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## Parliamentary Election – November 14,2024

### Debunking the Myth of Ballot Box Tampering

Some politicians and candidates have raised concerns about the security of ballot boxes during transportation to counting centers after polling. To address these doubts, in the previous election, it was recommended that the ballot box be transported in a transparent bag and secured with a lock. This practice will continue in the upcoming election as well. Additionally, during the sealing of the ballot box post-polling, the original copy out of six copies of the form signed by randomly selected polling staff members/polling agents is affixed to the ballot box, with one copy sent to the counting center and others provided to polling agents.

Furthermore, candidates' representatives are permitted to follow the vehicle carrying the ballot box from the polling station to the last police checkpoint near the counting center. If desired, a candidate may position their authorized counting agents on both sides of the road leading from the final checkpoint to the counting center premises, and the police officials will be duly informed of these arrangements.

However, due to practical constraints, it is not feasible for all candidates to follow each vehicle carrying ballot boxes. Authorized representatives must submit a detailed report, to District Election Offices three days before polling, specifying the name of the center where escort is required, the number of the vehicle to be used for the purpose and the name of the representative traveling in the vehicle.

Moreover, it is announced that one counting agent is allowed to be present in the counting hall from 3.30 pm and the rest of the agents may also be present at the counting premises from 3.30 pm onwards.

  
Saman Sri Rathnayake  
Commissioner General of Elections