballot. As in previous elections, voters were reported to have gathered at most polling stations by 7.00 am as a result of the request made by the Commissioner of Elections from the voters, even before the election, to go to the polling station and cast their votes in the early hours of the poll day.
101. Zonal Assistant Returning Officer in Charge has to monitor the polling stations at least three times on the poll day such as in the forenoon, noon and afternoon. Thereafter the second message indicating that the voting has commenced on time and the third message indicating that the voting has been completed must be sent to the Returning Officer. His role also included the monitoring of the polling stations once the polling begins and seeking the assistance of the police to prevent the violation of election laws around the polling station if there is any. In the event of any disturbance / illegal incident at a polling station, he should immediately report the matter to the Returning Officer and also be satisfied that the Polling Officers are carried out the voting duties in accordance with the law. After confirming that all Senior Presiding Officers in the polling stations under the supervision of him left the polling station at the close of the poll, the Zonal Assistant Returning Officer should report to the Returning Officer's Office and hand over the journal to the Returning Officer which he has maintained in respect of the election.

102. The complaints centers that were established at the Elections Secretariat and District Returning Officers' offices as well as at the specially selected places at the district level, have been streamlined with proper coordination on the election day so that it was able to take immediate action regarding the complaints received regarding the election. In addition, the Divisional Coordinating Offices established in all Divisional Secretariats with the presence of two Assistant Returning Officers and a Police Inspector, from the day before the elections, were allowed political parties, observation organizations or voters to make any complaints. The program to investigate such complaints at the same time by deploying an Assistant Returning Officer and Police Officers was also implemented. At the same time, the mobile phone numbers of the Zonal Assistant Returning Officers were forwarded to all the above complaint centers and allowed to contact them promptly regarding the complaints. In the same way, information was instantly obtained from police mobile vehicles.

103. Since the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 14 of 2004 provides that it is compulsory to verify the identity of the voter by an identity document before a ballot paper is issued to the voter at the polling station, activities at the polling station could be carried out more peacefully. Further, as per Section 48 (a) of the Parliamentary Elections Act as amended by the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 35 of 1988, the Commissioner of Elections is empowered to nullify the voting at such polling stations due to any extraordinary incidents, there was an atmosphere where voting could be held unhindered at the polling station or premises and this was seen in this parliamentary elections too.

104. Polling started on August 17, 2015 at 7.00 am and ended at 4.00 pm on the same day. It is the responsibility of the Senior Presiding Officer to seal the ballot boxes containing the ballot papers and hand them over to the Returning Officer at the end of the poll and it is the responsibility of the Assistant Returning Officers in charge of the zone to ensure that the task is carried out properly. In order to eliminate the misconceptions that are rooted in the political parties and the public that the ballot boxes will be moved when the ballot boxes are transported to the Returning Officer at

the end of the election, the Commissioner of Elections had advised Senior Presiding Officers that the specific measures should be adopted in that regard before the representatives of each of the parties / groups representing the polling station. Among such actions taken, the following are the main points.

- \* The ballot boxes are sealed with a security tapes bearing the State Emblem after the close of the poll;
- \* Polling agents can place their seals again (with stickers) after the close of the poll;
- \* The Senior Presiding Officer has prepared a document in a six-page carbonized paper containing the names, designations and national identity card numbers of the polling agents, polling monitors, other officers of the polling staff including the Senior Presiding Officer. He was instructed to paste the original copy of the document covering the lid and body of the ballot box, put the second copy in the envelope containing the ballot paper account, the third copy in the envelope containing the journal of the Senior Presiding Officer, and hand over the remaining three copies to the representatives of the three parties who signed the document. This will allow the political party representatives to confirm whether the ballot box relevant to the polling station has been received by the counting hall;
- \* Provide a copy of the ballot paper account containing the number of ballots in the ballot box prepared in five copies to the polling agents;
- \* The ballot box sealed at the end of the ballot is kept in a polythene bag, lock with a plastic tag, and the identification number of the tag is provided to the polling agents;
- \* Issuance of a permit so that one polling agent of each interested political party or independent group can travel by their vehicle following the vehicle transporting the ballot box to the last checkpoint located near the counting hall, when the ballot box is transported back to the counting halls;
- \* To eliminate the suspicion that the ballot boxes were being moved at the premises of the counting hall, one of the five agents appointed for counting was given the opportunity to wait and watch from the last checkpoint in the vicinity of the counting hall premises to the count room;

- \* That agent was also given the opportunity to observe the counting hall after 3.00 pm, thereby eliminating the suspicion that boxes with marked ballot papers were in the counting halls;
- \* Establishment of checkpoints consisting of Divisional Secretaries / Assistant Returning Officers / Police Officers to ensure that Senior Presiding Officers arrive with the ballot box on the route prescribed by the Returning Officer and to be able to convince the parties / groups by giving the opportunity to the representatives of the political parties / groups for those places as well.

By doing so, the parties / groups were given the opportunity to confirm that the ballot boxes sealed at the polling station had received the counting center.

105. After the voting closes at 4.00 pm, the ballot boxes had to be sealed as mentioned above, the remaining ballot papers, the used electoral register, the used and unused seals etc., had to be sealed in front of the polling agents, all the activities in the polling station had to be completed and the ballot box was to be returned to the counting premises on the same route as it was brought to the polling station and handed over to the Returning Officer. At this election, the Returning Officers reported that the ballot boxes of all polling stations had been received to counting centers before 10 pm on the poll day. The counting of votes began at each center on the instructions of the District Returning Officers, considering that all the ballot boxes relating to the counting hall had been received and the time had come for the commencement of counting of votes which had been notified to the counting agents and staff.

### **Counting of Ballot Boxes**

106. Sections 49 to 56 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 contains provisions for counting of ballot papers and Regulations 18 to 28 in the Second Schedule to the Act contains provisions for the counting of postal votes. In accordance with Section 50 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the Returning Officer shall send a description of the location of the counting centers, the date and time of the commencement of counting, and the particulars of polling stations allocated to each counting hall, to the secretary of each recognized political party or authorized representative and independent group leaders.

107. District Returning Officers should also identify the suitable places for counting stations, appoint counting staff, and inform political parties / independent groups about the counting agents who may be able to monitor the counting of votes. In establishing the counting halls, the number of registered votes for each normal counting hall will be 10,000 to 12,500. Returning Officers were instructed to randomly select the polling districts for the counting centers instead of serial numbers of polling stations.

108. It was advised to set up a single postal counting hall for 1,500 to 2,000 postal ballot boxes. However, considering the number of staff to be appointed for counting, agents that can be appointed by the parties / groups competing for the counting of votes, there were instances where the counting halls could not be established within the above limits. This was due to the fact that the Returning Officers had to establish counting halls taking into account to appoint a staff of 30-40 for each ordinary counting hall and at least 15 officers other than the Chief Counting Officer for a postal counting hall and the possibility of appointing five persons per party or group for a ordinary counting hall. There were 1,600 counting centers established in all districts, of which 1,283 were for counting of ordinary ballot papers and 317 were for counting of postal votes. The total number of counting halls established by each district is given in the Note X.

109. In terms of Section 51 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, a recognized political party or independent group may appoint five agents for each Counting Center and two agents for the centers for counting postal votes. Authorized agents/ independent group leaders must appoint agents to each counting hall as mentioned in the Counting Notice sent by the Returning Officer to the Authorized Agents and Leaders of Independent Groups and also hand over permits to them before the counting process begins, which were issued by Returning Officers. Since many political parties continue to act on the assumption that irregularities occur in the counting of votes, especially in the preferential vote count, they requested permission at the Permanent Representative Meeting to appoint a representative for each candidate. Since it was not practically

feasible, the Commissioner of Elections agreed to allow each party to appoint an additional representative at the time of counting the preferential votes, considering the number of candidates contesting the election. Arrangements were made to facilitate these additional agents to remain in the counting premises and to be directed to the appropriate hall at the counting of votes. In addition, the Secretary of the Party was granted the permission to appoint a special agent for each counting premises. Permission was also granted to appoint a special agent for the leader of a recognized political party when he / she is obliged to go to any counting center due to his / her special security personnel and allowed him to visit all counting halls. Such requests were received from the United People's Freedom Alliance and the United National Party and thus agents were appointed on behalf of Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the authorized representative for the Kurunegala District, and Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, the authorized representative for the Colombo District. In order to dispel the notion that ballot boxes are being changed at the counting hall premises/ counting hall, permission was granted by the Returning Officer to one of the five representatives, who can be assigned by each party / independent group to an ordinary counting hall, to stay in the relevant premises / Counting Hall from 3.00 p.m. on the poll day and to check the counting hall if necessary.

110. After the voting was over, the process of accepting the secured goods, including the ballot boxes brought by the Senior Presiding Officers, were carried out under the supervision of the Returning Officer. Once the goods were received, the counting materials were placed separately and other sealed envelopes and items were placed separately in the counting hall. The Chief Counting Officer who arrives at the counting center on the afternoon of the poll day will take over the matters relating to the counting in writing and initiate the counting.

111. Counting staff were instructed to report to the counting halls before 6.00 pm on the counting day. As it was scheduled to start the counting of postal votes at 4.30 p.m. on the poll day, staff for counting of postal votes had to report to the counting hall by 3.00 p.m. on that day. In most

districts, the counting staff consisted of officials of the same district. However, the Assistant Returning Officers overseeing the count were sent from Colombo district to other districts. All officers sent from Colombo were trained at the Elections Secretariat and necessary training was provided by the Returning Officer at the district level. The Chief Counting Officers made aware the other staff of counting before the counting began.

112. It was the responsibility of the police to provide security to the counting halls from the time of they were prepared. Accordingly, that security program will be implemented until the counting of votes has been finalized and the result is announced. At the time of counting, two police officers were assigned to one counting center, and special security was provided for the premises and the place where the Returning Officer would publish the results. All Chief Counting Officers were informed that the Police Officers should accompany them when bringing the results sheets from each premise to the Returning Officer.

113. All Chief Counting Officers were informed in the instruction classes that three basic conditions must be met to start the counting. Having received all the ballot boxes relevant to the counting hall, lapsed the time for the counting of votes as announced to the competing political parties / independent groups and having received the order of the Returning Officer for the commencement of the counting of votes upon the examination of the disturbance report of the polling station, are those basic conditions. However, the Chief Counting Officers were advised to draw their attention to whether or not agents report to the polling stations before the counting begins and to inform the agents by loudspeakers to report immediately as they are ready to commence the counting of votes in the relevant counting hall. Prior to the commencement of the counting of votes, the envelope containing the report on the disturbances at the polling station maintained by the Senior Presiding Officer in charge of the polling station should be opened, the details of it should be recorded in the ZCCO report and sent it to the Returning Officer. Once the Returning Officer has examined this report and the information given to him by the Commissioner of Elections, he will confirm that has been no

disturbance at the polling station. He will then send a copy of the ZCCO report to the Chief Counting Officer along with the order to commence the counting of votes. If there is any disturbance in any of the polling stations, according to the Z report or the complaints received to the Returning Officer or the Commissioner of Elections, the ZARO report maintained by the Zonal Assistant Returning Officer in charge of the relevant polling station, the ZLOB reports maintained by the local election monitors should be checked, the statements of other relevant officers including the Senior Presiding Officer should be obtained and these information should be submitted to the Commissioner of Elections to obtain advice regarding the counting of votes at the relevant polling station. If the Commissioner of Elections determines that such incidents have impeded a free and fair election, instructions will be given to the Returning Officers to annul the voting at such polling stations, to hold a re – election and that it is also possible to start the counting of other polling stations except the relevant polling stations. In such a case, the results of the polling stations which are counted except for polling stations that are annulled shall be separately sealed by the Returning Officer and kept in his custody. After the re-election held for these annulled polling stations, the votes of those polling stations will be counted and the number of votes obtained by each party / group will be determined by the relevant counting hall. Then in the early stage the total number of votes obtained by each group from all counting halls is added and the number of votes obtained by each party / group from the electoral district is calculated.

114. Counting of votes will be carried out in three phases. In the first phase, the number of votes in each ballot box will be compared with the ballot paper account submitted by the Senior Presiding Officer in charge of the polling station. The Chief Counting Officer orders to open the ballot paper account first, open the ballot box according to the name of the polling station stated on it and count. By doing so counting agents will be allowed to check details related to the ballot account opened. If the number of votes in the ballot paper account and the ballot box are matched, it will be referred to the trough, and if not, two more times will be

counted and the result will be accepted as the actual number of votes in the ballot box. That way counting of ballot papers in all ballot boxes pertaining to the counting center will be carried out under the first stage.

115. In the second phase of the counting, the number of votes will be counted and checked according to the five categories *viz.*, sorting, counting, checking, re-checking and random checking and the number of votes obtained by each party and group is calculated. Considering the complaints received at the recent polls regarding the sorting of ballot papers for each party/ group, that is, the ballot papers of other parties or groups are placed in boxes that are not relevant, the Chief Counting Officer was instructed to deploy the entire staff to sort according to the respective parties and re-examine in the first sub-phase and to calculate the number of votes obtained by each party / group after re – sorting, counting, checking, re-checking and random checking is done under the second sub phase. The third phase of the counting began after the results shows the number of votes obtained by the respective parties and groups at the second phase of counting were handed over to the Returning Officer.

116. The third phase of the counting process is to calculate the number of preferential votes obtained by the candidates of each party / group. The preferential votes obtained by the candidates of all the parties / groups that have been elected will be counted commencing with the party that got the highest number of votes. Accordingly, the ballot papers of the party with the highest number of votes will be taken and divided into six categories using the staff. That is, they will be separated as ballot papers marked with 1 preferential vote, 2 preferential votes, 3 preferential votes, no preference, uncertain preference and with more than three preferences and placed in the relevant boxes. Then the ballots papers not valid for the counting of preferential votes will be placed in separate envelopes according to the categories and are sealed. Then valid ballot papers only with 1 preferential vote, 2 preferential votes and 3 preferential votes will be re-checked, recorded on the tally sheets and rechecked. The total number of preferential votes polled for the respective party / group will be recorded in the relevant format

according to the way they are distributed among the contested candidates of that party and handed over to the Returning Officer. Then the preference count of the next most voted party / group is counted.

### **Tabulating and Declaration the Results**

117. Sections 57 to 62 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, which should be read with Sections 15 and 16 of the Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 35 of 1988 and Article 99 of the Constitution clarify the legal position relating to tabulation of results relating to parliamentary elections. In terms of Section 57 of the Parliamentary Elections Act Returning Officer send a notice to the Secretaries or Authorized Representatives of Parties and Independent Group Leaders regarding the time and place at which the results will be declared.

118. According to Section 58 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, two representatives may be appointed by the Party Secretary / Authorized Representative and the Leader of the Independent Group before the results are published. However, in accordance with the agreement reached at the Party Secretaries / Permanent Representatives meeting held at the Elections Secretariat regarding the counting of ballot papers and the declaration of results, the party secretary was given the permission to appoint another special representative to the place for tabulating results and the Returning Officers were instructed to issue permits to the candidates of the parties / groups that win seats in the election to visit the place for tabulating results. In addition, the Party Secretary or the Independent Group Leader was authorized to appoint two more representatives for the centers for coordinating premises with a lap top computer to summarize the results, according to the results submitted by their party representatives from the counting halls in the relevant premises. A party / group venue was also allocated for this purpose.

119. When selecting a location for establishing the center for tabulating and declaration of results at district level the Returning Officer was advised to select a place that provides easy access to all counting halls, with transportation, lighting, security, telephone and fax facilities and where all

matters could be monitored by the Returning Officer continuously. It was informed that if the District Returning Officer's office is selected for this purpose, the Kachcheri conference hall should be used and when selecting a location outside the District Secretariat, it was directed to pay attention to the above facilities and select a location within the premises where those counting centers are located. In addition, written instructions were given to Returning Officers to set up the results tabulation halls so that the representatives and candidates could easily monitor all the activities related to manual processing and computer processing of the results, taking into consideration the complaints received from political parties / groups in relation to the previous elections regarding the manner in which the results tabulation place was set up. Accordingly, every effort has been made by the Returning Officials to make the hall accessible to the representatives of the parties / groups to move around the tables where the results are manually and computer-generated.

