



Election for Northern, Northwestern and Central Provincial Council Election 21.09.2013

PAFFREL -Second Interim Reports (20.09.2013)

Only a day is left ahead of the election to the Northern, North-Western and Central Provincial Councils. We, People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), will also monitor tomorrow's election. We have made necessary arrangements for it. Moreover, it is commendable that people of the north have been afforded the opportunity to exercise their franchise at a provincial council election for the first time after three decades.

Monitoring on the day of polling

- **3500 stationed observers**
- **750 mobile observers**
- **116 observers at divisional secretariat level**
- **Eight international observers**

Arrangements are in place to monitor the election in this manner. Barring stationed and mobile observers, all the other observers are already in action in the areas assigned to them.

Identification Documents acceptable for voting

As at any election, it is compulsory to produce any of the following identification documents for voting this time

01 National Identity Card

02 Valid Driving License

03 Identity Cards issued for the clergy

04 Pensioners' Identity Cards

05 Valid Passports

06 Adults' Identity Cards

07 Temporary Identification Documents issued by the Election Commissioner in 2011 (This has to be renewed with certification by respective Grama Seva Niladharis in keeping with the 2012 electoral register)

08 In the absence of any of these identification documents mentioned above, a temporary identification document issued by the Election Department and certified by Grama Seva Niladharis or estate superintendents

For private and public sector employees eligible to vote, leave should be approved for a minimum period of four hours to reach their polling stations for voting on the day of polling. We kindly request the authorities concerned to grant leave for such employees. Voters can exercise their franchise since morning on the day of polling by producing any of the identification documents mentioned above, together with their poll cards. Even without poll cards, voters are allowed to mark their ballot papers after producing a valid identification documents. We request you to make an intelligent decision in marking your ballot papers for the election of candidates deemed qualified enough to serve in your areas. After casting ballots, it is advisable for you to return to your places of stay without idling in groups here and there.

Special Complaint Units

The Election Department will also set up special units to entertain complaints on the day of polling. Besides, PAFFREL has also established complaint units at district and divisional levels, and anyone can lodge their complaints with these units on the following telephone lines. Mentioned below are the contact numbers for making complaints.

District	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Vavuniya	Mullaitivu	Kandy	Nuwara-Eliya	Matale	Kurunegala	Puttalam
Phone	0112877076	0112877078	0112877081	0112877081	0112877078	0112877073	0112877051	0112877065	0112877065	0112877069
Fax	0112877053	0112877054	0112877061	0112877061	0112877054	0112877047	0112877075	0112877050	0112877041	0112877042

PAFFREL Office (General)

0112514441/2, 0112512025

Email: paffrel@slt.net.lk

Special Compliant Units -PAFFREL

Upeksha- 0716889341

Janaka-0718076593

Northern Province

Dushyanthan- 0775527790

Rishad-0778998457

North Western Province

Thusitha Bandara0719433205/0113181532

Central Province

Rajitha -071-9477950/ 011-3282532

Details about our district level complain units are available in the annexure 1

Since the acceptance of nominations for the election, the details about the complaints we received up to September 18, 2013 are available in the following table.

Violent Acts	Northern Province	North Western Province	Central Province	Total
Assaults	7	13	16	36
Shooting incidents	1	1	5	7
Damage to immovable property	6	2	3	11
Damage to movable property	2	2	6	10
Threats and intimidation	6	4	7	17
Damage to election offices	3	2	11	16

Damage to Cut-outs and decorations	2	2	1	5
Influences by the Security forces	4	0	0	4
Bomb Attacks	0	2	0	2
Influence on public Servants	2	4	7	13
Influence on candidates	1	0	1	2
Total	34	23	55	117

Altogether, there are 117 complaints. A bulk of them is assaults. In sequence, the rest is mainly about threats and attacks on election offices. There are 36 assaults which led to the hospitalization of 43 individuals. Of them 16 are from the Central Province, 20 from the North Western Province and eight from the Northern Province. Intra party violence was common, and there was a rising trend of clashes in the Kandy district of the Central Province. Out of the 17 cases of threats and intimidations, seven have been reported from the Central Province. Such cases reported from Kandy district alone stood at 4. There is a similar rising trend in the attacks on movable properties. The total number of violence incidents reported from the Central Province is 54. It is double the number of cases reported from the North Western Province. The two bomb cases were reported from the North Western Province.

