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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2052/32 - 2018 ජනවාරි මස 05 වැනි සිකුරාදා - 2018.01.05
No. 2052/32 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 05, 2018

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL
Government Notifications

ANNOUNCEMENT UNDER SECTION 76A OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS ACT (CHAPTER 262)
SUSPENSION OF PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES, 48 HOURS BEFORE THE POLL DAY

AS it is the responsibility of the Elections Commission to conduct free and fair elections in accordance with Article 104B(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the said is empowered to issue directives in order to overcome the obstacles to the conduct of elections be held under the Local Authorities Elections Act (Chapter 262) as amended by Local Authorities Elections (Amendments) Act, No. 22 of 2012, it is hereby announced that the following directives accordingly are issued by the Commission.

- 1) **Following actions which would promote or prevent the election of any Party or Independent Group or candidate are prohibited to be committed during the period of 48 hours before the poll day.**
 - (a) Any form of propaganda meetings ;
 - (b) House to house campaign to solicit votes ;
 - (c) Distributions of handbills or notices ;
 - (d) Displaying or fixing flags, banners, notices, pictures, or photographs for the purpose of promotion or prevention of the election of any Party, Independent Group or candidate, in any vehicles except the vehicle in which the candidates are travelling, at residences, non-resident buildings, temporary huts, empty lands, public places or any place visible to the public.
 - (e) Display of propaganda materials through print media, electronic media, social media or telephones ;
 - (f) Propaganda through loudspeakers ;
 - (g) Propaganda on the pretext of performing religious rites ;
 - (h) Display of notices, photographs, picture, flags, banners or decorations in the residence which is used by the candidates as the office.



2) House to house distribution of handbills for the purpose of soliciting votes

A Limited access is granted to the candidates for the purpose of visiting house-to-house soliciting votes, during the period from the last date of nominations and 48 before the poll day.

- (a) As it is prohibited to conduct processions or rallies to promote candidates during the election period the candidates are allowed to visit houses with a maximum 10 persons. However it should not be a procession or a rally.
- (b) It is prohibited to visit houses with any instrument that generates or amplifies sound. It is further prohibited to carry propaganda notices, flags, banners *etc*, during these visits.
- (c) Policy statement of the Party or candidates can be delivered to the voters in the form of hand bills, but it is prohibited to carry posters or banners. The photographs of the candidates (along with the photographs of all candidates, if necessary) may appear in the policy statement. These handbills should not be prepared as notices that could be displayed. They should neither be used as notices.
- (d) Handbills should be distributed without any disturbance to the general public and without using amplifiers at public places.
- (e) Names and other details of the printer and publisher should appear on the handbills and such handbills should not contain any hate statements or statements that generate religious, linguistic, ethnic or caste disharmony.
- (f) Non-adherence to these conditions is a violation of directives and this permission to do house-to-home visit could be withheld on notice to the party/group or candidate at any time they are violated.

03) Establishment of notified campaign offices by Political Parties and Independent Groups contesting the election.

- (a) The Political Parties and Independent Groups contesting the election are granted a conditional approval to maintain a notified central campaign office for each Local Authority and for each of the polling division when a Local Authority is comprised several polling divisions and a notified branch office for each of the wards during the period from the final day of nominations period and 48 hours before the poll day. subject to the instructions and restrictions imposed as appropriate, by the Election Commission, It is hereby notified that any such office which breaches the said instructions, restrictions and conditions or engages in any action that is inconsistent with the election law or injurious to the public, shall be treated as unlawful campaign office and shall be dealt with in terms of the provisions of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance.
- (b) A conditional approval is also granted to maintain the residence of the candidates contesting for the wards or whose names appear in the additional nomination list as a campaign office subject to the instructions and restrictions imposed by the Election Commission. It is also notified that maintaining campaign offices even at the owned residencies shall be in compliance with the election law and the conditions imposed by the Election Commission and in such manner without causing any inconvenience to the public.

MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA
Chairman
Election Commission

N. J. ABYESEKERE
Member
Election Commission

S. RATNAJEEVAN H. HOOLE
Member
Election Commission

On this 05th day of January 2018,
Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya.

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