



ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

**A REVIEW OF THE ABUSE OF STATE
RESOURCES AND SELECTED INTEGRITY
ISSUES DURING THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTION IN SRI LANKA**

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Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit and nonpartisan organisation with a vision of Sri Lanka in which government, politics, business, civil society and the everyday lives of citizens are free from corruption. As the fully accredited national chapter in Sri Lanka of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI), TISL partners and works with TI and its chapters world-wide.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all individuals and organizations who supported the **Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR)** in its role as a local election observer during the campaign period leading up to the Parliamentary Election held on 14th November 2024.

We would like to express our gratitude to the **Election Commission of Sri Lanka** for its leadership in overseeing the election process and for its invitation to both local and international observer groups. Their efforts in managing the electoral process were pivotal in ensuring the integrity of the elections. In particular, we commend the support provided by the **District Assistant Election Commissioners**, who played a key role in assisting the PPPR team in identifying and addressing potential violations of election laws.

We also wish to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the **District and Electoral Observers** who, often under challenging conditions, tirelessly reported incidents of public resource misuse. Their commitment was integral to the success of this program. We are equally grateful to the **media organizations** for their valuable assistance in publicizing the work of the PPPR and for helping to disseminate crucial information to the wider public.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our esteemed **partners**, including **PAFFREL, CMEV, IRES**, and **Hashtag Generation**, for their collaboration on the '**Chanda Salli Meetare**' tool. This collective initiative was instrumental in measuring campaign finance during the election period, thereby promoting greater transparency in the electoral process.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous **financial support** of the **Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), The Asia Foundation (TAF), Bolstering Civil Society (BCS), The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT)**, and the **Transparency International Secretariat**. Without their vital contributions, this program would not have been possible. Their unwavering commitment to promoting democratic principles and transparency is deeply appreciated.

A special note of gratitude is extended to the **TISL and PPPR teams**, whose tireless efforts during the election period in promoting electoral integrity and safeguarding democracy. Their dedication led to the identification of numerous election law violations, deepening public understanding of the implications of public resource misuse in electoral campaigns.

Lastly, we wish to thank the **citizens of Sri Lanka** and the **media** for their proactive role in reporting instances of public resource misuse. Their contributions have played a significant part in enhancing the transparency and accountability of the electoral process, fostering a more open and credible election environment.

This report represents the collective efforts of all those involved. As an organization committed to promoting integrity and transparency, TISL hopes that this report will serve as a valuable resource in protecting the integrity of future elections in Sri Lanka.

Jeanne Samuel
Executive Director – Interim

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report by Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) evaluates the integrity of Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election, focusing on the misuse of state resources and other electoral challenges. Conducted under the Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR), it highlights efforts to ensure accountability during this critical political event. The findings reveal that the misuse of state resources remained a critical issue during the election. The PPPR recorded 1,090 election violations, with nearly 80% of complaints involving the inappropriate use of public premises, state officials, vehicles, and funds. Violations also included the misuse of social media, public media, and private media for political purposes. However, challenges such as social media misinformation and non-compliance with election expenditure regulations persisted. TISL deployed 240 observers across all districts, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and enabling real-time responses to violations. Collaborations with local and international partners, including the Election Commission, strengthened oversight, while tools like the "Chanda Salli Meetare" platform tracked campaign expenditure.

The report recommends reforms to electoral laws, enhanced independence for the Election Commission, and increased transparency from political parties, candidates, and the media. Despite challenges, the election marked progress toward greater electoral integrity, with further reforms essential to strengthening democracy and public trust in governance. By implementing the recommendations outlined in this report, Sri Lanka can further strengthen its democratic processes and foster greater public trust in governance.

INTRODUCTION

The report provides a detailed analysis of Transparency International Sri Lanka's (TISL) election observation activities during the 2024 Parliamentary Election, with a particular focus on the misuse and abuse of state resources. TISL's commitment of promoting accountability and preventing corruption is especially critical during election periods, as the potential for exploiting public resources for political advantage significantly increases. This report serves as a comprehensive record of findings from the Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR), which sought to safeguard public integrity by identifying and addressing instances of state resource misuse.

The report captures the key findings, challenges, and outcomes of the PPPR's election monitoring efforts, shedding light on the types of violations observed, such as the misuse of state-owned vehicles, public premises and facilities, and funds, as well as the inappropriate use of public officials for political activities. Additionally, the report presents TISL's recommendations for enhancing safeguards against the misuse of public resources in future elections and fostering stronger collaboration with the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) and other relevant stakeholders who play strong roles in elections in Sri Lanka.

BACKGROUND TO THE 2024 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

The 2024 parliamentary election in Sri Lanka, held on November 14, marked a pivotal juncture in the nation's political history, signaling a shift toward reform and accountability under the leadership of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake. This election followed the dissolution of Parliament on September 24, 2024, a decision made by Dissanayake in keeping with his campaign promise to reset Sri Lanka's governance framework. This move was essential for aligning the legislature with the reformist mandate he championed during his presidential campaign. His leadership arose against the backdrop of widespread dissatisfaction stemming from the 2022 economic and political crises, which saw mass protests force the resignation of key figures from the Rajapaksa administration, symbolizing public rejection of entrenched corruption and inefficiency.

The parliamentary election operates under Sri Lanka's mixed proportional representation system, wherein 196 seats are directly elected from multi-member districts and 29 are allocated through a national list based on party vote share. This framework, governed by Articles 99 and 99A of the Constitution, ensures proportionality while also encouraging political diversity. The 2024 election underscored the evolving dynamics of the electorate, with over 8,800 candidates vying for 225 seats and a record number of new parliamentarians being elected. Notably, the election also achieved a milestone in gender representation, as 21 women secured seats, reflecting gradual progress in inclusivity within Sri Lanka's political landscape.

The National People's Power (NPP), led by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, secured an unprecedented victory with 159 seats, granting it a supermajority. This outcome not only provided the president with the legislative support necessary to enact sweeping reforms but also marked a significant departure from the dominance of traditional political parties. The NPP's success in areas such as the Tamil-majority Jaffna district suggested a recalibration of ethnic politics, where voters prioritized governance and accountability over established ethnic and regional allegiances. However, this shift comes with heightened expectations for delivering on promises of economic revival and institutional reform.

Despite this historic mandate, the NPP faces substantial challenges. The economy remains fragile, burdened by inflation, debt, and dwindling foreign reserves, necessitating immediate and effective policy interventions. Additionally, while the NPP's anti-corruption platform has galvanized public trust, it must now navigate entrenched institutional resistance to implement meaningful governance reforms. Addressing long-standing grievances of minority communities, particularly in the Tamil and Muslim-majority regions, will also test the government's commitment to equitable development.

The 2024 parliamentary election not only underscores the resilience of Sri Lanka's democratic framework but also represents a critical moment for systemic

transformation. The electorate's decision to entrust a reformist alliance with power reflects a collective yearning for transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. As the NPP embarks on this mandate, its ability to deliver on its promises will determine whether this election serves as a genuine turning point in Sri Lanka's journey toward stability and progress or another fleeting political moment. With the country at a crossroads, the next few years will be crucial in shaping its socio-political and economic trajectory.

Major concerns raised before the election period

Before Sri Lanka's Parliamentary Elections in 2024, several significant concerns have been raised by the public, political groups, and observers. The country continues to grapple with economic instability following its severe crisis in 2022. Concerns include the impact of IMF-mandated reforms, such as raising taxes and reducing public expenditure. While these measures aim to stabilize the economy, they have increased the burden on the lower-income population, with widespread criticism over rising costs of living and reduced social welfare. Also, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's administration emphasized anti-corruption reforms and transparency, aligning with the demands of the 2022 protests. However, skepticism remained before the election period regarding the political will and ability to implement meaningful changes given the entrenched corruption in various institutions.

Also, this election period marked a departure from traditional party dominance, with newer alliances such as the National People's Power (NPP) gaining momentum. Questions about the capacity of these new players to form a stable government and deliver on their promises were prominent. Rising poverty levels and increased economic disparities were also identified as central issues. Public debates focused on how the next government will address inequalities exacerbated by the economic crisis, particularly for vulnerable groups like women, children, and the elderly. Ensuring free and fair elections was also a major concern, with the presence of domestic and international election observers. The role of misinformation and its potential impact on the democratic process was also under scrutiny.

On September 24, 2024, President declared the parliamentary election to be held on November 14, 2024, as the next prioritized activity, shortly after his appointment, during a time when the above topics were primarily discussed in public. The goal was to gain the authority required to make their manifesto implemented on real grounds.

Organizational Preparation

The 2024 Parliamentary Election holds considerable significance, coming just nine weeks after the 2024 Presidential Election. With such a limited preparation time, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) faced an urgent challenge in preparing for effective election observation. The newly elected president and the interim cabinet assured the public that state resources would not be misused during the campaign period of the Parliamentary Election. To ensure the success of its election monitoring efforts, TISL sought funding opportunities that support comprehensive election observation. These contributions helped TISL to advocate for transparency, facilitate the monitoring of election expenditures, and ensure that all aspects of the electoral process, especially those related to campaign finance and public resources are handled with the utmost integrity. In doing so, TISL continued to play a crucial role in enhancing the democratic landscape in Sri Lanka, benefiting both the country and its citizens.

Transparency International Sri Lanka deployed a robust observation mechanism for the Presidential Election 2024. Following the same procedure, TISL employed the selected District Observers and Electoral Observers after considering a performance evaluation in the previous observation activities. Several Electoral Observers were replaced after considering the evaluation matrix and discussions with the District Observers and staff feedback was taken into consideration regarding District Observers' performance as well.

During the Presidential Election 2024 TISL teamed up with five prominent election observation organizations in Sri Lanka, PAFFREL, CaFFE, CMEV, Hashtag Generation, and IRES. Together, they have established a collective mechanism to observe campaign expenditure using an innovative tool that includes both a website and a mobile app. This tool is designed to track campaign expenditures in real-time, empower voters with vital information on candidates' financial activities, promote a level playing field for candidates, ensure that no candidate has an unfair advantage due to the misuse of funds and omit to foster an electoral environment based on democratic fairness and transparency. During the Parliamentary Election the same tool was used in calculating and monitoring the election expenditure of the candidates and TISL focused majorly on the areas of public gatherings, costs associated with promoting candidates through billboards, cutouts, and other physical advertising campaigns, including party office maintenance. However, considering the organizational capacity, population and reported incidents during the Presidential Election, TISL deployed the campaign finance monitoring activities only in the districts of Colombo, Kandy, Puttalam and Kurunegala.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY

Legal Framework

Protecting public resources is crucial for ensuring fair and transparent elections. Misusing public assets such as money, vehicles, and facilities for electoral purposes undermines democracy and creates inequality among candidates. To address this, national and international laws safeguard public resources during elections. The 2024 Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections operate under such a framework, incorporating legal provisions to ensure integrity, prevent misuse of resources, and regulate campaign financing. Organizations like Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) are empowered to monitor these processes.

The Supreme Court has interpreted public resources as assets held in trust for the people. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) is tasked with conducting fair elections and issuing directives to prevent the use of state resources like vehicles, buildings, and public servants for election campaigns. The *Offences Against Public Property Act No. 12 of 1982* outlines penalties for fraudulent use of public property, but prosecutions under this act for election-related misuse remain absent despite past incidents.

Public officers, considered public assets, are especially vulnerable to misuse. Regulations like the *Establishments Code* and the *Anti-Corruption Act No. 09 of 2023* define such misuse as corruption, imposing penalties for wrongful gains. Amendments to the Constitution have influenced ECSL's authority. The 19th Amendment restored its power to prohibit the misuse of state property during elections, reversing limitations imposed by the 18th Amendment.

During election periods, ECSL directives prohibit misuse of state vehicles, buildings, and other resources. They also regulate public officer behavior, state-sponsored activities, and social media use for political purposes. The *Campaign Finance Act No. 03 of 2023* further ensures transparency by setting spending limits, mandating financial disclosures, and penalizing violations to prevent undue monetary influence in politics.

International legal frameworks reinforce these principles, emphasizing that state resources should not provide unfair advantages to candidates or parties. These standards guide efforts like those of TISL to observe and prevent misuse, promoting accountability and fairness during elections.

The introduction of the Regulations of Election Expenditure Act No. 03 of 2023 (REEA) provides a vital legal framework aimed at regulating election-related spending in Sri Lanka. This law imposes strict limits on campaign expenditures, alongside mandatory disclosure requirements for candidates. Its purpose is to ensure transparency in campaign finance, safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process by preventing the undue influence of money on electoral outcomes. The enforcement of these provisions is central to TISL's efforts to monitor and report on campaign finance.

Candidates are required to adhere to predefined limits on campaign expenditures, ensuring a level playing field. Exceeding these limits constituted a violation subject to penalties. Candidates need to disclose the sources of their campaign funding and provide detailed accounts of their expenditures. These disclosures aimed to foster accountability and prevent the influence of illicit funding. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) is responsible for monitoring compliance with the law. ECSL issued directives to ensure adherence and collaborated with oversight bodies to investigate and address violations.

Leading up to the elections, ECSL issued guidelines prohibiting practices like offering incentives, using state facilities, or transferring public officers for political advantage. Also, social media campaigns by public officers using state resources can be monitored and restricted. Complaints regarding disinformation and unethical social media campaigning are also addressed within the given legal provisions. Therefore, the violators faced penalties, including fines and imprisonment, as outlined in the Campaign Finance Act and related laws.

The *Campaign Finance Act* represents a milestone in Sri Lanka's electoral reforms, striving to reduce the influence of money in politics and ensure free and fair elections. Its application during the 2024 Parliamentary Elections was a critical test of its effectiveness and the commitment of stakeholders to uphold democratic principles.

Methodology

The Program for the Protection of Public Resources was designed in January 2001 by three civil society organizations with the objective of protecting public resources during the election period. In December 2001, it was launched as a special project focusing on election-related abuses. Since then, TISL has used this methodology with periodic revisions to observe the misuse of public resources in all national-level elections, the 2013 Provincial Elections, the 2015 presidential election, the 2019 presidential election and the 2018 Local Government Elections.

The Election Commission of Sri Lanka declared that the 2024 parliamentary elections would be held on November 14, 2024. The parliament was dissolved by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on September 24, 2024, following his election to the presidency, in accordance with constitutional provisions allowing early dissolution. Nominations for the election were accepted between October 4 and October 11, 2024, and the newly elected parliament convened on November 21, 2024. This proclamation has been made through the extraordinary gazette No. 2403/13.

Accordingly, the PPPR unit of TISL was operational from 14th October to 15th November. Going beyond the 22 Electoral Districts of the country, TISL identified and appointed 25 Administrative District Coordinators (DO) for observation purposes. The DOs supervised a total of 173 Electoral Observers (EO) who were

tasked with observing violations at an electoral level. As such, TISL's election observation team covered every district and electoral division of the country. Both levels of coordinators were trained in the applicable legal framework and were provided with the tools and resources necessary to observe, verify, document, and report on misuse of public resources.

The PPPR methodology included two main elements:

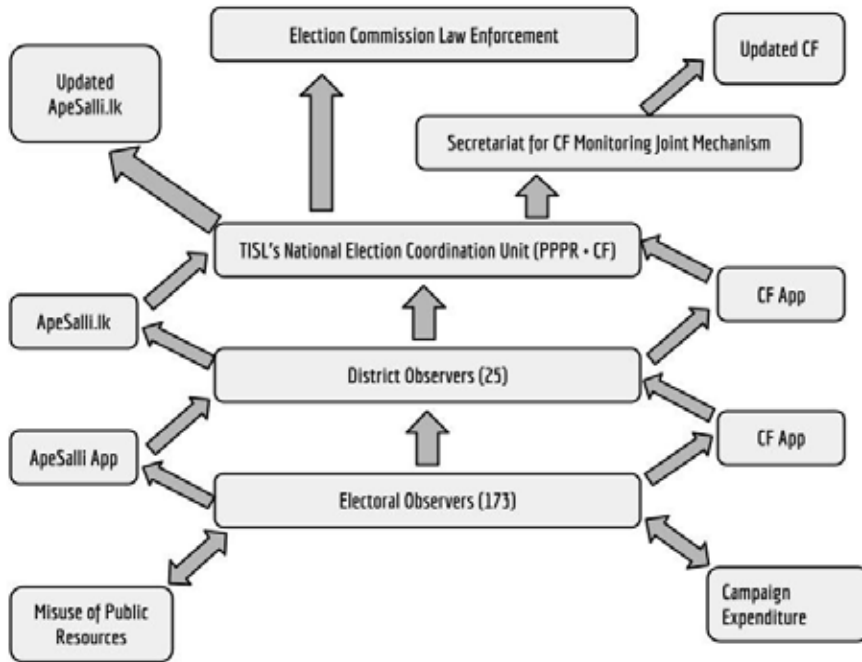
1. Collection and Verification of information
2. Dissemination of Information

Information on instances of public resource misuse was obtained through three means:

- Network of Observers
- The General Public
- Field Visits

The EOs were engaged in ground level physical observations and input information using the two applications (Apesalli and Chanda Salli Meetare) accessed through their mobile phones. The DOs received the information uploaded by their respective EOs. DOs were expected to engage in verification and thereafter upload the verified entries to the applications for access to the National Secretariat placed at the Head Office of TISL and led by the National Coordinator. The National Secretariat did the final verification and uploaded the information to the Apesalli website and forwarded incidents to the Election Commission and necessary authorities. TISL provided weekly updates on the observations through social media and, where necessary, through press releases and conferences.

