



CENTRE FOR MONITORING ELECTION VIOLENCE

මැතිවරණ ප්‍රවෘත්තිය නිරීක්ෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානය
தேர்தல் வன்முறைகளைக் கண்காணிப்பதற்கான நிலையம்

No 6/5, Layards Road, Colombo 05, Tel: +094-11 3010664

Fax: +094-11 2505228 E-mail: cmev@cpalanka.org Web: www.cmev.org

Local Authorities Election 2018

Election Day Communiqué 02

Whilst there have been reports of violence and malpractice, polling in this Local Authorities Election has been largely without hindrance. As at 2.00 pm, CMEV recorded a total of 111 incidents. Of these, 16 have been categorised as Major incidents and 95 as Minor incidents.

Independent candidate K. Baskaran (party symbol - fish) was attacked by supporters of the Tamil National Alliance and was admitted to hospital. Incident took place in the Karaithivu Pradeshiya Sabha area, Ampara District.

Three UPFA supporters were arrested while distributing leaflets with the UPFA symbol at the Mangsuriya Mawatta Junction. They were traveling in a three wheeler bearing number plate number DBP AAI 6623 and were arrested by the Seethawaka Police at 12:10 pm. (Productions to court)- Receipt number 354,365/2018.

Earlier this morning, UNP candidate Amana Nishandeen from the Kolonnawa Municipal Council had entered the Henry Olcott College polling station multiple times and disrupted the voting process.

Around 11.30 am, UNP, JVP, SLPP, SLFP candidates along with their supporters had gathered around 50 meters away from the Godagama Subharathi Maha Vidyalaya Voting Centre in the Colombo District. The police and SPO could not disperse the crowd of around 50-75 people.

Three visually impaired persons complained to CMEV that the S.P.O of the Nalanda Viharasthanaya polling station in the Nalanda ward, Matale District refused entry to the individuals who accompanied them as assistants. The S.P.O and another person had instead assisted them in filling the ballot. The complainants were aware of at least one person who was allowed to be accompanied by an assistant of their choice.

Groups of UNP, SLFP, SLPP supporters were present within 400m of the Palugasdamana M.V. Polling station and were intimidating voters by asking them to vote for their respective political parties.

SLPP candidate from the Kanthale Pradeshiya Sabha Champika Sanjeewa and his supporters have been observed transporting voters (vehicle number EP - 5051) to the T/Vikneshwara Vidyalaya polling station and T/Agrabodhi National School polling station around noon.

A CMEV monitor was not allowed to carry out his monitoring activities at the Dudley Senanayake Maha Vidyalaya polling station in the Ambepussa Ward, Kegalle District by the senior officer in charge of the polling station.

At 11.00 am SLMC candidate Askeen Mohammed from the Puttalam Municipal Council and his supporters were observed within 50m of the Manalkundu Muslim Vidyalaya polling station by UNP candidate F.R.M. Muhusi conducting campaigning and attempting to change the minds of voters arriving to vote. At 11.45 am, the SLMC candidate and supporters were seen campaigning inside the polling station.

It was reported that SLPP candidate Gomes Keerthi was seen at midday seated in front of the Hettirippuwa Kanishta Vidyalaya polling station in the Daraluwa Ward, Kurunegala District.

UNP candidate from the Wennapuwa Pradeshiya Sabha, Aruttawalage Don Dinuksha Illanda was observed at 12.16 pm near the Mallawa Kanishta Vidyalaya polling station obstructing voters and making false statements about candidates from other parties.

Majority of the complaints being received by CMEV from every Province continue to be in relation to canvassing, attempts to influence voters, distribution and display of campaign material.

CMEV Monitoring

CMEV deployed a total of approximately 2000 monitors (including static observers) in the field and in polling stations for the purpose of monitoring incidents of violence and malpractice on Election Day. Further, CMEV has deployed 90 mobile teams in selected areas across the country.

CMEV was formed in 1997 by the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA), the Free Media Movement (FMM) and the Coalition Against Political Violence as an independent and non-partisan organisation to monitor the incidence of election related violence. Currently, CMEV is made up of CPA, FMM and INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre.

All CMEV reports and communiqués can be accessed online at www.cmev.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Saravanamuttu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. P. Saravanamuttu
Co-Convener