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தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழு
ELECTION COMMISSION

2025 අයවැය කාරක සභා අවස්ථාවට ඉදිරිපත් කරනු ලබන

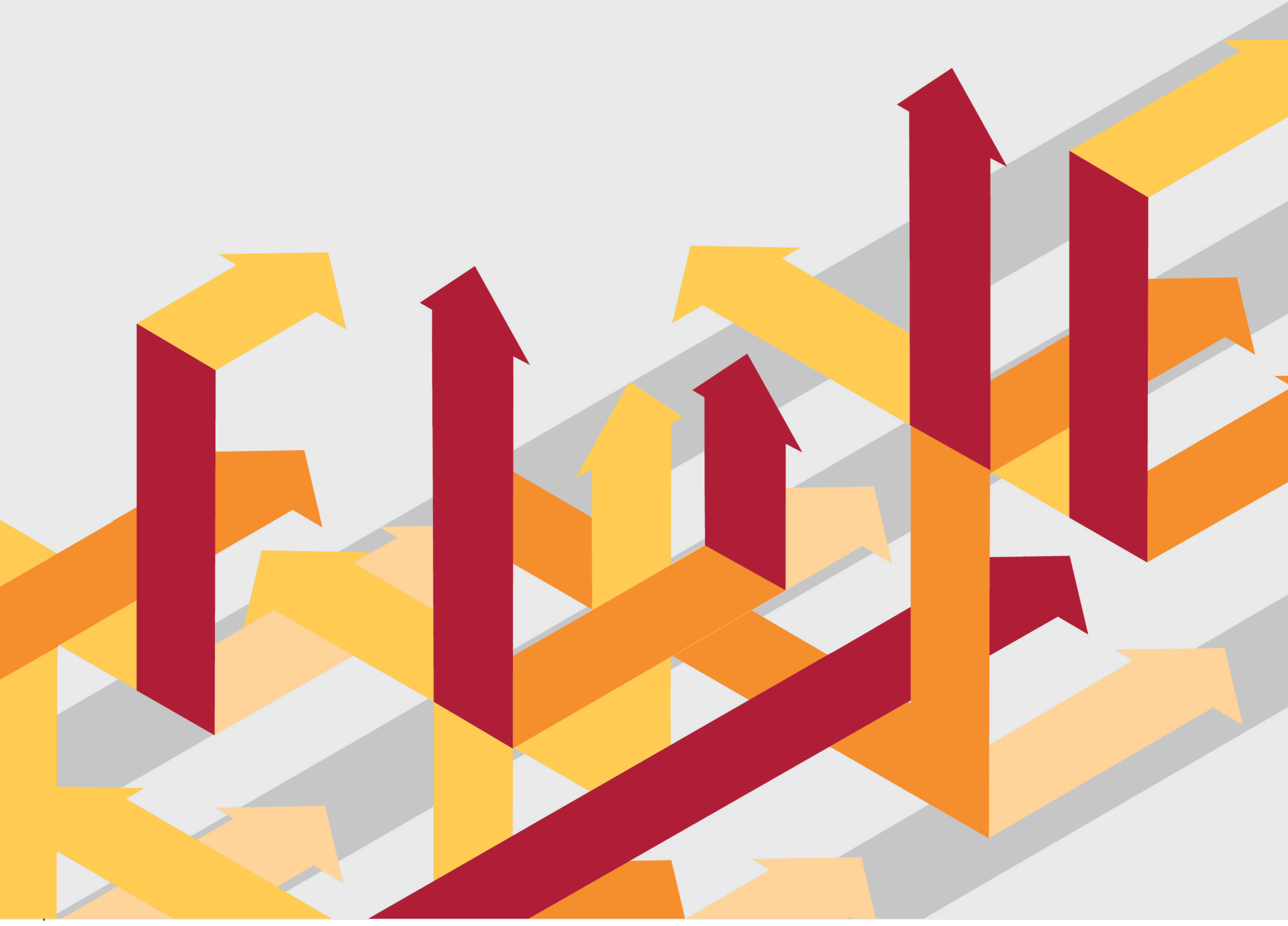
தகுதி வாக்காவ 2024

2025 வரவு செலவுத் திட்ட குழு நிலை விவாதத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படும்

முன்னேற்ற அறிக்கை 2024

PROGRESS REPORT 2024

TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT AT COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BUDGET 2025





Election Commission

PROGRESS REPORT 2024 TO BE TABLED IN PARLIAMENT AT COMMITTEE STAGE OF THE BUDGET 2025

Progress Report 2024 to be tabled in Parliament at Committee Stage of the Budget 2025

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Message from the Chairman of Election Commission

A democratic government is one that is established by the people, serves the people, and operates with their active participation. In a democratic government, the state is governed in alignment with the needs of the people, with elections serving as the primary mechanism to identify and reflect their aspirations and preferences. The Constitution of Sri Lanka establishes that sovereignty is in the people and is inalienable and it includes the powers of government, fundamental rights and the franchise. Article 103(2) of the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka establishes the Election Commission's purpose of ensuring free and fair elections and referendums while granting it the authority to conduct relevant elections and prepare annual electoral registers in accordance with election laws. The Election Commission is assigned the responsibility of conducting elections and recognizing political parties in accordance with laws enacted under the Constitution, while also undertaking additional related duties.

The year 2024 was a very special year for the Election Commission and within the last two quarters of this year, the Election Commission was able to successfully conduct the presidential election to elect the ninth Executive President of the country and the parliamentary election to elect members of the Tenth Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and in particular, to fully implement the Regulation of the Election Expenditure Act, No. 3 of 2023 using a formulae based on scientifically robust approach to create a level playing field. Accordingly, this report presents a review of the work performed and its progress in achieving the statutory role assigned to the Election Commission from the beginning of the year 2024 to September 30.

Both the previous Department of Elections and Election Commission, as well as the current Election Commission, have been identifying necessary amendments to the electoral system and election laws to address evolving needs, and have taken proactive steps in this regard. Among these are legislative measures to increase the existing deposit in the election Acts, abolish the requirement for marking ballots with a specific mark, facilitate mobile voting, open voter registration, and extend voting rights to immigrants. Additionally, the Commission has organized several workshops and training sessions in collaboration with relevant stakeholders to encourage the active participation of youth, women, disabled, and marginalized groups in the election process. The Commission made concerted efforts to protect the voting rights of individuals with special needs during the election period by issuing temporary identity cards to persons with disabilities for direct assistance at polling stations, introducing touch screens for visually impaired voters to mark their ballots, raising awareness about the sign language dictionary of election-related terms for the hearing impaired, and offering sign language training to presiding officers to minimize communication barriers. Furthermore, Election Dispute Management Centers were established nationwide under the initiative of the Election Commission to address legal violations and complaints during the election period, and a special unit was set up at the Election Commission's head office to handle complaints related to social media. Despite these challenges, the Election Commission has endeavored to provide fair and equal opportunities to all candidates within the existing legal framework. Moreover, even during the election process, steps have been taken to achieve the objectives outlined in the Election Commission's Participation Strategic Plan for 2022-2025.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the Commission, the Commissioner General of Elections, the Secretary, the Additional Commissioners of Elections, the Chief Financial Officer, and all the staff at the Head Office, whose efficient and timely execution of their responsibilities played a crucial role in the Election Commission's progress during the review period, as outlined in this report, and I acknowledge that their dedication and effectiveness in fulfilling their assigned duties within the required timeframe further contributed to this achievement. Additionally, I extend my sincere gratitude to all the District Returning Officers, District Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of Elections, Staff of the District Election Offices, political parties, observer organizations, civil organizations, non-governmental organizations, media institutions, and all stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of this progress report and I am also deeply grateful to the heads of departments who provided essential information, data, and photographs for this report, to the officers of the Legal Investigation and Planning Division who compiled the publication and computerized the pages, to the Translators of the Commission for their dedicated work in translating the content and to the Department for Registration of Persons for printing and binding the book.

R.M.A.L. Rathnayake.

Chairman,
Election Commission.

Message from the Commissioner General of Elections

Guided by the vision of "A democratic nation that safeguards universal franchise," the core mission of the Election Commission is to raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders, ensuring the protection of people's rights and conduct free, fair and credible elections efficiently and effectively that safeguards the people's sovereignty and universal franchise based on democratic principles. This report highlights the progress made by the Election Commission in 2024, which will be presented at the Budget Committee Session of Sri Lanka's Parliament for the year 2025.

In line with the powers vested in the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Commission successfully met its constitutional duties by conducting two national level elections, the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in 2024 in a free and fair manner, adhering to existing laws. Despite challenges such as the absence of a permanent Inspector General of Police and Senior Deputy Inspector General (Admin), the cooperation from the then Secretary to the President, the Acting Additional Senior Deputy Inspector General, the Senior Deputy Inspector General overseeing elections, and the Senior Deputy Inspector Generals from the provinces, along with the entire Police Department, was invaluable and deeply appreciated.

The successful execution of these two elections is a collective effort, not solely attributed to the Election Commission. All government institutions, including the Department of Government Printing and the Department of Posts, played a crucial role. Additionally, the contributions of electronic and print media institutions, who effectively communicated with the public, have also been essential.

The Election Commission remains committed to achieving the twenty objectives outlined in its Participation Strategic Plan for the 2022-2025 period, with a focus on four key areas: awareness raising and mobilization, legal reforms, institutional development, and adaptation of technology.

I sincerely extend my gratitude to the Chairman of the Election Commission, Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake, and the members of the Commission for their steadfast leadership in managing two elections within an extremely short timeframe, with their guidance being instrumental in steering the Election Commission towards its objectives, even in the face of significant challenges. I also wish to express my special appreciation to the entire staff of the Elections Secretariat, the active arm of the Election Commission, including the officers and staff of all District Election Offices, who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of these two elections, while enduring various hardships and maintaining their regular duties without interruption. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support from the District Secretaries, as well as from the Ministries, Departments, Corporations, and Statutory Bodies that collaborate closely with the Election Commission. My sincere thanks go to all government officials, civil society organizations, political parties, monitoring bodies, non-governmental organizations, and media institutions for their contributions.

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to the Director (Planning) and the Heads of the Legal, Investigation, and Planning Division, along with their entire team, for leading the compilation of this report, as well as to the Heads of all Divisions at the Head Office and their staff for providing essential information for its preparation.

Saman Sri Ratnayake

Commissioner General of Elections

1. Department of Elections

The Soulbury Commission was appointed by the British Crown to draft a new constitution in 1944 in response to the powerful agitations in the early 20th century for greater opportunities for local people to participate in the governance of the island. The Soulbury Commission enacted legislation to register voters and hold parliamentary elections, and on September 26, 1946, Ceylon (Parliamentary Elections) Order in Council was enacted. The Local Government Ordinance was introduced in 1946 to hold Local Authorities elections. During the period from 1946 to 1955, the Department of Parliamentary Elections functioned under one Commissioner for Registration of Electors and Conducting Parliamentary Elections and the Department of Local Authorities Elections also functioned under another Commissioner to conduct Local Authorities elections. The Department of Elections was established on October 1, 1955, by amalgamating the Department of Parliamentary Elections and the Department of Local Authorities Elections.

2. Election Commission

The 17th amendment to the Constitution, adopted on October 3, 2001, required the President to appoint the Election Commission based on the recommendations of the Constitutional Council. However, due to issues with the appointments process, the commission was not established as expected. The fifth Commissioner of Elections was entrusted to perform the duties of the Election Commission until it was established. The 18th amendment to the Constitution, adopted on September 9, 2010, increased the composition of the Election Commission to five members. However, the Commissioner of Elections continued to perform the powers and duties of the commission until it was established.

In 2015, the Government took steps to establish Independent Commissions in accordance with the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Accordingly, the then Department of Elections was abolished and on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council, His Excellency the President established the Election Commission consisting of three members including a chairman on 2015.11.13.

The Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution adopted on 29 October 2020 increased the number of members of the Election Commission to five. Accordingly, the Second Election Commission was appointed by His Excellency the President on 10.12.2020 on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Council and it consisted of five members namely Mr. Nimal G. Punchchihewa, Attorney-at-law the Chairman, Mr. S.B. Diwarathne, former Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, Member, Mr. M.M. Mohamed, former Commissioner General of Elections, Member, Mr. K.P.P. Pathirana, former DIG, Member, and Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah, Human Rights activist, Member. Mr. Jeevan Thiagarajah was appointed as the Governor of the Northern Province on 2021.10.10 and Mrs. P.S.M. Charles, who was a former senior public officer and the Governor of the Northern Province was appointed on 2021.10.28 as a Member. The Commission had a solid quorum of three members.

In pursuant to the 21st Amendment to the Constitution which was adopted on 2022.10.31, the third Election Commission was appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Constitutional Council. The commission is chaired by Mr. R.M.A.L. Rathnayake, a former Commissioner General of Elections, and includes Mr. M.A.P.C. Perera, another former Commissioner General of Elections, and Mr. A.M. Faaiz, an attorney-at-law, as members and they all assumed duties on 2023-07-05. Ms. A. Shanmuganathan, Attorney at Law, was appointed as a member and assumed duties on 2023-09-11. Professor D.M.S.S. Lakshman Dissanayake was appointed as the fifth member of the Third Election Commission on 2024-01-02 and assumed duties on 2024-01-10, completing the Commission with five members.

3. Objectives and Powers of the Election Commission

The objective of the Election Commission should be to conduct free and fair elections and referendums in accordance with Article 103 (2) of the Constitution. The Commission also has the power to conduct relevant elections in accordance with existing election laws and to prepare and revise annual electoral registers. Article 104B (1) of the Constitution states that the work of the Commission is not limited to those powers, duties, and functions. Accordingly, the Election Commission has a special responsibility for the Department of Elections which is responsible for conducting elections in accordance with the relevant Acts and ordinances. In this regard, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution has added special provisions to the basic law, which has enhanced the power and strength of the Election Commission

The Commission has been given special powers in setting up the Election Commission. Subject to the jurisdiction, Article 104A of the Constitution grants special immunity *i.e.*,

- I. the decisions, directions, or acts of the Commission shall be final and conclusive and
- II. no suit or prosecution or other proceedings shall lie against any member or officer of the Commission for any act which in good faith is done by him under any law relating to the holding of an election.

These exemptions are granted subject to the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal on the violation of fundamental rights under Article 126, the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal in respect of Presidential Elections, Election Petitions, etc. under Article 130, and the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal for the hearing of petitions relating to the election of a Member of Parliament under Article 144. It is noteworthy that the Election Commission is not responsible for anything other than the submission of annual reports on its activities to Parliament and enforcing and securing the rule of law in the conduct of the electoral process. Apart from this, special powers have been given under Article 104B (4) (a) to prevent misuse of state property, and Article 104 (5) (a) allows to set media guidelines to media institutions and makes relevant provisions to ensure free and fair elections during the election period. The Commission has been given special powers to deploy police under Article 104C and to deploy armed forces under Article 104D.

4. The Vision, Mission, Values, Thrust Areas, Strategies, Goals, and Objectives of the Election Commission

Vision

“A democratic nation that safeguards universal franchise”

Mission

“Raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders, ensuring the protection of people’s rights and conduct free, fair and credible elections efficiently and effectively that safeguards the people’s sovereignty and universal franchise based on democratic principles”

Values

- **Integrity**
The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness of the Election Commission and officials of the Election Commission.
- **Transparency**
Honesty, sincerity, and openness in all dealings of the Election Commission and officials of the Election Commission.
- **Openness**
An honest way of talking and behaving by the officials of the Election Commission without trying to conceal anything.
- **Commitment**
Engage wholeheartedly in the activities of the Commission, adhering to its vision, mission, goals, and objectives and facing issues and challenges unwaveringly.
- **Duty-bound**
Morally responsible for the work by the officials of the Election Commission.
- **Accountability**
The obligation of the Election Commission and its officials is to account for their activities, accept responsibility for them, and disclose the results in a transparent manner.
- **Impartiality**
The Election Commission and its officials are not connected to or influenced by one particular person or group - Not taking sides.
- **Team spirit or Teamwork**
Having a team spirit that inspires all officials, making them work together with the right attitude that emanates from the highest levels of the officials of the Election Commission.

Thrust Areas

- **Awareness Raising and Mobilization**

The Election Commission is committed to educating citizens about the electoral process and their responsibility to use universal suffrage properly. The Commission believes that this will enable people to fulfill their responsibility for the governance of the country in an informed and intelligent manner, thereby making people's sovereignty more meaningful. The Commission has taken steps to inform citizens of all ages, from school children to the elderly, about the importance of the right to vote through extensive education programs.

Suffrage is a fundamental right and a key element of people's sovereignty, as enshrined in the Constitution and recognized by the courts. Every election is an expression of citizen's right to participate in the governance of the country through free and fair secret ballot.