TISL received and documented complaints from the public through the Apesalli and campaign finance web platforms, which will be channeled by the National Coordination Unit to be verified by the election observers on the ground. Then, the verified complaints will be directed to the Election Commission to take appropriate action. Also, a targeted media campaign was conducted calling the citizens to inform incidents pertaining to the misuse of public resources.



-TISL's National Election Observation Structure: PPPR & CF observing mechanisms-

Geographic coverage and timeline

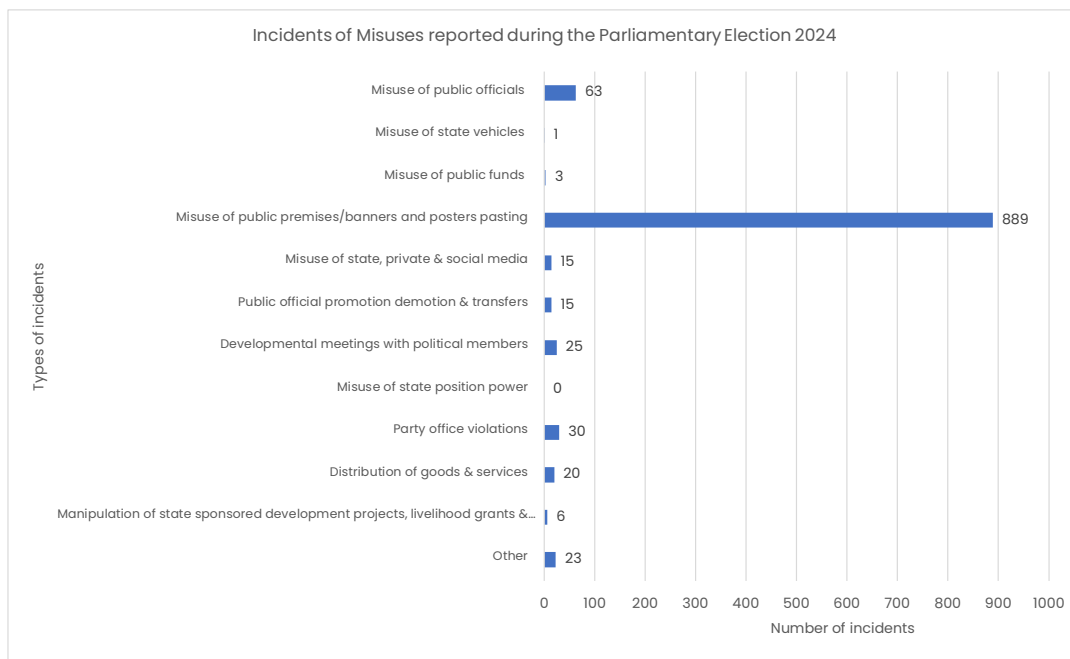
Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) carried out a thorough observation of the 2024 Parliamentary Election, covering all 25 administrative districts and 160 electorates in the country. A district observer was assigned to each administrative district to monitor the overall election process in their area. Additionally, electoral observers were appointed to each electorate to ensure detailed monitoring at the local level.

In certain areas with higher electoral activity or special needs, TISL assigned extra observers. For example, additional electoral observers were deployed in the Tissamaharama electorate in Hambantota District, the Seruwila electorate in Trincomalee District, and the Puttalam electorate in Puttalam District. In the Colombo District, three extra observers focused specifically on monitoring campaign finance violations and related activities. The observation period began on 14th October 2024 and continued until 16th November 2024, covering the pre-election period, election day, and post-election activities. This approach allowed TISL to provide thorough oversight throughout the election process, helping to ensure its integrity.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

The PPPR recorded 1090 election violations during the campaign, including misusing state property, premises, officials, vehicles, & funds, voter registration issues, and social media misinformation. Over 850 complaints were taken into proper action, sharing incidents with ECSL or local observer groups.

As mentioned above, all the complaints were recorded under 12 categories¹. The two categories that recorded the highest number of cases during the election were misuse of public premises (889 cases) and misuse of state officials (63 cases) and both accounted for nearly 80% of the total number of complaints.



[1] The 12 categories of incidents reported are misuse of public officials, misuse of state vehicles, misuse of public funds, misuse of public premises/banners & posters displaying, misuse of state/private & social media, public official promotion, demotion & transfers, developmental meetings with political members, misuse of state position power, party office violations, distribution of goods & services, manipulation of state-sponsored development projects, livelihood grants & allowances for election purposes, and other projects.

1. Misuse of public officials, misuse of state vehicles, misuse of public funds, misuse of public premises/banners & posters displaying, misuse of state/private & social media, public official promotion, demotion & transfers, Developmental meetings with political members, misuse of state position power, party office violations, distribution of goods & services, manipulation of state sponsored development projects, livelihood grants & allowances for election purposes, and other

1. Misuse of public officials

The misuse of public officials during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election involves deploying government employees for campaign activities, disregarding their neutrality. This undermines democratic principles, diverts public resources, and pressures officials to support specific candidates or parties. Such practices erode public trust and compromise the integrity of electoral processes.

TISL has received several reports regarding the misuse of state officials during the recent election. The participation of government officials in events promoting parliamentary candidates is not limited to this; many teachers and school principals have also been inappropriately utilized for election campaigning activities, along with numerous other state officials. This type of incident constitutes a violation of election laws and breaches institutional regulations under Chapter XXXII, Section 1, which prohibits state officials, particularly those in administrative positions, from engaging in political activities. According to Subsection 1.2, such actions are identified as offenses warranting dismissal from service.

2. Misuse of state vehicles

The misuse of state vehicles during Sri Lanka's 2024 Parliamentary Election involved unauthorized use by candidates and their affiliates for campaigning. This practice diverted public resources for personal political gain, undermining fairness and transparency. It resulted in increased public expenditure, reducing accountability and eroding trust in the democratic processes and governance.

The appointment of the former Director of Southern Provincial Health Services as a Director of the Ministry of Health has been observed as another strategic move by the new government to indirectly gain an advantage during the election campaign. The particular director officially assumed duties in this position on October 30 at the Ministry of Health. Notably, around 40 officials from the Southern Provincial Health Services Directorate reportedly attended the event without taking leave, raising concerns about the use of state resources and personnel for political benefit.

Additionally, it was specifically observed that the officials who attended the event had utilized government vehicles for transportation. This further highlights the misuse of state resources. As a result, this incident constitutes multiple violations of election laws, raising serious concerns about fairness and accountability during the election period.

3. Misuse of public funds

The misuse of public funds during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary elections involved diverting government resources for election campaigns, favoritism, and unauthorized spending. State vehicles, personnel, and finances were used to promote candidates, violating transparency and accountability. This undermined democratic fairness, wasting taxpayer money meant for public welfare, and eroded trust in governance.

4. Misuse of public premises/banners & posters displaying

The misuse of public premises, banners, and posters during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election reflects unethical practices that violate election laws. Such actions create visual pollution, waste public resources, and undermine democratic fairness. They often favor certain candidates, influencing voters unfairly while disregarding accountability and principles of equitable campaign practices.

5. Misuse of state/private & social media

During Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election, misuse of state resources, private funds, and social media platforms emerged as critical issues. Allegations included state resource exploitation for campaigns, private funding influencing voter behavior, and widespread misinformation and hate speech on social media. Such practices undermined electoral fairness, transparency, and democratic integrity.

The use of social media for election campaigning reached unprecedented levels during this year's two major elections, compared to previous years. However, it was also observed that a significant number of election law violations occurred through social media platforms.

Despite these challenges, compared to the presidential election, state and private media organizations appeared to adhere more closely to the media guidelines set by the Election Commission. Efforts were evident in ensuring a balanced platform for all candidates, fostering a fairer election environment.

6. Public official promotion, demotion & transfers

During Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election, public officials' promotions, demotions, and transfers are closely scrutinized to ensure fairness. Such actions, if politically motivated, can undermine electoral integrity. Transparency and adherence to established regulations are crucial in preventing abuse of power, ensuring impartiality, and maintaining public trust in democratic processes and governance.

The District Secretary, Hambantota was transferred to the Ministry of Justice, Public Administration, and Home Affairs effective from October 14, 2024. Subsequently, the Secretary to the Southern Provincial Ministry was appointed to the position of Hambantota District Secretary.

On October 10, a new chairman was appointed to the Palmyrah Development Board on October 22. Additionally, several new members were appointed to its Board of Directors. Similar executive appointments were made at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute and the State Film Corporation during the election period. These actions, conducted without the Election Commission's approval, flagrantly violated election laws, disregarding restrictions imposed to ensure impartiality during the electoral process.

7. Developmental/ State meetings with political members

Developmental or state meetings during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election involve interactions between political leaders, public officials, and stakeholders. These gatherings aim to discuss policies, infrastructure plans, and social welfare programs. Often used to engage voters, they highlight party visions, address regional issues, and influence public opinion for electoral gains.

8. Party office violations

Party office violations during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election refer to misuse of campaign offices for illegal activities, such as vote-buying, voter intimidation, unauthorized propaganda, and breaching election laws. These offices sometimes act as hubs for distributing unlawful incentives, undermining free and fair elections and eroding public trust in democratic processes.

9. Distribution of goods & services

The distribution of goods and services during Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election is a critical issue tied to election integrity. Allegations of bribery and misuse of public resources highlight the need for strict monitoring. Ensuring fairness requires transparent regulations to prevent exploitation for political gain, safeguarding democratic processes and public trust.

10. Manipulation of state sponsored development projects, livelihood grants & allowances for election purposes

Initiating State-sponsored development projects, livelihood grants, and allowances is unethical and can undermine the integrity of the election process. They use public resources as tools of patronage and coercion, undermining democratic values by using the electorate's needs for political gain. These acts are often classified as forms of **vote-buying** or **election manipulation**, and they can contribute to voter disenfranchisement and a lack of trust in the political system.

In the Polonnaruwa District, programs were planned to prepare documentation and conduct awareness sessions aimed at empowering recipients of the *Aswasuma* welfare scheme. These initiatives targeted low-income individuals, with efforts made to provide benefits during the election period. It is evident that this was a covert attempt to increase electoral support through such measures.

11. Other

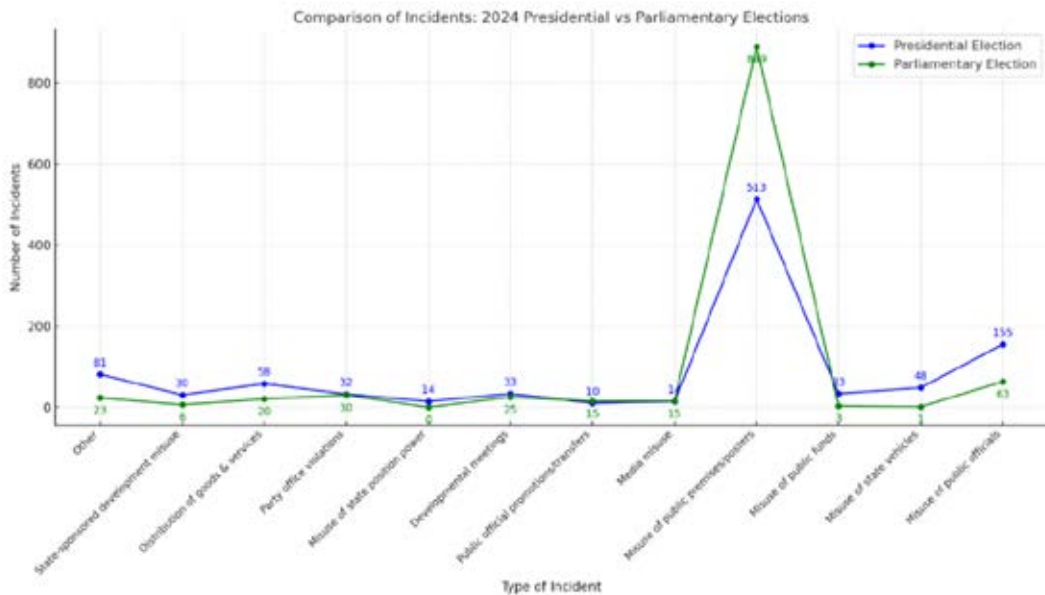
The PPPR unit has received 23 complaints about other kinds of election violations, including using personal vehicles for promoting candidates. Incidents where candidates organized events and distributed meals for the participants were also halted with prompt actions.

In instances where religious symbols were used for election campaigns, TISL sent a letter to the EC regarding the situation, which led the EC to take swift action and start an investigation.

A press conference organized by the leader of the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) party was scheduled but was cancelled in accordance with the regulations stipulated by the EC to be followed on the election day.

Comparative Analysis

The comparison between the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections highlights significant variations in misuse of public resources. There is a noticeable decline in many categories except two specific categories, namely misuse of public premises/banners & posters displaying and public official promotion, demotion & transfers.



Efforts by organizations such as Transparency International Sri Lanka are pivotal in curbing these issues, emphasizing stricter enforcement of anti-corruption measures and monitoring mechanisms.

ACTION TAKEN AND DIRECT INTERVENTIONS

The Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) focuses not only on reporting the misuse of public resources but also actively works to prevent such instances. The 2024 Presidential Election is considered one of the most peaceful elections in Sri Lankan history, with fewer violent incidents reported. However, misuse of public property by candidates for electioneering purposes increased compared to previous elections. TISL made concerted efforts to reduce and prevent these misuses throughout the election period.

1. Distribution of Solar Panels Using Decentralized Funding

A complaint was received about the distribution of solar panels to religious institutions in the Kandy district under political influence. The PPPR team immediately lodged a complaint with the Election Commission, which resulted in the Ministry of Electricity halting the distribution of solar panels as per the Election Commissioner's instructions on 1st August 2024.

2. Presidential Approval for Welfare Project by National Craft Council

TISL reported a welfare project approved by the then-president, who was also a presidential candidate, aimed at benefiting artisans under the National Craft Council. TISL lodged a complaint with the Election Commission, raising concerns that such projects could affect the independency of voting. The Election Commission responded by instructing the Ministry of Industry to suspend the project until after the election.

3. Promise of Subsidies to Fishermen

The PPPR team intervened when it was reported that presidential candidate Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe promised a kerosene subsidy to fishermen. TISL filed a complaint, highlighting the impact of such subsidies as it could promote one candidate over others and with TISL's actions, the initiative was suspended by the relevant authorities.

4. Misuse of Public Vehicle

A complaint was lodged on 18th August 2024, against independent candidate Mr. Sarath Fonseka for allegedly using an official vehicle from his previous service for campaign purposes. After investigation, it was revealed that the vehicle had been decommissioned and sold at a public auction in May 2024, confirming no misuse of state resources.

5. Personal Security for a Former MP's Spouse

TISL reported the misuse of official security assigned to the spouse of former MP Sanath Nishantha, who was participating in election campaigns without holding any official position. Complaints were filed with the Election Commission and relevant authorities, flagging the inappropriate allocation of security resources.

6. Misuse of Government Helicopters

It was reported that Independent Candidate Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe used a government-owned helicopter on 10th September 2024, for election campaigning, accompanied by another helicopter from the Sri Lanka Air Force. TISL sent a Right to Information (RTI) request to the Air Force to ensure transparency and verify whether proper payments were made for the helicopter usage.

7. Land Promises in Election Campaign

Members of the United National Party (UNP) in the Kaiveli area of Mullaitivu were reportedly offering land to local residents in exchange for their votes during the 2024 presidential election. Acting swiftly upon this information, TISL lodged a formal complaint with the local police. As a result, three individuals involved in this illegal activity were arrested, and the land allocation forms that were being used to solicit votes were seized, effectively halting the operation and preventing further violations of election law.