120. Among the tasks involved in tabulation and publication of results are the receipt of results from the counting centers, determining the number of votes cast for each party / independent group, determining the number of seats available to each party / independent group in proportion to the number of votes received and counting the number of preferential votes obtained by candidates contesting under each party or independent group. After receiving the written declarations to the results center made by the officers in charge of the counting at centers for counting ordinary votes, centers for counting postal votes, and, if applicable, centers for counting of votes of voters who have voted at another polling station etc., under Section 53 (7) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the final result will be counted by the Returning Officer. Upon receipt of the result sheets from the counting hall to the Returning Officer they will be inspected by a group of senior officials and verified its accuracy. Then the photocopies of them with the certificate of the Returning Officer will be sent by fax to the Commissioner of Elections. The original will be handed over to the Division for Manual Processing of Results and a photocopy will be sent to the Computer Processing Division. After receiving the

fax report sent to the Commissioner of Elections, the Returning Officer will be contacted by telephone and the accuracy of the numbers in the fax note will be verified. Then the manual and computer result processing will be carried out at the Elections Secretariat.

121. The Returning Officer of the electoral district computes the number of votes obtained by each party / group at the district level, polling divisional level, as the postal voting result and electoral district level result as per the above. Accordingly, the number of members to be allocated to each party / group was calculated. Once the results are recorded in all the counting halls in the polling division, the number of votes obtained by each party / group from that polling division is calculated. Here the results of the manual section are compared with the output of the computer section and if correct, the result would be faxed and communicated to the Elections Secretariat by telephone. In this manner, the results at the polling division level received from the district to the Commissioner of Elections were compared with the manual and computer-generated results prepared at the Elections Secretariat, The Returning Officer was informed, if they were correct and the same was disseminated through the media. After the results of all polling divisions and postal votes in the district are published, the number of votes obtained by each party / independent group from all the polling divisions and district postal votes are calculated. Then the number of seats obtained by each party / independent group will be calculated and sent to the Commissioner of Elections by the Returning Officer. If this result is similar to the result prepared at the Elections Secretariat, steps were taken to release to the media the results of the number of seats possessed by each party / independent group at the district level. These results were recalculated and checked at the Elections Secretariat and released to the media institutions by the Commissioner of Elections with the assistance of University of Colombo School of Computing.

122. Details of the number of votes received by the recognized political parties entitled to elect Members under each electoral district at this Parliamentary Election, the percentage of valid

votes cast and the number of seats received, the total number of votes received by all other recognized political parties and independent groups that have not received any seats are given in the Note No. XI. A summary of it is given in Note No. XII.

123. After declaring the number of seats for each party / independent group, which of the candidates contested on behalf of each party / independent group is eligible for memberships must be determined by quantifying the number of preferential votes cast for each candidate. Accordingly, the preferential votes given by the voter to the candidates of the parties / independent groups should be calculated. According to the Parliamentary Elections Act, a voter can cast his vote for the party he likes and gives his preferential votes for not more than three candidates in that party. Hence, the Chief Counting Officer notifies the number of votes obtained by each party / independent group to the Returning Officer. Subsequently, the number of preferential votes obtained by each party's candidates, starting with the most voted party, should be counted and forwarded to the Returning Officer. After receiving the details of the number of preferential votes obtained by contested candidates of each party / independent group from all counting halls, to the Returning Officer they have been prepared at polling divisional and district levels. According to the number of seats available to each party, the names of the candidates who have been obtained the highest number of preferential votes from each party / independent group will be declared elected by the Returning Officer.

124. If the polls were conducted uninterruptedly in each of the polling district in each electoral district and the final results of all the contested parties and independent groups and the preferential numbers obtained by the candidates contesting from the respective parties / independent groups were prepared, the Returning Officer shall furnish to the Commissioner of Elections a summary report in Form "L" of Schedule II of the Parliamentary Elections Act and the names of the Members so elected shall be published by the Election Commissioner in the Gazette. Thus, the details of the Members of Parliament elected in relation to each electoral district under Section 62 of the

Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 have been published in the Extraordinary Gazette of 1928/3 dated 19.08.2015. The relevant gazette notification is attached as the Tenth Schedule.

Registration of Persons and the Colombo District Secretariat. The percentage of expenditure incurred by these institutions for the Parliamentary Election is given below.

125. Upon the declaration of one hundred and ninety six (196) members as stated in Article 98 of the Constitution at the general election to elect Members of Parliament, the remaining twenty nine (29) seats shall be divided by the Commissioner of Elections in accordance with Article 99 A of the Constitution in proportion to the total number of votes cast for each political party and independent group in the general election to the total number of votes cast at that election. Accordingly, particulars of parties/ Independent Groups who have received the national list seats in the Parliamentary Elections and the number of seats received are given in the Note No. XIII. Action was taken to publish the particulars related to the elected MPs in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 1928/25 dated 21.08.2015. The relevant gazette notification is attached as the Eleventh Schedule.

<b>Department</b>	<b>Expenditure Rs.</b>	<b>Percentage of total Cost</b>
Police Department	438,381,416.92	14.73%
Postal Department	359,964,000.00	12.09%
Department of Government Printing	177,234,422.42	5.95%
Department for Registration of Persons	556,550.00	0.02%
Colombo District Secretariat	507,110.00	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>976,643,449.34</b>	<b>32.81%</b>

#### **Expenditure Incurred on the Election**

126. At this Parliamentary Election which was held in 22 electoral districts island wide (25 administrative districts) 15,044,490 electors were facilitated, votes were counted and the results were declared. The total expenditure incurred in that regard was Rs. 2,975 million. Accordingly, the expenditure incurred on each registered voter was Rs 197.77.
127. The expenditure incurred through the Police Department, Postal Department, Department of Government Printing and the Department for Registration of Persons at this Parliamentary Election was Rs. 976 million. Out of the total sum of Rs. 2,975 million spent on this Parliamentary election, Rs. 1,999 million or 67.19% was directly borne by the Department of Elections.
128. Five government departments, funded by the Commissioner of Elections, have incurred expenditure on the services rendered for this parliamentary election, namely, the Police Department, the Postal Department, the Department of Government Printing, the Department of
129. The Department of Government Printing has spent Rs. 177,234,422.42 on this election. Rupees 82,817,848.08 or 46.73% of the total expenditure of the Department of Government Printing was spent on printing of ballot papers and tendered ballot papers. The Department of Elections has spent Rs. 22,683,376.70 to print official poll cards from the private sector.
130. The expenditure incurred by the Police Department in this Parliamentary Election was Rs. 438,381,416.92. of this, Rs. 31,372,850.00 was applied to the Special Task Force, the State Intelligence Service and the Civil Defense Department. 147 million out of the funds allocated to the Police Department was spent for the combined allowance of the Police, Special Forces and Intelligence Officers, 132 million was spent for renting additional vehicles for the Department of Police for election duties with the permission of the Commissioner of Elections and 60 million was spent on fuel for the vehicles of the Police Department. The Police Department has spent Rs. 55 million to remove illegal advertisements and Rs. 25 million for the welfare of police officers.

131. There are a number of special duties to be performed by the Department of Posts during the polls, such as the delivery of official poll cards, distribution of the envelopes containing postal ballot papers among the Certifying Officers and handing them over to the Returning Officers, and the distribution of appointment letters of officers engaged in election duties. The Commissioner of Elections will allocate funds to that Department for them. In that manner Rs. 359,964,000.00 had been allocated to the Postal Department for this election.

Of this, Rs. 229 million has incurred for overtime, Rs. 104 million has incurred for stamp and postage, Rs. 24 million has incurred for telephone and other expenses, Rs. 2 million has incurred for stationery and nearly Rs. one million has incurred for fuel.

132. The total expenditure in this election can be classified as follows on the nature of the expenditure.

Nature of the Expenditure	Expenditure Rs.	Percentage
1. Staff salaries, travel expenses and overtime	1,515,934,919.48	50.95
2. Rent for vehicles	212,257,231.27	7.13
3. Expenses like stationery / office equipment	140,426,251.69	4.72
4. Fuel	146,519,705.22	4.92
5. Constructions and Repairs	68,154,804.21	2.29
6. Welfare expenses	187,058,709.25	6.30
7. Printing costs	200,885,124.87	6.75
8. Removal of illegal display boards	54,756,287.51	1.84
9. Stamp and postage charges	104,244,862.30	3.50
10. Facilitate foreign observation	16,467,339.50	0.55
11. Electricity	120,480,655.93	4.05
12. Services including water and telephone; and other expenses	208,212,731.04	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,975,398,622.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>

133. This means that the highest percentage of the total expenditure, which is 50.95% of the total expenditure incurred for the parliamentary election, was incurred for staff payments. The next highest percentage, 7.13% was incurred for hiring vehicles, 7% for other services, 6.75% for printing, 6.30% for welfare, 4.92% for fuel, 4.72% for stationery and office equipment, 4.05% for electricity and 3.5% was incurred for stamp and postage.

134. The total expenditure incurred on services and other expenses was Rs. 208 million, or 7% of the expenditure. It includes 104 million paid to the Grama Niladharis for providing services for polling station activities, Rs. 14 million for water supply and Rs. 11 million for communication activities.

135. The full expenditure report of the Parliamentary Election is given in the Note No. XIV.

#### **Observations and Recommendations Election Staff**

136. All activities of the election including organization of preliminary activities of voting, counting of votes and declaration of results are carried out by public officials and employees. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each Head of the Institution to provide the information of all persons employed in his institution to the Commissioner of Elections / Returning Officer for the census of public officials carried out at the commencement of the election.

But what was seen at the last polls was that the heads of the institutions were often asked from their staff as to who is willing to participate in election duties and the information of those officers/employees was given to the Commissioner of Elections/ Returning Officer. Due to this, all Returning Officers had to face the problem of lack of qualified and experienced officers for election duties. In order to mitigate this situation, action was also taken to inform the heads of institutions through the Secretary to the President that the details of all relevant officers serving in his institution should be informed to the Commissioner of Elections.

137. This was a common issue in the recent elections. Hence as a measure to counter this it's the time to focus on collecting data on government officials rather than calling for information from government officials aimed at an election and preparing a computer program that can be updated constantly. Such a system also helps to facilitate the preliminary activities of the elections. Article 104GG of the Constitution as amended by the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution provides that all public servants should co-operate with the Election Commission in order to make the elections a success and legal provisions that can impose a fine of up to Rs. 100,000 and imprisonment of up to three years on public servants who do not do so, will be a great help to avoid this situation in the future. However, such a favorable situation is possible on the attempt of the Election Commission to enforce such laws in that manner. The receipt of the contribution of public servants without the legal pressure to maintain democracy in the country will always be expected by the Commission.

### **Nominations**

138. The acceptance of nominations for the Parliamentary Election begins on the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the date of publication of the declaration of the dissolution of Parliament in the Gazette and ends at 12 noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> day after the date of publication of this notice. Hence, there are seven and a half days to accept nominations. But this time may be limited to five and a half days, as Saturday and Sunday are also in. When considering the last elections, it appears that most parties / groups will submit their nomination

papers within the last two to three days, though a period of one week has been set aside for receiving the nominations. As a result, the Returning Officers are faced with difficulties in carried out the post - nomination process proper. There were 537 nominations submitted by all parties / groups during the nomination period of this parliamentary election, most of which were in the last two and a half days. Once the nomination period has been decided, the Commissioner of Elections will issue the directions, making it mandatory for the Returning Officer and the Deputy / Assistant Commissioner of Elections those who organize elections as the Chief Assistant Returning Officer at the district level to stay there during the office hours. Since seven weeks is allotted for all activities of the parliamentary election, dedicating a week in this regard is a hindrance to election campaigns. Particularly when considering the preferential system and the influence of the incumbent government, several parties that are genuinely competing, with the support of a few small parties or independent groups, added these parties / groups to the contest to elect more number of polling agents and counting agents. As a result, the Department of Elections has to spend a large amount of public money unnecessarily on election expenses.

139. Under Section 16 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, there is no requirement for make deposits for recognized political parties, and for independent groups, each candidate has to make a deposit of Rs. 2,000.00. This amount was decided in 1981. In order to alleviate this situation to some extent, if some of the recognized political parties and independent groups are competing measures should be taken to make sure that the candidates of each competing party / independent group make deposits and to substantially increase the amount currently charged. At the same time, it is advisable to limit the nomination period to three days and to announce a separate day or half day for decision making and publication of nominations. Otherwise, it is inevitable that the Returning Officials will be inconvenienced by accepting nominations until 12 noon of the last day for receiving nominations, allowing to file objections for another 1 ½ hour from 12 noon on the same day, examining the objections and taking necessary instructions of the Commissioner of Elections and

taking decisions accordingly, examining the nominations received so far and making decisions on the nominations at the same time. The possibility of some failures in this busyness cannot be ruled out. In such a case, the ability of the party that has not received the relevant justice, to seek justice cannot be ruled out. Because a possibility of misinterpreting government officials who have worked in a very demanding environment can be socialized by doing so. Such allegations are in no way appropriate to the Department of Elections, which is responsible for conducting free and fair elections.

### **Postal Voting**

140. Government employees who are engaged in some service or election duties that they have been unable to go to the polling station that assigned to them and vote in person on the day of the election are entitled to vote by post. According to the Parliamentary Elections Act, a request for postal voting should be made to the Returning Officer within a period from one week after and two weeks before the date of declaring the election. However, this rule is inconsistent with the fact in the Act that a candidate can also vote by post. Because, whether a candidate is accepted or not depends on whether the nomination is accepted or not on the closing date for receiving the nomination. He is a candidate only if the nomination paper is accepted and then he can apply for the postal vote if he wants to. However, as per the act, the postal voting period is over by then. Accordingly, it is advisable to make amendments to the postal voting period till the last date for receiving the nominations, though it is not currently prescribed by the Act.
141. During the process of postal voting, receiving and checking of postal voting applications, preparation of postal voters' electoral registers, issuance of postal ballot papers, postal ballot marking and receiving the necessary number of packets and counting are to be completed within a very short period of time. In particular, Returning Officers have to spend too much weight and time on postal voting, which has hampered other organizational activities.
142. When looking at past elections, many of those who work in hospitals, ports, airports, highways, etc.,

which are not eligible for postal voting but maintain essential services, have lost the opportunity to vote. The Commissioner of Elections and the District Returning Officers have to listen to the requests of many parties who have lost postal voting facility at an election in this manner. They also have to spend time explaining that the Commissioner of Elections or the Returning Officer cannot afford to approve it and that the relevant laws should be amended through Parliament. In view of this situation, requests were made to amend the relevant laws and to inform legislators including the secretaries of all political parties in this regard.

143. Given the complexity of the postal voting process in this manner, it is imperative to find suitable solution in view of the time taken, the costs involved and abandonment of workers in the essential services that can be included in the postal voting process. It would be advisable to identify specific locations ahead of the polls and provide advance voting or facilitate voting at another polling station on the day of the election. This will eliminate actions such as issuance of postal votes, marking, packing and sending them back to the Returning Officer. Political parties can easily appoint agents to monitor the affairs of postal voting stations in the same way that polling agents are appointed for the election day. At present, it is possible to appoint representatives to the offices of Certifying Officers, but the process is complex and often overlooked. Likewise, since many who apply for postal votes are the people who are elected for election duties in the same districts, providing the opportunity to vote before the Senior Presiding Officer at the polling station on poll day can also be implemented. For this purpose, it is sufficient to legislate that only submitting the letter of appointment issued by the Returning Officer to the Senior Presiding Officer and proving his identity are sufficient.

