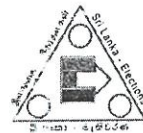




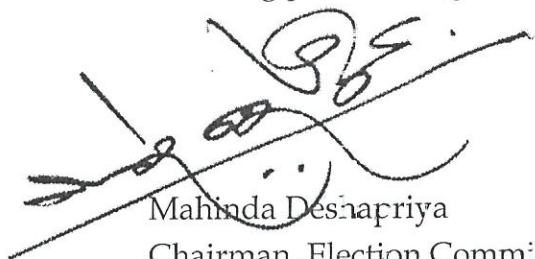
Election Commission



Parliamentary Election - 2020.08.05

The Need to Restrict Propaganda Activities during the Silent Period

1. Even though a consensus was reached at the Party Secretaries' meeting held on 2020.07.26 in connection with the Parliamentary Election 2020, to consider / agree to granting approval for visiting residences to canvass and distribute handbills on 2020.08.03, in consideration of the matters raised at the said meeting and the disturbances encountered in the propaganda campaigns due to the prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic situation, the Election Commission, on the basis of the prevailing legal implications, objections raised by various stakeholders, the risk of setting a bad precedence, the disturbances that may cause to religious observances on August 03 since it is a Full moon Poya day, many activities related to the poll such as preparation of polling centers / officers starting to report to poll duties/ transporting ballot papers and other materials to issuing centers and also the resultant security concerns as police officers too will be called for election duties, decided that the relevant election laws should come into effect with effect from midnight on 2020.08.02 as usual.
2. One should abstain from any propaganda activity including:
 - i. Conducting propaganda meetings;
 - ii. Conducting pocket meetings or house meetings;
 - iii. Visiting residences to canvas;
 - iv. Distributing handbills;
 - v. Displaying advertising, placards at proclaimed party officers; and
 - vi. Displaying posters, placards, banners;during the said silent period.
3. Election Commission earnestly expects that all political parties / groups / candidates would extend their utmost support for the conduct of a free and fair election while abstaining themselves from any of the aforesaid activities during the silent period which commences from 12 midnight on 2020.08.02.
4. It is also informed that all police officers have been instructed through the IGP to pursue action to prevent all aforesaid illegal activities from taking place during the silent period.


Mahinda Deshapriya
Chairman, Election Commission
For the Election Commission