8. Party Office Irregularities

The NPP party office in Mannar was opened on 8th September 2024 without proper registration. A TISL district observer reported the incident, and the Election Commission quickly intervened, ensuring that the office was registered according to election laws.

9. Misuse of Public Premises

A political campaign was scheduled in the Muthumariamman Temple premises in Mullaitivu on 17th September. Following a complaint, the Mullaitivu District Election Office took swift action, and the event was canceled.

10. Illegal Rallies

A motorcycle rally in support of Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, planned in Mullaitivu on 8th September, was halted after six individuals were arrested. The participants were found distributing campaign pamphlets and carrying out illegal activities in violation of election regulations.

11. Hambantota Public Officials' Election Duty Suspension

19 government officers were found in the Hambantota district participating in election campaigns in violation of their establishment codes. As a result of TISL's complaint, nine officials were suspended from election duty, including seven principals, one deputy principal, and one public health inspector. Further action is expected against the remaining officers.

Additional Observations

TISL identified several election law violations, including the illegal display of posters, banners, and cutouts, along with the distribution of food and money by various political parties. Through coordinated efforts with district observers, many events were canceled, ensuring a transparent and fair election process. The PPPR's proactive approach has contributed significantly to safeguarding public resources during the election period.

ELECTION DAY ENGAGEMENT

During the 2024 Parliamentary Election, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) closely monitored the misuse of public resources through its **Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR)**. This initiative not only focused on reporting violations but also worked proactively to prevent such incidents.

The 2024 Parliamentary Election was notable for being one of the most peaceful elections in Sri Lanka's history, with a significant reduction in violent incidents. Additionally, the misuse of public property for electioneering purposes saw a marked decline compared to the 2024 Presidential Election, owing in part to TISL's targeted efforts to address and curb these violations.

1. Election Law Violation: Grant Distribution Event Halted by Authorities

On October 15, 2024, the National People's Power (NPP) organized an event at the community hall in Warakagoda Gamgoda, within the Madurawela Divisional Secretariat in Kalutara, to distribute grants of Rs. 50,000 to individuals engaged in self-employment. Development officers were also reportedly involved in this initiative. Following the complaint received from TISL, the Election Commission intervened through the Kalutara District Election Office to halt this activity, which was deemed a violation of election laws.

2. Teachers' Union Campaigning for NPP Faces Election Commission Intervention

The Lanka Teachers' Union organized a series of meetings in the Galle, Puttalam, and Polonnaruwa districts, with the participation of teachers and principals, to confirm the victory of the National People's Power (NPP). These meetings were intended to promote the NPP's success. However, based on prior notifications from Transparency International Sri Lanka, the Election Commission intervened and took steps to halt these activities.

3. Community Action Leads to Removal of Campaign Posters in Vavuniya

Supporters of a candidate of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya in Vavuniya placed campaign posters at the bus stop in Mamaduwa village, located in the Southern Vavuniya Divisional Secretariat area. After the residents and our team informed the candidate about the issue, accordingly the candidate removed the posters and restored the bus stop to its original condition, ensuring it was clean and properly maintained.

7. Election Commission Nullifies Controversial Transfers of Development Officers in Galle

A complaint was filed with the Galle District Election Office regarding a letter issued by the Galle Zonal Education Director to principals of Provincial Council schools in the Galle region. The letter stated that development officers assigned to these schools had been temporarily transferred to institutions under the Southern Provincial Council’s jurisdiction as of October 28, 2024. It further mandated that these officers report to their temporary assignments immediately, warning that failure to do so would result in the suspension of their salaries. Following the complaint, the Election Commission intervened and nullified these temporary transfers, as they were deemed to contravene election regulations.



8. Kandy District Election Office Halts Political Meeting Organized by Sarvajana Balaya Candidate

On October 25, 2024, a meeting organized by a candidate for the Sarvajana Balaya Party in the Kandy District was held at the Queens Hotel in Kandy. Around 300 attendees had gathered, and a meal was prepared for them. However, the Kandy District Election Office intervened, and we were able to stop the event from proceeding.

9. Matale District Election Office Prevents Distribution of Food Parcels at Political Meeting

A meeting organized by a candidate contesting in the Matale District under the *Cylinder* symbol of the New Democratic Front was held on the 27th at 11:30 AM at the Mahatma Gandhi International Center in Matale. The event featured the chairman of the Lanka Workers’ Congress as an invited guest. Following the conclusion of the meeting, arrangements had been made to distribute lunch

parcels to those who attended. However, upon being notified about this, officials from the Matale District Election Office promptly intervened. The officials arrived at the venue, conducted an inquiry into the matter, and inspected the premises. As a result of the election officials' presence, the plan to distribute the food parcels was halted.

10. Election Commission Intervenes to Annul NPP Candidate's Appointment as Library Services Chairman

The Governor of the Central Province appointed a National People's Power (NPP) candidate for the Nuwara Eliya District in the upcoming general election, as the Chairman of the Central Provincial Library Services Board. According to a complaint submitted to the Election Commission by Transparency International Sri Lanka, the Office of the Governor of the Central Province took steps to annul this appointment.



11. Hambantota Police Halt Illegal Election Campaign Activities at Public Market

In the Hambantota District, within the Tissamaharama electorate, promotional activities were conducted on October 27, 2024, at the Hambantota Public Market premises, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Hambantota Urban Council and the Hambantota Police Division. These activities involved the distribution of pamphlets in support of a candidate representing the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) in the upcoming parliamentary election. This act resulted in the misuse of public property and a violation of election laws. Following a complaint lodged with the Hambantota Election Office, the Hambantota Police intervened and halted the activity.

12. Monaragala Election Commission Cancels Cricket Tournament to Uphold Fair Elections

The Independent candidate for the Monaragala District had organized the *Wellassa Challenge* cricket tournament at the Monaragala Pradeshiya Sabha Grounds during the election period. Following a formal complaint made by TISL, the Monaragala District Office of the Election Commission intervened, and the event was canceled. This action aimed to prevent the misuse of public spaces for electoral advantages, ensuring compliance with election laws and promoting a fair electoral environment.

13. Monaragala Blood Donation Campaign Canceled Following Election Law Concerns

In the Monaragala District, a blood donation campaign organized by the *Wellassa Manushathkama Social Welfare Foundation* under the leadership of an independent party candidate was scheduled to take place. However, after the Assistant Election Office was informed about the event, the campaign was canceled.



14. Kandy Election Officials Halt Dinner Event Organized by NDF Candidate

One of the candidates of the New Democratic Front in the Kandy District organized a dinner event at his residence in the Doluwa area. Approximately 100 individuals from nearby villages were transported by buses to the location where they were provided with a meal. However, the officials of Kandy Election Office halted the event because it was an election violation.



15. Intervention and Cancellation of Election Campaign Health Clinic in Gampaha

The mobile health clinic of Derana Television, "Manusath Derana," organized to promote a parliamentary candidate of the Sarwajana Balaya Party at the Handala Temple in Wattala, was canceled by the police, following a complaint lodged by TISL to the Gampaha Election Complaint Office.

16. Election Integrity: Stopping Corruption in Campaigns

On November 12, it was reported that one of the candidates from the Sarvajana Balaya Party in the Gampaha district attempted to bribe voters by offering them money aimed at the parliamentary election. Based on the complaint we filed, this election violation was stopped.

17. Immediate Response: Addressing Poster and Banner Violations

In addition, we were able to promptly get the attention of the authorities and take actions against various election law violations observed across all districts of Sri Lanka. For example, a higher number of posters and banners displayed in public places during the parliamentary election could be noted. In this case, our district observers promptly informed the respective election offices in those districts, and these materials were quickly removed. Apparently, we were able to take swift action on this issue throughout the entire election period. During the 2024 Parliamentary Election, several incidents of unauthorized campaign activities

were reported in Batticaloa and Mullaitivu, prompting swift action by election authorities and the police. In Batticaloa, cutouts of a candidate were mounted on a telecommunication pole at Urani and displayed in a public library, both of which were removed following complaints to the Assistant Election Commissioner and Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL). Similarly, in Mullaitivu, unauthorized NPP flags featuring the President and Prime Minister were displayed outside a Village Officer's office in Puthukudiyiruppu, but were promptly taken down after reports to the police and Election Commission. These actions highlight the authorities' commitment to enforcing election laws and preventing misuse of public spaces for political purposes.

18. Immediate Response: Misuse of Religious places

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) raised concerns about the misuse of religious places for political activities during the 2024 Parliamentary Election. Investigations by the Election Commission confirmed violations of election laws at several temples, including the Kaluthavala Sri Muthumariyamman Temple, Magilur Mariamman Temple, Sengaladi Thammanvel Mariamman Temple, and Vellaveli Selvapuran Narayanan Temple. Statements from temple officials corroborated the allegations, leading the Election Commission to issue warnings to ensure compliance with election laws and prevent future violations. TISL also highlighted the involvement of state officers in election campaigns, prompting the Commission to address these concerns in a follow-up communication with TISL.

19. Interventions to prevent misuse of public offices for planning Election campaigns

The National People's Power (NPP) party held a meeting at the Uyilankulam Forest Department quarters. The gathering was organized to discuss the political campaign strategy for the upcoming parliamentary elections. The event was attended by NPP district electoral representatives, well-wishers, and NPP parliamentary election candidates for the Vavuniya District. TISL lodged a formal complaint regarding this incident with the Mannar Election Commissioner. The complaint highlighted potential violations associated with the use of public premises for political activities. The Mannar Election Commissioner responded promptly by initiating an inquiry into the matter. As part of the investigation, the commissioner personally visited the Uyilankulam Forest Department quarters to collect evidence and assess the situation.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

TISL has leveraged various media platforms to educate the public about electoral integrity and the importance of fair elections. TISL emphasizes the role of candidates, public officials and citizens in ensuring accountability, particularly regarding the misuse of public resources and campaign finance compliance. TISL also invited mainstream media outlets to broadcast findings and advocate for reforms. These partnerships ensure that critical election-related information reaches a broad audience, fostering transparency and accountability.

TISL has conducted 02 press releases during the Parliamentary Election period and 01 press release at the post-election period. The first press release outlined the election monitoring program of TISL, and an update of the complaints received, and actions taken as of October 23rd. This press release received ample coverage from mainstream media institutes and newspapers highlighting the impacts of the monitoring program and organizational position in dealing with the complaints received.

As other media engagement activities, TISL has broadcasted radio advertisements on criteria to be considered in selecting proper candidates to vote as a measure to raise public awareness via Sirasa and Derena radio channels. Also, the morning shows broadcasted by Sirasa were also used to enhance public knowledge in the same area. Also, the "Pethikada" TV program telecasted by Sirasa TV was a discussion with the communications manager of TISL about political candidacy, the national list, recalling votes and the concept of shadow parliament.

As the social media engagement, TISL created Facebook posts to reach a wider community that was unreached during the Presidential election and engaged with several YouTube channels during the Parliamentary Election Day. The YouTube channel named "Neon" and the YouTube channel of Neth FM invited TISL to discussions and live commentary sessions during the Parliamentary Election results delivery programs.

ELECTION DAY ENGAGEMENT

Activities carried out on election day

The Parliamentary Election held on 14th November 2024 was largely peaceful with minimal election-related violations reported. Polling stations across the country opened at 7:00 AM and closed by 4:00 PM, providing ample time for voters to cast their ballots. On Election Day, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) deployed 42 staff members to observe polling stations in 15 districts, including Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Kegalle, and Ratnapura. In addition to TISL staff, a total of 173 electoral observers were deployed on the ground under the guidance of 25 district observers, bringing the total number of observers to 240 personnel.

These electoral observers were tasked with closely monitoring election activities, particularly focusing on the misuse of public resources. The observers were vigilant in identifying election-day violations, working in close collaboration with the Election Commission and other independent observation organizations. TISL staff were assigned to these districts based on the organization's pre-election period assessments and observer availability. The decision to deploy observers was prioritized to cover districts where violations had been reported during the pre-election period and where potential risks of Election Day violations were high.

Key observations during the voting process

The table below provides an overview of all forms of violations identified by TISL's mobile observers throughout Election Day. These violations were systematically reported and recorded to ensure a free and fair election process in coordination with other election monitoring organizations.

District	Number of Observers	Number of observed polling stations	Number of Incidences Reported on the Election Day
Colombo	30	62	05
Gampaha	18	73	03
Kalutara	13	161	10
Galle	12	235	14
Matara	10	77	10
Hambantota	08	42	04
Kandy	15	123	05
Nuwara Eliya	08	57	07
Matale	07	17	06
Anuradhapura	09	92	19
Polonnaruwa	03	43	04

Badulla	11	40	03
Monaragala	04	80	04
Kurunegala	15	172	04
Puttalam	07	68	26
Jaffna	10	42	05
Kilinochchi	04	47	20
Vavuniya	07	55	03
Mullaitivu	04	21	06
Mannar	04	36	04
Trincomalee	06	26	03
Ampara	06	23	02
Batticaloa	06	31	03
Kegalle	12	79	23
Rathnapura	11	24	19
Total	240	1726	212

Table: Districts covered, and number of observers involved in mobile observation on the day of the election

The nature of violations reported during the election day observation can be identified under the categories as follows:

- Misuse of Public Property – minor violations
- Illegal Campaigns
- Voter Fraud
- Voter Intimidation
- Vote buying
- Polling Station Irregularities
- Security Issues

In addition, on the parliamentary election day, all 25 of our district observers were tasked with observing the activities at vote counting centers and results release centers. Accordingly, we were able to ensure coverage of counting centers across all 25 districts. Observations revealed that the relevant authorities conducted the vote counting and results release processes with exceptional efficiency, accuracy, and transparency. No incidents requiring special attention were reported in relation to these activities.

Immediate interventions made on election day

On Election Day, several immediate interventions were made to address irregularities and ensure a fair voting process. These included:

- **Illegal Campaign Activities:** Observers identified and reported incidents of illegal campaigning, such as the distribution of chits and cards displaying voting details of candidates near polling stations, as well as posters displayed on public premises. These issues were promptly reported to the respective police stations, district secretariats, and district election offices, leading to swift actions to remove the materials.
- **Vote-Buying Incidents:** Observers also witnessed vote-buying activities, where individuals were seen requesting voters to cast their ballots for specific candidates near polling stations. These incidents were reported immediately to the authorities, who took necessary actions to prevent further occurrences.
- **Polling Station Irregularities:** Some polling stations were found to be inaccessible to disabled voters. These concerns were raised with the relevant authorities, ensuring that immediate corrective measures were taken to improve accessibility for all voters.

Overall, many of the ongoing incidents were effectively addressed in real-time through swift reporting and intervention by the observers, contributing to the smooth continuation of the election process.

Post Election Period

The post-election period following Sri Lanka's 2024 parliamentary election has remained as peaceful as election day itself. Voters and political parties have respected the outcome, and there is a sense of calm across the nation. Authorities have ensured a smooth power transition, with minimal unrest or disputes emerging from the results.

PARTNERSHIPS & JOINT EFFORTS

Collaboration with other civil society organizations and election monitoring bodies

Chanda Salli Meetare– Joint Mechanism on Campaign Finance

Sri Lanka’s electoral process continued to advance with the implementation of the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act No. 3 of 2023 during the 2024 Parliamentary Election. This landmark legislation, which had previously been applied to the Presidential Election, set new standards for transparency in campaign finance. Under the Act, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka imposed spending limits for each Electoral District (refer to Annexure 09), applicable to candidates, political parties, and independent groups contesting the election. Candidates were required to submit detailed expenditure reports, covering campaign costs and contributions in cash or kind, within 21 days following the election.

Building on its earlier efforts, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) collaborated with five leading election observing organizations—People’s Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Campaign for Free and Fair Elections (CaFFE), Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV), Hashtag Generation, and the Institute for Democratic Reforms and Electoral Studies (IRES)—to continue observing compliance with this law. Together, they utilized the “Chanda Salli Meetare” platform, a website and mobile app launched during the Presidential Election to track and analyze campaign expenditures in real-time.

For the Parliamentary Election, TISL and its partner organizations adapted their monitoring strategy due to limited financial and human resources and the shorter election period. They reached a common agreement to focus on observing the campaign expenditures of a selected number of political parties and their key candidates. The platform remained integral to these efforts, providing an interactive, transparent mechanism for tracking expenditures across categories such as public campaigns, media expenses, and campaign events.

