

DELAYING LG POLLS A RIGHTS VIOLATION

— CMEV

**BY NIRANJALA
ARIYAWANSHA**

The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) charged the continuous postponement of the LG polls citing various reasons by the government is a clear infringement on the democratic rights of the public.

Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, co/convenor of the CMEV made this remark during a press conference held in Colombo yesterday.

Dr. Saravanamuttu stated the responsibility was on the government to conclude the report of the delimitation committee, to gazette it and to announce a timeline on when the LG polls will be held.

He stated that already the

Elections Department has undertaken the task of drafting the 2016 polls register.

However, CMEV charged that due to the inability of the government to officially declare the LG polls for 2016, the public have developed apathy towards registering for the 2016 election register.

Meanwhile, Head of Operations of CMEV, Manjula Gajanayake charged that Minister of Provincial Councils and Local Government Faiszer Musthapha was intentionally delaying the



LG election.

He further said due to the inability to elect representatives to local government bodies, development projects undertaken by such institutions had been stalled.

Gajanayake said it was a rarity to find the current government having delayed the LG polls when

most other governments in the past had held such elections and strengthened their hold of the electorate.

He added the government should not use the delay in holding the LG polls to achieve their political goals.

CMEV wants firm statement on LG polls

ISHARA MUDUGAMUWA

The Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV) yesterday demanded the government to make a very clear categorical statement in terms of a time line as far as when the Local Government elections are going to take place.

Addressing the media yesterday at the CMEV office, CMEV convener Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu urged the responsible authorities to consider holding the Local Government elections as soon as possible whether in whole or in part



because holding of elections is tremendously important for a functioning democracy.

He said that currently nothing is really happening through the Local Government bodies other than through the central government and through the central bureaucracy.

“This is something

that can be expedited and that it should be expedited in the interests of democratic government,” he said.

“The government had given different dates for elections at various stages last year also. We want the government to come out and say categorically when the Ashoka Peris report will be available by such and such as date and we will proceed towards elections. The Elections Commission only need one and half to two months to make the necessary arrangements,” he added.

/ **දුංචි ඡන්දය කලයෑම ගැන ඇමැති ගසීසර් වගකිව යුතුයි**

මැතිවරණ ප්‍රවණිති ක්‍රියා නිරීක්ෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය

රනිල් ධර්මසේන

පළාත් පාලන මැතිවරණය කල් යෑම පිළිබඳව ගසීසර් මුස්තාපා ඇමැතිවරයා වගකිවයුතු බව මැතිවරණ ප්‍රවණිති ක්‍රියා නිරීක්ෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය පවසයි.

මැතිවරණය ප්‍රමාද වන්නේ මැතිවරණ කොමිෂම හෝ වෙනත් හේතු මත නොව ඇමැතිවරයාගේ හා ලේකම්වරයාගේ දුර්වලතා නිසා බව එම මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ ජාතික සංවිධායක මංජුල ගජනායක මහතා ඊයේ (23 හ) එම ආයතනයේ පැවැති ප්‍රවෘත්ති සාකච්ඡාවකදී කීය.

කිසිම ආණ්ඩුවක් බලයේ සිටියදී මැතිවරණ කල් තබා නැති බව ද පළාත් පාලන මැතිවරණ පවත්වා ජය ලබා ගන්නා බවද කී ඒ මහතා බලයේ සිටින රජයක් පළාත් පාලන මැතිවරණය පවත්වන්නට අකමැතිවීම ඉතිහාසයේ ප්‍රථමවරට මෙවර සිදුවන්නක් බවද එය ඉතා දුර්ලභ අවස්ථාවක් බවද කීය.

ඡන්දය පැවැත්වීමට අකමැතිවීමට එක් හේතුවක් වන්නේ මේ ආණ්ඩුව දෙමුහුන් ආණ්ඩුවක් වීම යැයිද ප්‍රධාන පක්ෂයක බහුතරයක් ඡන්දය පැවැත්වීමට අකමැත්ත පළකර ඇතැයිද ඒ මහතා පැවැසීය.

ඉකුත් රජය හැදූ පළාත් පාලන ආයතන සීමා නිර්ණය වාර්තාව ඉතා වැරදි එකක් යැයි ද එය කුණු කුඩයට යා යුතු එකක් යැයිද ගජනායක මහතා කීය. එනමුත් එම වාර්තාවේ අඩුපාඩු සකස් කිරීමට පත්කළ කමිටුව රැස්වන්නේ දවසකට පැයක් පමණක් වන නිසා එය කාර්යක්ෂමව නිම කිරීමට අමාත්‍යාංශයට වුවමනාවක් නොමැති බව ද කීය.

පළාත් පාලන අමාත්‍යාංශයේ ඇමැතිවරු ලෙස පසුගිය කාලයේ කෘතහස්ත දේශපාලනඥයන් සිටියද වත්මන් ඇමැතිවරයා වගකීමකින් තොර ප්‍රකාශ කරමින් ඇමැති ධුරයද හැල්ලු කරන බවද එම නිසා මැතිවරණය පිළිබඳව නිශ්චිත කාල රාමු ප්‍රකාශ කර නිශ්චිත දිනයක් ප්‍රකාශ කිරීමට ඇමැතිවරයා පියවර ගත යුතු යැයිද කියා සිටියේය.

මැතිවරණ ප්‍රවණිති ක්‍රියා නිරීක්ෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ සභාපති පාක්සෝති සරවනමුත්තු මහතා ද මෙහිදී අදහස් දැක්වීය.

CMEV tells Minister Mustapha:

'Stop giving excuses for not holding local elections'

BY MAHEESHA MUDUGAMUWA

The Centre for Monitoring of Election Violence (CMEV) yesterday lashed out at Provincial Councils and Local Government Minister Faizer Mustapha for postponing local government elections by blaming technical matters. It claimed the Minister was issuing contradictory statements on the election from time to time.

CMEV National Organiser Manjula Gajanayake told a media briefing in Colombo that Minister Mustapha had failed to set a timeframe for the newly appointed delimitation committee headed by Asoka Peiris and the reason for the delaying election was inefficiency on the part of the government.

"It was Peiris's idea that they could conclude the delimitation process if Minister Mustapha had given them a timeframe," Gajanayake said.

Currently, the committee was meeting only an hour a day, Gajanayake alleged.

He said: "This is the first time in the history that a government in power has delayed holding Local Government elections. Holding an election is a process to ensure democracy in the country.

The terms of many local governments had expired and they were run by government officers. Therefore, the development activities of many areas had been stopped as the government officers were not taking responsibility unlike elected representatives, Gajanayake said.

The local government bodies had been structured to be run by political leaders and, therefore, it was the responsibility of the government to take immediate steps to hold elections to them, he said.