- **Legal Reforms**

The Election Commission has made significant efforts over the past year to enact legal reforms in the election process. In particular, the Commission has been actively engaged in appointing a parliamentary special committee and proposing a host of reforms to the select committee. The Commission is pleased to have received recommendations from the committee on many of these proposals and has already initiated an urgent program to implement them. These reforms aim to strengthen the free and fair election process, ensuring the intelligent exercise of universal suffrage while safeguarding people's rights. The implementation of these proposals is a key driver for the legislative reform process outlined in the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, ultimately working towards making people's sovereignty a reality.

- **Institutional Development**

The Election Commission recognizes the need to strengthen its organizational structure to effectively implement new strategic plans. The Commission is committed to managing physical and human resources efficiently, developing organizational strength, and maximizing capacity. The Election Commission believes that proper management of physical, human, financial, and technological resources is essential for achieving the Commission's vision, mission, and objectives in a sustainable manner.

- **Adaptation of Technology**

The Election Commission is leveraging modern technology tools to simplify its affairs and meet the needs of voters. The Commission has implemented a special program that maximizes the use of technology to inform and mobilize citizens about the election process.

Strategies

- Institutional Development
- Capacity Building
- Promotion of Funding
- Networking

Goals

- Both citizens and voters are adequately aware of democratic rights and the power of vote.
- All qualified citizens exercise their franchise fearlessly, freely and confidentially at all elections.
- The Election Commission is empowered with adequate legal provisions to safeguard people's sovereignty.
- Equal and fair opportunities for all candidates to contest at elections.
- Credibility of the Election Commission as an independent entity is sustained.
- All resources are adequately available for the Election Commission to function effectively.
- The staff of the Election Commission is competent to perform productively.
- The Election Commission functions as an effective election management body utilizing modern technology.

Objectives

- Conduct well-designed voter education programmes.
- Make school students aware of importance of adult franchise.
- Involve Universities to promote the subject of Electoral Systems and Electoral Procedures.
- Mobilize women and youth to safeguard Representative Democracy.
- Utilize mass media to create awareness among voters on voter rights and proper ballot marking.

- Revise and update the voter registration.
- Facilitate citizens to monitor performance of elected members.
- Conduct elections.
- Facilitate election observers.
- Recognize political parties.
- Advocate policy makers to make legal reforms.
- Educate voters about the new legal reforms.
- Ensure a leveled playing field for all candidates to contest in elections.
- Maintain the credibility of the Election Commission.
- Raise adequate resources to implement the PSP.
- Implement the Participatory Strategic Plan.
- Build capacities of the Election Commission.
- Digitalize the existing election management mechanism.
- Train all EC staff to use adapted technology.
- Make all stakeholders adhere to new technology.

5. Legislations implemented by the Election Commission from 1931 to 2024

Presidential elections

- Presidential Elections Act, No. 15 of 1981
- Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 16 of 1988 - 24 May 1988
- Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 35 of 1988 - 21 October 1988
- Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 14 of 2004 - 18 November 2004
- Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act No. 28 of 2011 - 25 May 2011

• Parliamentary elections

- Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 - 22 January 1981
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 15 of 1988 - 24 May 1988
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 29 of 1988 - 16 August 1988
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 35 of 1988 - 21 October 1988
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 54 of 1988 - 17 December 1988
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 14 of 2004 - 18 November 2004
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 58 of 2009 - 16 October 2009
- Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 2011 - 25 May 2011

• Provincial Councils Elections

- Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988 - 27 January 1988
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 35 of 1988 - 21 October 1988
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 55 of 1988 - 17 December 1988
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 29 of 1990 - 06 July 1990
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 07 of 1993 - 18 Feb 1993
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 5 of 2004 - 03 Feb 2004
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 14 of 2004 - 18 Nov 2004
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 2011 - 25 May 2011
- Provincial Councils Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 17 of 2017 - 22 Sep 2017

• Local Authorities Elections

- Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262)
- Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 24 of 1990
- Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 25 of 1990
- The Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 1 of 2002
- Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 16 of 2017 - 31 August 2017
- Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 28 of 2017
- Local Authorities Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 31 of 2017

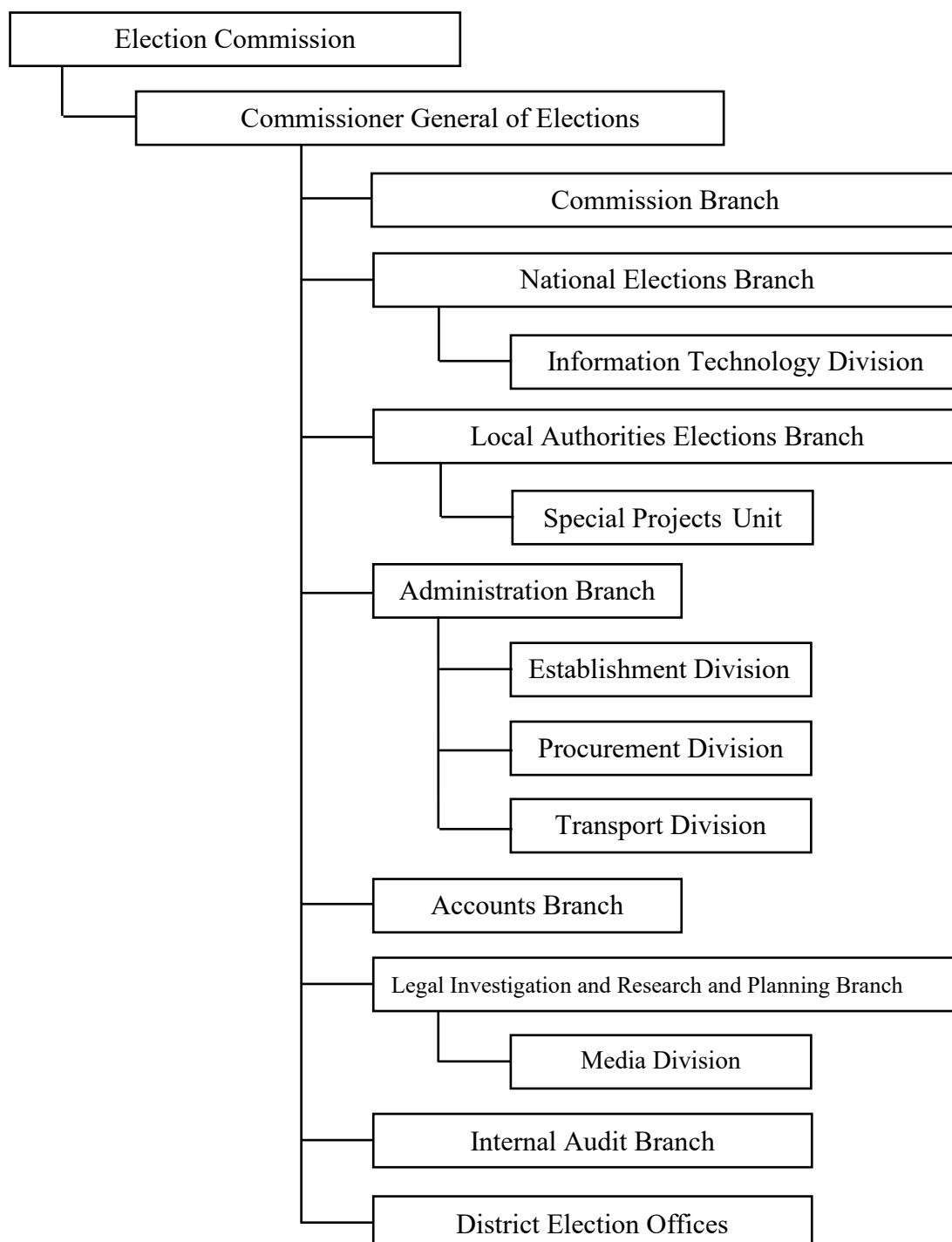
• Referenda

- Referendum Act, No. 7 of 1981 - 27 February 1981
- Referendum (Amendment) Act, No. 17 of 1988 - 24 May 1988

- **Voter Registration**
 - Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 - 24 October 1980
 - Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 10 of 2017 - 21 July 2017
 - Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 2021 - 13 October 2021
- **Regulation of Election Expenditure Act, No. 03 of 2023**
- **Elections (Special Provisions) Act, No. 21 of 2023**

6. Administrative Structure of the Election Commission

The Election Commission consists of the Head Office and 26 District Election Offices. Accordingly, Branches / Divisions have been established to cover the major subjects related to the planning, implementation, and follow-up of their statutory, administrative, and development functions, and the functions to be performed by each Branch / Division are specifically included in this administrative composition.



7. Divisions of the Election Commission and Their Role

I. Commission Branch

- General Administration of the Election Commission
- Coordinating and executing statutory functions
- Establishment of matters of Commission Members
- Matters related to recruitment, transfer, and release of the staff of the Election Commission and the appointments, promotions, transfers, and retirements of 65 officials belonging to the all-island services and staff officers working in the Election Commission's Head Office and District Election Offices.
- Preparation of minutes of the meetings of the Commission
- Human resource development activities including institutional activities of staff officers
- Liaising with Parliament, Presidential Secretariat, and Prime Minister's Office.
- Liaising with independent commissions, ministries, and government institutions.
- Matters related to the Annual Assets & Liabilities Declaration of officers.
- Take policy decisions, provide advice and guidance necessary to conduct the elections entrusted to the Commission in a free and fair manner, and to take the necessary steps to act accordingly.

II. National Election Division

- Conducting the activities for holding presidential elections, parliamentary elections and referendums under the advice and guidance of the Election Commission and the Commissioner General of Elections.
- Conducting all activities related to the annual revision of the Electoral Registers and the preparation of supplementary registers as per the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 as amended by the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 2021, calculate the number of parliamentary seats after certifying each electoral register as per Article 98(8) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and oversee related electoral register functions.
- Preliminary activities related to filling the vacancies of Members of Parliament.
- Informing the citizens about the Electoral Registers and electoral process and coordinating the activities related to Voters' Day.

- Activities related to the active involvement of the disabled community in the electoral process and activities related to the registration of marginalized communities

II.I. Information Technology Division

- Carry out the activities of the institution efficiently using information technology, providing necessary IT services to the stakeholders, studying and planning Information Technology requirements, preparation of project reports, and establishing and maintaining approved IT projects.
- Maintaining and auditing the IT systems and devices of the Election Commission securely using new technological security methods
- Maintaining IT systems and equipment belonging to the Election Commission securely using modern technological security mechanisms.
- Administration and updating of the official website of the Election Commission in all three languages.
- Enhancing the e-service system of the Election Commission and providing the necessary facilities to the public and various stakeholders to obtain services more easily.
- Improvements and maintenance of the Central Electoral Register Database
- Administration and updating of the official website of the Election Commission, provision of e-services
- Maintaining Data Centers and Disaster Management Center
- Maintaining computer network and VPN network
- Training of the officers of the Election Commission to carry out IT activities properly.
- Maintaining social network information systems
- Maintaining the official e-mail network
- Launching the Election Education Portal and promoting engagement in election education through multimedia.
- Raising awareness among the officers on the content of the Guidelines to use IT and updating relevant information.
- Use of technology in the preparation of election results.

III. Local Authorities Elections Division

- Functions related to the holding of local authorities elections and preparing reports.
- Functions related to the holding of Provincial Councils Elections and preparing reports.
- Coordinating activities related to filling the vacancies in the membership of Local Authorities and Provincial Council.
- Coordinating activities on the delimitation of wards in local authorities
- Functions related to the amendments to the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance
- Liaising with foreign election management agencies
- Coordinating local election monitoring organizations
- Coordination of NGOs
- Functions related to the student parliament program and the active participation of the marginalized communities in the electoral process

III.I. Special Projects Unit

- Liaising with NGOs
- Raising awareness regarding the strengthening the women's representation in institutions of peoples representation
- Liaising with and raising awareness among youth stakeholders
- Liaising with and raising awareness among disabled communities
- Liaising with and raising awareness among the public
- Liaising with social media and related activities
- Organizing commemorations of international days relevant to the Election Commission

IV. Administration Division

- Physical Resource Management of the Election Commission
- Preparation of annual performance reports
- Carrying out activities related to foreign official conferences and training programs of the officers.
- Develop plans to enhance knowledge, skills, and attitudes for design, research, and development through a creative approach.

- Tasks related to local training and capacity building of staff.
- Supervising and coordinating the welfare activities of the District Election Offices.
- Coordination of activities related to holding discussions of staff officers..
- Construction & maintenance of buildings
- Tasks related to implementing gender mainstreaming and strengthening women's representation in the electoral process.
- Tasks related to the daily mail.
- Coordination of administrative tasks related to staff officers in the District Election Offices.
- Performing tasks assigned to the Administration Division in relation to the strategic plan of the Election Commission.

IV.I. Establishment Division

- Maintaining and updating the personal files of all non-staff officers and employees of the Election Commission on the instructions of the Election Commission.
- Security and janitorial matters
- Welfare of the office staff
- Recruitment, transfer, and retirement matters of non-staff grade employees on the instruction of the Election Commission.
- Leave management

IV.II. Transport Division

- Control, and maintenance of the vehicle fleet of the Commission and provision of transport facilities

IV.III. Procurement & Assets Management Division

- Procurement matters
- Stores management
- Annual board of survey
- Assets management
- Maintaining communication and other equipment and machinery
- Payment of telephone and water bills and other related matters

V. Finance Division

- Supervise the financial affairs of the Head Office and District Election Offices and provide accounting advice.
- Collection and accounting of revenue.
- All payments and keeping of payment accounts.
- Handling of official bank accounts.
- Preparation of annual budget estimates.
- Proceeding with the advance “B” of government officials.
- Allocation of provisions for general administration and elections and imprest control.
- Preparation of election expenditure estimates/expenditure reports.
- Preparation of annual appropriation accounts/final accounts
- General deposit accounts
- Activities relating to accounting and management of fixed assets
- Activities relating to salary payment program (Payroll)
- Activities relating to Cigas program
- Activities relating to ITMIS
- Activities relating to EMS
- Response to audit inquiries, working with the Budget Committee meetings and Public Accounts Committee.
- Training of staff on accounting and financial control activities.
- Reimbursement of payments to all government institutions during election periods

VI. Legal Investigation, and Planning Division

- Taking action regarding the legal activities of the Election Commission.
- Coordinating election legislation.
- Registration and supervision of political parties
- Preparing annually and updating the list of recognized political parties.
- Obtaining the declaration of assets and liabilities of the office bearers of the recognized political parties annually and the annual accounts.
- Organizing meetings of party secretaries and permanent representatives.
- Publication in the Gazette of party symbols allotted to recognized political parties and symbols not so allotted.

- Activities relating to election dispute management.
- Implementation of the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act, No. 3 of 2023.
- Activities related to the active involvement of youths in the election process
- Affairs related to the Right to Information Act.
- Submitting observations on issues arising regarding voter registration and ensuring the right to vote in accordance with Article 89 (D) of the Constitution.
- Social media related activities.
- Preparation of the Strategic Plan and progress review.
- Preparation of the annual budget Progress Report
- Preparation of the Annual Action Plan of the Election Commission and progress review.
- Conducting research and managing information and data on the functions of the Election Commission.
- Maintaining the Knowledge Management Unit, Archives, and Publications Sales Counter.
- Publication of periodicals of the Commission.
- Coordinating media affairs.

VII. Internal Audit Division

- Conducting internal audits of the Elections Commission Head Office and District Election Offices and preparation and submission of reports.
- Proposing appropriate solutions focusing on the facts and issues arising out of the internal audit reports and follow-up.
- Participate in the existing internal control system for financial matters of the Election Commission Head Office and District Election Offices and prevent shortcomings and weaknesses in those functions.
- Conducting continuous surveys and independent evaluation of the formality and adequacy of the internal search and take steps to manage public resources in a more effective manner.
- Special duties assigned for investigating violations of election laws and regulations during the period of polls and elections
- Conduct investigations in collaboration with the National Election Complaints Center during the election period.

VII. District Election Offices

- District-level activities related to the annual revision of the electoral register
- Issuing extracts of the electoral register
- Organizing and making arrangements for the conduct of elections
- Filling vacancies in the membership of Local Authorities
- Furnishing required reports/information to the head office.
- Organizing awareness campaigns on democracy / universal suffrage/student and youth Parliament/women, youth, and disabled groups and providing resources to other institutions where necessary.
- Submission in courts required documents on court orders.
- Functioning as the Information Officer within the district under the Right to Information Act.

8. Staff of the Election Commission

The staff of the Election Commission is made up of the following officers. Apart from the Chairman and five Members of the Election Commission, the staff includes officers of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS), Sri Lanka Accountants' Service (SLAcS), officers of the Sri Lanka Information & Communication Technology Service (SLI&CTS), Sri Lanka Planning Service (SLPS), Director Legal and Legal Officers, Translators' Service, Co-ordinating Secretary and Supra Grade of Management Service Officers Service (MSO), and non-staff grade officers namely, officers of the Management Service, Development Officers' Service, Information Technology Assistants' Service, Document Assistants, Office Employees, and Drivers. Accordingly, the composition of the entire staff of the Election Commission as at 2024.12.31 is as follows.