The “Chanda Salli Meetare” tool maintained its emphasis on empowering citizens, offering up-to-date expenditure data and candidate profiles featuring asset declarations, election manifestos, and links to relevant resources and as per the previous Presidential Election the costs were calculated based on standard minimum rates, with disclaimers about third-party actions and limitations in data accuracy.

TISL once again demonstrated leadership in training and deploying observers to observe campaign expenditures. During the Parliamentary Election, observers were trained to focus on high-priority candidates and events through an online platform, ensuring efficient use of resources while maintaining the integrity of monitoring activities. Partner organizations similarly benefitted from TISL’s expertise in observer training, fostering consistency across monitoring efforts.

Access to the Website - <https://chandasallimeetare.lk>

Role of International Observers

During the 2024 Parliamentary Election, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) actively collaborated with international election observing organizations to enhance the credibility of the electoral process. Notably, TISL engaged with the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) and the European Union (EU) international observer missions, fostering a shared commitment to ensuring transparency and fairness.

TISL's National Coordinator for the Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) Unit and Interim Executive Director participated in several productive discussions and meetings with ANFREL, addressing key issues related to the 2024 Parliamentary Election. As part of this collaboration, TISL provided subject-matter expertise on the abuse of state resources during a two-day briefing organized by ANFREL for its long-term observers before their deployment across Sri Lanka. These briefings equipped observers with a deeper understanding of the electoral landscape and the systemic issues surrounding state resource misuse.

Additionally, ANFREL observers engaged closely with TISL's district-level observers to gather valuable feedback on the pre-election environment. Joint efforts across several districts facilitated comprehensive data collection and assessments, significantly contributing to the overall credibility and effectiveness of the election monitoring process.

CONCLUSION

The parliamentary election to elect the 10th Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was held on November 14, 2024. It is considered the most peaceful, free, and fair general election since 1977. This election was conducted shortly after its declaration, following a very brief preparation period. Political parties representing candidates defeated in the preceding presidential election appeared to adopt a neutral stance during their campaign activities from the outset. However, the coalition led by the newly elected president actively launched a significant promotional campaign from the beginning. Sri Lanka's National People's Power (NPP), led by President Anura Dissanayake, achieved a historic victory in the 2024 parliamentary elections, securing an overwhelming two-thirds majority by winning 159 out of 225 seats in the legislature. The NPP's resounding success was marked by its ability to bridge ethnic and religious divides, securing support across diverse communities.

A notable feature of this election is that the majority of the members elected to Parliament are newcomers, while many long-serving MPs who had represented Parliament continuously for years have lost their seats in this time. Although this election marked a significant power shift in Sri Lankan history, it was conducted in a peaceful environment during the pre-election, election, and post-election periods. This reflects the gradual adherence of candidates, voters, and authorities to democratic values in the country.

Generally, while the government takes steps to prevent election-related violence in previous elections, efforts to address the misuse of state resources were observed this time. For instance, the Sri Lanka Police introduced a hotline for citizens to report misuse of public resources during the election campaigning. This governmental initiative to give practical effect to the circular issued by the Election Commission regarding election malpractices, including the misuse of public resources, can be considered a commendable step. However, this does not imply that misuse of state resources did not occur during this election. Although there was a relative reduction, such misuse still took place, particularly involving state officials in managing political campaigns.

The misuse of social media was as prevalent in this election as it was during the presidential election. Beyond usual physical campaigning, all political parties have actively utilized virtual platforms for promotional activities. Notably, such campaigning continued through social media even during the silent period, which constitutes a direct violation of election laws. Therefore, this issue warrants further attention from the Election Commission and other responsible authorities.

If the positive culture established during the 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka can be maintained and further improved, it would be a significant step forward to uplift democracy and social well-being. Sustaining these principles will undoubtedly be challenging due to the rooted social and political practices over decades in a country like Sri Lanka. However, it is the responsibility and duty of the government, politicians, authorities, and all citizens to uphold and carry forward these democratic values.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To the Government

Amendments to the existing Electoral Laws – Existing electoral laws, such as the Constitution of Sri Lanka, the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, the Presidential Elections Act No. 15 of 1981, and the Provincial Councils Elections Act No. 2 of 1988, should be updated to reflect contemporary electoral challenges. This includes ensuring clarity, accessibility in multiple languages, and adaptability to modern election practices. Key focus areas should include strengthening provisions on campaign financing, digital electioneering, and penalties for non-compliance.

Integration of Electoral Reform into the New Constitution

The new government must prioritize the empowerment of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) by including provisions for prosecution powers, enhanced human and financial resources, and financial independence in the new constitution. These measures are critical for ensuring the ECSL can operate without undue political influence.

Capacity Building for Election Officials

Introduce mandatory training programs for government officials involved in election duties, emphasizing electoral laws, dispute resolution mechanisms, and ethical responsibilities. Collaboration with election monitoring organizations can further enhance the effectiveness of these programs.

To the Election Commission (ECSL)

Enhanced Complaint Handling Mechanisms

Expand the capacity of Election Dispute Resolution (EDR) units, particularly in high-volume districts like Colombo. This includes allocating additional officers and multiple complaint lines to ensure timely complaint resolution during elections. Issuing a reference number to each complaint would be easy for the complainant to follow back on the actions taken for the complaint as well.

Interconnected Databases for EDR Units

Develop an integrated digital platform connecting district and national EDR units. Such a system would enable real-time tracking of complaints, enhancing efficiency and accountability in resolving electoral disputes.

Proactive Financial Disclosure Practices

Continue publishing candidate election expenditure reports online, as initiated during the 2024 Presidential Election. This initiative should be institutionalized and regulated to ensure transparency and public access as mandated by law.

Electoral Knowledge Enhancement

Conduct regular training programs for government officials assigned election duties, focusing on electoral law and dispute resolution. Collaboration with national election monitoring organizations can strengthen the training content and delivery.

To the Election Commission and Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery Or Corruption

Collaboration on Asset Declarations

Strengthen the enforcement mechanisms for verifying and monitoring asset declarations of candidates and elected Members of Parliament (MPs). ECSL and the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) should collaborate to facilitate public complaints and take appropriate legal action. The establishment of the centralized digital system needs to be established sooner to see the effectiveness of the law.

Public Engagement in Accountability

Introduce public reporting channels for citizens to raise concerns about asset declarations and campaign expenditure reports submitted by candidates. CIABOC can take the lead in legal enforcement, while ECSL focuses on guiding and educating citizens about their rights to demand accountability.

To Political Parties and Candidates

Transparency in Digital Campaign Advertising

Mandate clear labeling of digital political advertisements as to whether they are paid is recommended. These measures would promote transparency, reduce voter manipulation, and minimize the misuse of personal data in campaign strategies.

Mandatory Asset Declarations

Embed asset declaration requirements within political party policies, making it mandatory for all candidates to submit declarations alongside their nominations. This step fosters internal accountability and sets a precedent for transparency.

To Media

Facilitation of Candidate Debates

Establish neutral platforms for moderated debates, enabling candidates to present policies and engage in constructive dialogue. This initiative promotes accountability and informed decision-making among voters.

Adherence to Election Guidelines

Ensure strict compliance with ECSL-issued media guidelines during election periods, focusing on balanced reporting, fact-checking, and refraining from airing misinformation.

ANNEX 01: GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS



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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2403/19 - 2024 සැප්තැම්බර් මස 25 වැනි බදාදා - 2024.09.25
No. 2403/19 - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

(Published by Authority)

PART I: SECTION (I) – GENERAL

Government Notifications

DIRECTIONS TO PREVENT THE DIRECT OR INDIRECT USE OF MOVABLE OR IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES BELONGING TO THE STATE, STATE CORPORATIONS, OR STATUTORY BOARDS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION FOR THE PROMOTION OF OR IN PREJUDICE TO ANY PARTY, GROUP OR CANDIDATE OR OBSTRUCTING THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTION

THE Election Commission does hereby issue the following directions under Article 104 B (04) (a) of the Constitution for the purpose of preventing the use of any movable or immovable property belonging to the State, any State Corporation or Authority or Statutory Board or Public Company for the purpose of promoting or demoting the election of any candidate of any political party or independent group or using such properties in a manner that would obstruct the conduct of the election.

R. M. A. L. RATHNAYAKE,
Chairman,
Election Commission.

M. A. P. C. PERERA,
Member,
Election Commission.

AMEER FAAIZ,
Member,
Election Commission.

A. SHANMUGANATHAN,
Member,
Election Commission.

Prof. LAKSHMAN DISSANAYAKE,
Member,
Election Commission.

At Election Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya,
On this 25th Day of September, 2024.



2A ටී කොටස : (I) වෙද්දස - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2024.09.25
PART I : Sec. (I) - GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA - 25.09.2024

In terms of Article 104(B)(04) (a) of the Constitution “The Election Commission shall have the power during the period of the election to prohibit the use of any movable or immovable property belonging to the State, any State Corporation or Authority or Statutory Board or Public Company for the purpose of promoting or preventing the election of any candidate of any political party or independent group contesting the election. Under subparagraph (b) of that Article it shall be the duty of every person or officer in whose custody or under whose control such property is for the time being, to comply with, and give effect to such directions issued by the Election Commission. All Public Officers including all Secretaries to Ministries, Chief Secretaries of Provinces should comply with these directions. Also, the Heads of institutions should ensure that all officers coming under their control do comply with these directions. These directions are applicable to all public institutions such as Ministries, Commissions, Departments, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, Co-operatives, State Corporations, Statutory Boards, State Authorities, State Banks, State Universities, and Public Companies.

02. Officials

- 2.1 The skills and knowledge of all public officers and their time are considered the property of the State. Therefore,
 - 2.1.1 Even a public officer with political rights shall not engage in political promotions inside the office premises or outside the office premises without formally availing of leave.
 - 2.1.2 Officers without political rights should not engage in political activities even after availing of leave.
 - 2.1.3 Public officials who do not have political rights will commit an offense if they use their personal social media accounts or other accounts to make statements or publicize anything that either promote or undermine any political party, independent group, or candidate.
 - 2.1.4 Even public officers with political rights should refrain from engaging in campaign activities during office hours using government resources. It will be considered an offense if they permit the dissemination or publication of false news, disinformation, or intentionally altered or distorted information about any political party, independent group, candidate, or election through their personal social network accounts.
- 2.2 Preventing misuse of State properties for political activities
 - 2.2.1 No officer or employee is entitled to use State properties viz. vehicles, communication equipment, printers, telephone facilities, photocopy machines, media equipment, circuit bungalows, and another public employee or anything else belonging to the State for political activities.
 - 2.2.2 When the Election Commission determines that it is necessary to further investigate information or complaints received by the Commission citing that one or more orders issued by the Election Commission to prevent the misuse of State properties in connection with the parliamentary election is/are violated, the officials under whose charge the necessary documents, both print and electronic, minutes, registers, and reports on recruitment or appointments lie should pursue action to produce them to the Election Commission or to any other official authorized for the purpose by the Election Commission when demanded by the Election Commission to do so. Public officers concerned shall be and are bound to make detailed statements when required to make an oral or written statement by the Election Commission or any other official authorized for the purpose by the Election Commission for the purpose of a further investigation carried out into any violation of orders or any one of them issued by the Election Commission.
 - 2.2.3 Every public officer shall be and is bound to pursue action to be present at the Election Commission in person to make every necessary explanation and produce all necessary documents when summoned by the Election Commission to inquire into any violation of orders or any one of them issued by the Election Commission regarding the misuse of State properties in connection with the parliamentary election.

2.3 Recruitment, appointment, promotion and transfer of officers

- 2.3.1 Officers should refrain from making any recruitment, appointments, promotions and transfers of whatever nature in public institutions including the recruitment, appointments, promotions, and transfers done in compliance with the prescribed procedure under the powers vested in the Commissions appointed by the Constitutional Council, during this period without the approval of the Election Commission.
- 2.3.2. However, when the Secretary to the relevant Ministry or the Head of the relevant Department opines that there is a need to implement without postponing an island-wide program or an internal arrangement for the recruitment/promotion of officers that has been commenced before the parliamentary election is announced and when the relevant authorities can ascertain that any other island-wide recruitment / promotion in the public service or in the State institutions is made properly devoid of political interference, the concurrence of the Election Commission may be granted. In such cases, a request in that regard should be made to the Election Commission and the prior written approval of the Commission obtained.
- 2.3.3 When recruitment is made in Public Service at divisional or provincial levels for the purpose of avoiding interruptions to sanitary, janitorial or maintenance services and of maintaining essential services, such recruitments should be made with the concurrence of the Election Commission and it is the responsibility of relevant authorities to carry out such recruitments in a transparent manner and free of political intervention.
- 2.3.4 General transfers of all public officers including teachers and principals of government schools who would be deployed for election duties in the area where the parliamentary election is to be held should be suspended for the period starting from the day on which the nominations are received and ending two weeks after the date of poll.
- 2.3.5 Transfers of public officers or officers of State Corporations/ Statutory Boards who would not be engaged in election duties should not be carried out on political grounds during the period of election and it is the responsibility of all relevant authorities to give effect to transfers without leaving room for complaints of political intervention.
- 2.3.6 This is not applicable to transfers done on disciplinary orders and if any transfer is required to be made on the exigency of service or under special circumstances, the such requirement should be brought to the notice of the Election Commission and approval obtained.

2.4 Preventing misdeeds connected to postal vote marking

- 2.4.1 Public officers should not bring or use any equipment prohibited by the Election Commission inside postal voting stations.
- 2.4.2 When public officers mark their postal ballots, it shall be an offense for them to take / display/cause to display, issue to public media, or upload to social media photographs of the ballot paper or the marked ballot or the polling station.
- 2.4.3 It shall be an offense to take photographs of the postal polling station or share these images with the public media or post them on social media networks.

03. Functions, Mobile Services, and Trade Fairs

3.1 Functions:

- 3.1.1 Functions such as laying foundation stones, opening ceremonies, and vesting in the public utilizing government funds and State properties should not be organized or conducted during the period of an election

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since the politicians who attend these functions may express opinions and views on the parliamentary election and conduct of these functions ceremonially may lead to the promotion or cause prejudice to any party group or candidate.

- 3.1.2 In the case of functions scheduled before the publication of the poll notice for the parliamentary election and which cannot be canceled or postponed, the Election Commission should be informed thereof for instructions of the Commission to proceed therewith. In the event of conducting such a function as involves spending government funds, and if the promotion of or prejudice to any party/group or candidate has taken place at such function, the officials who organized such a function should be held responsible for the same.
- 3.1.3 The officers who organize functions/events should bring to the notice of the Returning Officers of the respective districts where such events are scheduled to be held during the period of the parliamentary election well in advance enabling them to make arrangements to observe such events and keep records.
- 3.1.4 It is strictly prohibited to make any statement or to do any act, display or distribute flags/ banners/posters/ leaflets/notices promoting parties/groups or candidates at any function conducted spending State funds during the period of an election, and the officers or authorities of State institutions who organize or fund such functions should prevent such promotions taking place.

3.2 Mobile Services and Trade Fairs.

- 3.2.1 Since there is a tendency to use mobile services and trade fairs conducted during an election period utilizing public funds and State property to facilitate the public for the promotion of or causing prejudice to parties/ groups or candidates, organizing or conducting of such trade exhibitions or carnivals should be avoided during the period of an election.
- 3.2.2 Any trade exhibitions or carnivals scheduled before the Notice of Poll is published and cannot be canceled or postponed during the election period should be reported to the Election Commission for guidance. If such events are conducted using government funds and result in promoting or prejudicing any party, group, or candidate, the officials responsible for organizing them will be held accountable.
- 3.2.3 The officers who organize mobile services and trade exhibitions should also take action to bring to the notice of the Returning Officers of respective districts where such events are to be held during the period of the election well in advance enabling them to make arrangements to observe those and keep records.
- 3.2.4 It is strictly prohibited to make any statement or do any act, display or distribute flags/ banners /posters / leaflets /notices promoting parties /groups or candidates at mobile services and trade exhibitions conducted spending State funds during the period of an election and the official or State institutions that organize or fund such events should prevent such promotions or causing prejudice to any candidate or party or group.

04. Implementation of Programs to Provide Common Amenities, Aids, and Special Projects

- 4.1 Long-term or medium-term special programs may be implemented for the provision of facilities to the public or for the development of the country or continuous programs to provide citizens with common amenities and cannot be suspended due to an election. However, action should be taken to ensure that no promotion of or causing of prejudice to any party/group or candidate is taking place through such special projects or continuous programs after the issue of the Notice of Poll.

