

We are of the opinion that elections for 90 Local Government Authorities which were postponed for varying reasons should be held on a single day.

Staggered elections not only incur additional expenditure and wastage of manpower, it also adversely affects the right of the voters to free and fair elections and undermines the confidence of the citizen in democratic election procedure.

PAFFREL, in a discussion with the Election Commissioner has come to understand the following issues as relevant in deciding on the dates for the Local Government Authorities where elections are to be held.

1. There would be insufficient time to efficiently organize elections on 30.05.2011, even if decisions on the pending court cases are given on 12.05.2011. This is especially relevant for postal voting.
2. Postal voting has already been invited for these L.G.A elections with pending court cases; the 2009 voter registers are the valid registers.
3. However if elections are held after 30.05.2011, the valid voter registers would be 2010 voter registers. But postal votes, for which applications have already been made, would be based on 2009 voter register, while the rest of the voting would be based on the 2010 voter registers.
4. Elections for the Local Government Authorities where elections were postponed, but nominations were accepted based on the 2009 voter registers, if held after 30.05.2011, would need special legislation if 2009 voter registers are still to be considered as valid.
5. Elections for Local Government Authorities where rejections of nomination papers were challenged, but subsequently withdrawn can be held on 30.05.2011.

A further consideration might be the special activities relating to the 2600th Sambuddha Jayanthi celebrations.

Once court decisions are obtained and feasible dates for elections could be decided upon, the relevant Local Government Authorities need to be dissolved so that elections for all 90 L.G.As could be held on a single date.

We urge you to take all these issues into consideration, and complete the elections for all the Local Government Authorities ensuring the rights of all the citizens to free and fair elections.

Thank You

Sincerely



Rohana Hettiarachchi

Executive Director