

## **Introductory Note for All Media on Campaign Cost Monitoring Initiative of CMEV**

The Election Campaign Cost Monitoring initiative is an integral part of the broader mission of monitoring election violence of the Centre for Monitoring Election Violence (CPA/CMEV)<sup>1</sup>. CMEV was formed in 1997 with the objective of election monitoring and voter education in Sri Lanka and accredited by the Election Commission of Sri Lanka.

In Sri Lanka, there is no legal framework or regulatory mechanism for election campaign finance and campaign costs. However, the advocacy efforts on the part of civil society organizations led by election monitoring bodies will continue until a formal and legally enforceable legislation or a regulatory framework on campaign finance is formulated and implemented.

**Therefore, the purpose of this media conference is to brief you about the campaign cost monitoring exercise of CMEV and disclose the findings from 14<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2019.**

Campaign cost monitoring exercise of CMEV is the first such initiative by an election monitoring institution in Sri Lanka. CMEV focuses on the following areas to monitor the costs of Presidential Election campaign 2019;

1. Printed Media
2. Electronic Media
3. Social Media (Face book) and
4. Other costs (Ground level campaign – public rallies, meeting, visibility items and also costs affiliated to misuse of state property etc.)

CMEV has a dedicated team to monitor the expenditure of Candidates of the Presidential Election 2019. The main objective is not to just focus on figures but to build a public opinion and societal discourse on the impact of unlimited and unregulated finances on election campaigns and thus to highlight the sheer need for a campaign finance legislation in Sri Lanka.

Campaign cost monitoring initiative is conducted with the financial support of Management Systems International, Inc. (MSI) of USAID which is providing 7 Million LKR for this initiative. CMEV has employed 13 paid staff in the capacity of Media Monitors for the purpose of carrying out monitoring activities of campaign costs. In addition to the media monitors, the campaign monitoring team also consists of two data analyzers and two data entry persons. Therefore, in total, 17 staff members have been stationed in the campaign finance monitoring unit of CMEV.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cpalanka.org/cmev/>