- 4.2 During the period of an election the launch of programs to distribute State lands, conduct land kachcheris, award title deeds for State lands, deeds to transfer ownership of houses and reliefs to residents, providing subsidies, fertilizer, agro equipment for the plantation industry, and providing sports goods, kitchen and household items, equipment for self-employment, bicycles, solar power lamps, building material for house constructions, the release of housing loans/ compensations, *etc.* should be suspended. However, if it is apparent that the suspension of the programs will impede the meeting of the needs of the general public, the Election Commission should be consulted for necessary instructions. In the event the programs are already initiated or for which approval has already been obtained to proceed, it should be the responsibility of the officers who are charged with such programmes to implement them with the participation of only the relevant officials without leaving any room for the promotion of parties/groups or candidates.

05. Responsibility of the Heads of State Corporations, Statutory Boards that possess State properties

- 5.1 An officer should be nominated for each State Corporation, Statutory Board, Authority, and Company of which more than 50% of shares are held by the government to take responsibility and supervise State properties thereof.
- 5.2 Any property of any State Corporation, Authority, Statutory Board, or Public Company should not be allowed to be used in such a manner so as to promote or demote any political party, independent group, or candidate. It shall be the responsibility of the Head of the Institution to prevent the use of properties of the Institution for political purposes and the Head of the Institution shall pursue action to prevent the use of State properties to promote or demote any political party, independent group, or candidate. Heads of the Institutions who do not comply with these directives properly will be dealt with treating the breach of these directives as an election offense.

06. Vehicles

- 6.1 All officers in whose custody the pool of vehicles belonging to the State including motor cars, jeeps, cabs, and buses, should take extra care in maintaining the vehicle pools and assigning such vehicles during the period of an election so as to prevent such vehicles from being used for the promotion of election propaganda campaigns of any political party, independent group or candidate. It should be noted that assigned vehicles belonging to the State and vehicles hired to be used for specific duties are included in the said category. During the period of election running charts should be properly maintained particularly in respect of pool vehicles and vehicles other than assigned vehicles and the running charts should be scrutinized by a staff officer on a daily basis to make sure that such vehicles are not used for any political propaganda purpose. Action should be taken to ensure that State vehicles are not used for the promotion of or causing prejudice to any political party on the pretext that they are used for official purposes with fake entries to that effect in the running charts.
- 6.2 No vehicle other than those two vehicles assigned for the purpose of providing security to H.E. the President can be operated without the exclusive registration number issued by the Department of Motor Traffic and as such no Minister or any member of his/her staff or another person can use State vehicles or vehicles belonging to public institutions without the relevant registration number. Therefore, Secretaries of Ministries / Heads of Departments and officers in whose custody the pool of vehicles belong to the State should ensure that no vehicle belonging to State Department or State institution is operated with garage numbers or fake numbers.
- 6.3 All Secretaries of Ministries / Heads of Departments should ensure that public funds are not utilized for the use of airplanes or helicopters or other vehicles for political propaganda activities.

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07. State offices, buildings, schools, and other buildings belonging to the State and Circuit bungalows

- 7.1 Government office buildings, schools, other buildings, and circuit bungalows belonging to the State too are State property. Therefore, such buildings should not be used to conduct political meetings, discussions, *etc.* It should not be construed that these directions prevent the buildings and halls which can usually be reserved on payment of specified fees by any political party/ group, or candidate, from being so reserved during the period of an election on payment of relevant fees without causing any discrimination towards any Party/ Group / Candidate.
- 7.2 It is strictly prohibited to provide State-owned circuit bungalows, rest houses, and holiday resorts free of charge to persons engaged in election propaganda activities. It is strictly prohibited to reserve any State-owned circuit bungalows, rest houses, or holiday resorts free of charge to persons engaged in political propaganda activities. Circuit bungalows, rest houses, and holiday resorts belonging to the State or State institutions and situated in respective areas should not be reserved on a full-time basis during the period of election to any politician, officer, or any other person. Also, no person who avails accommodation at the said circuit bungalows should be allowed to engage in promoting any party, group, or candidate. Any election propaganda posters, banners, cutouts, billboards, *etc.*, are not to allow to be displayed on State-owned buildings or within their premises or store therein.
- 7.3 When playgrounds or bare lands and halls or such other buildings belonging to the State, Provincial Councils, and Local Authorities are reserved for the purpose of holding election propaganda rallies to promote a Political Party/ Independent group or candidate, such reservation should be done in such a transparent manner that no special favor, priority or discrimination is meted out to any party, independent group or candidate. Also, such venues should not be reserved for the use of any party / group/ candidate or for any other purpose for a prolonged period of time so that such venues are made not available for the use by other parties.

08. General

- 8.1 State property, State institutions, vehicles, equipment, buildings, lands, and public officers in particular, should not be allowed to be used for the promotion or demotion of parties, groups or candidates in relation to the election. No officer should allow any misdeeds such as attaching public officers of State institutions and vehicles belonging to the State or State institutions or rented vehicles stationed outside the electoral area to offices or institutions situated within the electoral area on the pretext that such attachments are done to carry out urgent duties or special development project work in electoral areas but used to promote (or to prejudice) parties, groups or candidates to take place. Officers, vehicles, and equipment, belonging to Media Units of any State institution including Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, State Corporations, Boards, State Banks, other Statutory institutions, and State Universities should not be used for the promotion of any party, group or candidate. If entertainment equipment such as podiums, stages, decorations and vehicles, airplanes and helicopters belonging to State institutions are usually hired under normal circumstances, such hiring during the period of an election should be done in a transparent manner offering equal opportunities for all parties/ groups to hire such items.
- 8.2 Promotion of or causing prejudice to any party/group or candidate should not be done by way of broadcasting /telecasting / publishing through television, radio, and press advertisement or by displaying billboards at public places spending public funds to give publicity to development programmers of the government or to anniversaries / commemorations.

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- 8.3 All private cable television channels, private electronic and print media institutions, websites, and mobile and fixed telephone service providers should act in such a manner during the period of the parliamentary election so as to not cause any breach of election laws and in compliance with the media guidelines, directions and instruction circulars issued by the Election Commission and it shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media and the Chairman/Director General of the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission who are responsible for regulating of such institutions to ensure strict compliance thereto by the institutions aforesaid.
- 8.4 It shall be the responsibility of the Heads of State institutions/ provincial or Local Authorities and Mayors/ Chairmen/Urban Commissioners/Secretaries and heads of each division under whose custody or control street lamp posts and telephone poles, public roads and pavements, *etc.* fall, to prevent such properties situated within their respective areas of authority from being used for display of banners, posters, flags, billboards, and other decorations and for advertising by way of painting or digital panels, with the intention of promoting or demoting parties / groups / candidates.
- 8.5 The Heads of Ministries, Departments, or State Institutions should take action to remove photographs, advertising boards, flags, billboards, and decorations which have been erected before the commencement of the election period and are being displayed at public places for the promotion or demotion of parties / groups / candidates. The Heads of Local Bodies and the Commissioners and Secretaries of such Bodies should take action to remove advertising boards, flags, billboards, and decorations erected at public places within their area of authority.
- 8.6 The directions preventing the use of State properties for the promotion or demotion of the election of any candidate at this parliamentary election should be strictly adhered to without any favour. The Secretaries to Ministries should pursue action to give instructions in this regard to the Heads of Departments, State Corporations, and other institutions coming under the purview of the respective Ministry. Also, the Secretaries of Ministries and Heads of institutions should ensure that all officers of their respective institutions comply with these directions and instructions.
- 8.7 Public officers should essentially draw their attention to Article 104b (02) of the Constitution which reads as “It shall be the duty of the Commission to secure the enforcement of all laws relating to the holding of the parliamentary election and it shall be the duty of all authorities of the State charged with the enforcement of such laws, to cooperate with the Commission to secure such enforcement”.
- 8.8 Please note that the responsibility of bringing the contents of these directions to the notice of respective Ministers, State Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and the staff of the Ministers lies with the Secretary to the respective Ministries while the responsibility of bringing such matters to the notice of Governors, Chief Ministers and other Ministers of the Provinces lies with the Chief Secretary and the Secretaries of the respective Provincial Ministries.
- 8.9 The Secretaries to Commissions should pursue action to bring these directions to the notice of the Chairpersons and Members of such Commissions, as applicable.
- 8.10 In addition to the provisions of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Chief Accounting Officer or Accounting Officer of Ministries/ Departments/ institutions to prevent or to take action to prevent the misuse of State properties.

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8.11 Negligence and/or omission of the duties entrusted statutorily or otherwise to Local Authorities and other State Corporations, or Statutory Boards and Public Companies shall be treated as a breach of these directions.

8.12 Non-compliance with these directions is a punishable offense under Article 104gg of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

N.B.:- The term "State" wherever it appears in these directions means all State institutions including State Ministries, Departments, Provincial Councils, Local Authorities, State Corporations, Statutory Boards, Commissions, State banks, State universities, Nationalized Companies, and institutions of which more than 50% of shares are held by the State or State-owned companies.

The term "public officers and employees" wherever it appears in these directions means all persons who engage and are employed in any manner whatsoever in the institutions aforesaid and receive a salary or allowance.

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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

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(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

**MEDIA GUIDELINES UNDER ARTICLE 104B(5)(A) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA**

THE Media Guidelines made by the Election Commission under Article 104 B(5)(a) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as finally amended by the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, for the parliamentary election are indicated in Schedules 01, 02, and 03 below.

R. M. A. L. RATHNAYAKE,
Chairman,
Election Commission.

M. A. P. C. PERERA,
Member,
Election Commission.

AMEER FAAIZ,
Member,
Election Commission.

A. SHANMUGANATHAN,
Member,
Election Commission.

Prof. LAKSHMAN DISSANAYAKE,
Member,
Election Commission.

At Election Commission,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.
On this 25th day of September 2024.



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Schedule 01

01. Committee of (Permanent) Representatives for enforcing and recommending media guidelines & general matters

- 1.1 Every media institution shall provide accurate, balanced and impartial information in broadcasting or televising or publishing its news bulletins and any other programs related to political affairs. In this regard, the Election Commission shall appoint a Permanent Representative Committee to monitor and ensure that the following media guidelines issued by the Commission are properly adhered to and to make observations and recommendations on compliance with the guidelines. The Committee shall act in accordance with the directions and instructions of the Election Commission which shall take necessary decisions upon the recommendations of such Committee. The composition and members of the Committee will be announced by the Commission after the announcement of the dates for the presidential election.
- 1.2 In these guidelines “period of an election” means the period commencing on the making of a Proclamation or Order for the conduct of a referendum or for the holding of an election, as the case may be, and ending on the date on which the result of a poll taken at such referendum or election, as the case may be, is declared.

Schedule 02

02. Guidelines for Electronic Media Institutions and Administrators of Websites and Social Media Websites

- 2.1 All telecasting and broadcasting must maintain neutrality and impartiality in their coverage of election-related matters. They should refrain from discriminatory actions against any participating political party, independent group, or candidate, and should not provide preferential treatment to any party, group, or candidate when allocating airtime on radio or television.
- 2.2 Electronic media shall refrain from commenting on editorials published in newspapers in a manner that promotes or prejudices any political party, independent group, or candidate. In the event that an editorial opinion is broadcast or telecast, the affected party should be given a similar opportunity to broadcast or telecast material to present a counter perspective.
- 2.3 Every presenter of programs and announcer on television and radio channels shall refrain from expressing personal views, on program where newspaper headlines and cartoons are presented which may promote or prejudice one party.
- 2.4 It shall be the responsibility of the news and current affairs divisions of all electronic media institutions not to broadcast or telecast any program or supplement during the period of an election, if such program, supplement or news item is inconsistent with the election laws and media guidelines of the Election Commission.
- 2.5 Where any material covering an incident or event is broadcast or telecast during the period of the parliamentary election with comments of one candidate, or representative of any other political party/independent group having an interest in such event or likely to be affected by that incident or event should also be given an opportunity to express the views on such incident or event.
- 2.6 The names of the scriptwriter, announcer and editor of any documentary program or any other special program broadcast or televised during the period of the election which is directly connected with such election/poll shall be disclosed when such program is broadcast or telecast. In the event of any such media institution retaining the right not to disclose such particulars, the person in charge of such program shall be held responsible for the contents thereof.
- 2.7 A media institution shall not utilize airtime redundant to make allegations against any candidate contesting at an election if the allegations cannot be substantiated. If any political party, independent group or candidate claims that another political party, independent group or candidate or supporter thereof has made any false and

- prejudicial statement against a political party, independent group or candidate that party, group or candidate shall be given an opportunity to counter the same.
- 2.8. Any news or program covering any crime that is likely to promote or demote any political party, independent group or candidate is telecast or broadcast, every media institution if publishing such news or program shall consult all parties involved therein for clarity.
 - 2.9. Where during the period of the election coverage is given by radio or television to opinions or views expressed by the President or the Prime Minister or any Minister, it shall be treated as coverage given to the political party to which such person belongs. Therefore, any nominated leader of a rival party-political contesting the election/poll shall also be given equal coverage free of charge in similar programs.
 - 2.10. No candidate shall be specially or favorably treated in the allocation of airtime on radio or television, to promote the election of such candidate or to cause prejudice to another party/independent group/candidate.
 - 2.11. No lecture, interview, or such other program with public officers shall be broadcast or telecast, during the period of an election/poll, promoting any contesting party/independent group/candidate or causing disadvantage to another candidate.
 - 2.12. No photographs or statements of public officers not entitled to political rights and of officers in active service in security forces and police as well as of retired officers of security forces and police taken or made in their uniforms while in active service should be telecast or broadcast over electronic media in a manner promoting or demoting any party or candidate.
 - 2.13. Every electronic media institution shall act in a reasonable manner in selecting participants for panel discussions so that the composition of the panel is balanced. Every media institution shall refrain from conducting programs which cause disadvantage to any participant by conducting the program in a language in which such participant is not proficient. Interviews with participants shall be conducted in a language that the participant is proficient in. Information obtained through vague and incoherent questions should not be published, or such questions should not be asked. At the outset, a participant in the program should be warned not to make statements which are unethical or harmful to communal harmony, and if such statements are made while the discussion is in progress, the program should be discontinued forthwith.
 - 2.14. In any phone-in program, every caller shall be given fair opportunity to pose questions which are not unethical, not harmful to religious or communal harmony and are consistent with the laws relating to elections. Every person conducting such phone-in programs shall be answerable for any biased phone-in program.
 - 2.15. If the chairperson, member of the board of management, director or any journalist of any electronic or print media institution is actively involved in political activities and where any such involvement may result in a conflict of interest in providing balanced broadcasting, telecasting or publishing, such person shall inform in writing the management of the institution, the following: -
 - (a) the involvement of a such person in political activity;
 - (b) the position held by a such person in the institution; and
 - (c) the extent of involvement of a such person in arranging and conducting programs.
 - 2.16. Where any person holding any position in any recognized political party is also holding a dominant office such as the chairman, member of the board of directors, chief executive or chief editor of any media institution and, where such person is also a candidate at an election/a poll or the party to which such person belongs is directly or under a recognized alliance contesting at such election/poll, he shall cease to engage in the duties assigned to him in such media institution. Further, if such a person is contesting as a candidate or holding office in a contesting party at an election/a poll, he shall not be involved in moderating any program in any television or broadcasting institution which is of political in nature and, in the case of print media, such person shall not publish articles on political matters through that media institution.