Designation	Approved Cadre	Employed as at 2024.12.31
Staff Officers (Including SLAS, SLAcS, SLI & CTS, SLPS, Legal Director, Legal Officer, Co-ordinating Secretary, Translators, Supra Grade of MSO)	77	60
Public Management Service Officers	390	365
Development Officers	67	57
Sri Lanka Information Technology Assistants	14	10
Document Assistants	51	38
Receptionist	01	01
Technical Officer (Civil)	01	-
Office Employees' Service	126	101
Office Employees' Service – P.A. Circular 25/2014	31	31
Drivers	52	48
Vehicle Cleaner	01	-
Electrician	01	-
Plumber	01	-
Total	813	711

PART II

PROGRESS

2024

1. Participatory Strategic Plan 2022 - 2025

Activities spelt out in the Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 were incorporated in the Annual Action Plan and have been put into action.

2. Annual Action Plan

The Annual Action Plan including the activities carried out by each Division of the Election Commission is prepared, quarterly reviewed the progress report and a report is thereafter forwarded to the Ministry of Finance. Also in this year, quarterly progress review meetings were held to study the progress of the activities outlined in the action plan and necessary steps were taken to achieve the goals set in the plan.

3. Meetings of the Election Commission

Meetings of the Commission are held as and when necessary to discuss the Commission papers and other recommendations and take decisions appropriately. Accordingly, 11 meetings during the first quarter of 2024, 10 meetings during the second quarter, 16 meetings during the third quarter and 11 meetings during the fourth quarter, total being 48 meetings within the course of the year 2024, have been held.

3.1. Special discussions conducted with the Commission

Several meetings were conducted with the officers of the Attorney General's Department and external lawyers to solicit legal assistance in relation to the postponed Local Authorities Elections. A series of meetings with relevant stakeholders followed from time to time on the court decision delivered on the Local Authorities Election.

Amidst these discussions, a meeting on the Presidential Elections that came about as a customary responsibility of the Commission,

was also conducted. In addition to the discussions held with the political parties, media institutions and candidates, meetings were conducted with relevant stakeholders on the electoral processes including nominations.

Immediately after the Presidential Election, meetings, discussions and seminars were also conducted on the Parliamentary General Election. These meetings and discussions were immensely instrumental in conducting two free and fair Elections which had to be held consecutively within a short span of time.

The Head of The Mission of the European Union, the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, the French Ambassador, the British High Commissioner, the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, the Ambassador of the United States of America, the European Union Election Monitoring Group, the Commonwealth Election Monitoring Team, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, and the Ambassadors and Heads of Foreign Missions and representatives met the Chairman and the Election Commission on several occasions at the Election Secretariat during this period.

4. Electoral law reforms carried out by the Election Commission

4.1. Observations of the Election Commission have been forwarded by the Commission in connection with the recommendations of the report of the Committee headed by Mr. Piyasad Depp, Former Chief Justice.

4.2. Suggestions and proposals of the Election Commission in regard to the draft Act on amendments to the Parliamentary Elections Act No 1 of 1981 tabled by Hon. Member of Parliament Mr. Imithiyas Bakeer Markar on July 06, 2022 in Parliament, were forwarded to the Bureau of Draft Bills in Parliament of Sri Lanka.

4.3. The Commission has forwarded letters to the Secretary / President to table in Parliament its proposal on the draft Parliamentary Elections (Special Provisions) Act submitted by the Legal Draftsman to the Secretary / President. However, recommendation of the Commission on this draft Act could not be implemented because the Presidential Election had to be held on time. Commission has now reminded the Secretary / President to initiate action to obtain the approval of Parliament to the draft Parliamentary Elections (Special Provisions) Act.

4.4. A Cabinet Memorandum on the proposal to remove of the “appropriate mark” from all Elections Acts was submitted and the Cabinet decision has been granted on 26.03.2024. Follow up action has been taken by the Commission in this regard.

4.5. In order to formalize deposits in Elections Acts, a Cabinet Memorandum prepared by the Commission was referred to the Ministry of Justice, Prisons Reforms, and Constitutional Reforms and the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted on 26.04.2024. As required by the Attorney General, Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prisons Reforms and Constitutional Reforms, has been requested to provide a justification on the formalization of deposits in Elections Laws.

5. Recognizing of Political Parties for election purposes

Party system plays a vital role in selecting representatives for the governance of a country as well as to get acquainted with the political environment. Therefore, the role of political parties is very important in a representative democracy. A political party is an organization that seeks to gain power on the basis of a policy. Legal provisions for registration of politically active organizations as recognized political parties for election purposes by the Election Commission, are set out in Section 7 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No 1 of 1981.

Accordingly, a notice is published by the Election Commission before 31st of January of each year, informing politically active organizations to submit written requests, to be recognized as political parties. The active organizations shall submit their requests within the specified period mentioned in the notice and if the date of any election has been announced during that period, this process shall be suspended till 30 days after the conclusion of the election. In this case, the Local Authorities Election 2023 was announced on 04.01.2023 and the nomination remained in force by 01.01.2024. Therefore, no application is called for the recognition of political parties. Until after 30 days of holding the Local Authorities Election.

To be recognized as a political party, organization must submit application to the Election Commission. The application must include a symbol of their choice from the party symbols approved by the Election Commission, party constitution, which must provide for the inclusion of at least one female representative in a key position, a list of office bearers, audited statements of accounts for the last four years of the party, and the current policy statement of the party. The organization must also demonstrate that at least four years prior to the date of submission of the application, the party has been engaged in political activities, or at least two candidates contested representing the party and out of them, one candidate has won in the Parliamentary General Election held prior to the date of submission of the application or three out of at least five candidates nominated by the party for five different Provincial Councils in the provincial councils election held prior to the date of submission of the application have won, and, the Commission must be satisfied with information provided.

In terms of Sections 7 (4)(b) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No 1 of 1981, a list containing the names of the political parties recognized for election purposes is published in

the Gazette Extraordinary. And an Extraordinary Gazette is also published with the symbols allotted and the symbols not allotted for political parties. Accordingly, a list of names of recognized political parties were published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 2395/08 of 29.07.2024 for the Presidential Election scheduled for 21.09.2024 and political party symbols in the Gazette Extraordinary No 2395/07 dated 29.07.2024. The Extraordinary Gazette No 2404/64 of 04.10.2024 with the approved party symbols and No 2404/63 of 04.10.2024 with the names of recognized political parties, were published.

Following were the political parties recognized by the Election Commission by 31.12.2024.

1. All Ceylon Tamil Congress
2. Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha
3. Ape Janabala Pakshaya
4. New Independent Front
5. Arunalu Peoples Alliance
6. All Ceylon Makkal Congress
7. Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi
8. Eros Democratic Front
9. Eelam People's Democratic Party
10. Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front
11. United Republican Front
12. United National Freedom Front
13. United National Party
14. United National Alliance
15. Democratic Unity Alliance
16. United Democratic Voice
17. United People's Party
18. United Left Front
19. United Socialist Party
20. United Peace Alliance
21. Up-Country People's Front
22. Workers National Front
23. People's Liberation Front
24. People's Struggle Alliance
25. Peoples Servant's Party
26. Democratic Tamil National Alliance
27. Jana Setha Peramuna
28. National Congress
29. Jathika Jana Balawegaya
30. National Peoples Party
31. National Freedom Front
32. National Democratic Front
33. Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna
34. National Unity Alliance
35. Thamizh Makkal Koottani
36. Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal
37. Tamil Progressive Alliance
38. Social Democratic Party of Tamils
39. Devana Parapura
40. Patriotic People's Power
41. Desha Vimukthi Janatha Party
42. Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization
43. Tamil United Liberation Front
44. New Democratic Front
45. New Democratic Marxist Leninist Party
46. Nawa Lanka Nidahas Pakshaya
47. Nawa Sama Samaja Party
48. Nawa Sihala Urumaya
49. Freedom Peoples Front
50. Pivithuru Hela Urumaya
51. Frontline Socialist Party
52. People's United Freedom Alliance
53. People's Alliance
54. Democratic United National Front
55. Democratic Peoples Front
56. Democratic People's Liberation Front
57. Democratic National Alliance
58. Democratic Party
59. Democratic Left Front
60. Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
61. National Front for Good Governance
62. Ceylon Worker's Congress (P.Wing)
63. Lanka Janatha Party
64. Liberal Democratic Party
65. Sri Lanka Labour Party
66. Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna
67. Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya
68. Sri Lanka Muslim Congress
69. Communist Party of Sri Lanka
70. Social Democratic Party of Sri Lanka
71. Socialist Party of Sri Lanka
72. Samagi Jana Balawegaya
73. Samabima Party
74. Socialist Equality Party
75. Sarvajana Balaya

Recognized political parties with issues related to the office of the secretary.

76. Eelavar Democratic Front
77. United People's Freedom Alliance
78. Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya
79. Eksath Lanka Maha Saba Party
80. Lanka Sama Samaja Party

81. Sri Lanka Freedom Party
82. Sri Lanka Progressive Front
83. Sinhaladeepa Jathika Peramuna

6. Registration of Voters

All citizens who are qualified have the right to participate in the governing power of the country and elect representatives without any discriminatory distinctions based on factors such as race, religion, language, caste, level of education, property ownership, birth, birthplace, wealth or gender. This right is assured through universal suffrage, which is guaranteed under Article 3 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. The Constitution states that sovereignty belongs to the people and cannot be alienated or transferred. This sovereignty includes the elements of governing power, fundamental rights, and the right to vote, which are all integral parts of a truly democratic society.

Accordingly, citizens of the country have the right to exercise their vote in various polls, including the selection of the President, general parliamentary elections, referenda, provincial councils polls, and local authorities elections. To participate in any of these polls, citizens must be registered in the voters' list that is valid for that particular poll.

The Election Commission carried out these activities according to the provisions of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, as amended by Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 2021.

6.1. Basic qualifications required for registration as a voter in the electoral register

- Being a Sri Lankan citizen.
- Completed 18 years of age as on February 01, the date of eligibility for registration in the electoral roll. (Accordingly, those born on or before 31.01.2006 are eligible to register in the voters' list in 2024.)
- Having ordinary residence at the address applied for registration in the electoral register.

6.2. Disqualifications for registration in the electoral register as an elector

- Declared to be of unsound mind under any law in force in Sri Lanka found;
- Convicted by a court of law for an offense punishable by imprisonment for 02 years and has been in prison for 06 months or more or a period of 07 years has not lapsed since imprisonment or, is under death sentence;
- A period of 07 years has not lapsed since been convicted of bribery;
- Having been convicted by a court of law for violating election laws;
- Having been convicted under the Public Bodies (Prevention of Corruption) Ordinance;
- Must be a person who is not subject to the disqualifications to be an elector specified under Article 89 of the Constitution, including the above mentioned disqualifications.

7. The Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 2021

The main purpose of this Act was to enable citizens to exercise their franchise as soon as they attain the age of 18 years through supplementary registers and to revise the qualifying date on which the enumeration is done. This amended Act was implemented in the year 2022 for the first time and in the year 2024, the said provisions were implemented for the third time.

7.1. Main amendments done to the principal enactment, the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 and special features thereof

- This act was certified on 13th October 2021.
- The Amendment Act is effective from February 2022.
- The date on which a person must have completed his eighteenth birthday, to be eligible for the purpose of registration as an elector, has been amended to be the first day of February instead of the first day of June.
- The first day of June has been amended to be the first day of February instead of the first

day of June for the inclusion or retention in the register of any constituency, the qualifying address to be ordinarily resident and for other related decisions.

- The first day of June on which the revision proceedings commence, was amended to read as the first day of February of each year.
- The words “on or before the thirty-first day of January in the following year” was substituted of the words “on or before the thirtieth day of September” in the clause relevant to the time duration of the completion of lists “A” (list of names to be removed from the electoral register) and “B” (list of names to be added to the electoral register).

7.2. Preparation of supplementary voters’ Register

The Amendment Act states that any person who attains the age of eighteen years on any day,

- within the period commencing on the first day of February in any year and ending on the thirty first day of May of that year;
- within the period commencing on the first day of June in any year and ending on the thirtieth day of September of that year; and
- within the period commencing on the first day of October in any year and ending on the thirty first day of January of the subsequent year, shall be qualified to have his name entered or retained in a register as an elector and can apply to the Registration Officer with a copy of the birth certificate or a copy of the national identity card.
- The Amendment Act also included that the Registration Officer should prepare supplementary lists, display the said supplementary lists, and publish notices in this regard in the Gazette and in newspapers in all three languages, claims, and objections can be made within 10 days from the date of publication of the said notice. The Amendment Act also includes

provisions relating to the conduct of inquiries into claims and objections and the tasks up to the date of certification of the supplementary voters list at the end of those inquiries.

- The Amendment Act states also about the coming into force and nullification of the Supplementary registers.

7.3. The Election Commission has been empowered to issue such directions as it may consider necessary, to provide for any difficulty or unforeseen circumstances or for the determination or adjustment of any question or matter in relation to the registration of electors.

8. Revision of Electoral Registers - 2024

According to the amendments made by the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act, No. 22 of 2021, the enumeration of voters for the main roll of the year 2024 should have started on or before February 01, 2024.

8.1. Preparation of the main list in pursuant to the electoral revision in the year 2024, is done by the District Election Offices under the direction of the District Registration Officer and the District Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of Elections, and, the Grama Niladharis act as enumerating officers to enumerate the electors from door to door in the field. In addition to the Grama Niladhari, special enumerators are employed to carry out the enumeration.

8.2. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation, in 2021 and 2022, enumerators did not go from house to house to count the electors. But in the year 2024, the Commission decided to conduct the house to house enumeration as was done in the year 2023.

8.3. The notification to the effect that the electoral revision will be initiated in accordance with Section 12(1) of the Act was published in the Government Gazette

Extraordinary No. 2365/02, dated 01.01.2024 and also in Dinamina, Thinakaran and Daily news in the three languages.

8.4. Instructions in regard to the revision of electoral register were issued to the District Registration Officers i.e. the District Secretaries and Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections through Circular on 04.12.2023 on practical issues and legal aspects, and a time shedule was provided for all activities related to this fuction from the begining upto the certification of registeres.

8.5. Supplementary list 2023(3) was certified on 01.02.2024 and as the preparation of supplementry list 2023, 2023(3) was concluded in December 2023, it was planned to combine lists 2023(1) and 2023(2) with the supplementry list 2023(3) in order to prepare printed combined lists and commence house to house enumeration with effect from 01.01.2024.

8.6. Enumerators and District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections pointed out some issues related to the printing the combined register 2023 in A3 size, and therefore the combined list for the year 2024 was printed as a booklet for easy use.

8.7. A system of lists was introduced for the enumeration of voters. Names of all electors included in the valid voter register by 01.02.2024 have to be included in the enumeration list and a senior occupant in the hosehold had to inspect it and place the signature. An ER form (2024/ER) had to be used to write down the names that should be listed in A and B forms. A leafleat with the name of voters appearing in the valid voters' register was provided to each household.

8.8. At the request of the Election Commission, Secretary/Public Adiminstration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Loacl Government instructed all Divisional

Secarataries on 29.12.2023 to withhold the transers of Grama Niladharis and limit their office days during the enumeration period.

8.9. The display of the "A" and "B" Lists: Making Claims and Objections

"A" lists containing the names of voters who are dead, who have vacated residence or who have become ineligible to be in the voters list due to any other reason, and therefore recommended to be removed from the register, and the "B" list containing the names of those eligible to be included in the register for the reason of completing 18 years of age, coming into residence, or any other, and therefore recommended to be included in the voter register 2024, were displayed from 09.04.2024. Gazette Extraordinary No 2379/16 dated 09.04.2024 was published in this regard and same information was published in newspapers in three languages.

8.9.1. Places of displaying of the valid registers (or part of it), "A" lists and "B" lists

- Every District Secratariat/ District Elction Offices
- Every Divisional Secaratariaats
- All local authorities offices
- All Grama Niladhari Offices

8.9.2. When an eligible person finds that his/ her name or any other eligible person's name is removed from the "A" list or included in the "B" list, such person could submit an application prepared in accordance with form A or B as appropriate, to include or retain his/ her name in the register. This was published in the Government Gazette of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on April 09, 2024. Applications had to be sent to the Registration Officer of the Electrol Distric whithin 4 weeks to be received before 06.05.2024.

8.9.3. When a person finds that his/her name or any other person's name appears in the list "B", could object the inclusion or retention of such name therein. Such objection should be prepared according to the form "C" appearing in the Schedule of the relevant Act in two copies and submitted to Registration Officer in the Elections Office. This was published in the Gazette of the Government of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and such objection had to reach Registration Officer of the District Elections Office within 4 weeks from April 09, 2024.

8.9.4. Objections on such claims mentioned above should be prepared in two copies in the form "D" appearing in the schedule of the relevant Act and submitted to the Registering Officer within 14 days from the date of displaying the list. This notice was published in District Elections Officers on April 25, 2024 and May 09, 2024.

8.9.5. Arrangements were made to obtain the form A and B for claims and forms C and D for objections, from the District Elections Offices, Divisional Secretariats and Grama Niladhari Offices.