### **Using State Property to Promote Political Parties and Candidates**

144. In terms of Article 104 B (4) (a) introduced by the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, repealing Article 104 (4) B of the Constitution, the Commission shall have the power to prohibit the use of any movable or immovable property

belonging to the State or any public corporation for the purpose of promoting or preventing the election or any candidate of any political party or independent group contesting the election by a direction in writing by the Chairman of the Commission or of the Commissioner General of Elections on the instructions of the Commission. As long as the Election Commission is established, the Commissioner of Elections is vested with the power to exercise such powers, but due to the prevailing political environment and the nature of the functioning of the public officers, it is difficult to implement it properly. At the beginning of the polls, the Commissioner of Elections informs all candidates of all political parties who are competing and the top government officials who are obliged to run them on the prevention of misuse of public property, in addition to making them publicized in the media through gazette notifications. But not everyone seems to be paying attention to this.

145. The Complaint Centers received many complaints from various organizations, candidates and the public that these instructions were violated during the election period and action was taken to make inquiries and to take measures to stop them as much as possible. Among the complaints received were complaints that state vehicles and buildings were used for electioneering purposes, recruitment to the public service and organization of the state ceremonies for the promotion of candidates. This situation has also affected the nature of political management. Prior to the 1978 Constitution, Parliament was the most powerful authority. After the dissolution of parliament, political organizations had to concentrate their energies before the voter. As a result, the public service and the security services were able to handle their activities independently. The situation has changed since 1978, and the political structure that dominates the authority has been divided into four main layers today. They are the Executive President, Parliament, Provincial Councils and Local Authorities. When one of these bodies is in the polls, all the other institutions are in day-to-day affairs with state power. This is exacerbated by the belief that the competing parties / candidates with state power are safeguarded against any wrongdoing and that law enforcement agencies tend to coexist with the prevailing political power.

Therefore, amending the legislation so that at least the two major elections, the presidential and general elections can be held on the same day will create some confidence. In addition to the rules and regulations imposed by the 19th Amendment to punish the employees of the Public Service or Public Corporations who act without the instructions of the Election Commission, better results can be expected if the Election Commission is given the power to act against candidates of parties / groups that violate these directives as well as political authorities who abuse their powers.

### **Media Guidelines**

146. Initially, during the election period the electronic and print media will communicate the plans to the public (voters), which are expected to be carried out by the contesting candidates for the development of the country. The role of media outlets, whether in the public or private sector, is to disseminate accurate information to the voter as they are. Otherwise, the public will be misled if the state media outlets propagate the current regime and the private media outlets propagate the political views of their owners through the media. Realizing this situation, action was taken to issue media guidelines as introduced by the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. While the general election may be somewhat favorable as it seeks to obtain the views of all media outlets before issuing the media guidelines, it is imperative that the Election Commission be empowered to act in the event of a breach of media guidelines, regardless of state or private media. Although the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution provides the powers over the state media, it cannot exercise its powers over private media outlets. Given past polls in general, there may be instances where the voter becomes more and more focused on the private media in the belief that state media outlets are pro-government. In such a case, it would be very difficult for the voter to make a decision on the political situation if the private media outlets are also promoting a political party or candidate. Therefore, it is imperative for the Election Commission to issue orders to state media and private media institutions to act in accordance with media guidelines during election period, to close channels in case of breach or to impose restrictions on political campaigning throughout the election period.

## **Protect the Voting Rights of Private Sector Employees and of Workers in Emergency and Essential Services Who Have Lost Postal Voting Facilities**

147. It has been stated under Section 122 of the Parliamentary Elections Act that it is the duty of the employers to grant leave to the employees to enable them to vote in person. Upon receipt of such a request, the employer shall grant a paid leave of not less than four hours as deemed adequate by the employer. When it comes to election complaints, there are complaints that employers do not give them enough time to go for voting, and in some cases deduct the pay for those dates. Considering the above, it was reached to an agreement jointly with the Human Rights Commission in the Parliamentary Elections on the minimum number of holidays that should be granted to employees based on the distance from their place of work to the polling station. It has also been submitted to the Ministry of Labour and thereby steps have been taken to inform employers. That information was also published in the media. Employers may only think about running their company properly, and may not want to be concerned about whether or not employees will vote. But it is a punishable offence to impose some kind of disturbance on the exercise of voting power under the sovereignty of the people. Therefore, it is imperative that legislation be amended to give employees sufficient time to go to their polling stations and take measures to punish employers who fail to do so.

## **Election Campaigns**

148. Sections 68 to 74 of the Parliamentary Elections Act refer to holding public meetings, holding processions, printing and distributing propaganda notices and maintaining election offices for the promotion of candidates. Upon accepting the nomination, action was taken to inform the contesting candidates of all political parties / independent groups. At the same time the IGP advised all the top police officers as well as the OICs to strictly enforce the law in this regard. But in the run up, political parties / groups, as well as contesting candidates and their supporters, have publicly displayed advertisements, posters and cutouts in violation of these rules. In this scenario,

with the help of government officials and police officers attached to the complaint centers, the maximum number of illegal propaganda notices, posters and cutouts have been removed based on the complaints received at the district and regional level complaint centers. Necessary measures were taken in this regard by deploying special teams with the direct contact of the officials of the Complaint Unit of the Elections Secretariat.

149. However, when considering the prevailing voting system and the rules, the voter needs to be well aware of his candidate's preference number in the preferential voting system is necessary for winning. Under the prevailing legal situation, the candidate or his family cannot even visit the voter's home. Then the question arises as to how the candidate should educate his voters. Hence, action will be taken thinking only their victory without considering the law. Whatever the legal situation, candidates who can afford to spend a lot of money will find themselves running their campaign despite any obstacles. It also causes some disadvantages to other candidates. A candidate who can afford to spend more money may be able to display more ads on the other day if the law enforcement officers remove his ads that are displayed by his supporters without regard to the law. In this context, all candidates need to consider whether their campaign is fair.

150. In this situation, it is advisable that all the candidates come to a common agreement and create a fair background in consultation with the contesting political parties / leaders of the independent groups in order to enable the contesting candidates to propagate themselves to some extent even though it is mandated by the Elections Act. At the same time, the Commissioner of Elections and the Returning Officer shall determine the specific locations for the display of propaganda advertisements and make a fair allocation to the contesting candidates of each party / group. Imposing a maximum expenditure limit on the campaign, allowing all candidates to carry out their campaigns fairly, eliminating the possibility of gaining more benefits for candidates with unlimited money power and setting up a proper mechanism for monitoring whether it is operating in that manner will be very important in this voting system.

## **Enforcement of Election Laws**

151. The legislative provisions for holding the parliamentary elections are contained in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981. The Commissioner's powers are clarified in terms of section 128 of the Parliamentary Elections Act and accordingly holding the election, administration and in general directing and supervising election shall be done. For the purposes of the Parliamentary Elections Act, the offences, corrupt practices, illegal practices are explained in Part VI of the Act and accordingly, Section 66 to Section 76 relates to "offences", Section 77 to Section 82 relates to "corrupt practices" and Article 83 to Article 88 are dealt with "illegal practices".

152. The objective of the Commission is to conduct free and fair elections and referendums in terms of Article 103 (2) of the Constitution. By virtue of sub Article 104 (b) (1) of the Constitution, the Commission shall exercise, perform and discharge all such powers, duties and functions conferred or imposed on or assigned to the Commission ; or the Commissioner-General of Elections, by the Constitution, and by the law for the time being relating to the election of the President, the election of Members of Parliament, the election of members of Provincial Councils, the election of members of Local Authorities and the conduct of Referenda. As per Article 104C (1) of the Constitution, upon the making of an Order for the holding of an election, the Commission shall notify the Inspector-General of Police of the facilities and the number of police officers required by the Commission for the holding of such election and it shall be lawful for the Commission, upon the making of an Order for the holding of an election, to make recommendations to the President regarding the deployment of the armed forces for the prevention or control of any actions or incidents which may be prejudicial to the holding of a free and fair election. It is also said that as long as the Election Commission is established, the Commissioner of Elections already serving can exercise these powers. Subsections 104 (2) b and 104 C (4) of the Constitution states that it is the duty and responsibility of all officers in charge of law enforcement to assist the Election Commission in enforcing the election law.

153. It is a responsibility of the Election Commission to conduct a free and fair election by exercising the legal powers vested with Election Commission with the assistance of public officials and the police in the manner set out above. Since the police is the main body that helps the Commissioner of Elections and the Returning Officer to carry out the election legally at an election period, it will be very important to obtain the assistance of all officers from the Inspector General to the lowest rank for law enforcement. As mentioned earlier, as other political authorities are also active in the event of elections, political influence of them on the police may interrupt in carrying out their duties. In such instances, the officers leading the police as well as the Election Commission need to enforce the law to make decisions for a free and fair election. Further, if the Elections Commission finds that there are obstacles in the existing framework for law enforcement, new measures should be taken to remove them. For example, it will be important to establish a separate court to investigate complaints received by the Election Commission during the election period or to create an environment where the Election Commission can present such complaints directly to the courts rather than taking them to court through the Attorney General.

### **154. Court Actions in Relation to Parliamentary Elections**

Cases have been filed challenging the rejection of nominations as follows:

The Hon. Court having considered the submissions made in support of Application No. CA(Writ) 292/2015 praying for the acceptance of the nominations of the Independent Group of Mr. P. Anton Nicolas of Jaffna district, dismissed the case and the court also dismissed the application (No. CA(Writ)300/2015) made by Mr. Sagara Kariyawasam, Secretary of Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna challenging the rejection of the nominations of his party in the Jaffna district.

The Writ application No. CA(Writ)296/2015 filed by Mr. Muruhan Kumaravail, the leader of the Independent group of Jaffna district challenging the rejection of the nominations of his group has also been dismissed, and the FR application No. SC/FR/321/2015 filed by Mr. Anandan Mohandas, a civil activist regarding the nomination papers of

United Peoples' Freedom Alliance and Ceylon Workers' Congress in Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Badulla, and Kegalle districts was withdrawn by the petitioners and accordingly was dismissed by the court in limine.

The FR application No. SC/FR/355/2015 filed by Mrs. Rosie Senanayake praying that the preference votes of the United National Party of the Colombo district be recounted was dismissed by the court owing to the fact that the very persons who had submitted affidavits in court claiming that the preference votes had been miscounted had signed the results sheets at the time of issuing results to the effect that the preference vote results of the UNP were correct.

Moreover, it is reported that Mr. Nagananda Kodithuwakku (SC(Writ)5/2015), Mr. Darmapalage Don Somaweera Chandrasiri (SC/Fr/338/2015), Mr. D.E.W. Gunasekera (SC/FR/344/2015), and Prof. Tissa Vitharana (SC/FR/358/2015) resorted to court action regarding the National List Members of Parliament under the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 01 of 1981. Due to the demise of Mr. Somaweera Chandrasiri, the petitioners withdrew the case and the other petitions were dismissed by the court.

### **Conclusion**

155. The assistance of the government ministries, departments and police in responding to the instructions and requests made by the Commissioner of Elections since the declaration of the Parliamentary Election is commendable. Particularly the support of the Heads of Ministries and Departments for the success of the election by providing necessary staff from the organization of the preliminary activities to the polling, counting of votes and declaration of results and for training has been a great help; and the support of the Inspector General of Police and other police officers has been immense in keeping with the existing legal framework and on the constant instructions of the Commissioner of Elections for the conduct of the election free and fair. The commitment made by all the officers of the Elections Secretariat, District Returning Officers and other officers of the District Election Offices including the Staff Officers to work day and night until the election results have been announced should be especially noted. The support provided

by the contested political parties / independent groups and candidates by presenting the issues affecting them, upon the invitation of the Commissioner of Elections, to resolve the issues of the preliminary organizational activities of the election to some extent should be appreciated. In addition to this, local monitoring organizations have contributed their best to various aspects of the election campaign. This gave the contesting parties / groups the opportunity to ensure that the election was free and fair. The assistance rendered by the Department of Government Printing, which assisted by printing documents and ballot papers relevant to the election to make the organization of the election a success, the Postal Department which assisted in distributing the large number of letters sent by the Department of Elections and the Returning Officer during the election period, as well as the large number of letters sent by political party secretaries under the free postage facility, and the official ballot papers to all houses in a timely manner, Sri Lanka Transport Board and private bus companies for the transportation of election staff, Sri Lanka Telecom which facilitated communication, the Ceylon Electricity Board which has contributed by maintaining the uninterrupted power supply from the beginning of the polls until the declaration of the results at the end of the counting of votes and the University of Colombo School of Computing, which assisted the Department of Elections in tabling and publishing the results, to make the organization of the election a success should also be especially remembered on this occasion. In the meantime, all the media institutions that have done their duty by informing the voter as well as the public about the electoral process and the policy plans of parties and have actively contributed to the declaration of the results at the end of the counting is admirable.

156. I wish to extend my sincere commendation to all those institutions and individuals mentioned above for their support in holding the Parliamentary Elections on 17.08.2015 in a free and fair manner and to further consolidate the confidence of the voter, public, political parties and the candidates in the Department of Elections.

**Mahinda Deshapriya,**  
Commissioner of Elections.



# Schedules



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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

අංක 1920/38 - 2015 ජූනි මස 26 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2015.06.26  
No. 1920/38 - FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**  
**Proclamations & C., by the President**

Ref: CSA/1/2/3.

**A PROCLAMATION BY HIS EXCELLENCY**  
**THE PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**



Seal

MAITHRIPALA SIRISENA

KNOW YE that by virtue of the powers vested in me by Article 70 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and in pursuance of the provisions of Section 10 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No.1 of 1981, I, Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, do by this Proclamation -

- (a) Dissolve Parliament, with effect from midnight today and summon the new Parliament to meet on the First day of September, Two Thousand and Fifteen;
- (b) Fix the Seventeenth day of August, Two Thousand and Fifteen as the date for the election of Members of Parliament ;
- (c) Specify the period beginning on the Sixth day of July, Two Thousand and Fifteen and ending at Twelve Noon of the Thirteenth day of July, Two Thousand and Fifteen as the nomination period, during which nomination papers shall be received by the Returning Officers ; and
- (d) Specify each place mentioned in Column II of the Schedule hereto as the place of nomination for candidates seeking election in the electoral district mentioned in the corresponding entry in Column I of that Schedule.

Given at Colombo on this Twenty Sixth day of June, in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

By Order of His Excellency,

P. B. ABEYKOON,  
Secretary to the President.



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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 26.06.2015

## Schedule

<i>Column I</i> <i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Place of Nomination</i>
No. 01 - Colombo	District Secretariat, Colombo
No. 02 - Gampaha	District Secretariat, Gampaha
No. 03 - Kalutara	District Secretariat, Kalutara
No. 04 - Kandy	District Secretariat, Kandy
No. 05 - Matale	District Secretariat, Matale
No. 06 - Nuwara Eliya	District Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya
No. 07 - Galle	District Secretariat, Galle
No. 08 - Matara	District Secretariat, Matara
No. 09 - Hambantota	District Secretariat, Hambantota
No. 10 - Jaffna	District Secretariat, Jaffna
No. 11 - Vanni	District Secretariat, Vavuniya
No. 12 - Batticaloa	District Secretariat, Batticaloa
No. 13 - Digamadulla	District Secretariat, Ampara
No. 14 - Trincomalee	District Secretariat, Trincomalee
No. 15 - Kurunegala	District Secretariat, Kurunegala
No. 16 - Puttalam	District Secretariat, Puttalam
No. 17 - Anuradhapura	District Secretariat, Anuradhapura
No. 18 - Polonnaruwa	District Secretariat, Polonnaruwa
No. 19 - Badulla	District Secretariat, Badulla
No. 20 - Moneragala	District Secretariat, Moneragala
No. 21 - Ratnapura	District Secretariat, Ratnapura
No. 22 - Kegalle	District Secretariat, Kegalle

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EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 1920/39 - 2015 ජූනි මස 27 වැනි සෙනසුරාදා - 2015.06.27  
No. 1920/39 - SATURDAY JUNE 27, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**  
**Government Notifications**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT, No. 1 OF 1981**

**Notice Under Section 6 (1)**

IN the exercise of the powers vested in me by Section 6 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 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,  
27th June, 2015.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
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

07 - 590/1

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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 27.06.2015

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT, No. 1 OF 1981**

**Notice Under Section 6(I)**

IN the exercise of the powers vested in me by Section 6 (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 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,  
27th June, 2015.