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- 2.17. Where any participant of a political party/independent group refuses to participate in a discussion or an interview in any media institution without assigning any reason for such non-participation, such media institution shall not display an empty chair or use similar means to emphasize such non-participation. It is recommended that a simple and direct announcement be made about the absence of the participant.
- 2.18. Any electronic media which broadcasts the result of an opinion poll on the election shall broadcast the name of the organization which conducted such poll, the purpose of the research/opinion poll, the organization or the person which commissioned and funded such poll, the methodology employed, the size of the sample, margin of error and the period of fieldwork. Further, the broadcaster or publisher shall state that such poll reflects a public opinion only at the time of such opinion poll.
- 2.19. Where any candidate makes any statement to promote the candidature of another candidate of a party or group, to which such candidate does not belong, no publicity shall be given to such statement by way of broadcasting or telecasting such statement.
- 2.20. No Photographing or videotaping shall be carried out at any polling station or postal voting center without the due permission of the Election Commission. No unauthorized photo or video shall be published or broadcast in the newspapers, or over electronic, print or social media. Even photographs and video footage taken after obtaining the permission of the Election Commission should be published or aired only after the closure of the poll.
- 2.21. Any advertisement, quiz program, entertainment program, any program relating to development activities or any such activities, film, teledrama, musical show or any other program of such nature televised or broadcast prior to the date of the election/poll, conducted by or featuring any candidate or promoting or demoting any candidate or party or an independent group shall not be telecast, broadcast or published during the period of silence which operates just before the date of the election/poll.
- 2.22. The "silence period" in relation to the election campaign is the period commencing 48 hours before the date on which the election is scheduled to be held and ending on the date when the results are announced. No propaganda activity or advertising whatsoever promoting or demoting any political party/independent group/ candidate shall be carried out during this period. However, footage of public meetings held for the promotion of political parties or candidates on the day before the start of the silence period may be aired only on one occasion on radio and television during their news bulletins on the day following the meeting, in such manner that all parties or candidates contesting the election receive an equal time slot. Also, news reports on final-day meetings may be published in the newspapers circulating on the day following such meetings in such a manner that no party or candidate receives special treatment.
- 2.23. Every electronic media institution shall refrain from broadcasting or telecasting material that may promote or induce hatred and intolerance among Sri Lankan people on various grounds including religious beliefs, faith, language, ethnicity, customs and caste.
- 2.24. Every electronic media institution shall avoid broadcasting or telecasting propaganda activities that promote hateful politics among political activists and within society.
- 2.25. Every electronic media institution shall refrain from repeat-telecasting any statement made previously by any candidate or a supporter about another candidate of another political party/independent group, without the consent of the declarant and shall honour a request made by the declarant not to repeat such statements made by him previously.
- 2.26. A media institution shall not give coverage to anonymous notices or material and to notices or material under the names of fake organizations or persons. The responsibility in this regard shall lie with the respective media institutions.

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- 2.27. A media institution and the person making any statement or reading the news, as the case may be, shall be equally accountable with regard to the publishing, broadcasting or telecasting of incorrect statements or news and shall be subject to legal proceedings that may arise in this regard.
- 2.28. Electronic media institutions shall refrain from publishing unofficial results until the election/poll results are officially announced by the Election Commission.
- 2.29. Government and semi-government electronic media institutions must avoid using state property and funds to promote any political party, independent group, or candidate, or engage in activities that could harm any institution or government revenue. Private media institutions should also adhere to these guidelines. In case of a violation, apart from the penalties outlined in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, disciplinary action specified by the relevant institution may be taken against those accountable.
- 2.30. The proprietors of all electronic media shall adhere to these guidelines and ensure that the respective institutions owned by them observe such guidelines.
- 2.31. It shall also be the responsibility of the administrators of social media sites and owners of Cable Television channels to follow these guidelines as applicable to them, during the period of the election.
- 2.32. The administrators of internet and social media websites must ensure that artificial intelligence-based computer programs do not spread false news, misinformation, or intentionally altered or distorted information about parties/independent groups, candidates, or elections.
- 2.33. The administrators of internet websites and social media platforms should refrain from promoting biased opinions in pre-election polls that could unfairly influence political parties/independent groups or candidates.
- 2.34. The administrators of internet websites and social media platforms must not propagate without consent or forcefully disseminate distorted photos, false news, or personal information of candidates or their family members causing disturbance.
- 2.35. The administrators of internet websites and social media platforms should not prejudice parties/independent groups or candidates by establishing fake social media accounts in other individuals' names.
- 2.36. The administrators of internet websites and social media platforms must not employ social media users to disseminate false news, misinformation, or intentionally altered or distorted information about parties/independent groups/candidates, or elections, nor should they generate false public opinion through fake social media accounts.
- 2.37. If a complaint is lodged with the Election Commission regarding the dissemination of false news, misinformation, or intentionally altered information about a party/independent groups or candidate, internet website and social media platform administrators should promptly address the inquiries, respond to the reported news or information, and take necessary steps to remove it from their social media accounts or websites.
- 2.38. It shall be the responsibility of the proprietors and administrators of all television and radio stations which carry out their telecasting/broadcasting within Sri Lanka via satellite technology to adhere to the media guidelines issued by the Election Commission during the period of an election/a poll.
- 2.39. All electronic media institutions should refrain during the period of an election/poll from broadcasting statements, speeches or audio tapes by politicians or other persons appreciating acts of violence, violation of election laws and illegal acts, or in a manner that causes disturbances and acts of violence among social groups.
- 2.40. Electronic media institutions shall refrain from publishing or airing any statement, report or propaganda made on any media, whether in print, radio, television or internet / social media, on matters covered or not covered by these media guidelines if they violate the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any election or other law in force in the country.

6A I කොටස : (I) පේළිය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ අති විශේෂ ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2024.09.25
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2.41. It is not only the duty but also the responsibility of the proprietors of electronic media institutions and administrators and users of social media to adhere to these guidelines, as the observance of these guidelines is essential to hold a free and fair election ensuring a level field for all parties/independent groups, candidates contesting the election.

Schedule 03

03. Guidelines for Electronic Media Institutions

- 3.1 All print media shall be neutral and impartial in their reporting of matters relating to an election, and shall not act in a manner which discriminates against any contesting political party, independent group or candidate or confers a special benefit to any such party, group or candidate, in allocating space in newspapers for a political party, independent group or candidate.
- 3.2 It shall be the responsibility of all print media institutions not to broadcast or telecast any program or supplement during the period of an election/poll, if the program, supplement or news item is inconsistent with the election laws and media guidelines of the Election Commission.
- 3.3 Where any material covering an incident or event is published during the period of an election/poll with comments of one candidate, any other political party or independent group having an interest in such event or likely to be affected by that incident or event should also be given an opportunity to express the views on such incident or event.
- 3.4 Where during the period of election/poll coverage is given by radio or television to opinions or views expressed by the President or the Prime Minister or any Minister, it shall be treated as coverage given to the political party to which such person belongs. Therefore, equal space should be given to any nominated leader of a rival party-political contesting the election/poll to publish his special statements and to all political parties, independent groups and candidates in publishing articles on their propaganda campaigns.
- 3.5 No candidate shall be specially or favourably treated in the allocation of space in newspapers, to promote the election of such candidate or to cause prejudice to another candidate.
- 3.6 No articles or other supplements on lectures, or interviews conducted for public officers shall be published, during the period of an election/poll, promoting any contesting candidate or causing a disadvantage to another candidate.
- 3.7 No photographs or statements of public officers not entitled to political rights and of officers in active service in security forces and police as well as of retired officers of security forces and police taken or made in their uniforms while in active service should be telecast, broadcast or published over electronic, print or other media in a manner promoting or demoting any party or candidate.
- 3.8 Every print media institution shall act in a reasonable manner in selecting participants for panel discussions so that the composition of the panel is balanced. Every print media institution shall refrain from conducting and reporting on discussions which cause disadvantage to any participant by conducting the program in a language in which such participant is not proficient. Reporting on interviews with participants shall be done in a language that the participant is proficient in. Information obtained through vague and incoherent questions should not be published, or such questions should not be asked. At the outset, a participant in the program should be warned not to make statements which are unethical or harmful to communal harmony, and if such statements are made while the discussion is in progress, such statements should not be reported.
- 3.9 If the chairperson, member of the board of management, director or any journalist of any print media institution is actively involved in political activities and where any such involvement may result in a conflict of interest in providing balanced broadcasting, telecasting or publishing, such person shall inform in writing the management of the institution, the following: -

- (a) the involvement of a such person in political activity;
 (b) the position held by such a person in the institution; and
 (c) the extent of involvement of a such person in arranging and conducting programs.
- 3.10 Where any person holding any position in any recognized political party is also holding a dominant office such as the chairman, member of the board of directors, chief executive or chief editor of any media institution and, where such person is also a candidate at an election/a poll or the party to which such person belongs is directly or under a recognized alliance contesting at such election/poll, he shall cease to engage in the duties assigned to him in such media institution. Further, if such a person is contesting as a candidate or holding office in a contesting party at an election/a poll, he shall not be involved in moderating any program in any television or broadcasting institution which is of political in nature and, in the case of print media, such person shall not publish articles on political matters through that media institution.
- 3.11 Any print media that publishes the result of an opinion poll on the election shall publish the name of the organization which conducted the poll, the organization or the person that commissioned and funded such poll, the purpose of the poll, the methodology employed, the size of the sample, margin of error and the period of fieldwork. Further, the broadcaster or publisher shall state that such poll reflects a public opinion only at the time of such opinion poll.
- 3.12 Where any candidate makes any statement to promote the candidature of another candidate of a party or group, to which such candidate does not belong, no publicity shall be given to such statement by way of broadcasting or telecasting such statement.
- 3.13 No Photographing and publishing of any polling station or postal voting centre without the due permission of the Election Commission. No unauthorized photo or video shall be published in the newspapers, or over print media. Even photographs and video footage taken after obtaining the permission of the Election Commission should be published only after the closure of the poll.
- 3.14 Any advertisement, quiz program, entertainment program, any program relating to development activities or any such activities, or any other program of such nature conducted prior to the date of the election/poll, by or featuring any candidate or promoting or demoting any candidate or party or an independent group shall not be published during the period of silence which operates just before the date of the election/poll. It is considered vital that a period of silence prevails just before the date of the 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.
- 3.15 The "silence period" in relation to the election campaign is the period commencing 48 hours before the date on which the election/poll is scheduled to be held and ending on the date when the results are announced. No propaganda activity or advertising whatsoever promoting or demoting any political party/independent group or candidate shall be carried out during this period. However, footage of public meetings held for the promotion of political parties or candidates on the day before the start of the silence period may be aired only on one occasion on radio and television during their news bulletins on the day following the meeting, in such manner that all parties or candidates contesting the election receive an equal time slot. Also, news reports on final-day meetings may be published in the newspapers circulating on the day following such meetings in such a manner that no party or candidate receives special treatment.
- 3.16 Every print media institution shall refrain from publishing material that may promote or induce hatred and intolerance among Sri Lankan people on various grounds including religious beliefs, faith, language, ethnicity, customs and caste.
- 3.17. Every print media institution shall avoid publishing propaganda activities that promote hateful politics among political activists and within society.

8A I කොටස : (I) වෙදය - ශ්‍රී ලංකා ප්‍රජාතාන්ත්‍රික සමාජවාදී ජනරජයේ දැනී විලස ගැසට් පත්‍රය - 2024.09.25
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- 3.18 A print media institution shall not give coverage to anonymous notices or material and to notices or material under the names of fake organizations or persons. The responsibility in this regard shall lie with the respective media institutions.
- 3.19. Every print media institution shall refrain from republishing any statement made previously by any candidate or a supporter about another candidate of another political party, without the consent of the declarant and shall honour a request made by the declarant not to repeat such a statement made by him previously.
- 3.20 A print media institution and the person publishing or making any statement as the case may be, shall be equally accountable with regard to the publishing, of incorrect statements or news and shall be subject to legal proceedings that may arise in this regard.
- 3.21 All print media institutions shall refrain from publishing unofficial results until the election results are officially announced by the Election Commission.
- 3.22 All government and semi-government print media institutions shall refrain from the use of state property and funds to promote any political party, group or candidate or to cause loss to government revenue or act so as to cause damage to any institution. In the event of a breach of this guideline, in addition to the penalties specified in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, disciplinary action may be instituted against those responsible.
- 3.23 The proprietors of all print media shall adhere to these guidelines and ensure that the respective institutions owned by them observe such guidelines.
- 3.24. It shall be the responsibility of all print media institutions to adhere to these guidelines during the period of the election.
- 3.25 It is not only the duty but also the responsibility of the proprietors of media institutions and administrators and users of social media to adhere to these guidelines, as the observance of these guidelines is essential to ensure a free and fair election.
- 3.26 All print media institutions should refrain during the period of the election from publishing news, statements, or speeches by politicians or other persons appreciating acts of violence, violation of election laws and illegal acts, or in a manner that causes disturbances and acts of violence among social groups.
- 3.27 Media institutions shall refrain from publishing any statement, report or propaganda made on any media, whether in print, radio, television or internet / social media, on matters covered or not covered by these media guidelines if they violate the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka or any election or other law in force in the country.
- 3.28 It shall be the responsibility of every print media institution to adhere to and abide by the ethics pertaining to media.

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ANNEX 02: PRESS RELEASES

2024 මහ මැතිවරණය: නව රජය විසින් සිදු කරන පත්වීම් පිළිබඳ TISL ආයතනයේ අවධානය

2024 මහ මැතිවරණයේදී ප්‍රචාරක කටයුතු සඳහා රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් අවභාවිතය පිළිබඳ නිරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු සඳහා ට්‍රාන්ස්පේරන්සි ඉන්ටනැෂනල් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ආයතනය (TISL) රට පුරා මැතිවරණ නිරීක්ෂකයින් 160 දෙනෙකුගේ කණ්ඩායමක් යොදවා නිරීක්ෂණ කටයුතු ආරම්භ කර ඇත. ඔක්තෝබර් 14 වැනිදා සිට TISL ආයතනය වෙත පැමිණි 70ක් ලැබී ඇති අතර, රාජ්‍ය ආයතනවල සිදු කරන ලද නව පත්වීම්වලට අදාළ පැමිණිලි බොහෝ ගණනක් මේ අතර ඇත.

“නාම යෝජනා ලබා දුන් අපේක්ෂකයෙකු මධ්‍යම පළාතේ තනතුරකට පත්කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙන් අපිට තොරතුරු ලැබී තිබෙනවා. අපි මේ පිළිබඳව මැතිවරණ කොමිසමට විධිමත් පැමිණිල්ලක් ඉදිරිපත් කළා. නව පාලක පක්ෂය සිය මැතිවරණ ප්‍රචාරක ව්‍යාපාරයේදී රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් අවභාවිත කරන්නේදැයි අපි සමීපව නිරීක්ෂණය කරනවා. අන්තර්වාර රජය විසින් නව ආණ්ඩුකාරවරුන්, අමාත්‍යාංශ ලේකම්වරුන් සහ සභාපතිවරුන් පත් කරනු ලැබුවා. එයින් ඇතැමෙක්ට යම් යම් දේශපාලන බැඳියාවන් තිබිය හැකියි. නමුත්, පොදු දේපළවල භාරකරුවන් ලෙස මැතිවරණ නීතිවලට ගරු කරමින් කටයුතු කරන ලෙස අපි ඔවුන්ට විශේෂයෙන් මතක් කරනවා. පසුගිය මැතිවරණයේදී ආණ්ඩුකාරවරුන් දේශපාලන අරමුණු සඳහා බලය සහ වාහන අවභාවිත කරන ආකාරය අපි දිගින් දිගටම නිරීක්ෂණය කළා,” TISL ආයතනයේ රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් සුරැකීමේ වැඩසටහනෙහි ජාතික සම්බන්ධීකාරක තුෂානි කන්දිල්පාන ඊයේ (ඔක්තෝබර් 23) නාවල TISL පරිශ්‍රයේ පැවැති මාධ්‍ය සාකච්ඡාවකට සහභාගී වෙමින් පැවසුවාය.

පසුගිය ජනාධිපතිවරණ සමයේදී රාජ්‍ය නිලධාරීන් සම්බන්ධ පැමිණිලි 117ක් TISL ආයතනය වෙත ලැබුණු බවත්, වාර්තා කිරීමෙන් පසුව ඉන් 40කට අධික සංඛ්‍යාවක් මැතිවරණ රාජකාරිවලින් ඉවත් කිරීමට මැතිවරණ කොමිසම කටයුතු කළ බවත් ඇය සඳහන් කළාය.

පසුගිය ජනාධිපතිවරණයේදී TISL ආයතනය වෙත රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් අවභාවිතය පිළිබඳ පැමිණිලි 1,000කට වැඩි ප්‍රමාණයක් ලැබුණු අතර, ඉන් සමහරක් පිළිබඳ තවදුරටත් පියවර ගැනෙමින් පවතියි. “උදාහරණ වශයෙන්, ජනාධිපතිවරණ සමයේදී සේවා අවශ්‍යතාවය ඉක්මවා 47 දෙනෙකු ලංකා මීනරල් සෑන්ඩ්ස් ලිමිටඩ් ආයතනය වෙත බඳවා ගත්තා. මෙම පැමිණිල්ල සම්බන්ධයෙන් සොයා බලන ලෙස අපි නව රජය පත් වූ පසු කර්මාන්ත අමාත්‍යාංශයෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියා. ඊට නිසි පිළිතුරු නොලැබුණහොත් නීතිමය ක්‍රියාමාර්ග ගැනීමට අපි පසුබට වන්නේ නැහැ,” කන්දිල්පාන පැහැදිලි කළාය.