8.10 Conduct of claims and objection inquiries and action regarding the late arrivals.

8.10.1. Attention of the Election Commission was drawn to the numbers in the "A" and "B" lists and the number of claims in that regard and the District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections were instructed to consider late arrivals and correct the mistakes that had occurred at the enumeration. Assistant Registering Officers of respective districts were published in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2381/49 dated 26.04.2024.

8.10.2. Action was taken with regard to multiple registrations detected at the preparation of the main electoral register and supplementary register in accordance with the Section 12 (7) of Registration of Electors Act No. 44 of 1980. Accordingly, the electors were firstly asked for the address they preferred to get registered. Electors were removed from other addresses and registered in the preferred addresses. When the electors of an electoral district do not respond, the Registration Officers register such electors in only one address at their discretion. Registrations in more than one Electoral district were referred to the Election Commission and the registrations were done as decided by the Commission. Although multiple registrations were detected according to the National Identity Card Numbers and when doubtful whether it is one person, it was decided to retain the name in both addresses.

8.11. Election Commission decided to amend the dates of revision of main electoral register 2024 and the supplementary register 2024 to supplementary register (1) in view of the need for conducting the Presidential Election on the due date and preparatory organizational activities connected with same. The date of certifying the main register 15.07.2024 was amended as 01.07.2024 and the date of certifying the supplementary register 15.07.2024 as 08.07.2024.

8.12. Preparation of the main electoral register at the district level was completed and certified on July 01, 2024 by Assistant Registration Officers.

This was published in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2391/07 dated 01.07.2024 and in press notices in all three languages and displayed in the official web and exhibited in Districts Election Officers and Grama Niladhari Offices for public scrutiny.

8.13. Numbers of electors registered in the main electoral registers.

District	No. in the main Electoral registe	No. of Members to be returned
Colombo	1,761,536	18
Gampaha	1,873,825	19
Kalutara	1,019,679	11
Kandy	1,185,646	12
Matale	427,851	5
Nuwara Eliya	602,887	8
Galle	898,653	9
Matara	682,587	7
Hambantota	518,154	7
Jaffna	590,022	6
Vauniya	304,971	6
Batticaloa	446,953	5
Ampara	552,204	7
Trincomale	314,135	4
Kurunegale	1,410,925	15
Puttalam	661,257	8
Anuradhapura	737,764	9
Polonnaruwa	349,801	5
Badulla	702,293	9
Monaragala	397,221	6
Ratnapura	919,207	11
Kegalle	706,690	9
Total	17,064,261	196

9. Preparation of the 2023 (3) Supplementary Electoral Register.

A Supplementary Electoral Register for those who complete the age of 18 years during the period from Oct 01, 2023 to Jan 31, 2024 in terms of the Registration of Electors(Amendment) Act.

Enumeration related to the Supplementary register was carried out on 01.02.2023 simultaneously with the main revision.

9.1. Gazette No 2352/03 dated 02.10.2023 was published in all three languages on the exhibition of Supplementary lists and on claims and objections.

9.2. Information on those who complete the age of 18 years were obtained several times from the Department for Registration of Persons and were referred to the Grama Niladharis through the District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections. In addition, those individuals were informed to take steps to get themselves registered in the Voters list.

9.3. Upon to completion of entitlement inquiries, supplementary register was certified on 01.02.2024 as was planned at the inception. Gazette No. 2369/28 dated 01.02.2024 was published and press notices were issued in this regard.

Total Number registered in this supplementary register was 72,757.

District	No. in the main Electoral registe	No. of Members to be returned
Colombo	2,571	18
Gampaha	6,520	18
Kalutara	4,317	11
Kandy	6,027	12
Matale	1,510	5
Nuwara Eliya	2,107	8
Galle	4,300	9
Matara	3,439	7
Hambantota	2,768	7
Jaffna	3,442	7
Vauniya	1,387	6
Batticaloa	3,026	5
Ampara	3,996	7
Trincomale	1,765	4
Kurunegale	5,537	15
Puttalam	2,336	8
Anuradhapura	3,951	9
Polonnaruwa	1,483	5
Badulla	3,189	9

District	No. in the main Electoral register	No. of Members to be returned
Monaragala	1,942	6
Ratnapura	4,169	11
Kegalle	2,975	9
Total	72,757	196

9.4. After certification of every revision of the electoral register, the number of Members to be returned from each electoral district has to be determined based on the number of electors in the valid electoral register in terms of the Articles 97 and 98 of the Constitution. Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2374/23 dated 06.03.2024 was published in this regard.

10. Completion of the Supplementary Voters Register 2024.

10.1. According to the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Act a Supplementary Electors Register has to be prepared including those who complete the 18 years of age at any time during the periods from Feb 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024, from June 1, 2024 to Sept 30, 2024 and from Oct 01, 2024 to Jan 31, 2025.

10.2. Collection of basic information in relation to the Supplementary Electoral Register consequent simultaneously with the enumeration 2023. Enumeration of eligible persons was conducted simultaneously with the main enumeration 2024.

10.3. Information on those who complete the age of 18 years were obtained several times from the Department for Registration of Persons and were referred to the Grama Niladharis through the District Deputy/ Asst. Commissioners of Elections. In addition, those individuals were informed to take steps to

get themselves registered in the Voters' Register.

10.4. Gazette No. 2381/ 41 dated 26.04.2024 was published and press notices were issued in three languages in this regard.

10.5. After certification of every revision of the electoral register and supplementary electoral register, the number of members to be returned from each electoral district has to be determined based on the number of electors in the valid electoral register in terms of the Articles 97 and 98 of the Constitution.

10.6. Supplementary Voters Register 2024 (1).

10.6.1. After concluding the claims inquiries, this supplementary electoral register was certified on 08.07.2024.

10.6.2. No. of registered voters in this supplementary electoral register.

District	No. in the supplementary Voter registers 2024 (1)	No. of Members to be returned
Colombo	3,815	18
Gampaha	7,304	19
Kalutara	4,565	11
Kandy	5,753	12
Matale	2,140	5
Nuwara Eliya	2,405	8
Galle	4,510	9
Matara	3,588	7
Hambantota	2,786	7
Jaffna	3,165	6
Vauniya	1,110	6
Batticaloa	2,733	5
Ampara	3,228	7
Trincomale	1,790	4
Kurunegale	6,301	15
Puttalam	2,416	8

District	No. in the supplementary Voter registers 2024 (1)	No. of Members to be returned
Anuradhapura	4,098	9
Polonnaruwa	1,501	5
Badulla	3,479	9
Monaragala	1,945	6
Ratnapura	4,529	11
Kegalle	2,932	9
Total	76,093	196

10.6.3. The number of Members to be returned from each electoral district has to be determined based on the number of electors in the valid electoral register in terms of the Articles 97 and 98 of Constitution. Gazette Extra Ordinary No.2393/ 26 dated 17.07.2024 was published in this regard.

10.7. Supplementary Voters Register 2024 (2)

10.7.1. After completion of the claims inquiries this Supplementary Voters' register was certified on 01.10.2023.

10.7.2. Number of electors in this Supplementary Voters register was 78,901.

District	No. in the supplementary Voter registers 2024 (2)	No. of Members to be returned
Colombo	4,287	18
Gampaha	7,725	19
Kalutara	4,561	11
Kandy	5,601	12
Matale	2,137	5
Nuwara Eliya	2,414	8
Galle	4,689	9
Matara	3,737	7
Hambantota	2,808	7
Jaffna	3,732	6
Vauniya	1,291	6

District	No. in the supplementary Voter registers 2024 (2)	No. of Members to be returned
Batalo	3,172	5
Ampara	3,572	7
Trincomale	1,779	4
Kurunegale	6,467	15
Puttalam	2,407	8
Anuradhapura	4,193	9
Polonnaruwa	1,496	5
Badulla	3,290	9
Monaragala	2,136	6
Ratnapura	4,517	11
Kegalle	2,890	9
Total	78,901	196

10.7.3. The number of Members to be returned from each electoral district has to be determined based on the number of electors in the valid electoral register in terms of the Articles 97 and 98 of the Constitution. Gazette Extra Ordinary No.2415/ 60 dated 20.12.2024 was published in this regard.

10.8. Supplementary Electors Register 2024 (3) Much of the work related to this Supplementary Voters register was completed by 15.12.2024. This Supplementary Elections Register is to be signed on 01.02.2025.

11. Preparation of Supplementary Elections Registers 2025 (1), 2025 (2) and 2025 (3)

Election Commission decided to collect information on those who become eligible to get registered in the Supplementary Electoral Registers that should be prepared 2025 (1) , from 01.02.2025 to 31.05.2025, 2025 (2), from 01.06.2025 to 30.09.2025, 2025 (3), from 01.10.2025 to 31.01.2026 simultaneously with the revision of register 2024.

11.1. Accordingly, the numbers of names recommended for the Supplementary Electoral Register as at 31.12.2024 is as follows:

Supplementary Electoral Register	No of names recommended
2025(1)	22,463
2025(2)	20,320
2025(3)	18,488

12. Introducing Information Technology to the Process of Electoral Registers.

12.1. Without visiting the Grama Niladharis' Offices and Election Offices, the public were provided with the opportunity of using On-line e-service to get registered with Electoral Register.

12.2 The facility to obtain information in the electoral register through mobile phones/ computers was introduced in the year 2021 and this facility was available to all citizens in this year as well.

12.3. An e-service was implemented to be used in the admission of Grade I children to schools, free of charge for Zone/ Divisional Education offices and with the payment of due rates for schools upon request.

12.4. Provision of facilities to stakeholders of the Election Commission to easily obtain required services through improvements to the e-service system of the Election Commission.

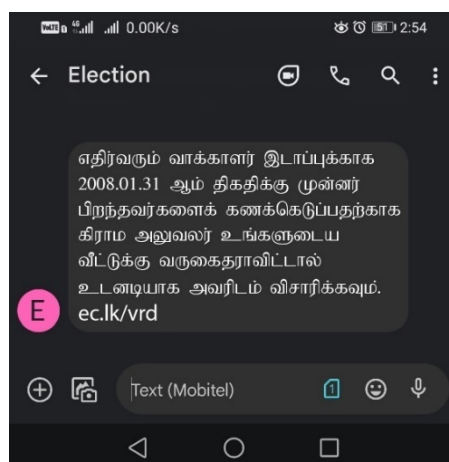
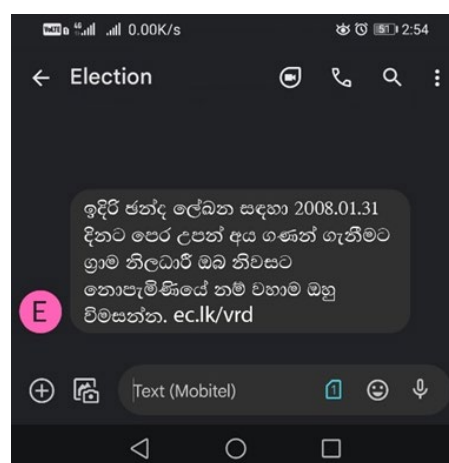
12.5. Provision of Online e-service facilities for the Grama Niladharis to obtain required services from the Election Commission.

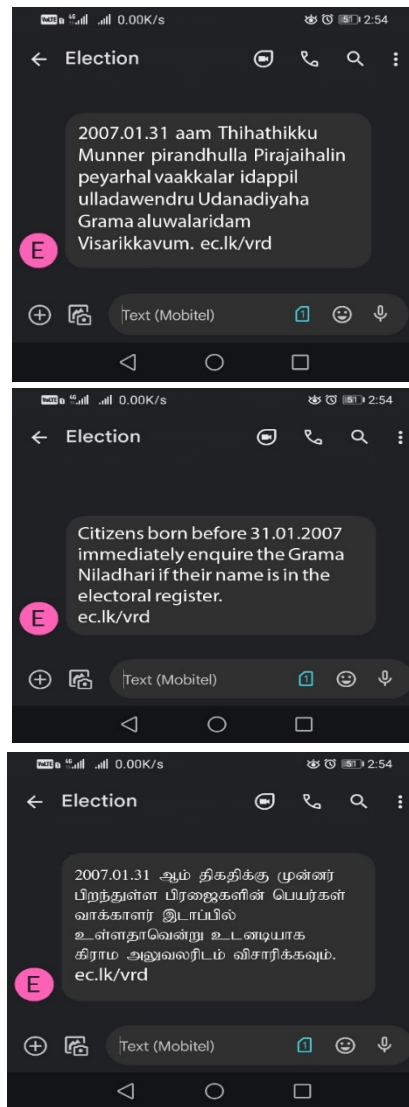
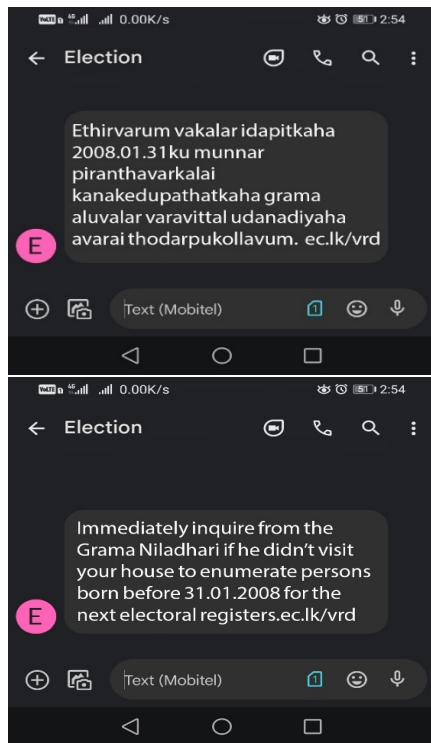
12.6. Provision of special facilities to disabled citizens to collect data from Election Commission through e-service (This enabled

the supply of special facilities at a time of an election.

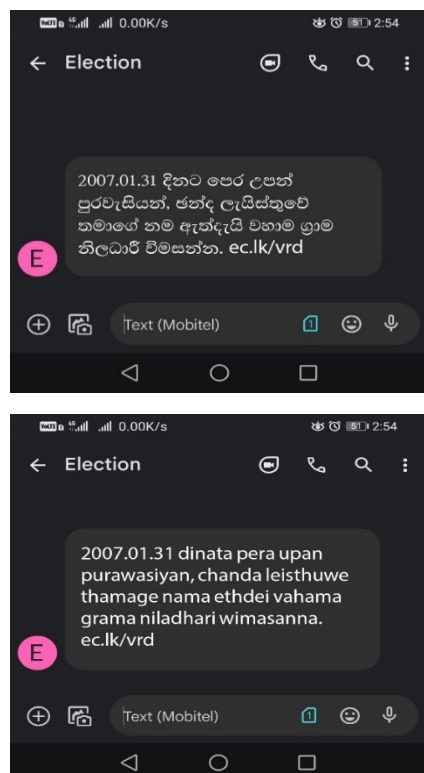
12.7. Educating public through SMS service on the revision of electoral register.

12.8. The mobile subscribers of Dialog, Mobitel, Airtel and Hutchison were informed through following free of charge SMS s on the revision of voters' registration 2024 on 08.03.2024





12.9 To make aware those who were not recommended for, or those who need to change their place of registration in the electoral register, but not recommended yet, the subscribers of Dialog, Mobitel, Hutchson, Airtel and CDMA were informed through SMS s free of charge under the heading of “Elections” on 29.04.2024



12.10 The public were largely educated by this SMS service. Election Commission is happy to extend its gratitude to the Dialog media network, Mobitel (Pvt) Limited ,Barathi Airtel Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and Hutchson telecommunication Sri Lanka. Election Commission is also grateful to the Presidential Secretariat, Prime minister’s office and Sri Lanka telecommunication Regulatory Commission for the coordination of all these services.

13. Revision of the Electoral Register 2025

13.1. Combined lists were prepared for the year 2025 incorporating the names of main electoral register certified on 01.07.2024 for

year 2024, supplementary electoral register 2024(1) certified on 08.07.2024, supplementary electoral register 2024(2) certified on 01.10.2024 and supplementary electoral register to be certified on 01.02.2025

13.2. Election Commission decided not to visit house to house to enumerate electors and to collect information to update the 'A' and 'B' lists and carry out the revision

13.3. It was decided to instruct the enumerators to include the names of those who have changed the residency in respective addresses, completed the required age to get registered, or failed to enter due to any other reason, and to remove the names of these who are reported dead, vacated residence or subject to any disqualification. In such occasions form 2025/ER has to be completed by the house holder and hand over the form to the enumerator. In other occasions electors are registered for the year 2025 under the address given in the combined list.

13.4. The circular in regard to the revision of the electoral registers 2025 including the time schedule was issued to all district registering officers and assistant registering officers on 17.12.2024

13.5. The methodology of the revision 2025 and instructions in regard to the appointment of party representatives for the revision were sent to secretaries of all recognized political parties on 30.12.2024.

