

# Covid-19 must not prevent any elector from voting - Election monitors

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Election monitors state that none of the electors should be deprived of their right to vote because of the coronavirus crisis.

Executive Director of the People's Action for Free and Fair Elections Rohana Hettiarachchi told The Island yesterday that the Elections Commission should ensure that all registered voters would be able to cast their votes, irrespective of the precautionary measures in place to prevent the spread of the disease.

He said the Commission should take into consideration the situation of registered voters who are in quarantine centers and enable them to cast their votes under precautionary measures. It was the responsibility of the commission to ensure that all registered electors got the opportunity to practice their electoral rights at the general election.

"Even a single case of a person being deprived of his or her right would lead to unexpected troubles," the PAFFREL Executive Director said adding that not only the electors the candidates too should be given equal opportunity to campaign. "The commission is bound by the responsibility to ensure a level-playing field for the candidates from each party. If other activities are being carried out normally, then the election too should be the same. Everybody should understand that new measures should be in place in view of the coronavirus. So the candidates should not be able to hold mass rallies and canvass the way they used to do it in the past," Hettiarachchi said.