මැතිවරණයේදී රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් අවභාවිතා වන අවස්ථාවන් පිළිබඳ සාක්ෂි සහිතව වාර්තා කරන ලෙස TISL ආයතනයේ ජ්‍යෙෂ්ඨ වැඩසටහන් කළමනාකරු ගෞරිස්වරත් කිරුපයිරාජා සියලු පුරවැසියන්ගෙන් ඉල්ලා සිටියේය. ඔබගේ පැමිණිලි ‘www.apesalli.lk’ යන වෙබ් අඩවිය හරහා හෝ 076 322 3442 ක්ෂණික ඇමතුම්/වට්සැප් අංකය හරහා හෝ 011 286 5777 ෆැක්ස් මගින් ඉදිරිපත් කළ හැක. සත්‍යාපනය කරන ලද පැමිණිලි ඉදිරි ක්‍රියාමාර්ග සඳහා මැතිවරණ කොමිෂන් සභාව වෙත යොමු කෙරේ.

TISL ආයතනය අනෙකුත් මැතිවරණ නිරීක්ෂණ සංවිධාන හා එක්ව මහා මැතිවරණ කාල සීමාවේදී මැතිවරණ ප්‍රචාරක වියදම් නිරීක්ෂණය කර එම තොරතුරු ‘chandasallimeetare.lk’ හරහා ප්‍රසිද්ධ කිරීමට බලාපොරොත්තු වන බව, TISL ආයතනයේ දේශපාලන අංශයේ වැඩසටහන් කළමනාකරු ශවින්ද්‍ර සෙනරත් මෙහිදී නිවේදනය කළේය.

பொதுத் தேர்தல் 2024: புதிய அரசு நியமனங்களில் TISL கவனம் செலுத்துகிறது

2024 பொதுத் தேர்தலில் பிரச்சாரத்திற்காக பொது வளங்களைத் தவறாகப் பயன்படுத்துவதைக் கண்காணிக்க நாடு முழுவதும் 160 தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பாளர்களை ட்ரான்ஸ்பேரன்சி இன்டர்நெஷனல் ஸ்ரீலங்கா (TISL) நிறுவனம் நியமித்துள்ளது. அக்டோபர் 14 முதல் TISL க்கு முறைப்பாடுகள் கிடைத்துள்ளன. அவற்றில் பல அரசு நிறுவனங்களில் செய்யப்பட்ட புதிய நியமனங்கள் தொடர்பானவையாகும்.

“மத்திய மாகாணத்தில் பொதுத் தேர்தலில் போட்டியிடும் ஒரு வேட்பாளரை, ஒரு பதவிக்கு நியமனம் செய்யப்பட்டது தொடர்பான தகவல்கள் எமக்கு கிடைத்துள்ளன. இது குறித்து தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழுவிடம் முறைப்படி முறைப்பாடு செய்துள்ளோம்.

“புதிய ஆளும் கட்சியின் தேர்தல் பிரச்சாரத்தின் போது, பொது வளங்கள் பயன்படுத்தப்படுகின்றதா என்பதை உன்னிப்பாக கவனித்து வருகிறோம். இடைக்கால அரசாங்கத்தால் பல புதிய ஆளுநர்கள், அமைச்சுக்களின் செயலாளர்கள் மற்றும் தலைவர்கள் நியமிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளனர். அவர்களில் சிலருக்கு சில அரசியல் தொடர்புகளும் இருக்கலாம். குறிப்பாக பொது வளங்களின் பாதுகாவலர்கள் என்ற வகையில், தேர்தல் சட்டங்களை மதிக்குமாறு அவர்களுக்கு நினைவூட்டுகிறோம். கடந்த தேர்தலில், அரசியல் நோக்கங்களுக்காக ஆளுநர்கள் அதிகாரம் மற்றும் பொது வாகனங்களை கணிசமான அளவில் தவறாகப் பயன்படுத்தியதை நாங்கள் அவதானிக்கக் கூடியதாக இருந்தது.” என TISL இன் பொது வளங்களைப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கான நிகழ்ச்சித் திட்டத்தின் தேசிய ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் துஷானி கண்டில்பான, நேற்று (அக்டோபர் 23) TISL வளாகத்தில் நடைபெற்ற ஊடகவியலாளர் சந்திப்பில் தெரிவித்தார்.

கடந்த ஜனாதிபதித் தேர்தலின் போது அரசு அதிகாரிகள் தொடர்பான 117 முறைப்பாடுகள் TISL நிறுவனத்திற்கு கிடைத்ததாகவும், 40 க்கும் மேற்பட்டவர்களை தேர்தல் பணிகளிலிருந்து நீக்க ஆணைக்குழு செயல்பட்டதாகவும் அவர் குறிப்பிட்டார்.

கடந்த தேர்தலில், பொது வளங்களைத் துஷ்பிரயோகம் செய்ததாக 1,000க்கும் மேற்பட்ட முறைப்பாடுகளை TISL நிறுவனம் பெற்றுள்ளதோடு, அவற்றில் சில பின்தொடரப்பட்டு வருகின்றன.

"உதாரணமாக, ஜனாதிபதித் தேர்தல் காலத்தில், தேவைக்கு அதிகமாக 47 நபர்கள் சிலோன் மினரல் சாண்ட்ஸ் லிமிடெட் நிறுவனத்தில் பணியமர்த்தப்பட்டனர். புதிய அரசாங்கம் நியமிக்கப்பட்டதன் பின்னர் இந்த முறைப்பாடு தொடர்பில் ஆராய கைத்தொழில் அமைச்சிடம் கேட்டுள்ளோம். சரியான பதில் கிடைக்காவிட்டால் சட்ட நடவடிக்கைகளையும் எடுக்க தயங்க மாட்டோம் என கண்டிப்பான விளக்கமளித்தார்.

TISL நிறுவனத்தின் சிரேஷ்ட நிகழ்ச்சித்திட்ட முகாமையாளர், கௌரீஸ்வரன் கிருபைராஜா அவர்கள், தேர்தலின் போது பொது வளங்களை துஷ்பிரயோகம் செய்யும் அத்தகைய நிகழ்வுகளைக் கண்டறிந்து முறையிடுவதில் பொதுமக்கள் என்ற வகையில் உங்களின் ஆதரவை வழங்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொண்டார். உங்களின் முறைப்பாடுகளை 'www.apesalli.lk' என்ற இணையதளம் மூலமாகவோ அல்லது 0763223442 என்ற தொலைபேசி எண் மூலமாகவோ அல்லது தொலைநகல் 011 286 5777 மூலமாகவோ சமர்ப்பிக்கலாம். எங்களுக்கு வந்த முறைப்பாடுகளை சரிபார்த்த பின், அடுத்தகட்ட நடவடிக்கைக்காக, இலங்கை தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழுவுக்கு அனுப்பி வைக்கப்படும்.

பொதுத் தேர்தல் காலத்தில் பிரச்சாரச் செலவினங்களைக் கண்காணித்து அந்தத் தகவல்களை 'chandasallimeetare.lk' மூலம் வெளியிடுவதற்கு ஏனைய தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பு அமைப்புகளுடன் இணைந்து TISL நிறுவனம் பணிபுரிவதாக TISL நிறுவனத்தின் அரசியல் துறை, முகாமையாளர், ஷவேந்திர செனரத் இங்கு அறிவித்தார்.

General Election 2024: TISL Cautions Interim Government on New Appointments

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has deployed approximately 160 election observers across all districts to monitor the misuse of public resources during the General Election 2024. Since October 14, TISL has received 70 complaints, with many related to new appointments made in public institutions.

“We have received information about a contesting candidate being appointed to a public service position. A formal complaint was lodged with the Election Commission regarding this. We are closely monitoring the new ruling party for any misuse of public resources during its election campaign. Several new governors, ministry secretaries, and chairpersons have been appointed by the interim government, and some may have political affiliations. We remind them to respect election laws, especially as stewards of public property. In the previous election, we saw significant misuse of power and public vehicles by governors for political purposes,” said Thushanie Kandilpana, National Coordinator of the Programme for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) at TISL.

Kandilpana was speaking at a media conference held yesterday (October 23) at TISL’s premises in Nawala. She noted that during the previous Presidential Election, TISL received 117 complaints involving public officials, and the Election Commission subsequently removed over 40 of them from election duties.

TISL received more than 1,000 complaints of public resource misuse in the last election, and investigations into several of these cases are ongoing. “For example, Lanka Mineral Sands Ltd. hired 47 individuals during the Presidential Election period, exceeding the necessary cadre. We are currently following up on this complaint with the Ministry of Industries, and we will not hesitate to initiate legal action if it is not properly addressed,” Kandilpana added.

Gowriswaran Kirupairajah, Senior Programme Manager at TISL, urged citizens to report any misuse of public resources during the election with evidence. Complaints can be submitted via the website www.apesalli.lk, through the hotline at 076 322 3442 (WhatsApp available), or by fax at 011 286 5777. Verified complaints will be forwarded to the Election Commission for further action.

Shaveendra Senarath, Programme Manager for the Political Sector at TISL, also spoke at the media conference. He announced that, in collaboration with other election monitoring organizations, TISL will monitor campaign finance for the General Election and make the information publicly available through chandasallimeetare.lk.

#TISL #SriLanka #GeneralElection2024 #ElectionObserving #MisuseofPublicResources #PPPR #PublicFunds

அக்டோபர் 10 ஆம் திகதி அன்று பனை அபிவிருத்திச் சபையின் (PDB) தலைவர் பதவிக்கு செல்வின் இரேனியஸ் மரியாம்பிள்ளை நியமிக்கப்பட்டதோடு, அதைத் தொடர்ந்து 12 நாட்கள் இடைவெளியில் அவர் நீக்கப்பட்டு, அவருக்குப் பதிலாக விநாயகமூர்த்தி சகாதேவன், அக்டோபர் 22 அன்று அதே பதவிக்கு நியமிக்கப்பட்டார். மேலும், தேர்தல்கள் ஆணைக்குழு விதித்துள்ள தடைகளுக்கு மத்தியிலும் தலைவர்கள் மாற்றம் மற்றும் பல புதிய நிர்வாக சபை உறுப்பினர்களை நியமிப்பதற்கு பொறுப்பான அமைச்சர் அனுமதி அளித்துள்ளதாக தெரிவிக்கப்படுகிறது.

செப்டம்பர் 25 அன்று இலங்கை தேர்தல்கள் ஆணைக்குழுவால் (ECSL) வெளியிடப்பட்ட வர்த்தமானியில் மற்றும் தேர்தல் சட்டத்தில், குறிப்பாக அரச அதிகாரிகள் தேர்தல்கள் ஆணைக்குழுவின் முன் அனுமதி பெறாமல், தேர்தல் காலத்தில் அரச நிறுவனங்களில் எந்தவொரு ஆட்சேர்ப்பு, நியமனங்கள், பதவி உயர்வுகள் அல்லது இடமாற்றங்களை மேற்கொள்வதற்கு தடை விதிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது என தெளிவாக குறிப்பிடப்பட்டுள்ளது. இந்த முக்கியமான தேர்தல் காலகட்டத்தில் சட்டத்தை மதிக்காத வகையில் அரசாங்கம் நடந்துகொள்வது கேள்விக்குரிய சூழ்நிலையை எழுப்புகிறது.

இவ்வாறான நியமனங்கள் மூலம், பொதுமக்களின் நம்பிக்கை பலவீனப்படுத்துவதுடன் தேர்தல் நடைமுறையின் நேர்மைக்கும், ஜனநாயக செயல்முறையின் நியாயத்தன்மையும் கேள்விக்குட்படுத்தப்படலாம். இது குறித்து இலங்கை தேர்தல்கள் ஆணைக்குழு விசாரணைகளை நடத்தி உரிய நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுக்க வேண்டும் என TISL கோருகிறது.

பொது நிறுவனங்கள் மீதான அரசியல் பக்கச்சார்பு அல்லது தேவையற்ற செல்வாக்கின் சந்தேகங்களைத் தவிர்ப்பதற்காக பொதுத் தேர்தல் முடியும் வரை பொது நிறுவனங்களில் இத்தகைய நியமனங்களை இடைநிறுத்துமாறு TISL மேலும் அரசாங்கத்தை வலியுறுத்துகிறது.

மேலும், வெளிப்படைத்தன்மை மற்றும் பொறுப்புக்கூறலை உறுதி செய்வதில் அர்ப்பணிப்புடன் செயற்பட்டுக்கொண்டு இருக்கும் TISL நிறுவனமானது இவ்வாறான நிலைமைகளை தொடர்ந்தும்

கண்காணிப்பதோடு, பொது நிறுவனங்களில் நெறிமுறை மற்றும் சட்ட வழிகாட்டுதல்களைக் கடைப்பிடிக்க வேண்டும் என கோருகின்றது.

TISL Raises Alarm Over Violation of Election Laws by Palmyrah Development Board

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) regarding recent appointments made at the Palmyrah Development Board (PDB) in Jaffna, which appear to contravene current election laws.

On October 10, Selvin Ireneuss Mariampillai was appointed as Chairman of the PDB. Just 12 days later, on October 22, Mariampillai was replaced by Vinayagamorthy Sahadevan. These swift changes in leadership, along with the addition of several new board members, were reportedly approved by the Cabinet Minister, despite existing restrictions set by the ECSL.

According to election laws and the ECSL's official Gazette issued on September 25, all government institutions are prohibited from making new appointments, promotions, or transfers during the election period without prior approval from the Election Commission. The recent changes at the PDB raise serious concerns about compliance with these legal standards and call into question the governance practices upheld during this sensitive period.

These appointments undermine public trust and could challenge the fairness of the electoral process. TISL urge the Election Commission to investigate these appointments and take prompt corrective action.

TISL further calls on the Government to halt such appointments across public institutions until the conclusion of the General Election to avoid perceptions of political bias or undue influence over public bodies. Committed to ensuring transparency and accountability, TISL will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for adherence to ethical and legal guidelines within public institutions.

#SriLanka #TISL #GeneralElection2024 #ElectionLawViolations #ElectionObservation #PublicService

මැතිවරණ ප්‍රචාරක කටයුතු සඳහා රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් අවහාචනය සම්බන්ධයෙන් ප්‍රාන්ස්පේරන්සි ඉන්ටරැෂනල් ශ්‍රී ලංකා ආයතනය (TISL) වෙත 2024 නොවැම්බර් 10 වැනි දින වන විට පැමිණිලි 785ක් ලැබී ඇත.

ඒ අතුරින් වැඩිම පැමිණිලි සංඛ්‍යාව (616) වාර්තා වන්නේ පොදු ස්ථානවල බැනර්, කටවුව සහ පෝස්ටර් ආදිය ප්‍රදර්ශනය කිරීම සම්බන්ධයෙනි.

රට පුරා යොදවා ඇති 160ක් පමණ වූ මැතිවරණ නිරීක්ෂකයින් සහ 'apesalli.lk' යන වෙබ් අඩවිය හරහා මෙම පැමිණිලි අප වෙත ලැබුණි. සත්‍යාපනය කිරීමෙන් පසුව, මෙම පැමිණිලි වලින් 600ක් පමණ වැඩි දුර ක්‍රියාමාර්ග ගැනීම සඳහා මැතිවරණ කොමිසම වෙත යොමු කර ඇත.

நவம்பர் 10, 2024 வரை, தேர்தல் பிரச்சார நடவடிக்கைகளுக்காக பொது வளங்களை தவறாகப் பயன்படுத்தியது தொடர்பாக ட்ரான்ஸ்பேரன்சி இன்டர்நெஷனல் ஸ்ரீலங்கா (TISL) நிறுவனத்திற்கு 785 முறைப்பாடுகள் பெறப்பட்டுள்ளன.

அவற்றில், அதிக எண்ணிக்கையிலான முறைப்பாடுகள் (616) தேர்தல் பிரச்சாரங்களுக்காக பொது இடங்களில் பேனர்கள், கட்டவுட்கள் மற்றும் சுவரொட்டிகளால் வளாகத்தை அலங்கரித்த சந்தர்ப்பங்கள் தொடர்பானவையாகும்.