14. Filling vacant membership in parliament.

14.1. Mr Wasalathilake Gedara Nayana Priyankara Wasalathilake was selected for the vacancy created by the resignation of Member of Parliament Mr. Lokugasthota Vithanage Chaminda Wijesiri of No 19 Badulla Electoral District. This selection was announced by the

gazette Extra ordinary No 2366/26 dated 11.01.2024

14.2. Vacancy created by the death of Mr. Sanath Nishantha Member of Parliament for Puttalam Electoral District was filled by selecting Mr. C K Jagath Priyankara and this was announced by the Gazette Extraordinary No 2369/08 dated 30.01.2024

14.3. The vacancy created by the death of Mr. H Nandasena Member of Parliament for Anuradhapura Electoral District No 17 was filled with Mr. M G Weerasena and this was announced by the Gazette Extraordinary No 2378/34 dated 05.04.2024

14.4. Supreme Court decided on the S.C. Appeal No 11/2024 Mrs. Diana Gamage elected as a Member of Parliament under the article 99 A, is disqualified to hold membership in terms of Article 66(D) read with Article 91(1) (D) (XIII) the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to fill the vacancy Mr Mohomad Mujibur Rahuman was selected. This was announced in the Gazette No 2383/32 dated 09.05.2024

14.5. The vacancy created by the death of Mr. Rajavarithayam Sambanthan Member of Parliament for the Electoral District Trincomalee No 14, was filled by the selection of Mr. Kathirawelu Sanmugam Kuhadasan and this was announced by the Gazette Extraordinary No 2391/14 dated 02.07.2024

14.6. A vacancy was created when the petition No SC/ (EXPULSION) No 02/2023 filed by Mr. Maligaspe Koralege Nalin Manusha Nanayakkara against his removal from the party was rejected by SC and to fill this vacancy Mr. Bandula Lal Bandarigoda was selected and announced by the Gazette Extraordinary No 2397/34 dated 14.08.2024.

14.7. Mrs. Thalatha Athukorala Member of Parliament for Rathnapura Electoral District

No 21, resigned from the membership in Parliament and to fill this vacancy Mr. Karunaratne Paranavithanage was selected and this was announced through the Gazette Extraordinary No 2399/34 dated 28.08.2024.

14.8. Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake Member of Parliament for Colombo Electoral District No 01 resigned from the membership of Parliament and he assumed the duties of the Presidency on September 23, 2024 and to fill this vacancy Mr. Lakshaman Nipunaarachchi was selected. This was announced in Gazette Extraordinary No 2403/01 dated 23.09.2024.

15. Presidential Election 21.09.2024

Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe accepted the Presidency on July 22, 2022 in terms of Article No 40 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka consequent to the premature resignation of Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapaksha on July 14, 2022 who was elected as the President at the Presidential Election held on November 16, 2019 under the Section 56(2) by the Presidential Election Act No 15 of 1981. As he functioned as the President for the balance period the preceding President, his term of office was due to end on November 17, 2024. Article 31(3) states the poll for the election of President shall be taken not less than one month and not more than two months before the expiry of the term of the office of the President in office. Election Commission under the powers vested with it the notice under the Section 2 of the Presidential Election Act published in the Gazette Extraordinary No 2394/51 dated 26.07.2024, with 21.09.2024 as the date of poll and 15.08.2024 as the date for accepting nominations. Preliminary organizational steps to conduct the Presidential election were taken in the months of July, August and September 2024.

15.2. Deposits had to be made at the office of the Election Commission by

candidates or persons on behalf of candidates from the date of the Order published under section 02 of the Presidential election Act No 15 of 1981 on 26.07.2024 Up to 12.00 noon 14.08.2024 on the day prior to Nomination day 15.08.2024 on working days (except Saturdays and Sundays) between 8.30 am and 4.15 pm and between 8.30 am 12.00 noon on 14.08.2024. During the specified time period deposits were made by twenty Candidates representing recognized political parties and eighteen other candidates.

15.3. Nominations were accepted on 15.08.2024 at the Office of the Election Commission during the specified time schedule. Out of the forty candidates who made deposits, thirty nine candidates submitted the nomination papers during the time specified. Nomination papers had to be scrutinized and declared whether they are accepted or not by the Election Commission. All nominations complied with the requirements of the provisions in the Act and therefore the Election Commission declared that all nomination papers were accepted.

15.4. The length of the ballot paper had to be increased as the number of Candidates was 39, the largest number of candidates in a Presidential Election in the history of Sri Lanka. Ballot paper had to be printed 27 inches in lengthsans a counterfoil. Considering the length of the ballot paper. Cardboard ballot boxes had to be supplied to the polling stations also in this election.

15.5. Electoral register 2024 was certified on July 01, 2024 and the first supplementary register was certified on July 08, 2024 and therefore the main register of electors and the 1st supplementary register could be used for the Presidential Election 2024. This enabled 76,093 youth electors who have completed the age for franchise to cast their vote. According to the combined electoral register 2024, the number of electors was 17,140,354. Number of Polling Districts was

13,314 and the total number of polling stations was 13,421 including the polling station assigned the female voters.

15.6. The poll notice under Section 2 of the Presidential Election Act was issued on 26.07.2024. Postal voting facility had to be provided to the government officers who will be engaged in poll duty as per Section 23 (2) of the relevant Act. Accordingly the applications for postal voting had to be forwarded till 05.08.2024. Considering the potential postal delays and the requests made to the Election Commission, this time period was extended for 04 days i.e. up to 09.08.2024. Number of postal voting applications received was 736,589 and out of them 712,319 applications were accepted. Postal ballot papers were issued and handed over them to the Postal Department on 26.08.2024. Marking of ballot papers at the Certifying Officers' offices took place on two days i.e. September 05 and 06, 2024. The postal ballot packets not marked on those two days were accepted by the Returning Officers and facilities were provided on 11 and 12 September to mark them at District Secretariats.

15.7. As per the Section 119 of the Presidential Election Act No. 15 of 1981, read with the Amendment Act No.16 of 1988. Any registered elector who reasonably fears that due to conditions prevailing in the area within which his polling station is situated, that he is unable to cast his vote at such polling station may make an application within one week of the notice of the nomination i.e. , August 01, 2024. Ten (10) applications were received. As any of the applications did not fulfill the provisions of the Act all of them were rejected by the Commission.

15.8. As per the Elections (Special provisions) Act No. 14 of 2014 an identity document should be produced at the polling station to receive a ballot paper. Elector should

be identified by the National Identity Card. However until it is certain that public are able to obtain a National Identity Card without any difficulty and all electors are issued with National Identity Cards it had been decided to entertain any other identity documents for this purpose. In addition, Election Commission took initiative to issue a temporary identity card or revalidate such identity card that has been issued at any previous election.

15.9. In terms of the Section 24 of the Presidential Election an official poll card should be sent to all electors. The poll card with details of the elector and polling station assigned to the elector were handed over to the Postal Department on September. 02, 2024 to be delivered to electors. Additionally, names of postal voters mentioned in the official poll card were stamped. Postal voters whose names were there in the extract of the electoral register provided to the Senior Polling Officers of Polling Stations were marked as postal voters. Purpose of this arrangement was to prevent impersonation. The special day to deliver official poll cards was September 08, 2024. The last delivery of poll cards was set for September. 14, 2024.

15.10. According to the 17th Amendment to the Constitution following steps were taken to ensure a free and fair election.

- Issuing media guidelines to all electronic and print media institutions.
- Addressing all government institutions to prevent the abuse of public property.
- Opening Election Complaints Centers in the Office of the Election Commission, and Offices of all District Returning Officers and appointing responsible Officers to these centers accepting complaints and resolving them instantly.
- Introducing a Code of Conduct.
- Issuing the series of guidelines through the IGP to the Police Officers engaged for election purposes.

15.11. Establishing informed Election Officers.

Informed Election Officers, in relation to the Presidential Election held on 21.09.2024, were the authorized Offices established subject to the conditions stipulated and informed to the Returning Officer or Deputy/ Assistant Commissioner of Elections and OIC of the local Police. Election Commission issued a letter to the candidates, election agents and authorized agents indicating the categories of offices, legality of these offices, instructions on how they should be established and the application forms attached thereto. Instructions included the manner of displaying campaign material, banners, posters and pictures of the candidates. In order to prevent those who are in power at the time using state lands, government offices for campaign activities, they were instructed not to establish informed offices in buildings, lands, official quarters or reservations belonging to the Government/ Provincial Councils/ Local Authorities/ State Corporations or Boards. It is illegal to carry out campaigns promoting or prejudicing other candidates and the distances from public institution connected with the conduct of the election that should be maintained were informed. This minimized the creating of conditions that would be favorable to any particular party or group.

These conditions and measures had to be stipulated in order to prevent public inconvenience resulting from election violence, attacks, injuries, murders, revengeful actions etc. and to create a conducive environment to conduct a free and fair election.

15.12. Implementation of the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act No. 3 of 2023.

15.12.1. In accordance with the Section 3 of the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act No. 3 of 2023 the Election Commission published the Order in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No.

2397/ 66 dated 16.08.2024 indicating the authorized amounts that could be used by any recognized Political Party or any other Party or Candidate as election expenditure, after consulting the Candidates, their agents and their proposers.

15.12.2. According to this order an amount not exceeding Rs.109.00 per each elector could be used on behalf of a candidate. The maximum limit of expenditure was Rs.1,868,298,586.00. It was also decided that a candidate could use Rs.1,120,979,151.60 i.e. 60% of authorized amount and Political Party or the elector who proposed the name could use Rs.747,319,434.40 i.e. 40% of authorized amount.

15.12.3. The Political Party or the elector who proposed the name of the candidate and the candidate should separately submit the election expenditure reports to the Election Commission within 21 days from the date of the declaration of the result. Upon the receipt of the expenditure reports a notice was published in Newspapers within ten days of the receipt, stating that the reports have been received and they could be inspected by any person and how to obtain copies if necessary.

15.12.4. Thirty five (35) candidates and 28 Political Parties or electors who submitted Nomination Papers, forwarded expenditure reports to the Commission within the time limit ordered. These reports were scanned and included in the Web of the Election Commission which could be scrutinized by any body interested. Complaints were made with to Sri Lanka Police. 3 Candidates and 10 Political Parties/ electors who proposed the nominations, who failed to forward the reports duly. Legal action against them is in progress.

15.13. Allocation of Air time free of charge. Air time free of charge was availed of candidates through SLRC and SLBC as per the provisions in the Section 117 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act. Government

Information Department also provided air time of 1 hour per candidate, to forward their policies to the public.

15.14. Instructions/ Circulars regarding the next steps of the Presidential Election were sent to all the Returning Officers and Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections and action was taken to enroll the services of retired officers/ casual employees to the Election Commission and district offices. Steps to print all documents/ forms required for the conduct of the election were taken. All documents/ ballot papers/ card board ballot boxes/ cubicles were supplied to all district offices.

15.15. Government officers in the departments/ institutions with required qualifications were engaged for the poll and count duties, Counting was carried out in 1713 counting centers in 49 premises, out of which the number of postal counting centers was 439.

15.16. Domestic/ Foreign Election Observer Organizations were facilitated to observe the poll and count.

15.16.1. Out of the domestic election observer organizations, People's Action for Free and Fair Election (PAFFREL) and the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) were allowed to engage observers inside and outside the polling stations and eight other domestic observer organizations were allowed to observe the poll from outside the polling stations. Observer organizations were allowed to observe also the process of tabulation of results in ROs offices. In addition, observer organizations were allowed to observe the preparation of the final result in the Election Commission.

15.16.2. Foreign observer organizations from India, Russia, Philippines, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh and Nepal participated in the observation of the election under the direct co-ordination of the Election Commission. International observer groups from the

European Union, ANFREL and Commonwealth commenced their observations even before the date of poll. Long-term observers of these International observer organizations were present in the country from the time of the proclamation of the Presidential Election.

15.17. Presidential candidate Mr. Idrus Mohammed Ilyas, who handed over nomination papers, died on August 22, 2024 and Mr. K.M.N. Sanjaya Sampath Raymond the proposer of the candidate was directed to nominate a candidate in his place in terms of the Section 22 (1) of the Presidential Elections Act. As this never materialized, the name of the deceased candidate was considered as deleted from all documents related to the election and all Counting Officers were advised to treat the votes marked in his favour, as rejected.

15.18. Dispatch of the material required for the poll and officers to the polling stations was on September 20, 2024. Poll was conducted on the following day, that was September 21, 2024, and after receiving all ballot boxes at the counting centers, it was the duty of the Returning Officers to count votes as directed by the Election Commission and report in two methods. District Returning Officers prepared the polling division level result and the electoral district level result manually, scanned same and uploaded it, while entering in the computer systems of the Election Commission. And through the counting center result received from the Returning Officers, the Election Commission also prepared polling division level result and the electoral district level result.

At this election, the tabulation of the result was activated in three manners. Firstly a group staff officers prepared the result manually. The scanned district result was computerized and the result was prepared by the Computer Division. Thirdly, the result was worked out through MS-Excel. There was yet a fourth

methodology. It was the final check by tallying the result prepared at the Election Commission with the final result received from the district. The polling division results and the District final result were announced by the Returning Officer after receiving the approval of the Election Commission. After getting the result confirmed as correct, the Chairman Election Commission announced the result through the media of television and radio.

15.19. After receiving the results from 22 electoral districts in the above manner, the Election Commission has to announce the candidate who is elected as the President. It was confirmed that none of the candidates had received more than half votes out of all valid votes. This was discussed with the agents of candidates who were present at the results center of the Election Commission. All Candidates other than Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake who has received the majority of votes and Mr. Sajith Premadasa who has received the next number of votes were removed out of the contest, and District Returning Officers were directed to count the second and third preferences in the votes cast to the candidates.

15.20. This is the first time in the history of Presidential Elections of the country that the second preference was counted. The numbers received at the count of the preferences in each counting center was added to the result of the first round of the count and the final result was obtained. Chairman of the Election Commission announced on September 22, 2024 at the Election Commission office that in terms of the Section 64 (2) of the Presidential Elections. Act Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake who has collected 5,634,915 (42.31%) elected as President. On the same day it was published in Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2402/26 dated 22.09.2024 that Mr. Anura Kumara Disanayake has been elected President.

16. Parliamentary Election 14.11.2024

The tenth Parliamentary Election of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka was conducted from 7.00 am to 4.00 pm on Nov. 14, 2024 at 13,421 polling stations.

16.1. Parliament was declared dissolved by HE the President by the Gazette notification No.2403/13 dated 24.09.2024. With the declaration that Parliamentary Election would be conducted and the new Parliament would meet on 21.11.2024. Election Commission took steps to organize all preliminary activities required for the conduct of the election.

16.2. The Order in regard to the number of Members to be elected in terms of Article 98 (8) of the Constitution, determined on the main electoral register 2024 and the first supplementary electoral register 2024 which were the valid registers at the time of the declaration of the dissolution of Parliament, had been published in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2393/26 dated 17.07.2024. The numbers of Members mentioned in that Gazette Notification had to be elected at this election.

16.3. Nomination process was explained by the Gazette Notification No. 2403/13 dated 24.09.2024, where the number of candidates for each electoral district and deposits to be made by Independent Groups were mentioned. In the Gazette No. 2403/13 dated 24.09.2024. It was announced that District Secretary of each district as RO of the district will accept nominations, District Secretary/ Jaffna will accept nominations for Jaffna Electoral District which consists of two administrative districts (Jaffna and Kilinochchi), District Secretary / Vavuniya will accept nominations for the Vavuniya Electoral District which consists of three administrative districts (Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitiv)

16.4. Arrangements were made to accept deposits in Returning Officers offices of 22

electoral districts from 24.09.2024 up to 12.00 noon, 11.10.2024 and accept nominations from 04.10.2024 up to 12.00 noon, 11.10.2024. Objections to nomination papers were allowed to be made from 12.00 noon to 1.30 pm on 11.10.2024.

16.5. Accepting of nomination papers, concluded at 12.00 noon 11.10.2024. Forty nine (49) Political Parties submitted 443 nomination papers. Three hundred and sixteen (316) nomination papers were submitted. In total 759 nomination papers were received by ROs out of which 36 nomination papers submitted by Political Parties had to be rejected as they had failed to submit them according to the provisions of the Act. The number of accepted nomination papers was 407. Thirty four (34) nomination papers submitted by Independent Groups were rejected as they failed to submit them according to the provisions in the Act. The number of nomination papers was 282. In total, 689 nomination papers were accepted and 70 rejected. There were 5006 candidates representing recognized political parties and 3346 candidates representing independent groups. The total number of candidates was 8352. It was announced that the election would be conducted on 14.11.2024, in the Gazette No. 2403/13 dated 24.09.2024.

16.6. Legal action was taken by relevant stakeholders against the rejection of nomination papers in Colombo, Vavuniya and Kegalle electoral districts. Supreme Court ordered to accept the nomination papers submitted by Democratic National Alliance. So it was accepted. Total number of accepted nomination papers, therefore, was 690 and the number of candidates, 8361.

16.7. In terms of the Article 99 A of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, lists consisting 516 candidates from 27 recognized political parties and 11 candidates from 2 independent groups, total being 527, were received by Election

Commission by 12.00 noon, 11.10.2024. Nominations for National lists were published in the Gazette No. 2405/ 51 dated 11.10.2024.