SCHEDULE

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
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 Assistant 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	Assistant 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

07 - 590/2

**Parliamentary 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 122 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 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 Parliamentary Election which is to be held on 17.08.2015 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 a Parliamentary 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. Commission requested the preparation a formulae 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.

<b>Distance from his/ her place of work to his/ her polling station</b>	<b>Minimum period to be granted</b>
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 at a national election.

Elections Secretariat  
 Sarana Mawatha,  
 Rajagiriya  
 27.07.2015

**Mahinda Deshapriya,**  
**Commissioner of Elections.**

**Parliamentary General Election – 17.08.2015****Guidelines to be followed by Authorized Observer Organizations and Observers permitted for monitoring the election**

1. Persons selected as members of the Board of Directors, mobile observers and polling observers of an election monitoring organization shall be moderate persons who have not been in active politics for the past 5 years, do not appear as candidates for elections and qualify as electors. All officers and observers shall affirm this by submitting an affidavit/pledge and this affidavit/pledge shall be kept in the custody of the monitoring organization for inspection when necessary. (A copy of the sample affidavit /pledge is attached.)
2. No officer or observer of an election monitoring organization shall hold or held a post within the last 5 years that was afforded by the Government or any other organization on political affiliations.
3. No monitoring organization can use buildings, vehicles, and telephones facilities etc., belonged to a political party or a group for its activities.
4. The members of the Board of Directors or the staff of the election monitoring organization shall not act in the interests of any political party or political group.
5. Election monitoring organizations shall ensure that it does not issue promotional or prejudicial statements to any party, group or candidate and shall always act in a neutral manner when issuing media releases and reports relating to the election.
6. No election monitoring organization shall issue media releases and media statements on the activities of the Department of Elections without informing the Commissioner of Elections.
7. ***Board of Directors, officers and all observers of the monitoring organization are required to maintain strict impartiality in all matters pertaining to monitoring. This impartiality must be manifested in conduct as well as in speech and impartiality must be convinced.***
8. If a complaint received regarding the bias conduct of any observer he or she shall be remove from that monitoring work and that complaint shall be promptly investigated.
9. Observers permitted to stay in the polling station and do their observation shall not engage with unnecessary conversations with polling staff, polling agents and electors. He should protect the confidentiality of all activities of the election and it is also required to sign a declaration of secrecy in that regard and submit it to the Senior Presiding Officer.
10. A uniform or a special suitable dress should be worn for easy recognition of mobile and polling station observers and it is mandatory for them to refrain from using alcohol during the observation of the poll day. Also it is prohibited to visit the polling station after smoking and consuming alcohol.
11. Observers who are permitted to remain at the polling station and do their observations shall obtain the ZLOB Report from the Senior Presiding Officer, duly fill and submit it to the Senior Presiding Officer at the end of the poll with his observations.
12. All complaints made by monitoring organizations shall be subject to verifiable evidence only.
13. If a mistake or an irregularity relating to the election is observed at a polling station / counting hall, such delay, error or omission or incident shall be immediately disclosed to the Senior Presiding Officer at the polling station or to the Chief Counting Officer of the Counting hall and no disclosure should be made to anyone other than the competent authority of their respective institutions. The management of the monitoring organization shall careful not to release these information to the outside without informing the Department of Elections.

Mahinda Deshapriya  
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat  
Sarana Mawatha  
Rajagiriya.  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**Parliamentary Election– 2015**

**Notice on licensed notified campaign offices, displaying advertizing boards therein, restricting the displaying of advertizing boards during the period of silence, and removing the respective offices on the due date**

**01. Licensed Notified Campaign Offices and Displaying Advertizing Boards therein**

- 1.1 In terms of the provisions in the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981 advertizing boards, flags, banners, stickers, drawings, and names, photographs, preference numbers of candidates that can be used to promote candidate of the parties / groups can be exhibited only at an authorized meeting place when the candidate's meeting is held and in or on the vehicle that is used for the conveyance of a candidate. However, under the existing system to provide an opportunity to display preference numbers it was permitted to display advertizing boards, flags, banners mentioned above at licensed notified offices.
- 1.2 This permission is given only to establish a legally authorized office and if necessary, to set up advertizing, displaying boards. Otherwise, no approval has been given to set up advertizing boards only.
- 1.3 Therefore, respective candidates, applicants and place holders are kindly informed to remove / cause to be removed immediately the advertizing boards installed or fixed on empty lands, in vacant or closed buildings or in such closed shops, buildings under construction or abandoned, or very small sheds not even 75 square feet.
- 1.4 The advertizing boards of the parties / candidates which were installed outside the office premises or installed in electrical or telephone poles should also be removed.
- 1.5 Also, the party / candidate's office should have the relevant permit or a copy thereof to be submitted to the officers who check whether these offices have obtained the necessary permission.
- 1.6 The office of any party / group cannot display advertizing boards of persons who are not of that party / group.

**02. Restricting the Display of Advertizing Boards During the Period of Silence**

- 2.1 Since no election campaign can be carried out after midnight on 14.08.2015, action must be taken before 8 a.m. on 15.08.2015 to remove/cause to be removed the advertizing boards at polling district-level viz., offices established at polling station level.
- 2.2 The only central office that can be established for the electoral district / district can display a advertizing board with the party name / election symbol. This promotional advertisement of the candidate shall be removed before 8.00 a.m. on 15.08.2015.
- 2.3 Advertizing boards at all additional campaign offices, which were permitted to be established for each candidate at each polling division, shall be removed before 8.00 a.m. on 15.08.2015.

- 2.4 On three days, 16, 17 and 18.08.15, advertizing boards of the candidate, leader of the party and the party can be displayed at the candidate's home and the office which can be established by a candidate as one for the electoral district.

**03. Removing the Respective Offices on the Due Date.**

- 3.1 In addition to the removal of advertizing boards at offices established at polling district level before 8.00 a.m. on 15.08.2015 these offices shall not be functioned after the midnight on the same day. That is, no activity related to party / candidate propaganda in such places is possible after this period.
- 3.2 In addition to the removal of boards at additional offices in polling divisions before 8.00 a.m. on 15.08.2015 functions of these offices shall be ended from 12.00 noon on 15.08.2015.
04. This notice is made to make aware the candidates, prominent activists and supporters of all parties / groups and to seek their assistance in maintaining a favorable atmosphere for a free and fair election. Please note that these rules are not intended to embarrass any party, group or candidate but to enforce the law.
05. I am grateful to all the good politicians and active supporters for their support to the effort of the Department of Elections to hold a free and fair election.

**Mahinda Deshapriya**  
**Commissioner of Elections**  
At the Elections Secretariat  
On 06.08.2015

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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

අංක 1925/4 - 2015 ජූලි මස 27 වැනි සඳුදා - 2015.07.27  
No. 1925/4 - MONDAY JULY 27, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**MEDIA GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED/POLICIES TO BE OBSERVED BY THE ELECTRONIC  
AND PRINT MEDIA DURING A REFERENDUM OR AN ELECTION**

IN terms of provisions in the Article 23 (5) (a) of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and in particular, to ensure rightful exercise of franchise and a free and fair election or referendum, following guidelines are issued by the Commissioner of Elections / Election Commission, to be followed by all electronic and print media institutions and personnel involved.

1. All telecasting, broadcasting and print media shall be neutral and impartial in their reporting of election related matters and shall not discriminate any contesting political party / independent group or a candidate, in allocating airtime and allotting space in the newspapers.
2. All media institutions shall provide accurate, balanced and impartial information in broadcasting/ televising their news bulletins and other programmes relating to political matters. The neutrality and impartiality of media shall be monitored by the Standing Committee of Permanent Representatives on Elections Complaints and the Standing Committee of Permanent Representatives on Media Guidelines regularly.
3. Sometimes, the editorial opinions may seem confused and biased and therefore, electronic media are urged not to broadcast/ telecast such opinions. However, if such editorial opinion is broadcast/ televised/ published, the affected party should be given opportunity to broadcast/ telecast/ publish material to counter such opinion.
4. Programme presenters and announcers of television and radio channels respectively, should refrain from expressing personal views at the newspaper desks where newspaper headlines and cartoons are presented, since such views may promote one party with prejudice to another.
5. It is the responsibility of the news and current affairs divisions of all electronic and print media institutions not to broadcast/televise/publish any programme or supplement during the election period, if such programme/ supplement/ news items are illegal or biased.



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PART I: SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 27.07.2015

6. If any material is broadcast/ televised/ published covering an incident or an event with comments of one candidate, all other political parties that have an interest on the event or are concerned, or are likely to be affected, should also be given opportunity to express their version in the same news item or programme or at another occasion.
7. All documentary programmes or special programmes which are directly connected with the election and broadcast/ televised during the period of election, should disclose the names of the script writer, announcer and the editor. If the particular media institution has retained the right not to disclose same, the person in charge of the programme should be held responsible for its contents.
8. Air time of any programme or news bulletin should not be utilized for unsubstantiated allegations against candidates contesting at an election that cannot be reasonably proved. If a candidate or a political party claims that another candidate or a supporter has made any false statement against him/her/party, opportunity should be availed of to him/her/party to counter same.
9. When airing/ publishing news or programmes which are not related to the election, such as official functions and events related to crimes, all media institutions should consult the parties involved for clarity, since such news/ programmes could promote or demote some candidate or a party.
10. Coverage given by the Radio or Television to opinions/ views expressed by the President or Prime Minister or Ministers should be treated as a coverage given to the political party to which he/ she belongs and therefore leaders of rival political parties contesting the election should also be given opportunity in similar programmes. The print media should similarly provide equal space and prominence to all political parties/ candidates in publishing special discussions and reporting campaign meetings.
11. Special favours should not be given in air time or in the print media to one or more candidates to promote his/her/their election or to cause disadvantage to another.
12. Refrain from publishing or broadcasting lectures, interviews, etc. with public officers which promote any contesting candidate or cause disadvantage to other candidates.
13. All electronic media institutions should act fairly in selecting participants for panel discussions and as such, the composition of the discussion should be balanced. They should refrain from directing programmes to cause disadvantage to any representative who has poor language proficiency. When publishing interviews of politicians with poor language proficiency, print media shall not create uncomfortable situations to them. Information obtained through vague and incomprehensible questions should not be published, or such questions should never be asked. At the outset, the participant in the programme should be warned not to make statements which are unethical or harmful to the communal harmony, and if such statements are made while the discussion is in progress, the programme should be discontinued then and there.
14. All phone-in programmes should give fair opportunity for all callers irrespective of the content of their questions or contributions. Directors, moderators and others engaged in organizing such phone-in programmes should be answerable for imbalanced phone-in programmes.
15. If any Chairperson, Member of the Board of Management, Directors or a responsible journalist of any electronic or print media institution actively engages in political activities, such activities cause conflict of interest in balanced broadcasting/ publishing. Hence, such officers/ employees shall inform of the following in writing in advance to the management of the institution.
  - a. His/her level of involvement,
  - b. Position held in the institution,
  - c. Extent of involvement in programme making

16. When an individual holding a leading post in a recognized political party (Leader, Chairman, Secretary, National Organizer, Treasurer, Deputy Leader, Assistant Leader, Senior Deputy Chairman or a post with similar powers) and holding a dominant office such as the Chairman/ Member of the Board of Directors, Chief Executive/ Chief Editor in a media institution, and if he/ she is a candidate at the election or if his/ her party is contesting directly or under a recognized alliance, such person should refrain from actively engaging in duties of his/ her post of the media institution. If such person is contesting as a candidate while holding office in a contesting party at an election, he / she should refrain from anchoring/ moderating programmes of a political nature in television or broadcasting institution and in the case of print media he / she should not publish his/ her own political articles through that media institution.
17. When a person/ a representative of a party refuses to participate at a discussion or interview and chooses not to offer reasons for his/her absence, the media institution shall respect his/her position. Drama-like situations such as displaying of an empty chair etc., should not be employed to underline a refusal. It is encouraged to make a simple and direct announcement on the absence of the participant.
18. A broadcaster who broadcasts or print media that publishes the result of an opinion poll, should announce the name of the organization that conducted the poll, the organization or the person that commissioned and funded the poll, methodology employed, the size of the sample, margin of error and the period of fieldwork. 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 statement where a candidate promotes candidature of another contestant of another party or group be broadcast, telecast or published.
20. Media personnel should not engage in taking photographs or videoing of the inside of polling stations or postal voting centres as the Commissioner of Elections / Election Commission has prohibited such activities without written consent. Any photographs or video visuals obtained illegally should not be published in newspapers, televised or promoted through any media. Even the photographs and visuals obtained with the approval of the Commissioner, should be published or televised only after the poll.
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 media shall refrain from televising broadcasting or publishing discussions, debates, advertisements, etc. related to the election during the period of silence (period of refraining from carrying out propaganda), enacted by law (48 hours), prior to the date of an election.
22. Refrain from broadcasting/ telecasting/ publishing propaganda that may create or induce hatred and intolerance among Sri Lankan people on various grounds including the religious beliefs, faiths practised, languages spoken, ethnicity, customs and castes prevailing in Sri Lanka.
23. Avoid broadcasting/ telecasting/ publishing propaganda activities that promote hateful politics among political activists and within the society.
24. Refrain from republishing or repeat telecasting of statements expressed previously by a candidate or a supporter about another candidate, without the consent of the declarant and honour the request made by a declarant not to repeat such statements made by him/her previously.
25. Media institutions shall not give coverage to anonymous notices or propaganda and to the notices or propaganda under the names of fake organizations or persons. The responsibility in this regard shall lie with the respective media institution.
26. National Anthem, National Flag, religious symbols, religious flags, paintings or photograph of founders of religions or religious leaders shall not be published or broadcast to promote or demote the candidature of a candidate or a party/group. Notices or advertisements of such nature shall not be broadcast/ televised/ published.

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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 27.07.2015

27. Media institutions shall be accountable with regard to publishing/ broadcasting/ televising incorrect statements/ news and they will be subject to legal implications that would arise in this regard.
28. It is the responsibility of all electronic/print media institutions to adhere and abide by the moral ethics of media.
29. According to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, the use of state property and funds by state media institutions to promote political parties/ groups/ candidates is illegal and it is also an offence to cause loss to the government revenue and act to cause damage to the institution. All government and semi government media institutions shall refrain, from engaging in such activities as disciplinary action could be instituted on those responsible, in addition to the punishments prescribed in the Constitution.
30. It is expected that the proprietors of all electronic and print media shall adhere to the guidelines given above and that they ensure their institutions observe them earnestly.
31. It is also expected that the administrators of social media sites shall also follow the above guidelines as applicable to them, during the election period.
32. It is not only the duty, but also the responsibility of the proprietors of media institutions and administrators/ users of social media to adhere to the above guidelines, because it is quintessential to follow them during the election period.
33. The Standing Committee comprising of permanent representatives of political parties, the Coordinating Officers of the National Centre for Investigation of Election Complaints and representatives of Observer Organizations recognised by the Commissioner of Elections, will intervene in the issues arising in the implementation of the guidelines and express their views and recommendations. Their views and recommendations shall be considered by the Standing Committee for Media guidelines comprising of officers of the Department of Elections, representatives of Ministry of Media and Department of Information, along with the views/ observations of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and shall make decisions. Media institutions shall act according to these decisions. Implementations of these guidelines will be by consensus of this Committee which is established to direct, observe and monitor the implementation of these guidelines.
34. Media institution or any journalist is not bound to publish or broadcast, any order or a request, made by a political party / a candidate, violating the aforesaid guidelines. At such instances such institution or the journalist has the right to seek legal assistance.