நாடு முழுவதிலும் உள்ள 160 தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பாளர்களினூடாக மற்றும் 'apesalli.lk' இணையத்தளத்தினூடாக இந்த முறைப்பாடுகள் எமக்கு கிடைத்துள்ளன. எங்களுக்கு வந்த முறைப்பாடுகளை சரிபார்த்த பின், அடுத்தகட்ட நடவடிக்கைக்காக, இலங்கை தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழுக்கு அனுப்பப்பட்டுள்ளன.

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has received 785 complaints regarding the misuse of public resources for election campaigning as of November 10, 2024.

The largest category of complaints (616) pertains to the display of banners, cutouts, posters, and similar items in public spaces.

These complaints were reported by about 160 election observers stationed across the country and through the public platform 'apesalli.lk.' Following verification, about 600 of these complaints have been referred to the Election Commission for further action.

Bi-weekly Report 02_Parliamentary Election 2024 (Transparency International Sri Lanka)

* Required

1. දිස්ත්‍රික්කය / மாவட்டம் *

Enter your answer

2. නම - දිස්ත්‍රික් සම්බන්ධීකාරක / ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் பெயர் *

Enter your answer

3. යොමු කරන ලද දිනය / முறைப்பாடு செய்த திகதி *

Please input date (M/d/yyyy)

4. ඉහත ලැබීම්වලට අදාළව 2024 ඔක්තෝබර් 28 දින සිට 2024 නොවැම්බර් 15 දින දක්වා කාලය අතරතුර නිරීක්ෂණය කරන දිස්ත්‍රික්කයේ රාජ්‍ය දේපළ අයදා භාවිතවීමේදී ස්වභාවය
 மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட தேர்தல் தொடர்பாக 28 அக்டோபர் 2024 முதல் 15 நவம்பர் 2024 வரையிலான காலகட்டத்தில் நீங்கள் கடமையாற்றும் தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பு மாவட்டத்தில் பொதுச் சொத்துக்கள் தவறாகப் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டிருப்பின் அச்சம்பவத்தினை விவரிக்கவும்

Enter your answer

5. නිරීක්ෂණය කරන ලද සිදුවීම් අතුරින් විශේෂයෙන් සියවර හත් සිදුවීම්/ වළක්වාගත නැති වූ සිදුවීම් කිසිදු නම් ඒවා පිළිබඳව විස්තර
 உங்களுடைய தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பாளர்களால் தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பின் போது அந்த நிகழ்வு தொடர்பாக எடுத்த நடவடிக்கைகள் மற்றும் உங்களால் தடுக்கப்பட்ட தேர்தல் வன்முறைகள் அல்லது நிகழ்வுகள் இறந்தால் அதைப் பற்றிய விவரங்கள்

Enter your answer

6. මධ්‍යේ නොවැඩි ස නිරීක්ෂක මහත්ම මහත්මීන් ඉහත සඳහන් කාල සීමාව තුළ මධ්‍ය වෙත වාර්තා කරන ලද සියලුම පොදු දේපළ අයදා භාවිතවීමේ සිදුවීම්වල ApeSalli.lk
 වාර්තා உங்களது தொகுதி தேர்தல் கண்காணிப்பாளர்களால் மேற்குறித்த கால எல்லைக்குள் பொதுச் சொத்துக்களை தவறாகப் பயன்படுத்திய முறைப்பாடுகள் ApeSalli.lk செயலியில் பதிவேற்றப்பட்டிருப்பின் அவ் பதிவேற்றம் செய்யப்பட்ட பதிவு இலக்கத்தினை அத்தொகுதி கண்காணிப்பாளர்களின் பெயர்கள் உள்ளடக்கி தருக

Enter your answer

7. ලැබීම්වල ක්‍රියාවලිය සම්බන්ධයෙන් ලැබීම්වල නොමිසත් සහ වටිනාකම ඉදිරිපත් කිරීමට මධ්‍ය කිසිදු අදාළ සහ යෝජනා?

தேர்தல் நடைமுறை குறித்து தேர்தல் ஆணையத்திடம் சமர்ப்பிக்க ஏதேனும் கருத்துகள் மற்றும் ஆலோசனைகள் உள்ளதா? *

Enter your answer

8. ට්‍රැන්ස්පේරන්සි ඉන්ටර්නැෂනල් ආයතනයේ ලැබීම්වල සමස්ත වූ රාජ්‍ය දේපළ අවබෝධය වැළැක්වීමේ වැඩසටහනේ ඉක්මනින් සහ ඉහළ නැංවීම් සඳහා මධ්‍ය අති
 අදාළ සහ යෝජනා කවරේද? தேர்தல்களின் போது பொது வளங்களைப் பாதுகாப்பதற்கான யூரான்ஸ் பரன்சி இன்டர்நேஷனல் திட்டத்தின் தரத்தை மேம்படுத்துவதற்கான உங்கள் யோசனைகள் மற்றும் பரிந்துரைகள் என்ன?

Enter your answer

Election Day Observation Report – District Level
Transparency International Sri Lanka
Parliamentary Election (November 14, 2024)

1. Basic Information

District:

Names of Observers:

Observed Areas / Electorates:

Observation Start Time:

Observation End Time:

2. General District Overview of the Election Day

2.1 General Environment:

- a) Overall atmosphere in the district: (Calm, Tense, Violent, etc.)
- b) Any widespread issues or concerns observed? (Yes/No)
- c) If yes, describe briefly:

2.2 Security Presence:

- a) Was there a sufficient security presence across the district? (Yes/No)
- b) Were there any notable security concerns or incidents? (Yes/No)
- c) If yes, describe briefly:

2.3 Voter Turnout:

- a) General assessment of voter turnout across the district: (High, Medium, Low)
- b) Any notable variations in turnout across different polling stations? (Yes/No)
- c) If yes, describe briefly:

3. Polling Stations Visited

[For each polling station visited, provide the following information:]

Polling Station 1

- 1) Name of the Polling Station / Location:
- 2) Time of Visit:
- 3) General Observations:
 - Was the polling station functioning smoothly? (Yes/No)
 - Was the station accessible to all voters, including those with disabilities? (Yes/No)
 - Any Issues or Irregularities Observed? If yes, describe briefly:
 - Other observations: [*Provide additional details if needed*]

4. Incident Reporting (Misuse of Public Property and Resources / General Election Related Incidents)

4.1 Total Number of Incidents reported

4.2 Detailed Incident Reports [For each significant incident, provide the following details:]

Incident 1:

- a) Type of Incident:
- b) Location (Polling Station Name/Electorate):
- c) Time of Incident occurred/reported:
- d) Description: [Detailed description of the incident]
- e) Actions Taken: [Any actions taken by officials or observers]
- f) Status: (Resolved/Unresolved/Under Investigation)

5. Summary of Observations

5.1. Overall Conduct of the Election:

- a) Was the election conducted according to the established rules and procedures? (Yes/No)
- b) Were there any widespread issues affecting the integrity of the process? (Yes/No)
- c) If yes, describe: [Brief summary]

5.2 Strengths Observed: [Highlight key strengths or positive aspects observed during the day.]

5.3. Areas for Improvement: [Highlight key weaknesses or areas for improvement based on the day's observations.]

5.4 Recommendations: [Provide any recommendations for improving future elections based on observations.]

5.5 Additional Comments: [Include any additional information or comments that may be relevant to the observation.]

Name:

Date of Submission:

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ තුළ පවැදුණු විරෝධතා සහ කැඩී බැසීම් වැනි වැරදි අතර සීමිත අවධානය යොමු විය යුතු අතර වැදගත් කරණය වේ

රාජ්‍ය දේපළ සහ සම්පත් අවිභාජිතය යි.

පවසා සම්පත් අවිභාජිතය බැහිරිවරණ ප්‍රතිඵලවලට බලපාන අතර සියලු කර්මකරුවන්ට සමාන අවස්ථාවක් ඇති කිරීම.



මැතිවරණය යනු ඡන්දය පැවැත්වෙන දිනය පමණක්ද ?

හානි සෑදීමට හේතු වන වැරදි මැතිවරණ ක්‍රියා සහ ක්‍රියාමාර්ග සලකා බැලීම. එබැවින් මැතිවරණයේ සාරාංශය වන පවැත්වීමේදී වැරදි වැරදි අතර ප්‍රතිඵල වන සමාන අවස්ථාවක් ඇති කිරීම යුතුය.

එක් විෂය අවධානයක් ලෙස මැතිවරණ සම්බන්ධ වැරදි සහ අක්‍රමිකතා සිදුවිය යුතුය.



මොනවද මේ බව හේ සම්පත් ?

එක් විෂය (One Issue)
සමාන අවස්ථාව (Equal Opportunity)
රාජ්‍ය සම්පත් (State Assets)



මැතිවරණ සමයේ රාජ්‍ය සේවයේ පැවැත්ම ලබා දීම හෝ ස්ථිර මාරු කිරීම සිදුකරන්නද?

දුරකථන අංකය: **076 322 3442** www.apesalli.lk



මෙහි ප්‍රදේශයේ සංවර්ධන කටයුතු සිදු කරන ප්‍රදේශයේ මැතිවරණ ප්‍රදේශය සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම සිදුකරන්නද?

දුරකථන අංකය: **076 322 3442** www.apesalli.lk



පුනරාගයන් හොඳ මැතිවරණයකට බව සනාථ කළ ද?

එනම්, අපි **තොද දේපළ සුරක්ෂිත**, සාධාරණ සහ සිදුකරන බැහිරිවරණයක් සඳහා පුරවැසි වීමට ඉඩකඩක් ලබා දීම.



රාජ්‍ය වෙළඳ සහ සේවා අංශයේ සේවයේ සම්පත් සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම සිදුකරන්නද?

රාජ්‍ය දේපළ

දුරකථන අංකය: **076 322 3442** www.apesalli.lk



මෙහි බල සිදුකරන සමාජ සේවා සංරක්ෂණය කිරීම සිදුකරන්නද?

රජයේ වාහන

දුරකථන අංකය: **076 322 3442** www.apesalli.lk



මහජන සේවයේ සිටින රාජ්‍ය සේවකයන් මැතිවරණ ප්‍රදේශයේ සේවය සිදුකරන්නද?

දුරකථන අංකය: **076 322 3442** www.apesalli.lk



ANNEX 05: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES PUBLISHED



Parliamentary Election reflecting a positive shift in electoral culture — TISL

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) yesterday said it observed a significant reduction in complaints related to the misuse of public funds, vehicles, use of State property or positions during the General Election 2024.

The TISL, issuing a statement and a letter to the Presidential Election 2024, where TISL received 33 complaints about the misuse of State

funds and all complaints concerning State vehicles, the General Election period saw only three complaints about the misuse of State funds and one regarding State vehicles. Larger than, no complaints were received about the misuse of State property or positions during the General Election 2024.

The TISL stressed further and TISL welcomed the recently concluded General Election with a special

emphasis on the misuse of public resources. A team of 200 Election Observers was deployed across all 18,000 Electoral TISL, received 1,092 complaints, the majority of which (306) pertained to the illegal display of posters, car-speech, banners, and other manifestations in public spaces. Additionally, TISL noted 10 complaints about government officials pro-

cessing public parties and independent groups—markedly lower than the 283 similar incidents reported during the last Presidential Election.

On Election Day TISL mobilized 241 observers, including its staff, to monitor polling stations and related

activities. While no major incidents were reported, 213 major incidents were received concerning voter influence, illegal campaigning, cross-burning, attacks, and other violations. Many of these issues were promptly addressed in collaboration with the Electoral Commission for appropriate action.

The overall endorsement of the Parliamentary Election was peaceful and calm, reflecting a positive shift in elec-

toral culture. TISL expresses its gratitude to the Election Commission, Police, political parties, and other stakeholders for their commitment to ensuring a smooth and transparent electoral process.

However, the decline in voter turnout in 2024 underscores the need for greater public awareness about the importance of participating in elections and exercising the right to vote.

ජනතාව

ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ

ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ. මෙයට හේතු වන්නේ ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ.

ජනද අයිතියේ වටිනාකම ලංකාවේ මිනිස්සු දැනගත් නැත

අනුරාධ කුමාරතුංග

අනුරාධ කුමාරතුංග ආණ්ඩුවේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ. මෙයට හේතු වන්නේ ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ.

ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ. මෙයට හේතු වන්නේ ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ.



Anuradha Kumaran

ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ. මෙයට හේතු වන්නේ ජනතාවගේ දේශපාලනික නොවන ක්‍රියාකාරීත්වය වැඩි කිරීම සඳහා ආණ්ඩුවට අවදානම් තිබේ.

Mirroring our actions

Building integrity and accountability through Apesali.lk



Senior Programme Manager at TISL, Goveeranan Kirupairajah, National Coordinator of the Programme for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) at TISL, Theodora Kandippan and Programme Manager for the Political Sector at TISL, Shaveendra Senarath.

Anuradha Kodigama

The recently concluded Presidential Election in Sri Lanka was significant for many reasons, one is that it has been reported as the most peaceful and transparent Presidential election in the country's history.

Several new Generation, Ministry Secretaries and Chairpersons have been appointed by the Interim Government, and some may have political affiliations. We remind them to respect Election Laws, especially as regards of public property. In the previous election, we saw significant misuse of power and public vehicles by government for political purposes.

When an individual reports an incident through Apesali.lk, the platform follows a structured process to handle the complaint. Initially, the team filters the complaints to check to assess their validity. They then independently verify the facts and may gather additional evidence if necessary. Complaints receive assistance in substantiating their cases or can opt to have their complaints directed to the relevant authorities.

Personal experience

Sharing personal experiences of corruption can create a ripple effect. Apesali.lk may publish those stories on the Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) website and social media, reaching a wide audience. Such narratives have the potential to inspire others to share their own experiences, helping to uncover more instances of corruption. Ultimately, every shared experience, regardless of its perceived significance, contributes to the broader fight against corruption.

The platform encourages users to report various types of corruption, including bribery, which is defined as the offering or acceptance of undue advantages for illegal or unethical actions. Bribery can manifest in several forms, such as gifts, loans, and rewards. The platform addresses issues such as sexual favors exchanged for public services, misuse of public funds or property, misuse of public positions, conflicts of interest and irregularities in public procurement.

Crucial role

Through Apesali.lk, citizens can play a crucial role in taking action against corruption. By reporting together, individuals can foster a sense of social responsibility and the importance of integrity. By encouraging together, individuals can bring change and help build a society where integrity and accountability are valued.

Complainers can be submitted via the website www.apesali.lk. Through the hotline at 079 328 3492 (WhatsApp available), or by fax at 011 286 3773. Verified complaints will be forwarded to the Election Commission for further action.

Misuse of public resources

Despite the positive signs in political culture, the misuse of public resources during election periods remains a common issue. There is a significant tendency among the public to turn a blind eye to this misuse, especially when it provides direct benefits to individuals. Recently, at a press conference, Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) emphasized that over 1,000 complaints regarding the misuse of public resources were reported during the presidential election.

As an observer group, they collaborated with the Election Commission also to take action and prevent mistreatment of misconduct. During the press conference, they highlighted the need for public involvement to prevent or minimize the misuse of public resources to the General Election 2024. They also stressed that the people of the country should see it as their social responsibility to stand against the misappropriation of public resources at all times.

Speaking at the press Theodora Kandippan, National Coordinator of the Programme for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) at TISL, said, "We have deployed approximately 160 election observers across all districts to monitor the misuse of public resources during the General Election 2024. Since October 14, TISL has received 70 complaints, with many related to new appointments made in public institutions. We have received information about a contesting candidate being appointed to a public service position.

Apesali.lk

Recognizing the critical challenge that needs to be addressed and the importance of increased public involvement as a social responsibility for every citizen, TISL has launched Apesali.lk, which emerges as a vital platform for reporting and discussion dedicated to anti-corruption efforts in Sri Lanka. This website offers a unique opportunity for individuals to report incidents of bribery and share their personal experiences related to corruption within government, private, or civil society sectors.

Apesali.lk aims to encourage activism and advocacy, providing a voice to those who may feel powerless in the face of corrupt practices. The platform seeks to raise awareness and promote accountability, facilitating a community that stands united against corruption especially during this general election period," Kandippan said.

How it operates

One of the key reasons every citizen should engage with Apesali.lk is the ongoing normalization of bribery and corruption within society. Many individuals tend to overlook these practices, allowing a vicious cycle to continue. The platform addresses this issue by simplifying the process for citizens to take a stand. Users can easily report incidents or share their stories, which are then amplified by the platform to foster collective action against corruption.

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