16.8. Number of nominations for many electoral districts was relatively higher than previous Parliamentary elections. The number of nomination papers for Digamadulla electoral district was 63. In order to prevent inconvenience caused by the unusual length of the ballot paper, the Election Commission decided to print the names of political parties and independent groups in two columns, when the number of nomination papers is more than 20. Ballot papers with a single column were printed only for Polonnaruwa, Moneragala and Kegalle electoral districts. With the experiences at the Presidential Election 2024, and, in view of the large numbers of political parties and independent groups, action was taken to supply card board ballot boxes for this election as well.

16.9. In terms of the Section 127 of the Parliamentary Election Act No.1 of 1981, any recognized political party contested the previous election and obtained a number of votes not less than one per centum of the total number of valid votes and has submitted a nomination paper for that electoral district is entitled to receive a grant from the government. The grant is worked out as Rs. 0.50 cents per one vote obtained. At the Parliamentary Election 2024 Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna applied for this grant and the total sum paid to that party was Rs. 34,246,846.50. None of the other parties which were entitled for this grant did make application.

16.10. Postal Voting

16.10.1. Postal vote applications were accepted till 10.10.2024. Number of applications received during the period granted was 759,083 out of which only 737,902 were accepted. Postal voters lists were certified on 16.10.2024.

16.10.2. Issuing of postal vote packets to postal voters and handing them over to the Postal Department except for Vavuniya and Colombo districts, was done on 23.10.2024. As there were Court cases in regard to the rejecting of nominations, the issue of postal ballot paper was carried out on 25.10.2024.

16.10.3. Marking of postal votes took place on 30.10.2024, 01.11.2024 and 04.11.2024. Marking of ballot papers unmarked was carried out on 07.11.2024 and 08.11.2024.

16.11. In terms of the Section 27 of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. of 1981 an official poll card should be sent to all electors. Official poll cards indicating the registration details and polling station assigned to the elector were handed over to the Postal Department on 26.10.2024 for delivery. Names of postal voters were stamped on the official poll card. In the electoral register issued to the Senior Presiding Officers of polling stations, postal voters' names were marked. This measure was to prevent impersonation along with official poll cards, a list of preferential numbers were also delivered. Special days for the delivery of official poll cards were 27.10.2024 and 01.11.2024, the final day being 07.11.2024.

16.12. Implementation of the Regulations of Election Expenditure Act No. 3 of 2023.

16.12.1. Candidates were educated about the Regulations of Election Expenditure Act No. 3 of 2023 at the time of declaring the decisions on the nomination papers through the authorized representatives of political parties and leaders of independent groups Secretaries of recognized political parties were consulted

and asked for the views of the maximum amount of expenditure and relevant Returning Officers consulted the leaders of independent groups and information were submitted to the Election Commission. Taking into consideration of this information, the Election Commission decided the amount that could be used per registered elector in each electoral district by a recognized political party / independent group and published in the Gazette No. 2406/ 03 dated 15.10.2024.

16.12.2. Secretary of the recognized political party or the leader of the independent group, as the case may be, who submitted the nomination papers had to submit to the Returning Officers, the certified reports of election expenditure separately prepared for each candidate within 21 days of the declaration of the Parliamentary Election results. Within 10 days of the receipt of these reports, the Election Commission published a notice informing the public, that the reports have been received, and they could be inspected by any person and how copies of same could be obtained, if necessary.

16.12.3. Within the specified time period 7505 candidates out of 8361 and 556 Secretaries of political parties/ Leaders of independent groups out of 690 submitted the expenditure reports to the Election Commission. Secretaries of political parties/ leaders of independent groups submitted expenditure reports of 453 national list candidates out of 527 candidates to the Election Commission. These reports were scanned by the Election Commission and entered in the Election Commission Web which could be studied by anybody interested.

16.12.4. The number of candidates who failed to submit expenditure reports was 856. Secretaries of political parties/ leaders of

independent groups were 134 and 74 national list candidates and action has been taken to make complaints about them to the police.

16.13. Observation of the Election.

16.13.1. Domestic Observer Groups.

Authority of observing the election conducted on 14.11.2024 was granted by the Election Commission in the same manner, that was availed of at the Presidential Election.

16.13.2. International Observer Groups.

International election observers from several countries participated in observing the election conducted on 14.11.2024 to elect members to the Parliament. In addition the European Union and the Commonwealth fielded a limited number of observers to observe this election.

16.14. Facility to cast vote in an alternative polling station under the Parliamentary Election Act No. 1 of 1981 amended by Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act No. 15 of 1988.

As per the Section 127 B (1) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981, any registered elector who reasonably fears that, due to conditions prevailing in the area within which his polling station is situated, he is unable to cast his vote at such polling station, may make an application within one week of the notice of nomination. This was published in the Gazette Extra Ordinary No. 2403/ 23 dated 25.09.2024. Two applications were received by 01 October, 2024. As any of the applications did not fulfil the provisions of the Act these applications were rejected by the Commission.

16.15. Establishing Informed Election Offices

Informed election offices in terms of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981

were the authorized offices established, subject to the stipulated conditions, and informed to the Returning Officer or the Deputy/ Asst. Commissioner of Elections and OIC of the local police. Election Commission issued a letter to the political parties and leaders of independent groups indicating the four (4) categories of offices and persons who could establish these offices the time periods and the number of offices allowed. These conditions and measures had to be stipulated, in order to prevent public inconvenience resulting from election violence, attacks, injuries, murders, revengeful actions etc. and to create a conducive environment to conduct a free and fair election.

16.16. Security

The responsibility of enforcing the law according to the instructions of the Election Commission lies with the IGP. Along with declaration that the election will be held, election complaints investigation units were established in the office of the Election Commission and at district level. In addition, action was taken to create special coordinating units in Divisional Secretariats and in other state institutions, in view of the extent of the district and the areas that warrant special security.

16.17. According to the Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution, steps were taken to issue media guidelines to all electronic and print media institutions, to issue written instructions to all government institutions in order to prevent the abuse of state property, to establish election complaints units to receive complaints and attend to them instantly, to introduce a Code of Conduct to all candidates and to issue a set of guidelines for the Police Officers.

16.18. Police Officers were engaged to ensure security in polling stations and counting centers. Pre –poll election violence was

relatively low at this election as against the previous elections. Parliamentary Election 2024 is historic in the annals of elections of this country which records the minimum number of pre-election violence. The National Election Complaints Centre received 1206 election complaints and the District Centers received 2616, total being 3822 complaints.

16.19. Instructions/ Circulars in regard to the next steps of the Parliamentary Election 2024 were sent to Deputy/ Asst. Commissioners in the districts and required numbers of retired officers/ casual employees were employed to assist in the preliminary activities. All documents/ forms required for the election were printed. All documents/ ballot papers, cardboard ballot boxes required for the poll, count and preparation of results were furnished to district offices on time. The poll for 14.11.2024 was arranged in 13421 polling stations in the whole island. Count of ordinary ballot papers was carried out in 1582 counting centers and postal votes in 452 counting centers, total being 2034.

16.20. Registered number of voters in the main voters' register 2024 and supplementary voters register 2024 (1) was 17,140,354 and based on this register, the total number of declared votes at the election held on 14.11.2024 was 11,815,246 (68.93%). Out of these declared votes, 11,148,006 (94.65%) were valid votes and 667,240 votes (5.65%) were rejected. Out of all recognized political parties/ independent groups, the National People's Power which received 6,863,186 (61.56%) votes won 141 seats, while collecting 18 national list memberships and constituted the government of the 10th Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka with the total number of 159 members.

Number of votes received by each party

Party	Number of votes received	Percentage of votes	Number of District level memberships	Number of national lists member ships	Total Number of Member ships received
Jathika Jana Balawegaya	6,863,186	61.56%	141	18	159
Samagi Jana Balawegaya	1,968,716	17.66%	35	5	40
Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	257,813	2.31%	7	1	8
New Democratic Front	500,835	4.49%	3	2	5
Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna	350,429	3.14%	2	1	3
Sri Lanka Muslim Congress	87,038	0.78%	2	1	3
Sarvajana Balaya	178,006	1.60%	0	1	1
United National Party	66,234	0.59%	1	0	1
Democratic Tamil National Alliance	65,382	0.59%	1	0	1
All Ceylon Tamil Congress	39,894	0.36%	1	0	1
All Ceylon Makkal Congress	33,911	0.36%	1	0	1
Jaffna District Independent Group 10	27,855	0.25%	1	0	1
Sri Lanka Labour Party	17,710	0.16%	1	0	1
Total	11,148,006	94.35%	196	29	225

17. Election Dispute Resolution

17.1 Gazette notifications published

In relations to Notification to Local Authority Elections

- Gazette notification issued to prevent the direct or indirect use of movable or immovable property of the state , state cooperations or boards to promote or prejudice political parties, independent groups or candidates as deterrent to conduct free and fair elections during an election period.
- Gazette notification No.2366/02 dated 08.01.2024 which extended the validity period of the postponement of Local Authorities Elections 2023 for another 3 months.
- Gazette notification No.2379/15 dated 09.04.2024 which extended the validity period of the postponement of Local Authorities Elections 2023 for another 3 months.
- Gazette notification No.2392/28 dated 10.07.2024 which extended the validity period of the postponement of Local Authorities Elections 2023 for another 3 months.
- Gazette notification No.2405/44 dated 11.10.2024 which extended the validity period of the postponement of Local Authorities Elections 2023 for another 3 months.and the gazette notification of media guidelines under Article 104 B (5) (A).
- Gazette notification No. 2366/03 dated 08.01.2024 which extended the validity period of media guidelines for another 3 months of Local Authority Election 2023.
- Gazette notification No. 2379/14 dated 09.04.2024 which extended the validity period of media guidelines for another 3 months of Local Authority Election 2023.
- Gazette notification No. 2392/27 dated 10.07.2024 which extended the validity

period of media guidelines for another 3 months of Local Authority Election 2023.

- Gazette notification No. 2405/45 dated 11.10.2024 which extended the validity period of media guidelines for another 3 months of Local Authority Election 2023.

In relation to Presidential Election,

- Gazette Notification No. 2394/56 dated 26.07.2024 was issued prevent the direct or indirect use of movable or immovable property of the state , state cooperations or boards to promote or prejudice political parties, independent groups or candidates as deterrent to conduct free and fair elections during an election period.
- Issuing of Gazette notification No. 2394/57 dated 26.07.2024 on media guidelines.
- Issuing of Gazette notifications No.2394/58 dated 26.07.2024 on the Code of Conduct thatb should be followed by candidates and political parties/ independent groups.

In relation to Parliamentary Election 2024.

- Gazette Notification No. 2403/ 19 dated 25.09.2024 and No. 2403/ 21 dated 25.09.2024 was issued to prevent the direct or indirect use of movable or immovable property of state, state corporations or boards during an election period to promote or prejudice political parties, independent groups or candidates or as deterrant to the conduct a free and fair election .
- Issuing of Gazette Notification No. 2403/20 dated 25.09.2024 on media guidelines.

17.2. Functions related to the Presidential Election 2024 and Parliamentary Election 2024.

Elections Dispute Resolution Units were established in the Election Commission Office and in all ROs offices to enforce the election laws to accept complaints on the violation of election laws, offences, illegal activities and corrupt practices and take necessary action from the date of calling nominations up to the

date of declaration of the final result. These Units functioned under AROs supported by civil officers and a team of police officers attached to each. Complaints on election offences, corrupt practices, illegal activities, violation of laws in the media and social media were instantly inquired into and the concerned parties were called at the Election Commission office and warned to halt such practices. A special unit was established in the office of the Election Commission to take action on illegal activities of social media. All these units were provided with facilities such as telephones, faxes, e-mails and WhatsApp and steps were taken to educate the general public of this facility.

Election Commission and Sri Lanka Police worked hand-in-hand to educate the relevant stakeholders in the enforcement of the election law and to give instructions. As a result campaign activities also were peaceable. Disputes among stakeholders were minimal. Statutory functions were well organized and could be performed by Returning Officers, Deputy Commissioners/ Assistant Commissioners. All stakeholders were happy that a free and fair election was concluded.

18. Provincial Councils Election.

Provincial Councils Elections Act No. 2 of 1988 was amended by the Amendment Act No. 17 of 2017. But the delimitation report, the prerequisite to hold Provincial Councils election, was not passed in Parliament and therefore the Provincial Councils election could not be held till December 31 of 2024 even though the terms of office of all Provincial Councils have come to an end and continue to be governed by governors.

19. Local Authorities Elections.

As per the Supreme Court order made on 22.08.2022 after hearing the FR applications,

local authorities elections had to be conducted without delay.

However, Presidential Election had to be conducted before that because preliminary steps of conducting local authorities elections had already been commenced. Election Commission announced by its media announcement No. LAE/2023/ 57 dated 28.08.2024 that, action will be taken to conduct the local authorities election immediately after the conclusion of the Presidential Election 2024. In the mean time the President elected on 21.09.2024, dissolved the Parliament on 24.09.2024, fixed and published the date for the Parliamentary election in the Gazette. During the period of the Parliamentary election, the term of office of the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha expired, and the Election Commission, therefore, announced by its media announcement LAE/2023/58 that it will take action to fix date for the local authorities election after the conclusion of the Parliamentary Election.

The electoral register valid for the Local Authorities Election 2023 was the register certified in the year 2022. Election Commission and the Cabinet of Ministers received requests from various stakeholders and political parties, that nominations called for the Local Authorities Election in the year 2023 should be cancelled and new nominations should be called for the local authorities elections due to many reasons such as many new voters would be denied of their franchise as there is a large number of electors who have become eligible after certifying the said register, many candidates nominated for the Local Authorities Elections are abroad, the number of voters in the register has been reduced due to these reasons, political parties existed in the year 2023 have changed and some candidates have resigned from their political parties and joined with other political parties.

The loss of the quota of 25% formerly allocated for the youth by the Local Authorities Elections

(Amendment) Act No. 30 of 2023 was also taken into consideration at this instance.

Consequently, the Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils & Local Government submitted the memorandum to the Cabinet of Ministers No. 24/2093/816/004 under the title of “Withdrawal of Nominations called for the Local Authorities Election scheduled for 2023 and calling for new Nominations” dated 01.12.2024 and Cabinet of Ministers considered them following decisions were taken.

- To withdraw the nominations called for the Local Authorities Election 2023
- To return the deposits made by candidates
- To call for fresh nominations based on the electoral register 2024, and

To advise the Legal Draftsman to draft a new Local Authorities Elections (Special Provisions) Act which provides authority to the Election Commission.

Action has been taken by the Legal Draftsman to present the Draft Amendment Act in Parliament.

19.1. Pradeshiya Sabha Election – Elpitiya

The term of office of the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha came to an end on November 4, 2023. The Minister/ Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government extended the term of office of councilors by Gazette Notification No. 2341/29 dated 19.07.2023 and that period of office was due to expire on November. 04, 2024 and therefore under the powers vested with it by Section 25 of Local Authorities Elections Act, the Election Commission initiated action to conduct the election for the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha.

Gazette Notification No. 2398/ 32 dated 22.08.2024, which announced that the voters register is exhibited under the Section 12B of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance was published. Returning Officer for the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha published the nomination notice on 26.08.2024 on notice boards. Nomination period was from September 09, 2024 up to 12 noon, September 12, 2024.

Nine (9) recognized political parties and 2 independent groups submitted 11 nomination papers out of which the nomination papers of one political party and independent group were rejected.

There were 55,643 eligible electors qualified to cast vote out of which 36,835 cast their vote. Out of the votes cast, 520 votes were rejected and the valid number of votes was 36,305.

National Peoples Power won 17 wards in the Pradeshiya Sabha of Elpitiya and Samagi Jana Balawegaya won 2 wards.

That results of Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha was as follows,

Jathika Jana Balawegaya	15
Samagi Jana Balawegaya	06
Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna	03
Peoples United Front	02
Independent Group	02
People's United Freedom Alliance	01
National Peoples Party	<u>01</u>
Total	30

Number of members in the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha is 28 and as (Jathika Jana Balawegaya) NPP won 15 wards in members of councilors became 30. Number overhang in 02.

20. Filling a vacancies in Local Authorities.

Vaccancies occur in local authorities due to the death of councillors, resignation, loss of membership in the party, Failure to attend meetings without permission appointed as the Chairman of the Sabha. defeating and the budget and removal by the governor. Legal steps are taken by the Local Authority Division.

Chairman, thereof resigned from October 26, 2024 to December 31, 2024 as he was elected to Parliament and therefore the position of Chairman and membership fell vacant. Legal steps to fill this position is complete.

21. Special Projects.

According to the Statergic Plan for 2022 – 2025 the Local Authorities Division was vested with the responsibility of following programmes. Progeress of same is indicated below,

21.1 Training Programmes for estate sector and marginalized communities.

Programmes carried out by district offices.