Other damages				
Damage	Central Province	North Western Province	Northern Province	Total
Houses	3	3	7	13
Vehicles	19	2	6	27
Total	22	5	13	40

Province distribution of cases of abuse of state power and resources													
State power and resource abused	North						North Western		Central			Common to the entire country	Total
	Vavuniya	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Kurunegala	Puttalam	Nuwara-Eliya	Matale		Kandy		
Vehicles	0	1	0	0	0	8	4	2	2		5	0	22
Buildings	1	1	0	0	0	2	3	6	2		3	0	18
Other resources	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2		2	0	6
Money	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		0		1
Use of public servants and police officers in election related matters	1	4	5	0	0	13	1	3	4		5	0	36
Unlawful appointments and transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	2	5
Total	2	7	5	0	0	25	8	11	10		18	2	90
Total	14						33		41			2	90

Violations of the Election Law	Northern Province	North Western Province	Central Province	Common	total
Influence on propaganda activities	4	2	2	0	8
Unlawful propaganda activities	15	37	111	0	163
Holding receptions for political purposes	3	8	8	1	
Unlawful marches	0	2	2	0	4
Unlawful meetings	1	6	4	0	11
Unauthorized party offices	0	26	5	0	
Others	3	1	2	1	7

The election law has been violated mostly by way of unlawful propaganda activities. There were 163 illegal propaganda activities, and a majority of them was from the central province. From the Kandy district alone, 80 cases were reported. The abuse of state resources, power and the use of public servants for political activities were reported in 90 instances. Details about the misuse of state buildings, vehicles, public servants are available in the above tables. There are no cases of unauthorized party offices and unlawful political marches reported from the Northern Province. In the North Western Province, there were 26 unauthorized party offices, and 23 of them were found in the Kurunegala district. This situation has been triggered by the rivalry among candidates of the same party for preferential votes.

Areas that warrant special attention

Kurunegala, Nikaweratiya and Dambadeniya are the electorates that warrant special attention in the Kurunegala electoral district. In the entire Kurunegala district, there were 102 incidents reports including ten assaults, eight cases of abuse of state properties, and conducting six unlawful meetings. Electorate wise, the Kurunegala electorate is noted for the highest incidence of election

malpractices. There were three assaults, four cases of abuse of state resources and power for electioneering, one threatening incident and the two instances in which public servants were used for political activities. Besides, there 15 other cases such as conducting public receptions in view of the election, keeping unauthorized party offices and carrying out illegal propaganda activities.

We have observed that the Nikaweratiya electorate is vulnerable for violence and malpractices. From the area, eight incidents were reported. They are two assaults, one shooting incident, two cases of damaging immovable properties and two other cases of abusing state power and resources. Though the incidence of violence in the area is small in number, vulnerability remains high given the complaint that armed persons were at large and the tough competition for preferential votes among candidates of the same party.

The highest number of unauthorized party offices was reported from the Dambadeniya electorate, and it stood at eight. The Election Department took immediate action to remove them. It is regrettable that department officials who acted in the removal of unauthorized party offices were subjected to harassment by political party candidates in Maho and Dankotuwa.

In the Puttalam electoral district, the Puttalam electorate needs to be paid special attention, as per our observations in the run up to the election.

Altogether, 46 cases were reported from the district including one assault, two causes of abusing state power and resources and one case of damaging cutouts and decorations. We also observed vehicles without number plates being used for electioneering in the area.

In the Kandy district, Pathadumbara, Gampola, Kandy and Hewaheta are the most vulnerable areas according to our observations.

In the district, we received 146 complaints. Most of them were from these four electorates. The situation seems to be taking a turn for the worse. The close relatives of a number of Cabinet Ministers are in the fray in the Kandy district. This can be the main reason for the current trend in the district. In the Pathadumbara area, the numbers of poll cards have been noted by some persons. There is also one assault reported. In Harispattuwa and Kandy electorates, two shooting incidents were reported. In four instances, public servants have been used for political activities in the Kandy district. Offering various forms of inducements and conducting public receptions were reported in four cases in the Hewaheta electorate. Attention should be paid to the situation that arose in the Naula area of the Laggala electorate after a clash between two groups. Once again, illegal propaganda activities were reported at large from the Nawalapitiya electorate. Unless the trend is arrested, we fear for a violent situation.

The Matale electorate remains vulnerable in the Matale electoral district

The total number of case reported from the district is 52. Most of them were from the Matale electorate. Two assaults, one abduction, a threatening incident and six incidents of abuse of state power and resources were among them. Besides, two cases of damaging public properties, and another two cases of using public servants for election work were reported. We believe this electorate warrants special attention on the day of polling.

In the Nuwara-Eliya district, Nuwara-Eliya –Maskeliya electorate has been identified as one needing special attention

The number of incidents reported from the district remained minimal. Yet, the biggest damage to movable properties was reported in this district. Nuwara-eliya –Maskeliya is the electorate with the highest concern. The situation is volatile due to the rivalry for preferential votes among the candidates of the same party. A number of close relatives of leading politicians are in the fray in the area. Two assaults, one shooting incident, two threats, two unlawful political marches, five cases of damaging party offices, and the abuse of 14 vehicles, state power, properties and other resources have been reported from the district. We paid special attention to the Ambagamuwa electorate of the Nuwara-Eliya district. We lodged a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on the abuse of state resources for the election.

In the north, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi are the areas identified possible malpractices and violence.

This is the first provincial council election in the north after a long drawn out war. Therefore, any happening there, be it big or small in nature, cannot be compared with such an instance in the south. We, therefore, cannot ignore any such happening which can cause an impact of any kind on people living in the north. Out of the 79 incidents reported from the north, 46 cases were from the Jaffna district. In Kilinochchi, there were 22 cases. No case has been reported from Mannar and Mullaitivu. We consider it a positive sign.