These media guidelines are issued to create a conducive environment for a free and fair election. It is, therefore, the responsibility of all political parties, independent groups, and political activists, election observer organizations, civil society organizations and every citizen of this country to support media institutions to implement them and to prevent obstructions in the implementation of same. Hence, the Election Commission, the Commissioner of Elections anticipates all concerned parties will extend their cooperation to all media institutions to act according to these media guidelines.

**NB:**

Please note that these Media Guidelines drafted on the basis of the guidelines issued at the previous elections, were presented to the Heads of Media Institutions. Thereafter, the draft was discussed with the permanent representatives nominated by Heads of Media Institutions. The current Guidelines are issued after consensus arrived at, after the deliberations at these discussions.

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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

අංක 1924/44 - 2015 ජූලි මස 23 වැනි බ්‍රහස්පතින්දා - 2015.07.23  
No. 1924/44 - THURSDAY JULY 23, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

*Re-issued to valid for the Parliamentary General Election 2015*

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CONTESTING POLITICAL PARTIES / INDEPENDENT GROUPS AND  
CANDIDATES OF THE ELECTIONS**

THIS Code of Conduct is issued in terms of Section 8(8) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 as amended by the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 58 of 2009. The Code is applicable to the period commencing from the date of notice of nomination and to the date of declaration of the result of the election.

Before the enactment of laws on recognition of political parties, there were socially accepted political parties which date back to 1931. Laws regarding the recognition of political parties have been amended at different times since 1959. Political parties have a greater responsibility in creating a conducive environment to conduct free and fair elections as rules and regulations can do little in making the role of political parties more meaningful towards the advancement of the contemporary society.

In the light of the responsibility mentioned above the Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates was issued by the Department of Elections for the first time with the Provincial Councils Elections held in 2012. As candidates outside the political parties are represented through independent groups, this Code is issued to be applicable to independent groups as well. It should be noted that this Code is applicable to the leaders, secretaries, all those holding leading positions, candidates, activists and supporters of all political parties contesting at the General Election 2015.

All the elections held since 2012, secretaries of political parties, party representatives and representatives of observer organizations have agreed with this Code at the Committee for Investigation of Election Complaints since it correlated codes preferred by them.

It is therefore, informed that all those concerned, are now able to abide by this Code of Conduct.

**A. Rule of law**

1. Uphold the citizens' rights and freedom guaranteed by the Constitution and other laws of Sri Lanka assist and encourage the voter to exercise his franchise to elect people's representatives at elections and vote at referenda freely and without any obstruction.



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PART I: SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 23.07.2015

02. Safeguard the equal rights entitled to contesting candidates of all political parties and independent groups at all times in the election process.
03. Respect the rights of all political parties and candidates and their right to educate the voter, while safeguarding the right of those with opposing views to hold their views and their right to carry out lawful propaganda/promotional activities.
04. Refrain from obstructing or interfering in any form of the government, semi -government, private or other institutions from carrying out their legitimate activities or responsibilities.
05. Refrain from obstructing or influencing legitimate duties of statutory bodies and personnel entrusted to maintain law and order in the country.
06. Ensure that election propaganda is carried out without violating the existing laws and without interfering with the ordinary life of the citizen.
07. Educate all the candidates and activists about the laws (particular sections of the Acts) related to election and advise them to refrain from offences, corrupt practices and illegal activities.
08. **Refrain from touching and removing of the materials, equipment and documents assigned to be used at the conduct of the poll or counting of votes, without obtaining approval from the relevant authority.**

**B. General Conduct**

1. Refrain from any activity, expression or behaviour which could aggravate differences, hatred and tension between different religions, languages, races, customs and castes of the Sri Lankans.
2. Limit criticisms of other political parties, to their policies, programs and their past activities and refrain from criticizing personal life of candidates or making statements on allegations that are not proved and unsubstantiated against rivals of own party or rival candidates.
3. Select candidates who can devote themselves to the future well-being of the citizens of Sri Lanka by fulfilling the objectives of the constitutional bodies to which they are to be elected and conduct them at the campaign in a disciplined and decent manner.
4. In the selection of candidates, their conduct and good behaviour, respect for the law, non-conviction before courts, dedication to serve the society etc. need to be considered by the leaders of political parties and independent groups. Avoid persons who use their wealth or social status to the detriment of the society.
5. Submit the statements of assets and liabilities of candidates at the time of nominations or before the expiry of 30 days after nominations.
6. Educate the candidates/ agents not to use liquor or intoxicants at polling stations and counting centers and not to enter such places under the influence of liquor.
7. Adhere to the instruction that only those who are permitted shall enter into the nomination centres or polling stations or counting centers or results declaration centers as well as their premises and act in accordance with the directives given not to take weapons to such places.
8. Abstain from engaging in prohibited election related activities and prevent his/her supporters in engaging in such activities.

### C. Election Propaganda Activities

1. Political parties and independent groups to hold propaganda meetings without causing any disruption to the law and order and to lawful election propaganda activities of rivals and maintain election offices according to election laws.
2. Follow election laws in printing election material and distributing handbills, among voters.
  - I. Refrain from distributing anonymous handbills without information of the printer/ publisher and from printing of illegal notices, etc.
  - II. Prevent candidates or the closest relations of the candidate (spouses, children and others of the family) from door to door canvassing or door to door distribution of handbills and prevent them from using large crowds, music or displaying posters at the time of door to door distribution of handbills.
3. Prevent displaying any election propaganda notices, posters, photographs or paintings with the objective of promoting the election of a party or an independent group or a candidate or preventing the election of a rival party or candidate in a state or private building, residence premises or a vacant land belonging to the government or a private person or in a public place or road to which the public have access. They are permitted to be exhibited only at the notified offices and within the premises of a rally on the day of conducting such rally.
4. Refrain from using lands, buildings or any property owned by the State or Semi-State institutions for election propaganda/promotion, except the assembly halls or playgrounds, which are hired under ordinary circumstances without prejudice to any party/ candidate.
5. Refrain from using places of religious worship or land or premises belonging to any religious organization for election propaganda/promotion.
6. Display posters or flags related to the election or the name and number of the candidate only in the vehicle in which the candidate travels.
7. Restrict any decorations or exhibition of propaganda materials to the particular place of propaganda meeting, and such decorations should not harm the environment. All such decorations should be removed without delay after the meeting.
8. Refrain from holding processions, public rallies, motorcades and bicycle rallies as propaganda/promotion activities during the election period as they are violations of election laws.
9. Use loudspeakers only at the places permitted, restrict the use of loudspeakers to the time allowed and refrain from using loudspeakers in moving vehicles.
10. Stop all propaganda activities according to the Elections Acts and refrain from holding musical shows, advertisements in print/electronic media, during the silent period before 48 hours of the date of poll.
11. Refrain from using vehicles, or other State owned property or any powers and privileges available to Member of Parliament, Provincial Council or of a Local Authority representing a party or independent group, to promote the election of a party, independent group or a candidate.
12. Refrain from using any security personnel, weapons and other security equipment legally provided to a people's representative for protection and refrain from using them for any illegal activity, they should not be used for any purpose other than his own security.

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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 23.07.2015

13. The services of Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation or the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation provided, by election law, to a party or an independent group for election propaganda, should be used according to the guidelines and conditions imposed by the Commissioner of Elections and the Heads of the respective Corporations. (Not applicable for Provincial Councils and Local Authorities elections.)
14. Use free postal facility provided by election law to send a publication, by political parties and independent groups, to every household according to the provisions of the relevant Act and according to the instructions issued by the Post Master General. (This situation is not applicable for Provincial Councils and Local Authorities elections. )
15. Refrain from election propaganda activities which will disturb the conduct of public examinations including the General Certificates of Education (Ordinary and Advanced Level) and Grade 5 Scholarship Examination at examination centers and at their evaluation centers at schools.
16. **Refrain from using a previous statements/ views of a candidate about another party or of a candidate to promote or demote a party or a candidate, unless it is agreed or approved by the declarant.**

**D. Poll Day**

01. Refrain from engaging in any prohibited activity, especially, canvassing of votes etc., mentioned in the election law, within a radius 500 meters of a polling station on the poll day.
02. Refrain from obstructing the voters who come to the polling station and voters casting their votes at the polling station and influencing their vote and from preventing the voters from casting vote freely and in secret.
03. Refrain from intimidating, causing bodily harm to voters, polling agents, candidates and election observers and their families or cause damage to their houses or properties, from interrupting voters at their arrival to, or departure from, the polling station and also from driving away polling agents from the polling station.
04. Ensure that only those permitted (Secretary of contesting political party, candidates and polling agents) enter the polling station and they prove their identity. Refrain from bringing security personnel or journalists, photographers into the polling station.
05. Refrain from doing or inducing any corrupt practice or offence (stuffing of ballot boxes at the polling station, raiding polling stations, impersonation or other corrupt practices or offences).
06. Refrain from illegal transport of voters to polling stations.
07. Ensure that polling agents co-operate with the poll staff at the polling station and that the agents do not create any disturbances at the polling station.
08. Refrain from interfering election observers approved by the Commissioner of Elections in engaging in observations and provide support to their activities.
09. Refrain from prohibited actions videoing, using mobile phones, etc., in the premises of the polling stations.

Please note that these codes are valid for the postal voting day as well.

#### **E. Count of Votes and Preferences (including Postal Votes) and Declaration of Results**

1. Make the agents aware of the procedure regarding the count of votes and preferences (including the count of postal votes) and also the procedure regarding making of complaints.
2. Ensure that the Agents at the Centers for Counting Votes and at Center for Declaration of Results observe and follow the administrative arrangement at the centre provided by the Commissioner of Elections and the Returning Officer.
3. Ensure that Government Ministers, Ministers of Provincial Councils, Members of Provincial Councils and Local Authorities and other politicians are prevented from entering Counting Centers/ halls unless they are formally appointed as Counting Agents.
4. Prevent politicians appointed as counting agents or declaration centre agents from accompanying security personnel of any politician, with or without weapons, into the counting halls or the Centre for Results Declaration and refrain from bringing unauthorized persons to the premises of the counting halls/ Centre for Results Declaration.

#### **F. Other Special Matters**

1. Recognized political parties contesting an election should present to the voters the Statement of Policies (Manifesto) of their party and the manner in which it would be implemented within a specified period and submit copies of same to the Commissioner of Elections and through him to the Department of Archives.
2. Abstain from using State property, official vehicles or offices not to be used for election propaganda and refrain from propaganda activities like canvassing, distribution of handbills, exhibition of display boards or notices in the government offices, schools etc. or within the premises of such institutions.
3. People's representatives should not engage in election propaganda making use of their official duties.
4. Refrain from using government owned aircraft or other vehicles without any payment.
5. Ensure that public buildings, playgrounds, government circuit bungalows are used after payment of fees and charges and allow others also to use them in the same manner.
6. During the period of the election, refrain from publishing political newsletters, articles or advertizing supplements etc., at the expense of the government or government institutions.
7. Refrain from inviting voters or state officers individually or in groups to private or official residences and entertaining them during the period of the election.
8. Refrain from making promises of financial assistance, laying of foundation stones for projects or proposals, promising to supply roads, water and electricity services, sudden appointments to posts outside the approved schemes of recruitment with the aim of attracting votes.
9. Refrain from obstructing investigations carried out by law enforcement authorities, in regard to violation of election laws, obstructions to inquiries, corrupt practices and election offences.
10. Refrain from making use of the print or electronic media during the period of the election to make false and unsubstantiated allegations about rival parties and their activists and denying the aggrieved parties the right to reply.

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PART I: SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 23.07.2015

11. Respond to criticism or allegations made about parties and politicians by non-aggressive and lawful means and abstain from using force in retaliation.
12. Refrain from utilizing security personnel provided for personal security unofficially for political propaganda work and engage them to harm the rivals and condemn such activities openly.
13. Openly condemn any political party or political organization illegally using armed personnel and inform such instances to relevant authorities in respective security forces.
- 14. Candidates or leading activists of the political parties shall not participate at State ceremonies held during the period of election and shall refrain from using such ceremonies for the party/ candidate promotion.**
- 15. Refrain from involving directly or indirectly in politically motivated appointments, promotions and transfers.**
16. Ensure that the political parties and candidates do not gain any political advantage from processions, carnivals or exhibitions or sports competitions, etc. organized by government or organized with government's patronage.
17. Abstain from using educational seminars, conducted for public examinations and the scholarship examination to promote parties/ candidates.

#### Other Matters

- \* National Anthem, National Flag, religious symbols, religious flags, paintings or photographs of founders of religions or religious leaders shall not be published or broadcast to promote or demote the candidature of a candidate or parties / groups. In addition, they shall not be exhibited at promotional rallies, meetings of parties/ groups or candidates or on the notices and display boards. Further, they shall not make use of photographs or paintings of public Officers, in any manner, to promote parties/ candidates.
- \* Government owned places which are ordinarily given for propaganda activities of political parties/ independent groups should not be reserved exclusively for propaganda activities of one single party or a candidate. Equal opportunity should be given to other parties/ groups/ candidates to reserve such places.
- \* To minimize the problems arising with regard to the reservation of playgrounds or halls owned by Local Authorities, all politicians and supporters should follow instructions of the District Committee headed by the Returning Officer.

**It is expected that candidates contesting at the Parliamentary Election and Secretaries of their respective political parties, agents and supporters of candidates, as applicable, act in accordance with the aforesaid code. It is also expected that the candidates and, as relevant, Secretaries of Political Parties will make suitable arrangements to ensure that their agents, party members, followers and supporters earnestly observe this Code of Conduct.**

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA  
Commissioner of Elections

Elections Secretariat,  
Sarana Mawatha,  
Rajagiriya.

**Parliamentary Election - 2015**  
**Conducting political propaganda activities**

Publicity activities such as door-to-door publicity and pamphlet distribution should not take place after 8.00 pm and it is advisable to suspend such activities after dark.

02. **There is no impediment to holding a meeting of any political party until 10.00 pm if the OIC of the relevant police station has given formal permission to use the loudspeakers till 10.00 pm. However, the volume should be controlled so that no noise is emitted outside the meeting place.**

03. However, the period of loudspeaker licenses will be limited when there are meetings in a small area in the center of the houses in a very densely populated area.

04. It is not prohibited from singing a song or just a few songs with low intensity music so that the sound does not emitted outside of the meeting place during the period of law enforcement during the political party meetings.

05. However, the police have been instructed to prevent any attempt to carry out political propaganda activities which are about to carry out after obtaining licenses for musical performances and police have been instructed not to allow noise to be emitted outside the premises of musical performances during the election period.

06. The announcement was made in response to inquiries as to whether political party meetings should be stopped after 8.00 pm.

07. No publicity of any kind is prohibited on 15, 16, 17.08.2015.

**Mahinda Deshapriya,**  
**Commissioner of Elections**

Elections Secretariat  
Sarana Mawatha,  
Rajagiriya  
12.08.2015

Note : Copies are sent to all police stations and political parties through the Election Complaints Investigation Bureau.

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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

අංක 1923/4 - 2015 ජූලි මස 13 වැනි සඳුදා - 2015.07.13  
No. 1923/4 - MONDAY JULY 13, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS**

**Notice**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION - 2015**

DIRECTIONS under Article 104B (4) (a) and 104B (5)(c)(i) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as amended by the 19th Amendment, issued to the officers of Government Institutions, State Corporations and Statutory Boards in order to solicit the co-operation of State Officers in preventing the misuse of public property and conducting a free and fair election.