District	Programme / Project	Places where conducted	Date
Colombo	Awareness to Estate Community	Kiriwandala North, Pendrichwatte community hall	2024. 03.02
Kalutara	Estate Sector and marginalized communities	New Chammil watte, Milleniya	2024. 02.20
		Geekiyana thanda watta, Tamil School	2024. 03.04
Nuwara eliya	Estate Sector and marginalized communities	KTS Hall , Udupussallawa	2024. 03.13
Mullativu	Awareness to fishing communities	Thunukkai village	2024. 04.17
Batticaloa	Awareness to Gypsy communities	Divisional Secretariat, Wakarei	2024. 05.28
Kurunegala	Awareness to Estate , marginalized communities	Buliding of Provincial Council , Rideegama	2024. 06.08

District	Programme / Project	Places where conducted	Date
Anuradhapura	Marginalized Communities (Gypsies)	Pothana GS Division, Mihintale	2024. 04.01
Badulla	Awareness to Estate and marginalized communities	Cultural Center, Kandegedara	2024. 05.09
		Dickwella watte upper part- Haliela	2024. 05.11
		Etampitiya - Haliela	2024. 05.11
		Dameria Watta - Passara	2024. 06.20
Monaragala	Awareness to marginalized communities	Muppaneweli watta - Monaragala	2024. 05.13



21.2. Activities aligned with the Student Parliament

Following district level programs were conducted under the above topic.

District	Date	Place of conduct of the program
Colombo	17.07.2024	Ananda College- Colombo 10-Students
Gampaha	09.04.2024	Bandaranayake Vidyalaya-Veyangoda-Students
	19.06.2024	Sangabodi Central College-Nittambuwa-Students

District	Date	Place of conduct of the program
Kandy	28.03.2024	Wickrambahu Vidyalaya- Gampola- Teachers and Government officials
	01.04.2024	Zonal Educational Office-Denuwara- Teachers and Government officials
	22.03.2024	Tamil School- Kandenuwara-Students
Nuwara-Eliya	18.03.2024	Padiyapelella Maha Vidyalaya-Students
Galle	27.03.2024	800 students from Grade 10 from selected four schools in the Educational Zone of Ambalangoda in Galle
	28.03.2024	1000 students from Grade 10 from selected three schools in the Educational Zone of Ambalangoda in Galle
Mannar	23.03.2024	Community Education Teachers' workshop in the Zonal Education office at Mannar
Batticaloa	04.06.2024	Higher Technological Institute-Thalankuda-Students
Ampara	12.03.2024	Community Education Teachers in Educational Zonal in Ampara
	13.03.2024	Community Education Teachers in Educational Zonal in Maha- Oya
	14.03.2024	Community Education Teachers in Educational Zonal in Dehiaththakandiya
Polonnaruwa	05.06.2024	National School- Medirigiriya-Students
Badulla	07.03.2024	Batawathththa Tamil School-Madolsima-Students

District	Date	Place of conduct of the program
Moneragala	02.04.2024	Yashodara Balika Vidyalaya-Bibila-Students
	24.07.2024	Muslim School – Bakinigahawela-Students



In addition, election of national student's parliament -2023 was conducted at the request of the officers of the Ministry of education by the officers of Election Commission on 25.03.2024 at the National Institute of Education at Maharagama. Election was conducted to select the Speaker, Prime Minister, Leader of house, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chairman of committees, Ministers and Deputy Ministers of 10 Ministries. One hundred thirty seven (137) candidates submitted nominations on elections akin to a national election was conducted and results was declared which assured the students a real time practical experience. It is significant that this was the first ever experience of this nature.

21.3. Discussions were held by the officers the Election Commission with the LGBT groups on 15.03.2024 and 02.08.2024 on the problems they face in the electoral process.

21.4. National Level Symposium on Promotion of Democracy

An open invitation for second time via the official web site of the Election Commission was made by Election Commission on April 2024 to provide research papers on promotion of democracy and securing franchise through District Election offices covering the University system of the Island. A reminder invitation was made in June 2024 through a press notice in view of conditions prevailed in the system of university on order to provide opportunity for those who were interested.

Receipt of research papers through email was welcome and 34 research papers were received in three media, Sinhala, Tamil and English.

Follow-up action on this regard had to be halted due to the Presidential and Parliamentary elections set for 2024 and steps are being taken to revive the conduct of symposium and evaluate research papers before an academic audience.

22. Responsibility of ensuring the right to vote of disabled.

Eighty five (85) awareness programs were conducted with the target of enforcing women and youth groups to secure representative democracy and spelt out in the strategic plan of Election Commission 2022 to 2025 as target area 01 to achieve the goal set in a plan. These programs were conducted through online/print media on training programs and field studies.



Removal of obstacles faced by disabled and marginalized communities is actively engaging in the electoral process.

- Introduction of a signed language lexicon with election duty related words
- Issuance of temporary identity cards (4358) for totally disabled persons and accepting this document in the polling station as an identity document.
- Provision of 441 polling station with accessed facility in recent Presidential and Parliament elections
- An initial training on signed language for SPOs to minimize the difficulties faced by voters with hearing difficulties
- Exhibition of notices in the polling stations in signed language
- Allow the use of tactile frame at the Presidential and Parliament Elections to mark the ballot
- Facility for the disabled to accompany an assistant
- Use of private transport
- Transport facility with a wheel chair inside the polling station free of charge
- Release of results with signed language interpretation
- Preparation of election acts in the form of recordings for ease of use by disabled

23. Awareness programs on the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act and enforcement of election laws

23.1. The Regulation of Election Expenditure Act No 3 of 2023 to regulate the election expenses of political parties /candidates was put in to practice for the first time at the Presidential Election.

In a significant step toward ensuring transparency and fairness in election financing, the Election Commission introduced two new formulae to determine the election campaign expenditure ceiling for the Presidential and

Parliamentary elections. These formulae were developed by Professor Lakshman Dissanayake, Member of the Election Commission using a data-driven and scientifically robust approach to establish expenditure limits based on empirical evidence and electoral dynamics.

The adoption of these formulae marked a major advancement in regulating campaign expenditures, preventing excessive spending on campaign, and establishing a level playing field for candidates. The proposed methodology was widely accepted by the political parties contesting these elections, reflecting a broad consensus on the need for a structured and equitable financial framework in electoral processes. This initiative strengthens the Commission's commitment to ensuring accountability and integrity in Sri Lanka's democratic system.

23.2. In terms of Regulation of Election Expenditure Act No 3 of 2023, Election Expenditure Reports should be forwarded to the Election Commission which is signed by the secretary to the party, candidates and should be certified by commissioner of oaths or justice of the peace. Donations or contributions received by way of materials should be indicated clearly in the Expenditure Reports, which includes the expenditure campaigning along with those who made such contributions, gifts, loans, advances or deposits.

23.3. Operational procedures in this regard were prepared by the election commission after discussing with public officers, observer groups, secretaries of political parties and the representatives and heads of electronic and media institutions.

23.4. Awareness programs on the provisions of the regulations of the election expenditure act No 3 of 2023 and the procedure drafted mentioned above were conducted covering all districts with the support of Westminster Foundation for Democracy .

23.5. After the election, thirty five candidates except for three, submitted the income expenditure report and complaints have been made in Sri Lanka Police against the candidates/parties who failed to submit the same.

24. Use of Information Technology

24.1.IT requirements study, software design, development and maintenance

The Election Commission developed a new e-results processing system to tabulate and release the results of the presidential election held on September 21, 2024. This system, built in-house, included a district-level results tabulation system, a system for releasing results to the media immediately, a backup results system, and a public results website that provided easy access and continuous maintenance.

This results system was further improved to be used for local authorities elections, and the results of the Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha elections held on October 26, 2024, being released through it.

The Election Commission then improved this new system further to release the results of the parliamentary elections held on November 14, 2024, enabling quick results dissemination. Additionally, the system was upgraded to handle preferential results, which were digitally prepared and released to the media.

The nomination management system was enhanced to handle the nominations of candidates for the presidential election, and candidate information was made accessible for consultation through the e-service.

The nomination management system was improved to handle nominations for the parliamentary election, with candidate information made available for consultation

through the e-service. For upcoming election activities, improvements were made to support tasks such as printing, report generation, obtaining statistical data, checking nominations, and other related functions, ensuring the smooth execution of future nomination-related activities.

A capacity check of the centralized polling station system was conducted, necessary updates were made, and the system was utilized for the elections held in 2024.

The e-service for the online officer census was enhanced to replace printed data sheets with e-services. As a pilot project, the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Kandy, Vavuniya, and Mullaitivu districts were conducted entirely through e-services, eliminating paper use.

The internal information system for the Officer Census was improved to facilitate future activities using data collected through the e-service.

The postal vote application program was upgraded to an online system, offering three methods for applying: Self-Online Applying, Certifying Officer Online Applying, and Semi-Online Data Printing Applying.

The postal vote management system was also improved to streamline the postal vote process.

Enhanced and utilized the Electoral Dispute Resolution Management System, providing technical guidance to relevant stakeholders.

As in previous years, programs related to the revision of the general electoral registers and supplementary registers for the year 2024 were introduced and updated. Additionally, computer programs were developed/ enhanced to facilitate the work of Electoral District Officers at the District Election Offices.

The computer program developed for preparing combined electoral registers for future revisions and elections, using the main electoral register and certified supplementary registers, was updated and maintained.

The computer program designed to generate new data printed counting forms, multiple registration lists, and other related documents using the combined electoral registers for revisions was also updated and maintained.

District Election Office officers were provided with the necessary technical advice and guidance for revising the electoral register through the computer program, and continuous technical assistance was provided throughout the year for obtaining electoral register extracts as required.

In addition, computer programs were developed to facilitate the internal administrative work of the Election Commission, which were improved and maintained during 2024.

1. Maintenance of a Leave Management System for all Head Office officers to apply for leave online.
2. Development and maintenance of the Vehicle Management System of the Election Commission.
3. Development and maintenance of the Expenditure Management System for accounting purposes.
4. Development and maintenance of the Strategic Plan Monitoring System.
5. Development of the Procurement Plan Monitoring System.
6. Personal Data Management Program (HRIM)

A new computer program for political party information management was introduced. This provided the facility to manage party information through a computer program.

24.2. Provision of e-services to stakeholders related to the electoral process

- At the 26th National ICT Awards – NBQSA 2024, organized by the Sri Lanka Chapter of the British Computer Society (BCS), the country's premier IT awards ceremony, the highest award under the Public Sector Most Outstanding ICT Achievement Award, which recognizes a public sector organization for its exceptional contributions in shaping, nurturing, and developing its ICT environment, and the highest award under the Digital Government in Public Sector and Government category, which honors outstanding IT innovations aimed at enhancing government services or digital initiatives to improve public services, were presented to the Elections e-service introduced by the Election Commission, receiving the Silver Award.
- The Elections e-Service was awarded the opportunity to represent Sri Lanka at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance Awards (APICTA) International Awards Ceremony held in Brunei.
- The Elections e-Service has also been selected for the upcoming World Summit Award 2024.

The provision of e-services to all stakeholders, including political party candidates, government institutions, government officials, voters, and others, continued throughout the year. Services were provided under five main areas, and public awareness activities were carried out regarding these services.

1. Registration of young citizens (upon reaching or nearing 18 years of age)
2. First-time voter registration
3. Application for a change of residence
4. Application for correction of data errors
5. Application for claims
6. Confirmation service for unchanged residence information

A new e-service was introduced on a trial basis to provide facilities for overseas citizens to register online in the electoral register.

Provision of services to citizens registered in the electoral register to obtain a certified voter registration statement containing their registered information from 2015 to date, enabling them to verify their residence at any time of the day through a smart mobile phone, computer, or other internet-enabled devices, free of charge.

By enhancing the Grama Niladhari e-service, the Grama Niladhari functions related to the revision of the electoral register were streamlined through the Election e-service.

Successfully maintaining the **Disabled Persons' Portal**, which was developed to allow persons with disabilities to request necessary facilities during an election.

Update and maintain the official website of the Election Commission in all three languages, ensuring the continuous publication of information related to the registration of political parties, political party lists, press releases, media reports, gazettes, and circulars throughout the year.

Additionally, by promptly providing updated information to the public through widely used social media networks, information technology will be utilized to enhance the efficiency of the election process.

Steps will be taken to implement necessary developments to ensure the official website of the Election Commission and its social media networks are maintained in a disability-friendly manner.

The voter registration details required for the admission of children to the first year of government schools were securely provided to

schools online at rates approved by the Election Commission. This facility was also made available free of charge to Divisional Education Offices and Zonal Education Offices.

In addition, technical assistance was provided to the Department for Registration of Persons, Department of Census and Statistics, Registrar General's Department, Sri Lanka Police Department, Department of Inland Revenue, Department of Registrar of Companies, National College of Education, University Grants Commission, and other relevant institutions, as well as to the Welfare Benefits Board's Aswesuma program, to facilitate the online provision of voter registration information.

The Election Commission maintained and developed the Voter Education and Electoral Engagement System (VEEE) to provide knowledge and education to all stakeholders on matters related to the election process.

A WhatsApp and email account were also established and maintained in 2024 to facilitate contact with relevant officials for resolving issues arising from the use of election e-services, including online registration.

Activities such as forwarding public complaints received through the website and social media networks to the appropriate parties, and providing responses, were carried out continuously throughout the year.

The provision of necessary technical support to e-service users was made more efficient through the use of communication software.

Additionally, the office email service at the Head Office and all District Election Offices was maintained under secure procedures.

24.3. Improvement and maintenance of infrastructure facilities related to information and communication technology

The improvement and maintenance of the existing information and communication technology infrastructure at the Head Office and District Election Offices were carried out continuously throughout the year. In this regard, the maintenance of data center services established at the Head Office, including backups, and other related activities were managed by the relevant institutions.

Maintain the computers, computer accessories, computer networks, VPN networks, firewalls, and ADSL internet systems of the Election Commission's Head Office and District Election Offices securely, while performing scheduled maintenance tasks continuously throughout the year.

The preparation of the IT Policy, Business Continuity Plan, and Disaster Management Plan for the Election Commission is in progress.

Technical support for video conferencing was provided to facilitate meetings for the Head Office, all District Election Offices, and external parties through online methods.

The expansion of the security camera system (CCTV) at the Head Office and related activities were carried out throughout the year.

25. Legal Affairs

In the year 2024, 27 newly filed lawsuits have been reported to the Election Commission, naming the Chairman of the Election

Commission and the members and officers of the Election Commission as respondents.

25.1. Supreme Court

A total of 23 cases, including 13 fundamental rights petitions and 10 writ petitions, have been filed in the Supreme Court against the Election Commission for alleged violations of fundamental rights. Among these, cases numbered SC/FRA/177/2024 and SC/FRA/191/2024, alleging that the holding of the 2024 Presidential Election would violate their fundamental rights, cases numbered SC/FRA/292/2024 and SC/FRA/295/2024, opposing the nomination for the 2024 Parliamentary Election on 14.11.2024 and cases numbered SC/Writ/11/2024, SC/Writ/12/2024, SC/Writ/13/2024, SC/Writ/14/2024 and SC/Writ/15/2024 have also been filed regarding the rejection of nominations for the 2024 Parliamentary Election.

Also, 1 case (Case No. SC/FRA/296/2024) has been filed regarding the acceptance of the nomination of Mr. Ranjan Ramanayake in the parliamentary election and the opportunity to contest the election, 1 case (Case No. SC/FRA/160/2024) regarding the appointment of Mr. Mujibur Rahman as a national list candidate and 3 cases (Case Nos. SC/FRA/309/2024, SC/FRA/328/2024, SC/FRA/335/2024) have been filed regarding the conduct of the election without cancellation of the nominations in the 2023 Local Authorities Elections.

Also, cases numbered SC/Writ/02/2024, SC/Writ/03/2024) regarding the removal of names from the electoral register, case numbered SC/Writ/04/2024 regarding the acceptance of the annual conference report of the Liberal Democratic Party, case numbered SC/Writ/08/2024 regarding the granting of voting rights to persons serving prison sentences, case numbered SC/Writ/09/2024 filed against the deactivation of the Lanka Janatha Party, cases numbered

SC/FRA/139/2024, SC/FRA/143/2024 regarding the establishment of Community Consultative Committees during the 2023 Local Authorities Elections, case numbered SC/FRA/299/2024 regarding the removal of the Managing Director of the Ports Authority and the case number SC/FRA/318/2024 was filed in 2024 alleging that their fundamental rights were violated by the illegal and non-transparent issuance of new liquor licenses during the 2024 Presidential Election was filed in 2024.

25.2. Court of Appeal

03 cases have been filed in the Court of Appeal, out of which 02 cases have been filed regarding the rejection of nominations in relation to the 2024 Parliamentary Election (Case No. CA/WRIT/664/2024, CA/WRIT/666/2024) and 1 case has been filed regarding the removal of the Managing Director of the Ports Authority (Case No. CA/WRIT/637/2024).

25.3. High Court

No case has been filed in the High Court naming the Election Commission as a party in 2024.

25.4. District Court

The number of cases filed in the District Court is 01 and that case is filed regarding the non-inclusion of the name in the 2024 electoral roll. (Walasmulla District Court Case No. SPL-01)

25.5. Magistrate's Court

No case has been filed in the Magistrate's Court in 2024 naming the Election Commission as a party.

