**Discussion on the Local Government System of Sri Lanka**

A panel discussion on the topic “Is the Local Government System of Sri Lanka Successful?”; was held on 25th January 2023 at the Reading Room of the Faculty of Law. This discussion was organized by the Constitutional Law cluster of Thulawa Association of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo.

The panel discussion was equipped with the expertise of distinguished individuals as resource persons, including Mr.Mahinda Deshapriya, the Former Chairman of the Election Commission and the Chairman of Delimitation Commission of Sri Lanka, Mrs.Lihini Fernando, Member of the Municipal Council of Moratuwa, Mr.Rohana Hettiarachchi, the Executive Director of PAFFREL, and Mr. Manjula Gajanayake, the Executive Director of the Institution of Democratic Reforms & Electoral Studies.

Both the law undergraduates and the faculty lecturers participated in and contributed to this discourse alongside the resource panel, by providing their insights on the subject matter of the discussion. Approximately 200 students actively participated in this discussion.

This discussion marks the first physical gathering conducted at the faculty premises by Thulawa Association or any other student body within the Faculty subsequent to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nonetheless, it is noteworthy that Thulawa Association had successfully conducted similar discussions in the online platform during the period characterized by Covid-19 restrictions. Hence, as the Thulawa team we are pleased to announce that this discussion has brought in a favourable outcome.

The effectiveness of the local government mechanism in Sri Lanka and the drawbacks of the system were examined in this discussion. The panel disclosed their insights on both strengths and drawbacks of the existing provincial council system in Sri Lanka. Similarly, the panel discussed and debated on the possibilities for further development in the existing system and legal aspects with regards to such developments. Similarly, the wealth of knowledge accumulated by the resource persons through theoretical understanding and years of practical experience was shared among the participants.

The law undergraduates were given the opportunity to present their thoughts and contribute to the discourse. Similarly, the lecturers shared their knowledge gained through systematic study in the form of questions and in-depth explanations on the points raised throughout the discussion.

Hence, it is indeed noteworthy to state that this panel discussion organized by the Thulawa Association had been a fruitful one to all the participants.