As the Election Commission is vested with the power, to prohibit the use of any movable or immovable property belonging to the State or any public corporation, for the purpose of promoting or preventing the election of any candidate of any political party or independent group contesting at the election during the election period as specified in Article 104J of the Constitution by any candidate or any political party or any independent group contesting at the election, by a direction in writing by the Chairman of the Commission or the Commissioner General of Elections on the instructions of the Commission, and as the Commissioner of Elections is vested with the power to exercise and discharge the powers and functions of the Commission until the Election Commission is constituted in terms of Sub Section 3 (a) of the Section 49 of the 19th Amendment, I, Waduge Warunasiri Mahinda Deshapriya, as the Commissioner of Elections, issue the following directions.

Any officer or an employee or any movable or immovable property including vehicles, machinery, circuit bungalows, holiday resorts and buildings belonging to any Ministry, Department, State Corporation/ Statutory Board, State Bank/ State University, Provincial Council, Local Authority, State owned Company, Armed Force and any other institution under the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, shall not be allowed to be used for the purpose of promoting or preventing of any political party/independent group/candidate at the election. Any politician, any officer or any other person shall not be allowed to use State property for such purposes.

Mobile services, workshops, exhibitions, seminars, ceremonies to award scholarships, inaugural ceremonies, offering of development projects to the public, opening ceremonies and sports meets conducted by the government, provincial councils or any other government institution for the purpose of providing relief to the general public or



*This Gazette Extraordinary can be downloaded from [www.documents.gov.lk](http://www.documents.gov.lk)*

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 PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 13.07.2015

educating the public, shall not be used to promote any political party/independent group or candidate. When such activities are proposed, the consent of the Commissioner of Elections shall be obtained in advance, only if such events cannot be postponed due to some urgency or if there is no any impact on the election. This is not applicable to activities connected with natural calamities or disasters but even such activities should not be allowed to be exploited for the purpose of promotion of any political party/candidate.

In the event of candidates holding any public office, are compelled to participate at State functions in their official capacity they should do so only if such participation is essential and such events should not be allowed to promote or demote the candidacy of any political party/candidate. Government officers, who organize functions other than traditional State functions, shall obtain the consent of the Commissioner of Elections if any candidate is expected to participate.

Recruitments, appointments, promotions, other than those carried out under the powers vested with the President or under Parliamentary statutes where provisions are specifically made or advertised or gazetted to call applications with the formal approval of the Public Service Commission or Judicial Service Commission without due consent of the Election Commission or the Commissioner of Elections, should not be conducted during the election period in any institution under the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Transfers of government officers whose services would be required for election duties should be suspended until the election period is over. Even the transfers for government officers who would not be engaged in election duties, should be carried out only with the consent of the Election Commission or Commissioner of Elections. Transfers on medical reasons, mutual arrangement, and disciplinary grounds and to fill essential vacancies, may be carried out subject to the consent of the Commissioner of Elections. But there should not be any room for complaints of political intervention regarding such transfers. Transfers of officers whose services would not be required for election duties in institutions such as State Corporations/ Statutory boards, State banks/ State Universities and State owned companies, should effect without allowing any room for complaints of political intervention. It is the responsibility of the officers concerned not to violate election laws and not to hamper the election process in appointments, promotions or transfers during this period.

Secretaries of Ministries and other officers in Departments, State banks/ State Universities, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, State owned companies/ Armed Forces who do not have political rights should totally refrain from engaging in politics. Officers who have political rights should refrain from political activities during office hours, and they should not promote a party or any candidate or engage in activities against a political party or a candidate after obtaining duty leave, using State property in the pretext of official duties.

It is the responsibility of all heads of institutions to provide information on all officers, principals and teachers of schools, and all vehicles in forwarding the census of staff and vehicles. All officers, principals and teachers are bound to furnish information to the Commissioner of Elections or to the Returning Officer, as the case may be.

All eligible officers, principals and teachers, will be engaged in election duties by respective Returning Officers according to the requirements at the election, and it is obligatory to perform duties as required by the Commissioner of Elections or Returning Officer.

As the support of all heads of institutions is essential to the Elections Department, they are bound to extend their support to the Election Commission or the Commissioner of Elections not only on the day of poll, but also in the preparatory activities of the election.

All government authorities who do not extend their support the Election Commission or the Commissioner of Elections in enforcing and safeguarding all laws related to the Parliamentary Election, will be dealt with, in accordance with Article 104 GG of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,  
 Commissioner of Elections.

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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

අංක 1928/3 - 2015 අගෝස්තු මස 19 වැනි බදාදා - 2015.08.19  
No. 1928/3 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT, No. 1 OF 1981**

IT is hereby notified under Section 62 of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No.1 of 1981 that each of the person whose names appear in Column II of the Schedule hereto has been elected as a Member of Parliament for the Electoral District specified in the corresponding entry in Column I of that Schedule.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,  
Commissioner of Elections.

Elections Secretariat,  
Rajagiriya,  
19<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

**Schedule**

<i>Column I</i>		<i>Column II</i>
<i>Electoral District</i>		<i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 01 – Colombo</b>		<b>United National Party</b>  Ranil Wikramasinghe Arjuna Sujeewa Senasinghe Harsha De Silva Raveendra Sandres Karunanayake Achchige Patali Champika Ranawake Saidulla Musthajib Marikkar Mohamed Mujibur Rahuman Iran Wickramarathne Wijayadasa Rajapakshe Hirunika Eranjalee Premachandra M. Ganeshan



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PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 19.08.2015

## Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
<i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 01 – Colombo (Contd.)</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Wimal Weerawansa Udaya Prabhath Gammanpila Achchige Don Susil Premajayanth Dinesh Chandra Rupasinghe Gunawardhane Bandula Gunawardhane Kondagamage Mohan Lal Gero Gamini Kulawansa Lokuge</p> <p><b>People’s Liberation Front</b></p> <p>Anura Kumara Dissanayake</p>
<b>No. 02 – Gampaha</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>A.A. Ranjan Ramanayaka Sadda Widda Arjuna Ranathunga Dinendra Ruwan Wijewardana Harshana Supun Rajakaruna A. Ajith Kumara Mannapperuma Amarathunga John Anthony Emmanuel Senadheerage Don Kawinda Heshan Jayawardhana Chathura Sandeepa Senarathna Nambukara Helambage Edward Gunasekara Dehiwala Liyanage</p> <p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Prasanna Ranathunga Bulathwelage Prasanna Ranaweera Antony Nimal Lansa Warnakulasooriya Arachchilage Sisira Jayakody Herath Hitihami Appuhamilage Don Indika Anuruddha Perpatchuwa Sudarshini Fernandopulle Arachchige Ganepola Dulip Pandula Perera Wijesekara A. Alagiyawanna Lasantha</p> <p><b>People’s Liberation Front</b></p> <p>H.M. Vijitha Herath</p>
<b>No. 03 – Kalutara</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Kumara Welgama Abeygunawardhana Pahalage Rohitha Piyathissa Jayantha Samaraweera Vidura Wickramanayake Haduwameregnna Piyal Nishantha De Silva</p>

## Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i> <i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 03 – Kalutara (Contd.)</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Nambukara Halabage Rajitha Harischandra Senaratna            Ajith Pathamakantha Perera            Palitha Kumara Thewarapperuma            Lakshman Ananda Wijemanna</p> <p><b>People’s Liberation Front</b></p> <p>Appuhamilage Nalinda Jayathissa</p>
<b>No. 04 – Mahanuwara</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Kiriella Laxman Bandara            Mayantha Yaswanth Dissanayake            Abdul Haleem Mohamad Hashim            A. Ibathul Rauf Hakeem            Herath Mudiyanseleage Lucky Dissanayake            Jayawardane            M. Velu Kumar            Aluthgamage Ananda Aluthgamage</p> <p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Lohan Evindra Rathwaththe            Aluthgamage Mahindananda Meethalawe            Dilum Suraj Bandara Amunugama            Anuradha Lanka Pradeep Jayarathne            Keheliya Rambukwella</p>
<b>No. 05 – Matale</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Aluvihare Wasantha            Aluvihare Ranjith            Jambugaha Pitiye Gedara Rohini Kumari Wijerathna</p> <p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Achchige Don Vithana Lakshman Wasantha Perera            Janaka Bandara Thennakoon</p>
<b>No. 06 – Nuwara Eliya</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Thigambaram Palani            Velusamy Radha Krishnan            Thilakarajah Mailvaganam            Eranjan Navin Dissanayake            Kalandugoda Kankanamge Piyadasa</p>

4A I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2015.08.19  
PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 19.08.2015

## Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i> <i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 06 – Nuwara Eliya (Contd.)</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Arumuga Thondaman R.M.C.B. Rathnayake Sivalingum Muththu</p>
<b>No. 07 – Galle</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Chandima Weerakkodi Ramesh Chaminda Benthota Pathirana Nishantha Muthuhettigamage Maligaspe Koralege Naleen Manusha Nanayakkara Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha Agampodi Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva</p> <p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Gayantha Karunathilaka Abeywardhana Vajira Bandula Lal Bandarigoda Bopagoda Hettiarachchige Wijepala</p>
<b>No. 08 – Matara</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Alahapperuma Dalas Daham Kumara Suddachcharige Premarathna Abeywardhana Yapa Mahinda Kanchana Vodatha Wijesekara Gajadeera Vidhanearachchige Bans Chandrasiri</p> <p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Akalanka Buddhika Uditha Dedduwa Pathirana Mangala Samaraweera Sagala Gajendra Rathnayaka</p>
<b>No. 09 – Hambantota</b>	<p><b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Namal Rajapaksha Mahinda Amaraweera Chamal Jayantha Rajapaksha Denagama Vitharanage Chanaka Dinushan</p> <p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Sajith Premadasa Dilip Wedaarachchi</p>

## Schedule (Contd.)

Column I Electoral District	Column II Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament
<b>No. 09 – Hambantota (Contd.)</b>	<b>People’s Liberation Front</b> Galappaththi Arachchige Nihal
<b>No. 10 - Jaffna</b>	<b>Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi</b> Sivagnanam Sreetharan Mawai Somasuntharam Senathirasa Abraham Sumanthiran Mathiyaparanan Tharumalingam Siththarththan Easvarapatham Saravanapavan  <b>Eelam People’s Democratic Party</b> Douglas Thevaanantha  <b>United National Party</b> Maheswaran Vijayakala
<b>No. 11 – Vanni</b>	<b>Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi</b> Irudayanathan Charles Nirmalanathan A. Adaikalanathan Annamalai Nadesu Sivasakthi Sivaprakasam Sivamohan  <b>United National Party</b> Abdul Rishad  <b>United People’s Freedom Alliance</b> Cader Cader Masthan
<b>No. 12 - Batticaloa</b>	<b>Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi</b> Gnanamutthu Srinesan Sathasivam Viyalendiran Seenithamby Yogeswaran  <b>Sri Lanka Muslim Congress</b> Ali Zahir Moulana Seyed  <b>United National Party</b> Ameer Ali Seyed Mohammad Sihabdeen

6A I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2015.08.19  
PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 19.08.2015

Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i> <i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 13 - Digamadulla</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Daya Gamage Mohomed Casim Mohomed Faizal Habeb Mohamed Mohamed Harees Ibrahim Muhammadu Muhammadu Mansoor</p> <p><b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>D.T.W. Wimalaweera Dissanayaka Radampala Gamage Sriyani Wijewickrama</p> <p><b>Hankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi</b></p> <p>Kaveendran Kodeeswaran</p>
<b>No. 14 - Trincomalee</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Abdullah Maharoof Mohammadu Mohammadu Imran Maharoof</p> <p><b>Hankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi</b></p> <p>Rajavarotheyam Sambanthan</p> <p><b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Susantha Galagamuwa Punchinilame</p>
<b>No. 15 - Kurunegala</b>	<p><b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Mahinda Rajapaksa Dayasiri Jayasekara Ekanayake T.B. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa Appuhamillage Jhonston Xavier Fernando Salinda Dissanayake Indika Bandaranayake Basnayaka Mudiyanseelage DilhanTharanath Basnayake</p> <p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>AkilaViraj Kariyawasam Alawathuwala J.C.</p>

## Schedule (Contd.)

Column I Electoral District	Column II Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament
No. 15 - Kurunegala (Contd.)	Gamini Jayawickrama Nalin Bandara Jayamaha R.M.S.B. Navinna Ashoka Abeyasinghe Amarasena Idunil Thusara Girana Pathirannehelage
No. 16 - Puttalam	<b>United National Party</b> R.B. Palitha Range Bandara Nanayakkara Warnakula Patabendige Niroshan Erdly Priyantha Perera Appuhamy Makavita Arachchige Don Hector Hygenus Abeysekara Walimuni Mendis Priyanjith Hemantha Sisira Kumara Ashoka Priyantha R.D.  <b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b> Kurugamage Sanath Nishantha Perera Priyankara Jayaratne Arundika Fernando
No. 17 - Anuradhapura	<b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b> Chandrasena Samarakoon Mudiyanseelage Weera Kumar Dissanayaka Asanka Shehan Semasinghe Duminda Dissanayaka Sarath Chandrasiri Muthukumarana  <b>United National Party</b> Pelisge Harison Kulathunga Dissanayaka Mudiyanseelage Chandrani Ofeeliya Bandara Don Chandima Gamage Abdul Rahuman Ishak
No. 18 - Polonnaruwa	<b>United National Party</b> Wasantha Naresh Parakkrama Senanayaka Nalaka Prasad Kolonne Anura Sydney Jayarathna

8A I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2015.08.19  
PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 19.08.2015

## Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i> <i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 18 - Polonnaruwa (Contd.)</b>	<b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b>  Anuruddha Ranasinghe Arachchige Roshan Gamalath Siripala
<b>No. 19 - Badulla</b>	<b>United National Party</b>  Harin Fernando Ravindra Samaraweera Lokugasthota Vitharanage Chaminda Wijesiri A. Aravind Kumar Vadivelu Sures  <b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b>  Nileththi Nimal Siripala de Silva Don Arthur Chamara Sampath Dasanayake Thenuka Amith Vidanagamage
<b>No. 20 - Moneragala</b>	<b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b>  Berugoda Arachchige Vijitha Sumedha G. Jayasena Rathnayaka Mudiyanseelage Padma Udaya Shantha Gunasekara  <b>United National Party</b>  Rathnayaka Mudiyanseelage Ranjith Madduma Bandara Jayasundara Mudiyanseelage Ananda Kumarasiri
<b>No. 21 - Rathnapura</b>	<b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b>  Premalal Jayasekara John Senevirathne Pavithra Devi Wanniarachchi Vasudeva Nanayakkara Janaka Wakkumbura Thirimadura Ranjith De Zoysa  <b>United National Party</b>  Thalatha Athukorala Dunesh Gankanda Ankumbura Arachchige Heshan Wijaya Vithanage A.A. Wijethunga Karunarathne Parनावithanage

## Schedule (Contd.)

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>
<i>Electoral District</i>	<i>Names of Persons Elected as Members of Parliament</i>
<b>No. 22 - Kegalle</b>	<p><b>United National Party</b></p> <p>Kabeer Mohamed Hashim Mohamed            Kasadoruge Sujith Sanjaya Perera            Thusitha Wijemanna            Ambathanna Dewayalage Premadasa            Sandith Samarasingha</p> <p><b>United People's Freedom Alliance</b></p> <p>Kanaka Herath            Tharaka Ramanya Balasooriya            Hewa Ralalage Sarathi Dushmantha            Basnayaka Ralalage Ranjith Siyambalapitiya</p>

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**The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**

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 No. 1928/25 - FRIDAY AUGUST 21, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION — 2015**

**Declaration under Article 99A of the Constitution**

IT is hereby notified that the persons whose names appear in the Schedule hereto have been elected as Members of Parliament under Article 99A of the Constitution.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,  
 Commissioner of Elections.

Elections Secretariat,  
 Rajagiriya,  
 21st August, 2015.