The Jaffna electorate remains a politically sensitive area based on our observations. Two assaults, two threats, four instances of abusing state resources and public servants, and four cases of illegal propaganda were reported from the area. In one instance, a candidate of the Tamil National Alliance has been assaulted. In the same incident, he has been threatened with death at gunpoint. Besides, one of his vehicles has been damaged. Also, United National Party candidate has been threatened. One shooting incident took place due to rivalry for preferential votes among the candidates of the ruling party. Illegal propaganda activities and holding public receptions were reported notably. The distribution of house building materials was noted from the area this time. Likewise, candidates had publicly promised employment for those supporting them. A newspaper advertisement had also been put up in this regard. This was an attempt to gain political mileage ahead of the election.

Right from the beginning, only one party was engaged in propaganda work in the Kytes Island of the Jaffna district. There was one assault case in the Delft Island. State vehicles had been used in the incident. We have paid special attention in this respect. The Tamil National Alliance had to endure many difficulties in carrying out propaganda work in the island. A party supporter had been assaulted in his house in the island by a group of persons who arrived in the vehicle NP -2535112.

In the Kilinochchi electorate, two assaults, five cases of using public servants for election matters, and four threats were reported. A supporter of the Tamil National Alliance was assaulted in the area. Also, his tea kiosk was damaged. Some candidates had used teachers, army personnel and public servants for their political activities in several instances. There are a small number of incidents reported from the electorate. But, the kind of impact from them on voters' behaviour cannot be ignored.

In the Vavuniya North area, Samurdhi officials had undertaken house to house visit, and asked for details from people about their party of choice. Damaging a party office, the use of public servants for political work and the abuse of state resources were noted. The situation, if unrested, can possibly lead to a volatile situation. Therefore, we have strengthened our monitoring network. There were reports that the military intelligence was influencing people in resettled areas to vote for the mainstream party.

In the overall context, public receptions had been conducted on 19 occasions in view of this election. Three of them were reported in the north, eight in the North Western Province and another eight in the Central Province. Three wheeler tyres, alcoholic drinks, food items, money, wheelchairs, and kitchen utensils had been offered as inducements to voters in some areas. It was mostly observed in Kurunegala and Kandy districts.

It is important to mention here that candidates should present their vision and programme of work to voters instead of offering inducements.

We express our gratitude to the Election Commissioner and his officials, police officers and international observers for their contribution for the successful conclusion of this election. Once the results are announced, we request the political parties to celebrate their victories in a humble manner, without engaging in any aggressive act.

Provincial Council Election - 2013 Northern, North West & Central Province

Violation of Election Laws Date -19/09 / 2013

No	Violence Category	Northern Province										North Western Province				Central Province						Total		
		Jaffna		Killinochchi		Vavuniya		Mannar		Mullaitive		Kurunegala		Puttalam		Mahanuwara		Matale		Nuwereliya		ALL	Confirmed	Not confirmed
		Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed	Confirmed	Not confirmed			
1	Assault	5	1	2							12		3		7	2	3	1	4			36	4	
2	Murder																					0	0	
3	Shooting	1									1				4				1			7	0	
4	Damaged to immovable Properties	5	1	1						1	2	1			3				1			12	3	
5	Damaged to Movable Properties	1	1	1	1						3				3		2		3			13	2	
6	Illigal Transfers of Govt. officer														3						2	3	0	
7	Threating and Intimidation	3		1	1				1		2		2		3	1		2	2			13	5	
8	Damage and burning of Party Office	1	1			1					1		2		2	1	3		5			15	2	
9	Damaged to decorations and cutouts	1				1					1	1		1			1		1			4	3	
10	Disturbing of election campaign	2							1	1	1		1		2	1						7	2	
11	Abuse of State power and misuse of public resources	2		1		1					5	3	3	2	10		4	2	2		1	28	7	
12	Illigal Propaganda work	8		8			1				17	1	26	5	72	8	24	3	6	2		161	21	
13	Threatening to Observers																					0	0	
14	Influencing State Officers	1	1								2	2			2	1			2	2		7	6	
15	Participating of Government officers, Police Officers and forces to the election activities.	5		5	1	1					8	3		1	5	1	2	2	2	1		28	9	
16	unlawful Party office										21	2	1	2	3				2			27	4	
17	Threatning and intimidation by forces	2	1	1	1																	3	2	
18	treating with Political Objectives	2		1							5		3		7	1	2				1	20	1	
19	influencing the candidate	1															1					2	0	
20	offences regarding Poll cards												1					1			1	0	2	
21	unlawful procession										2								3			5	0	
22	Bomb Attact										2											2	0	
23	Impersonation																					0	0	
24	illigal Election meeting	1		1		1					5	1			4				1			13	1	
25	Others	2		1				1			2				2		1				1	8	1	
	Total	43	6	23	4	5	1	1	2	1	2	92	14	41	12	132	16	42	12	34	6	6	414	75
		88										159				242						495		