Of the cases filed in the Supreme Court, 14 have been concluded either by the decisions of the Hon. Court or by withdrawals from the petitioners, while 9 cases remain pending. Among the 3 cases filed in the Court of Appeal, 2 have been concluded, with only 1 case still ongoing. The case filed in the District Court also remains pending before the Hon. Court.

Six legal status inquiries have been directed to the Attorney General, and the relevant parties have been informed of the instructions provided.

Information inquiries have been made from the relevant parties, and necessary actions have been taken regarding five complaints received from the Human Rights Commission. Additionally, the required information has been provided for four investigations related to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption.

Ninety-two individuals serving prison sentences have been instructed to be blacklisted in connection with the Revision of Electoral Registers 2024, while thirty instructions have been issued regarding claims and objections submitted in relation to the amendment.

26. Constructions and Repairs (Object Code 2001)

Repairs and renovations have been carried out, including the installation of doors for the wall cupboards in the National Election Branch of the Election Secretariat, the renovation of the ground floor of the Northern Terminal Building, and new electrical wiring in the Data Centre. Additionally, the office room of the Director (Information and Communication Technology) has been replaced, emergency repairs have been conducted to systematically replace the telephone wiring of the Election Secretariat, and iron shelves have been installed in the vault of the Northern Terminal Building.

Additionally, renovations have been carried out at the District Election Offices in Gampaha, Kalutara, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Galle, Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Polonnaruwa, Badulla, and Kegalle, along with the official residences of the District Deputy Commissioners of Elections in Gampaha and Kandy, and the official residences of the

District Assistant Commissioners of Elections in Nuwara Eliya, Hambantota, Ampara, and Kegalle, as well as emergency repairs at the Trincomalee Tourist Bungalow.

27. Financial Control

The Appropriation Act has allocated Rs. 16.254 billion for expenditure in the year 2024, comprising Rs. 1,111.02 million for recurrent expenditure, Rs. 143 million for capital expenditure, and Rs. 15 billion for election-related expenses.

As of 31.12.2024, Rs. 1,094 million has been spent from the provisions allocated for recurrent expenditure, Rs. 89 million has been utilized from the capital expenditure allocation, and Rs. 13.245 billion has been spent from the election expenditure allocation.

Additionally, Rs. 18 million has been allocated under the Government Officers' Advance "B" Account to provide credit facilities to the Commission's staff through the Appropriation Act, out of which Rs. 17 million has been disbursed as loan advances by 31.12.2024.

28. Internal Audit Division

The Internal Audit Division prepared the Annual Risk Register for the Election Commission for the year 2024, and based on this, a risk-based annual internal audit plan was issued. This plan was presented and approved by the Audit and Management Committee at the beginning of the year.

In line with the approved annual audit plan, the following audits and investigations were conducted, and reports were issued throughout 2024. All internal audit reports issued have been handled in accordance with sub-section 40(4)(3) of the National Audit Act.

A total of 3 audits have been conducted in each division of the Election Secretariat, with 11

audits carried out in the District Election Offices, resulting in 14 reports being issued. Additionally, 2 investigation reports were issued concerning the annual electoral register. Furthermore, 8 investigations, including on-site inspections, were conducted in relation to the two national elections held in 2024, and 6 reports were issued by the end of the year.

Since the two national elections held in 2024 required engagement in statutory basic organizational activities, there was no opportunity to implement the annual audit plan as originally planned. Consequently, the annual audit plan was revised, and the amendments were tabled and approved by the Audit and Management Committee. As part of the revised plan, interim audits were initiated to assess the financial control and performance of the election process in the two national elections, covering all districts of the island, including those not audited in 2024. By the end of the year, interim audits had been completed in 6 districts.

Based on the above audit observations, new internal control mechanisms have been proposed to minimize audit queries arising in connection with upcoming elections and polls, along with preventive measures to ensure the integrity of the election process.

Additionally, in accordance with the provisions of Section 41(2) of the National Audit Act, 4 Management Audit Committees were organized during 2024, and 4 Committee Reports have been issued.

29. Foreign Training and Scholarships

Mr. S.L.R. Jayanayake, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Puttalam District, participated in a training workshop on election planning held in India from 07.01.2024 to 14.01.2024.

Ms. Y.D. Gamage, Accountant (Payments) of the Election Secretariat, attended the Capacity Development Training Workshop for All – Island Service Officers in India from 12.05.2024 to 25.05.2024, with the relevant officer reporting that the training was highly effective.

Ms. P.D.D. Wickramasinghe, Information Technology Officer of the Elections Secretariat, participated in the Australia Awards Regional Short Course – "Governing in the Digital Age" training course in Australia from 22.06.2024 to 07.07.2024.

30. Foreign Conferences and Official Visits

The Chairman of the Election Commission, Mr. Ratnayake, and the Additional Commissioner of Elections (Admin), Mr. B.M.P.G.P.V. Bandara, traveled to India to participate in the Executive Board Meeting of the Asian Election Authorities Association from 23.01.2024 to 27.01.2024, as well as the 14th National Voters' Day Celebration and Republic Day Celebration on 26.01.2024. These sessions were crucial for exchanging experiences on election management in foreign countries.

The Additional Commissioner of Elections (Legal, Investigation, and Planning), Mr. B.P.C. Kularatne, and the Deputy Commissioner of Elections (Colombo City), Mr. Bandara Mapa, participated in the Indonesian Election Observation Program in Indonesia from 11.02.2024 to 16.02.2024.

Mr. R.M.A.L. Ratnayake, Chairman of the Election Commission, also took part in the observation of the Russian Presidential Election from 13.03.2024 to 20.03.2024.

Mr. S. Achchuthan, Additional Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities), and Mr. A.M.K.S. Attanayake, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Ampara District, participated in the Indian Election Observation Program held in India from 04.05.2024 to 09.05.2024.

31. Local Training in 2023

Thirty officers, including District Deputy/Assistant Commissioners of Elections, have been invited to participate in the training workshop on electoral methodology at the National Plantation Management Institute on 03 and 04 July 2024.

A 200-hour training program in Tamil as a second language was held at the Election Commission, with four officers made participate.

Additionally, four officers of the Election Commission have been made to take part in a 100-hour training program in Tamil as a second language.

Furthermore, three officers of the Election Commission have been made participate in a 100-hour training program in Sinhala as a second language.

Action was taken to made participate Mr. K.R. Gnanendram, Management Services Officer of the Election Commission, in the training course on Financial Regulation 104 Loss Reporting, Compensation, and Accounting, conducted by the Skills Development Fund (SDFL) on 30th and 31st January 2024.

Action was taken to made participate nine office employees of the Election Commission in the training workshop for office employees at the National Institute of Labour Studies on 20th and 21st February 2024.

Action was taken to make participate Kegalle District Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Mr. K.H.M.S.P. Kasthuringhe, in the Master of Cyber Security Degree course conducted by the University of Colombo.

A training program on salary conversion has been organized for 17 officers of the Election Commission at the Elections Secretariat, Rajagiriya, on 15th March 2024.

Action was taken to make participate Mr. R.K.S. Weerasinghe of the Election Commission in the training course on warehouse management and procurement conducted by the Skill Development Fund (SDFL) on 30th and 31st May 2024.

Mrs. G.D.D.M. Wickramasinghe, Information Technology Officer, has been made participate in the CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) course conducted by the University of Moratuwa.

Action was taken to make participate Mr. Chandima Jagodaarachchi, Management Services Officer at the Election Commission, in the Certificate Course on Procurement Process conducted by the Skill Development Fund (SDFL) on 14th June 2024.

Mr. K.W.P. Madhuranga, Management Services Officer of the Election Commission, participated in a two-week training course on the public procurement process conducted by the Skills Development Fund (SDFL).

It is reported that action was taken to participate Mr. M.B.M. Sufiyan, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Batticaloa District, in the Master of Administration and Management course conducted by the University of Colombo.

32. Training conducted by the International Federation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

A BRIDGE Training of Trainers workshop was held in Wattala from 09 January 2024 to 12 January 2024 and again from 16 January 2024 to 19 January 2024, with the participation of 09 officials from the Election Commission and fifteen representatives from foreign election management institutions.

A training workshop on the operational plan for elections and election expenditure limits was conducted at the Galadhari Hotel, Colombo, from 03 April 2024 to 05 April 2024, with the participation of 63 officials.

A training program to establish a training pool of Women Development Officers was held in Colombo on 09 and 10 May 2024, with the participation of 30 Women Development Officers.

Training on the Election Operation Plan was provided to District Returning Officers, Government Agents, District Secretaries, Staff Officers/ Committee Heads, and key officers involved in the basic work of the elections in 08 districts, including Gampaha, Kurunegala, Matale, Jaffna, Badulla, Ampara, Polonnaruwa, and Kegalle.

33. Empowering Women Politically

Steps have been taken to conduct 29 training workshops on the role of women in safeguarding democratic rights, with the participation of female public officers and 2,562 prominent political activists, covering all districts.

34. Establishing a Pool of Trainers and Sensitizing Them

A pool of trainers has been established for civil society organizations and rural people's organizations under the theme "Voting is an inalienable right," including community leaders and key players in plantation areas, with 1,210 trainers trained in 2024. They have been deployed as facilitators to educate the public about the election process.

35. Transfers and Assignments

Officers working in other departments of the government who had expressed interest in transferring to the following non-staff positions of the Election Commission were informed to the Director General of Combined Services and transferred to this Commission on their suitability for the Election Commission. Also, arrangements were made to release the officers who requested transfers out of the Election Commission.

Designation	Number of Officers transferred to the Election Commission	Number of officers transferred out of the Election Commission
Management Services Officer	19	09
Development Officer	17	-
Information and Communication Technology Asstistant	01	-
Office Employees' Service	04	06

The Director General of Combined Services taken steps to provide a newly appointed officer to the Information and Communication Technology Service to fill the ICT Assistant vacancy in the Commission.

Following the implementation of the four-year strategic plan, the responsibilities of the Election Commission have expanded beyond those of the former Election Department. In response to this increase in duties, 25 new Development Officer positions have been created.

36. Use and maintenance of vehicles

The Election Commission operates a fleet of 61 vehicles, with 33 assigned to the head office and 28 to district offices. In 2024, expenses for vehicle services and repairs at the head office amounted to Rs. 35,925,334.62, while fuel costs totaled Rs. 26,927,699.85. These figures include expenses related to the Presidential and Parliamentary elections held during the year.

37. Matters related to the Right to Information Act No. 12 of 2016

During the period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024, 190 out of 194 information requests made in relation to the Right to Information Act have been given information and the number of information requests referred to other departments is 04.

38. Media coordination activities

The Election Commission has issued 211 media releases to inform public officials, public institutions, political parties, independent groups, candidates, and the public about the Commission's decisions and activities during the relevant period, as well as regarding the

2023 Local Authorities Elections, the 2024 Presidential Election, and the 2024 Parliamentary Elections.

These press releases were issued in three languages and sent to all electronic and print media institutions. Arrangements were made to inform the public about the issues mentioned in the press releases through the media channels of these institutions. The press releases were also published on the official website of the Election Commission.

Additionally, several discussions were held with media heads and journalists regarding the polls and election activities. These discussions took place at both the Election Commission and the Department of Government Information.

A system was also established and implemented to provide all relevant information through a WhatsApp group comprising heads, editors, news editors, and journalists from all media institutions.

Eight notices were published in public newspapers in all three languages to inform the public about the statutory and essential matters related to the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Election Commission also established a new media unit called “Shravanjana” with financial support from IFES. This unit disseminated the statutory notices issued by the Election Commission to the public via electronic and print media. Similarly, during the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, public announcements, notices, election results, etc., were broadcast to the public live through the official social media channels of the Election Commission from the beginning of the election until the results were announced.

39. Record Room

Efforts have been made to maintain the record room of the Election Commission in a more organized manner. A proper storage program was initiated to make the documents there more secure and for easy access by any party as needed.

40. Knowledge Management Unit and Museum

The number of requests for obtaining information about the functions and duties of the Election Commission is growing daily. Academics and researchers engaged in studies on this subject, political party representatives, and election observation organizations are among the most important stakeholders. Therefore, the Election Commission established a Knowledge Management Unit in order to carry out the tasks of these information seekers in a more efficient and effective manner. For that, a formal mechanism has been established to facilitate the storage and reference of the existing election rules, ordinances, records and documents. Apart from this, arrangements have been made to provide all information related to the polling process. In order to facilitate these tasks in the future, the Commission has arranged to provide facilities such as waiting areas, computers, multimedia facilities and access to e-information for the users.

41. Publications of the Election Commission

41.1. A quarterly newsletter titled Kathiraye Balaya was published under the thrust areas identified in the Four-Year Participatory Strategic Plan of the Election Commission from 2017-2020. The third issue of the seventh

volume (October-December 2023) and the first issue of the eighth volume (January-April 2024) and the second issue of the eighth volume (May-September 2024) has been printed.



41.2. Action has been taken to table the Election Commission's performance report for the year 2023 in Parliament within the stipulated timeframe.



PART III

Planned Programs and Activities for 2025

1. Developing the Strategic Plan of the Election Commission for the 2026–2030 period.
2. Compiling the 2025 Main Electoral Register and Supplementary Electoral Registers to ensure the inclusion of all eligible citizens.
3. Laying the groundwork for conducting Local Authorities and Provincial Councils elections by formulating an operational plan and providing district-level training for officers.
4. Compilation of reports on the 2024 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections.
5. Implementing voter awareness programs.
6. Collaborating with the Ministry of Education to facilitate the Student Parliament Program and provide necessary support.
7. Conducting district-level training sessions on enforcing the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act.
8. Launching a voter education program inclusive of all citizens, including persons with disabilities, youth, women, and marginalized groups.
9. Developing comprehensive guidelines for recognized political parties to establish a standardized regulatory framework for the regulation of political parties recognized by the Election Commission and formulating unified guidelines to ensure proper internal governance of political parties and for the compliance with democratic principles by providing equal opportunities to every member of a recognized political party.
10. Assigning unique serial numbers to each recognized political party for systematic management.
11. Necessary changes to the provisions of the Regulation of Election Expenditure Act, No. 3 of 2023, the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980, and Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262) regarding the inclusion of names in the electoral registers have been identified, with further work in progress. Additional amendments are being assessed, along with the identification of relevant laws requiring modification.
12. Making the necessary amendments to the existing election laws, based on recommendations from the Parliamentary Select Committee and the Special Presidential Commission on Electoral Reforms, as well as identified gaps in existing

election laws, and obtaining the approval of the following draft laws from the legislature.

- Increasing the candidate deposit for elections;
- Eliminating the requirement for marking ballots with an appropriate mark;
- Providing necessary facilities for advance voting;
- Providing necessary facilities for mobile voting;
- Establishing specialized voting centers;
- Providing a legal framework for the Election Commission's Code of Conduct for candidates.;
- Enforcing media regulations for all public and private media during the election period.;

13. Activities related to the use of information technology (e-services),

- Develop a mobile online system for voter registration.
- Implement an automated SMS system to confirm voter registration.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns on the online voter registration process.
- Regularly update and publish information on the Election Commission website for easy public access.
- Conduct a feasibility study to examine whether electronic voting and counting systems are suitable for the Sri Lankan electoral context.
- Draft necessary legal amendments to facilitate the Election Commission to use new technology.
- Evaluate training needs to identify suitable software systems for ICT and other relevant staff.
- Organize annual training programs at the provincial level.
- Enhance the electoral Register Management System.
- Upgrade the current Election Staff (Presiding Officer) Management System
- Strengthen e-services for all stakeholders in election management.
- Improve the existing e-mail system according to the required security standards.

- Develop and maintain an online monitoring system to support the Election Commission's Monitoring Unit in reviewing the progress of the Participatory Strategic Plan.
 - Ensure timely updates on the official website.
 - Maintain a disability-friendly official website.
 - Formulate strategies for social media use.
 - Enhance existing social media platforms to provide real-time updates.
 - Maintain disability-friendly official social media platforms.
 - Develop and distribute guidelines for stakeholders.
 - Conducting orientation programs for stakeholders to use technology.
 - Training staff to monitor practices and prepare reports.
14. Organizing a research symposium and a short film festival to raise public awareness of democracy, universal suffrage, and people's sovereignty.
 15. Implementing local and overseas training and higher education programs under a formal plan to enhance staff capacity.
 16. Conducting training of public officers aiming elections.
 17. Collaborating with international election management bodies and facilitating the participation of officials in overseas election observation and training programs as appropriate.
 18. Enhancing and maintaining the physical resources of the Commission.
 19. Strengthen/regulate financial control and implement the internal audit plan.
 20. Issuing annual and quarterly publications detailing the functions



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தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழு
Election Commission

මැතිවරණ මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය, නො.02 සරණ මාවත, රාජගිරිය, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව
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தேர்தல் ஆணைக்குழுவின் வெளியீடு
PUBLISH BY ELECTION COMMISSION