SCHEDULE

- Malik Samarawickrama
- Karu Jayasooriya
- D. M. Swaminathan
- Anoma Gamage
- Thilak Janaka Marapana
- Chandrajith Ashubodha Marasinghe
- Abdul Rauf Abdul Hafees
- Mohomed Hafeel Mohamed Salman
- Athuraliye Rathana Thero
- Jayampathi Wickramaratne
- Sirinal De Mel
- M. K. D. S. Gunawardhane
- Mohamed Haneefa Mohamed Navavi



2A I කොටස : (I) ඡේදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2015.08.21  
PART I : SEC. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 21.08.2015

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SCHEDULE (*contd.*)

A. H. M. Fouzi  
Faizer Musthapa  
Angajan Ramanadan  
Sarath Amunugama  
Alim Muhammad Hizbullah Muhammad Lebbe  
Malith Jayathilake  
Lakshman Yapa Abeywardene  
Mahinda Samarasinghe  
Vijith Wijayamuni Zoysa  
S. B. Dissanayake  
Thilanga Sumathipala  
Dilan Perera  
  
Sarath Chandrasiri Mayadunne  
Sunil Handunneththi

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අති විශේෂ  
The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka  
EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 1929/4 - 2015 අගෝස්තු මස 24 වැනි සඳුදා - 2015.08.24  
No. 1929/4 - MONDAY AUGUST 24, 2015

(Published by Authority)

**PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL**

**Government Notifications**

**PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION — 2015**

**Declaration under Article 99A of the Constitution**

IT is hereby notified that the persons whose names appear in the Schedule hereto have been elected as Members of Parliament under Article 99A of the Constitution.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA,  
Commissioner of Elections.

Elections Secretariat,  
Rajagiriya,  
24th August, 2015.

SCHEDULE

Shanthi Sriskandarasa  
Kathiragamaththamby Thurairtnasingam

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*This Gazette Extraordinary can be downloaded from [www.documents.gov.lk](http://www.documents.gov.lk)*

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# Statistical Notes



## Parliamentary Election - 2015

**Particulars regarding the number of members to be elected for the electoral district, the number of candidates to be nominated by a nomination paper and the amount of deposits to be made by an independent group**

Number and Name of Electoral District		Number of MPs entitled to be elected by each electoral district	Number of candidates to be included in the nomination paper	The amount of deposits to be made by an independent group (RS.)
1	Colombo	19	22	44,000.00
2	Gampaha	18	21	42,000.00
3	Kalutara	10	13	26,000.00
4	Kandy	12	15	30,000.00
5	Matale	5	8	16,000.00
6	Nuwara Eliya	8	11	22,000.00
7	Galle	10	13	26,000.00
8	Matara	8	11	22,000.00
9	Hambantota	7	10	20,000.00
10	Jaffna	7	10	20,000.00
11	Vanni	6	9	18,000.00
12	Batticaloa	5	8	16,000.00
13	Digamadulla	7	10	20,000.00
14	Trincomalee	4	7	14,000.00
15	Kurunegala	15	18	36,000.00
16	Puttalam	8	11	22,000.00
17	Anuradhapura	9	12	24,000.00
18	Polonnaruwa	5	8	16,000.00
19	Badulla	8	11	22,000.00
20	Moneragala	5	8	16,000.00
21	Ratnapura	11	14	28,000.00
22	Kegalle	9	12	24,000.00

**Parliamentary Election - 07.08.2015**

**Note II**

**Details of accepted and rejected nominations and number of contested candidates**

Number and Name of Electoral District	Recognized Political Party			Independent Groups			Total Nominations			Total number of candidates contested			
	Nominations			Nominations			Received	Accepted	Rejected	Political Parties	Independent Groups	Total	
	Received	Accepted	Rejected	Received	Accepted	Rejected							
1	Colombo	22	21	1	16	15	1	38	36	2	462	330	792
2	Gampaha	13	12	1	16	16	-	29	28	1	252	336	588
3	Kalutara	19	17	2	6	5	1	25	22	3	221	65	286
4	Kandy	17	17	-	7	7	-	24	24	-	255	105	360
5	Matale	14	14	-	9	8	1	23	22	1	112	64	176
6	Nuwara Eliya	14	14	-	9	9	-	23	23	-	154	99	253
7	Galle	14	14	-	3	3	-	17	17	-	182	39	221
8	Matara	13	13	-	4	4	-	17	17	-	143	44	187
9	Hambantota	12	12	-	6	5	1	18	17	1	120	50	170
10	Jaffna	17	15	2	12	6	6	29	21	8	150	60	210
11	Vanni	19	18	1	11	10	1	30	28	2	162	90	252
12	Batticaloa	16	16	-	30	30	-	46	46	-	128	240	368
13	Digamadulla	15	14	1	20	17	3	35	31	4	140	170	310
14	Trincomalee	15	15	-	8	6	2	23	21	2	105	42	147
15	Kurunegala	12	12	-	15	14	1	27	26	1	216	252	468
16	Puttalam	12	12	-	15	12	3	27	24	3	132	132	264
17	Anuradhapura	11	11	-	10	10	-	21	21	-	132	110	252
18	Polonnaruwa	9	7	2	6	4	2	15	11	4	56	32	88
19	Badulla	10	9	1	7	6	1	17	15	2	99	66	165
20	Moneragala	11	10	1	2	2	-	13	12	1	80	16	96
21	Ratnapura	14	14	-	6	6	-	20	20	-	196	84	280
22	Kegalle	13	13	-	7	6	1	20	19	1	156	72	228
	<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3,653</b>	<b>2,498</b>	<b>6,161</b>

**Parliamentary Election - 2015**  
**Sale of Electoral Registers (as CDs)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Electoral District / District/ Polling Division</b>	<b>Number of copies sold</b>	<b>Income received</b>
Colombo	Colombo District	6	90,000.00
	Dehiwala	1	2,000.00
	Ratmalana	1	2,000.00
	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
	Bulathsinghala	1	2,000.00
	Kalutara	1	3,000.00
	Beruwala	2	6,000.00
Kandy	Kandy District	4	60,000.00
	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
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	Matara District	4	30,000.00
	Akuressa	1	2,000.00
	Deniyaya	1	2,000.00
	Devinuwara	1	2,000.00
Hambantota	Hambantota District	3	22,500.00

<b>District</b>	<b>Electoral District / District/ Polling Division</b>	<b>Number of copies sold</b>	<b>Income received</b>
Jaffna	Jaffna District	5	50,000.00
	Kilinochchi	1	2,000.00
Vanni	Vanni District	6	30,000.00
	Mannar	1	2,000.00
	Vavuniya	3	7,000.00
	Mullaithivu	2	2,000.00
Batticaloa	Batticaloa District	3	15,000.00
	Kalkuda (Tamil)	1	15,000.00
	Batticaloa (Tamil)	1	
	Paddiruppu (Tamil)	1	
Digamadulla		5	37,500.00
Trincomalee	Trincomalee District ( Tamil/ Sinhala)	5	25,000.00
	Seruwila	1	2,000.00
	Trincomalee Tamil	1	2,000.00
	Muttur Tamil	2	4,000.00
Kurunegala	Kurunegala District	4	60,000.00
	Kuliyapitiya	1	3,000.00
	Bingiriya	1	2,000.00
	Dodamgaslanda	1	2,000.00
Puttalam	Includes the entire 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	All	4	20,000.00

<b>District</b>	<b>Electoral District / District/ Polling Division</b>	<b>Number of copies sold</b>	<b>Income received</b>
Badulla	Badulla District	6	60,000.00
	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
	Passara	1	2,000.00
	Uva Paranagama Tamil	1	2,000.00
	Hali Ela	1	2,000.00
Moneragala	Moneragala District	5	25,000.00
Ratnapura	Ratnapura District	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	Kegalle District	3	30,000.00
	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
<b>Total</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>895,000.00</b>

**Parliamentary Election - 2015**  
**Classification of polling stations by number of registered electors**

<b>District</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations Below 500</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations From 501 - 1000</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations From 1001 - 1500</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations From 1501 - 2000</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations From 2001 - 2500</b>	<b>Number of Polling Stations From 2501 - 3000</b>	<b>Total</b>
Colombo	6	120	466	350	133	-	1,075
Gampaha	3	71	456	345	178	1	1,054
Kalutara	13	80	288	180	72	-	633
Kandy	17	199	364	228	17	-	825
Matale	18	91	141	70	3	1	324
Nuwara Eliya	18	114	159	108	26	-	425
Galle	7	216	358	122	-	-	703
Matara	4	95	190	125	40	1	455
Hambantota	9	151	190	54	7	-	411
Jaffna	91	267	141	23	4	-	526
Kilinochchi	21	48	17	10	-	-	96
Mannar	9	24	23	12	2	-	70
Vavuniya	32	58	37	7	-	-	134
Mullaitivu	82	37	8	2	1	-	130
Batticaloa	56	215	125	18	-	-	414
Digamadulla	15	226	209	14	-	-	464
Trincomalee	49	130	86	18	2	-	285
Kurunegala	5	177	410	299	43	-	934
Puttalam	5	76	168	116	34	1	400
Anuradhapura	21	260	299	27	1	-	608
Polonnaruwa	8	120	134	26	-	-	288
Badulla	23	148	220	109	16	-	516
Moneragala	41	153	121	33	3	-	351
Ratnapura	15	132	276	175	26	-	624
Kegalle	18	198	259	82	12	-	569
<b>Total</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>3,406</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12,314</b>

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

## Number of Polling Stations and Classification of Buildings Used for the Parliamentary Election

District	No. of Polling Districts	No. of Centers Reserved for Female Voters	Classification of Polling Station Buildings				No. of Polling Stations
			No. of government school buildings	No. of Other Government Buildings	No. of Other Public Buildings	No. of temporary polling station buildings	
Colombo	1,053	22	582	72	354	67	1,075
Gampaha	968	86	730	51	251	22	1,054
Kalutara	540	93	390	61	165	17	633
Kandy	825	-	594	68	158	-	825
Matale	323	1	272	12	38	1	324
Nuwara Eliya	423	2	393	16	15	-	425
Galle	703	-	393	54	256	-	703
Matara	444	11	327	24	97	7	455
Hambantota	410	1	272	23	115	-	411
Jaffna	526	-	518	1	7	-	526
Kilinochchi	95	1	78	-	18	-	96
Mannar	70	3	68	-	1	1	70
Vavuniya	134	-	119	13	-	2	134
Mullaitivu	130	-	85	20	2	-	130
Batticaloa	362	52	376	12	26	-	414
Digamadulla	464	-	422	11	31	-	464
Trincomalee	285	-	-	261	4	20	285
Kurunegala	925	9	677	57	199	1	934
Puttalam	387	13	332	15	50	3	400
Anuradhapura	608	-	418	21	169	-	608
Polonnaruwa	287	1	212	5	71	-	288
Badulla	515	-	445	24	47	-	516
Moneragala	351	-	268	4	79	-	351
Ratnapura	624	-	457	8	158	-	624
Kegalle	569	-	419	11	139	-	569
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,021</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>8,847</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>2,450</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>12,314</b>

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

## Details of postal vote applications received for the parliamentary election and the number of rejected and accepted applications

District	Number of applications received	Number of applications rejected	Number of applications accepted
Colombo	28,814	1,663	27,151
Gampaha	44,710	2,285	42,425
Kalutara	32,302	3,375	28,927
Kandy	52,829	4,177	48,652
Matale	20,955	2,029	18,926
Nuwara Eliya	17,573	1,149	16,424
Galle	37,134	3,628	33,506
Matara	28,009	2,804	25,205
Hambantota	20,211	2,546	17,665
Jaffna	15,539	526	15,013
Kilinochchi	1,861	55	1,806
Mannar	2,696	42	2,654
Vavuniya	3,201	531	2,670
Mullaitivu	1,939	296	1,643
Batticaloa	10,482	640	9,842
Digamadulla	23,217	2,723	20,494
Trincomalee	11,451	337	11,114
Kurunegala	72,787	4,829	67,958
Puttalam	12,359	2,106	10,253
Anuradhapura	50,328	5,839	44,489
Polonnaruwa	18,742	3,207	15,535
Badulla	37,404	5,627	31,777
Moneragala	22,019	3,956	18,063
Ratnapura	27,564	3,428	24,136
Kegalle	33,022	1,570	31,452
<b>Total</b>	<b>627,148</b>	<b>59,368</b>	<b>567,780</b>

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

## Particulars of Temporary Identity Cards issued in relation to the Parliamentary Election

District	Number of Temporary Identity Cards Newly Issued	Number of Updated Identity Cards	Total
Colombo	3,559	3,619	7,178
Gampaha	7,261	8,670	15,931
Kalutara	3,517	8,868	12,385
Kandy	3,777	7,928	11,705
Matale	1,967	3,877	5,844
Nuwara Eliya	858	6,628	7,486
Galle	2,812	10,014	12,826
Matara	2,228	4,723	6,951
Hambantota	4,746	6,124	10,870
Jaffna	1,658	1,616	3,274
Kilinochchi	884	965	1,849
Mannar	490	712	1,202
Vavuniya	359	327	686
Mullaitivu	2,048	-	2,048
Batticaloa	1,159	1,179	2,338
Digamadulla	2,436	4,376	6,812
Trincomalee	1,687	1,654	3,341
Kurunegala	8,498	10,029	18,527
Puttalam	1,955	4,062	6,017
Anuradhapura	7,813	8,917	16,730
Polonnaruwa	10,454	1,247	11,701
Badulla	2,752	5,120	7,872
Moneragala	1,751	3,980	5,731
Ratnapura	5,131	15,525	20,656
Kegalle	3,019	5,206	8,225
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,819</b>	<b>125,366</b>	<b>208,185</b>

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

**Particulars relating to the number of electors listed in the electoral register under each district in respect of the parliamentary election but who died and gone abroad before the poll day**

<b>District</b>	<b>Names of electors reported dead</b>	<b>Names of electors reported as went overseas</b>
Colombo	7,244	7,950
Gampaha	10,392	20,991
Kalutara	6,803	12,570
Kandy	8,352	21,091
Matale	2,875	9,207
Nuwara Eliya	3,602	2,680
Galle	6,994	16,209
Matara	5,219	5,896
Hambantota	3,451	6,976
Jaffna	3,855	8,489
Kilinochchi	390	1,514
Mannar	504	1,918
Vavuniya	399	1,787
Mullaitivu	296	1,070
Batticaloa	2,279	21,250
Digamadulla	3,204	5,933
Trincomalee	1,520	6,348
Kurunegala	10,500	33,619
Puttalam	3,963	20,230
Anuradhapura	4,466	11,890
Polonnaruwa	2,141	6,408
Badulla	4,820	4,589
Moneragala	1,984	1,910
Ratnapura	5,480	4,899
Kegalle	4,792	8,419
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,525</b>	<b>243,843</b>

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

## Particulars relating to the number of officers deployed to poll for each district

District	Total number of officers required			Number of officers deployed in the district			Total
	Assistant Returning Officers	Senior Presiding Officers	Other Polling Staff	Assistant Returning Officers	Senior Presiding Officers	Other Polling Staff	
Colombo	1,781	1,125	12,620	1,257	769	12,620	30,172
Gampaha	1,302	1,438	14,966	676	1,388	13,766	33,536
Kalutara	151	708	8,114	96	576	8,085	17,730
Kandy	139	825	8,652	134	825	8,652	19,227
Matale	223	324	3,298	193	324	3,291	7,653
Nuwara Eliya	402	535	5,053	265	465	5,001	11,721
Galle	896	703	6,868	788	703	6,858	16,816
Matara	112	455	5,914	67	455	5,914	12,917
Hambantota	421	411	4,273	334	406	4,224	10,069
Jaffna	259	526	4,030	154	541	3,684	9,194
Kilinochchi	24	107	847	24	107	847	1,956
Mannar	134	73	817	122	73	814	2,033
Vavuniya	33	136	1,318	23	136	1,262	2,908
Mullaitivu	25	130	938	24	123	938	2,178
Batticaloa	224	470	3,726	216	470	3,708	8,814
Digamadulla	110	464	4,069	60	-	4,069	8,772
Trincomalee	369	572	3,278	302	572	3,278	8,371
Kurunegala	1,019	934	11,292	976	934	11,292	26,447
Puttalam	255	573	5,035	176	500	4,993	11,532
Anuradhapura	532	608	5,404	428	607	5,404	12,983
Polonnaruwa	259	288	2,682	196	238	2,677	6,340
Badulla	609	516	5,796	497	516	5,785	13,719
Moneragala	335	386	3,194	171	350	3,194	7,630
Ratnapura	111	624	7,285	85	624	7,285	16,014
Kegalle	392	1,121	7,080	292	1,121	7,080	17,086
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,117</b>	<b>14,052</b>	<b>136,549</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>12,823</b>	<b>134,721</b>	<b>315,818</b>
			<b>160,718</b>			<b>155,100</b>	

