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சுதந்திரமானதும் நீதியானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.
PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

09th March 2011

The Editor/Director

Local Government Elections 2011

Postal Voting – Report 8th & 9th March 2011.

Arrangements are underway for selections of candidates for 235 local authorities by the Commissioner of Elections on the 17th of March 2011. Postal voting for the 235 local authorities were held on the 8th of March 2011 and today 9th March 2011. Accordingly 321,585 persons have been eligible for postal voting for the 301 local authorities and yesterday the 8th of March and today the 9th of March 2011. 257,093 postal voters cast their votes for 235 local authorities. There is a significant decrease in postal voting compared to that of 2010 Parliamentary Elections. It is estimated to be approximately a decrease of 100,000 compared to the 415,432 postal voters.

PAFFREL stationed almost 300 stationary observers covering 235 polling centers. These observers were located especially in those centers with a considerable number of postal voters, and those centers which are considered politically sensitive such as Police, Sri Lanka Transport Board. Camps of the armed forces, Provincial Education Officers etc. Most of the political parties had also joined in the monitoring of postal voting in the centers.

In some centers postal voting did not take place yesterday due to legitimate reasons, such as police being deployed for the World Cup cricket tournament in some areas.

During the two days of postal voting it was reported that 3 candidates who are contesting for the election had entered the SLTB polling centre in the Gampaha District. From Kandy it was reported that a polling agent from the United National Party was not permitted to enter the polling centre. Furthermore it was also reported that in the close proximity of the Polonnaruwa SLTB Depot pens with the name of the contesting party candidate of the PA was distributed to the workers. In addition we were also informed that there had been incidents of two members of the ruling political party who had visited the Civil Defense Force headquarters in Lahugala in Pothuvil Electorate in the Ampara District, and an incident of illegal propaganda by party supporters of the ruling party in the vicinity of Civil Defense Force Headquaters in Padavi Parakrama pura in the Trincamalee District.

12/3, Robert Terrace, Robert Gunawardana Mawatha, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka.
Tel : (+94) 11 2514441, 11 2514442 Fax : (+94) 11 2514443
E-mail : paffrel@sltnet.lk Website : www.paffrel.lk