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

## Details pertaining to the counting halls relating to each district

District	No. of Counting Premises	No. of Ordinary Votes Counting Centers	No. of Postal Votes Counting Centers	Total
Colombo	2	143	18	161
Gampaha	5	134	23	157
Kalutara	2	81	19	100
Kandy	7	97	25	122
Matale	2	36	10	46
Nuwara Eliya	1	42	9	51
Galle	3	72	17	89
Matara	2	48	15	63
Hambantota	1	34	9	43
Jaffna	1	33	8	41
Kilinochchi	1	7	0	7
Mannar	1	7	0	7
Vavuniya	1	10	5	15
Mullaitivu	1	7	0	7
Batticaloa	1	28	5	33
Digamadulla	1	40	13	53
Trincomalee	2	21	7	28
Kurunegala	4	111	40	151
Puttalam	4	50	7	57
Anuradhapura	1	52	23	75
Polonnaruwa	1	26	8	34
Badulla	3	52	18	70
Moneragala	1	29	12	41
Ratnapura	3	71	10	81
Kegalle	2	52	16	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>1,600</b>

Parliamentary Election - 2015 All Island Result according to each Electoral District

Electoral District	No. of Registered Electors	U.N.P.	U.P.F.A.	I.T.A.K.	P.L.F.	E.P.D.P.	S.L.M.C.	The number of votes obtained by other political parties who did not secure seats	Number of votes obtained by independent groups who did not secure seats	No. of Valid Votes	No. of Rejected Votes	Total number of votes cast
1. Colombo	1586598	640743	474063		81391			11127	1575	1208899	43372	1252271
		53.00% *11	39.21% *7		6.73% *1			0.92%	0.13%	96.54%	3.46%	78.93%
2. Gampaha	1637537	577004	549958		87880			8106	1453	1224401	56246	1280647
		47.13% *9	44.92% *8		7.18% *1			0.66%	0.11%	95.61%	4.39%	78.21%
3. Kalutara	897349	310234	338801		38475			9620	505	697635	21366	719001
		44.47% *4	48.56% *5		5.52% *1			1.38%	0.07%	97.03%	2.97%	80.13%
4. Kandy	1049160	440761	309152		30669			11296	1222	793100	37065	830165
		55.57% *7	38.99% *5		3.87% *1			1.42%	0.15%	95.54%	4.46%	79.13%
5. Matale	379675	138241	126315		10947			1598	279	277380	21537	298917
		49.84% *3	45.54% *2		3.95% *1			0.57%	0.10%	92.79%	7.21%	78.73%
6. Nuwara-Eliya	534150	228920	147348		5590			4965	1123	387946	32788	420734
		59.01% *5	37.98% *3		1.44% *1			1.28%	0.28%	92.21%	7.79%	78.77%
7. Galle	819666	265180	312518		37778			8213	522	624211	15107	639318
		42.48% *4	50.07% *6		6.05% *1			1.31%	0.08%	97.64%	2.36%	78.00
8. Matara	623818	186675	250505		35270			1635	3632	477717	12692	490409
		39.08% *3	52.44% *5		7.38% *1			0.34%	0.76%	97.41%	2.59%	78.41%
9. Hambantota	462911	130433	196980		36527			1583	306	365829	10056	375885
		35.65% *2	53.84% *4		9.98% *1			0.43%	0.08%	97.82%	2.68%	80.20%
10. Jaffna	529239	20025	17309	207577	247	30232		19300	5619	300309	25496	325805
		6.67% *1	5.76% *5	69.12% *1	0.08% *1	10.07% *1		6.24%	1.87%	92.17%	7.83%	61.56%
11. Vanni	253058	39513	20965	89886	876	2120	5716	4850	849	164775	17155	181930
		23.98% *1	12.72% *4	54.55% *1	0.53% *1	1.29% *1	3.47%	2.94%	0.51%	90.57%	9.43%	71.89%
12. Batticaloa	365167	32359	32232	127185	81	311	38477	3913	4288	238846	13551	252397
		13.55% *1	13.49% *3	53.25% *1	0.03% *1	0.13% *1	16.11% *1	1.63%	1.79%	94.63%	5.37%	69.12%

13. Digamadulla	465757	151013	89334	45421	5391	237		34313	486	326195	18423	344618
		46.30%	27.39%	13.92%	1.65%	0.07%		10.51%	0.14%	94.65%	5.35%	73.99%
14. Trincomalee	256852	*4	*2	*1								
		83638	38463	45894	2556	581		2413	6851	180396	10542	190938
15. Kurunegala	1266443	46.36%	21.32%	25.44%	1.42%	0.32%		1.33%	3.79%	94.48%	5.52%	74.34%
		*2	*1	*1								
16. Puttalam	553009	441275	474124		41077			5115	832	962423	46036	1008459
		45.85%	49.26%		4.27%			0.53%	0.08%	95.44%	4.56%	79.63%
17. Anuradhapura	636733	*7	*8									
		180185	153130		12211			1954	10028	357508	23124	380632
18. Polonnaruwa	307125	50.40%	42.83%		3.42%			0.54%	2.80%	93.92%	6.08%	62.83%
		*5	*3									
19. Badulla	620486	213072	229856		28701			2450	1304	475383	28462	503845
		44.82%	48.35%		6.04%			0.51%	0.27%	94.35%	5.65%	79.13%
20. Moneragala	339797	*4	*5									
		118845	103172		13497			685	263	236462	8654	245116
21. Ratnapura	810082	50.26%	43.63%		5.71%			0.28%	0.11%	96.47%	3.53%	79.81%
		*3	*2									
22. Kegalle	649878	258844	179459		21445			12230	704	472682	24167	496849
		54.76%	37.97%		4.54%			2.58%	0.15%	65.14%	4.86%	80.07%
Total	15044490	*5	*3									
		110372	138136		13626			727	127	262988	9291	272279
Percentage		41.97%	52.53%		5.18%			0.27%	0.04%	96.59%	3.41%	80.13%
		*2	*3									
		284117	323636		21525			2537	381	632196	23026	655222
		44.94%	51.19%		3.40%			0.40%	0.06%	96.49%	3.51%	80.88%
		*5	*6									
		247467	227208		18394			6356	479	499904	18770	518674
		49.50%	45.45%		3.68%			1.27%	0.09%	96.38%	3.62%	79.81%
		*5	*4									
		5098916	4732664		544154			154986	42828	11167185	516926	11684111
		45.66%	42.38%		4.87%			2.38%	0.38%	95.57%	4.42%	77.66%

## Parliamentary Election - 2015

Number of Members to be elected based on the number of votes obtained by recognized political parties / independent groups

Number and Name of Electoral District		United National Party	United People's Freedom Alliance	Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	People's Liberation Front	Eelam People's Democratic Party	Sri Lanka Muslim Congress	Number of Members
1	Colombo	11	7	-	1	-	-	19
2	Gampaha	9	8	-	1	-	-	18
3	Kalutara	4	5	-	1	-	-	10
4	Kandy	7	5	-	-	-	-	12
5	Matale	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
6	Nuwara Eliya	5	3	-	-	-	-	8
7	Galle	4	6	-	-	-	-	10
8	Matara	3	5	-	-	-	-	8
9	Hambantota	2	4	-	1	-	-	7
10	Jaffna	1	-	5	-	1	-	7
11	Vanni	1	1	4	-	-	-	6
12	Batticaloa	1	-	3	-	-	1	5
13	Digamadulla	4	2	1	-	-	-	7
14	Trincomalee	2	1	1	-	-	-	4
15	Kurunegala	7	8	-	-	-	-	15
16	Puttalam	5	3	-	-	-	-	8
17	Anuradhapura	4	5	-	-	-	-	9
18	Polonnaruwa	3	2	-	-	-	-	5
19	Badulla	5	3	-	-	-	-	8
20	Moneragala	2	3	-	-	-	-	5
21	Ratnapura	5	6	-	-	-	-	11
22	Kegalle	5	4	-	-	-	-	9
<b>District Basis</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>196</b>

**Parliamentary Election - 17.08.2015**

**The number of Members to be elected on the national basis in terms of  
Article 99A of the Constitution**

<b>Recognized political party</b>	<b>Number of Members on National basis</b>
United National Party	13
United People's Freedom Alliance	12
Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	2
People's Liberation Front	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

**Expenditure Incurred on the Parliamentary Election - 2015**

316. At this parliamentary election which was held in 22 electoral districts islandwide (25 administrative districts) 15 044,490,electors were facilitated, votes were counted and the results were declared. The total expenditure incurred in that regard was Rs. 2 975,million. Accordingly, the expenditure incurred on each registered voter was Rs 197.77.
317. The expenditure incurred by the Police Department, Postal Department, Department of Government Printing and the Department for Registration of Persons at this parliamentary election was Rs. 976 million. Out of the total sum of Rs. 2 975,million spent on this Parliamentary election, Rs. 1 999, million (67.19%) was directly borne by the Department of Elections
318. Five government departments, funded by the Commissioner of Elections, have incurred expenditure on the services rendered for this parliamentary election, namely, the Police Department, the Postal Department, the Department of Government Printing, the Department of Registration of Persons and the Colombo District Secretariat. The percentage of expenditure incurred by these institutions for the parliamentary election is given below:

<b>Department</b>	<b>Expenditure Rs.</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Police Department	438,381,416.92	14.73%
Postal Department	359,964,000.00	12.09%
Department of Government Printing	177,234,422.42	5.95%
Department for Registration of Persons	556,550.00	0.02%
Colombo District Secretariat	507,110.00	0.02%
<b>Total</b>	<b>976,643,449.34</b>	<b>32.81%</b>

319. The Department of Government Printing has spent Rs. 177,234,422.42 on this election. Rupees 82 817,848.08 (46.73%), of the total expenditure of the Department of Government Printing was spent on printing of ballot papers and tendered ballot papers. The Department of Elections has spent Rs. 22,683,376.70 to print official poll cards from the private sector.
320. The expenditure incurred by the Police Department in this parliamentary election was Rs. 438,381,416.92. Of this, Rs. 31,372,850.00 was applied to the Special Task Force, the State Intelligence Service and the Civil Defense Department. 147 million out of the funds allocated to the Police Department was spent for the combined allowance of the Police, Special Forces and Intelligence Officers, 132 million was spent for renting additional vehicles for the Department of Police for election duties with the permission of the Commissioner of Elections and 60 million was spent on fuel for the vehicles of the Police

Department. The Police Department has spent Rs. 55 million to remove illegal advertisements and Rs. 25 million for the welfare of police officers.

321. There are a number of special duties to be performed by the Department of Posts during the polls, such as the delivery of official poll cards, distribution of the envelopes containing postal ballot papers among the Certifying Officers and handing them over to the Returning Officers, and the distribution of appointment letters of officers engaged in election duties. The Commissioner of Elections will allocate funds to that Department for them. In that manner Rs. 359,964,000.00 had been allocated to the Postal Department for this election. Of this, Rs. 229 million has incurred for overtime, Rs. 104 million has incurred for stamp and postage, Rs. 24 million has incurred for telephone and other expenses, Rs. 2 million has incurred for stationery and nearly Rs. one million has incurred for fuel.
322. The total expenditure in this election can be classified as follows on the nature of the expenditure:

<b>Nature of the Expenditure</b>	<b>Expenditure Rs.</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
1. Staff salaries, expenses and overtime	1,515,934,919.48	50.95
2. Rent for vehicles	212,257,231.27	7.13
3. Expenses like stationery / office equipment	140,426,251.69	4.72
4. Fuel	146,519,705.22	4.92
5. Constructions and Repairs	68,154,804.21	2.29
6. Welfare expenses	187,058,709.25	6.30
7. Printing costs	200,885,124.87	6.75
8. Removal of illegal display boards	54,756,287.51	1.84
9. Stamp and postage charges	104,244,862.30	3.50
10. Facilitate foreign observation	16,467,339.50	0.55
11. Electricity	120,480,655.93	4.05
12. Services including water and telephone; and other expenses	208,212,731.04	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,975,398,622.27</b>	<b>100.00</b>

323. This means that the highest percentage of the total expenditure, which is 50.95% of the total expenditure incurred for the parliamentary election, was incurred for staff payments. The next highest percentage, 7.13% was incurred for hiring vehicles, 7% for other services, 6.75% for printing, 6.30% for welfare, 4.92% for fuel, 4.72% for stationery and office equipment, 4.05% for electricity and 3.5% was incurred for stamp and postage.
324. The total expenditure incurred on services and other expenses was Rs. 208 million, or 7% of the expenditure. It includes 104 million paid to the Grama Niladharis, Rs. 14 million for water supply and Rs. 11 million for communication activities.

**Parliamentary Election - 2015**  
**Summary of Complaints as at 17.08.2015**

District	Serious Complaints (Violence)	Minor Complaints (violation of laws)	Number of Complaints on the election day	Post Election Complaints	Total
Colombo	10	368	243	4	625
Gampaha	1	108	136	-	245
Kalutara	1	57	64	-	122
Kandy	3	58	88	1	150
Matale	2	32	10	-	44
Nuwara Eliya	-	33	23	1	57
Galle	-	63	30	-	93
Matara	2	56	48	1	107
Hambantota	1	74	30	-	105
Jaffna	2	25	23	-	50
Kilinochchi	-	9	-	-	9
Mannar	-	5	2	-	7
Vavuniya	-	8	8	-	16
Mullaitivu	-	2	5	-	7
Batticaloa	2	34	42	2	80
Digamadulla	1	30	34	-	65
Trincomalee	-	33	12	-	45
Kurunegala	6	95	178	6	285
Puttalam	1	25	52	-	78
Anuradhapura	1	42	23	-	66
Polonnaruwa	1	13	9	-	23
Badulla	-	77	54	1	132
Moneragala	1	22	56	-	79
Ratnapura	4	59	33	-	96
Kegalle	2	44	19	1	66
District Common	1	230	-	-	231
SMS (Short Messages)	-	61	-	-	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2,944</b>

**Details of Registration of Internally Displaced Electors as per the Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act No. 27 of 2013 (Electoral Register - 2014)**

Electoral District	Administrative District	No. of Applications Received	Number of applications removed due to defects	Number of applications considered	Number of applications considered	
					Number of applications accepted	Number of applications rejected
No. 10	Jaffna	21	0	21	14	0
	Kilinochchi				7	
No. 11 - Vanni	Mannar	209	6	203	201	2
	Vavuniya	23	0	23	10	13
	Mullaitivu	92	0	92	80	12
No. 12 - Batticaloa		4	0	4	4	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>349</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>27</b>



මැතිවරණ කොමිෂන් සභාව  
தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழு  
Election Commission



මැතිවරණ මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය, කො.02 සරණ මාවත, රාජගිරිය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව  
தேர்தல்கள் செயலகம், இல.02 சரண மாவத்தை, இராஜகிரியா, இலங்கை  
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தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழுவின் வெளியீடு  
PUBLISH BY ELECTION COMMISSION