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Local Government Election

2002 - 2003

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections
(PAFFREL)

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Movement for the Free and Fair Elections
(MFFE)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2002 – 2003

FINAL REPORT

People's action for Free and Fair Elections
(PAFFREL)

&

Movement for Free and Fair Elections
(MFFE)



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FINAL REPORT ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 2002 / 2003

RATIONALE FOR ELECTION MONITORING

PAFFREL's main objectives at its inception in 1987 included motivation and encouragement of voters to exercise their basic right and go to polls, promotion of a community effort that would prevent violence before, during and after the elections and undertaking an election watch which would help to prevent abuses and violations of election law and which would observe the manner in which the poll was being conducted through out the country in as many areas as possible. In later years the objectives were extended to cover voter education, good governance and civic empowerment for strengthening democratic institutions. It was in pursuance of the main objectives of PAFFREL and the need to carry out these functions on a continuing basis that the monitoring of the local government elections March, 2002 was undertaken.

BACKGROUND OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2002

The UNF government which came into power after the General Elections 2001 on a platform of peace and good economic management quickly reciprocated the unilateral cease fire declared by the LTTE and immediately took steps to remove the restrictions on flow of goods to the North and East and strengthen the rehabilitation work. The peace process was thus set in motion and the unilateral ceasefire culminated in the signing of the ceasefire agreement in February, 2002. The government was keen to utilize the local government election as an opportunity to seek the re-affirmation of public support for the peace process. The opposition, particularly the PA was affected by post general election developments; the post election violence and the remand imprisonment of many PA election organizers on grounds of alleged election violence and malpractices affected the morale of the PA supporters and the organizational ability of the PA. These factors coupled with the belief that voters vote for the party in power immediately after a general election contributed to expectations of low voter turn out at the local government elections. The UNF focused on national issues in its election campaign and the local government issues got submerged in it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS HELD IN 2002 / 2003

The local government authorities have a normal term of 3 years. The local government elections were thus due in March 2000, but it was postponed by the previous government under the emergency regulations. Under the prevailing local government elections law, election for all local government authorities have to be held on a single day. In the past there had been instances when local government elections were not conducted in the North and East due to security and other considerations. But elections in the other seven provinces were held on the same day. The Local Government Elections 2002 / 2003 mark a variation in this practice.

Although a cease-fire is in force, elections in the North and East provinces, except in the Sinhalese people dominated areas of the Ampara District, were postponed at the request of the Tamil National Alliance. Even in the seven provinces elections were held on different dates. Elections for 222 local government institutions were held on the 20th of March, 2002. Elections for eight local government institutions were held on 25th March, 2002. Elections for 17 local government institutions were postponed to 20th May, 2002, until the determination of the court cases pertaining to the rejection of nomination papers by the Election Commissioner. Elections to the local government institutions in the Northern province and in some parts of the Eastern province was postponed to June, 2003. But the elections were not held n that day. Another feature of the local government elections 2002 / 2003 was the announcement of the results of the elections on completion of each stage. This was inevitable in view of the big time gap between the various stages of the elections. It is hoped that this practice would not create a precedence because the announcement of results on that basis is bound to influence the results of the elections to be held in subsequent stages.

The Election to Akuresa PS in the Matara district was held later i.e., on 8th May 2003, following as a decision of the Court, on a petition filed with regard to the rejection of the nomination list of the UNP.

PRE-ELECTION WORK BY PAFFREL

PAFFREL's experience in monitoring elections and producing independent monitoring reports since its establishment has suggested that action on a broader front is required to discourage and eliminate election violence and malpractices. Recommendations by both international election monitors and local monitors have been ignored. Election violence and violations continue unabated as new devices and methods of elections violence and violations are undertaken by political parties in the electoral process. The realization of the need for action on a broader front led PAFFREL to initiate and implement programmes of voter education and civic empowerment for strengthening democratic institutions and creating a community movement to discourage election violence and to promote free and fair elections. These projects supported by donor agencies aim to motivate and encourage voters to exercise their democratic right of the vote, to promote a community effort that would prevent violence and malpractices before, during and after elections, to make recommendations for the improvement of the existing processes and institutions pertaining to elections, to educate voters to promote the civic consensus that helps in establishing and maintaining standards of good governance in the country and to propagate values and criteria for selection of candidates and voting that would help in electing a political leadership and representatives who are free of corruption and truly accountable to the people. The project media blitz to discourage election violence, implemented with funding from the grant assistance for grass roots projects, Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Japan specifically targeted the local government elections March, 2002. The efforts under this project to motivate and encourage voters to exercise their basic democratic right of vote and go to the polls seem to have had a positive impact on the voter turnout at this election where the voter participation was expected to be low due to the low morale of the main opposition party and its lack of adequate preparedness for the election. This project also contributed to refocus the attention of the voting public to local government issues when the UNF government strived to base their campaign on national issues at this election.

The Local Government Elections 2002 marks the introduction of another new feature in the election monitoring process. An all party monitoring centre where representatives of contesting political parties together with Police election authorities collaborated in monitoring the election and in dealing with election related violence and violations. Although this mechanism was not fully operative this election it can be an effective tool for containing election related violence and violations if the political parties collaborate in this manner in future elections. A joint declaration at the national level signed by the general secretaries of all the main contesting political parties launched the all party monitoring scheme.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL SETUP FOR MONITORING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2002

Monitoring work at this election was made more complicated and difficult by the postponement of elections in some areas and the conduct of the elections in several stages. In addition to logistical problems it also entailed repetition of some activities at various stages. As usual monitoring was undertaken by the network of PAFFREL's partner organizations comprising the Movement for Free and Fair Elections, the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Conference of all Ceylon Young Men's Muslim Associations, Center for Society and Religion, National Peace Council, Community Education Center, SEDEC, The National Conference on Religion and Peace and the Conference of major superiors which have their net works of grass root level organizations.

PAFFREL's monitoring work commenced with the establishment of district units which coordinated all the preparatory work, mobilized the volunteers who were deployed for monitoring and organized and implemented the training programs. The monitoring work covered the election campaign from the date nominations of candidates were accepted to the day preceding the polling day, and the post election period of two weeks immediately following the elections. PAFFREL observed over 3,000 polling stations in all stages of the Elections.

PAFFREL deployed three sets of monitors for the monitoring activity. One set was posted to polling stations where they observed the poll from start to finish. Compared to General Elections there was limited application of this method in this Local Government Election. The other was organized in mobile teams each assigned a group of polling stations which they visited during the polls. These were the mobile monitoring teams. PAFFREL used more than 300 mobile teams in its election day monitoring strategy. This was the dominant method of election monitoring used in this local government elections. In addition to these two types of monitors PAFFREL also secured the active participation of voters in monitoring the election in the process of their voting. This third type of monitoring was called the voter-relay. The voter relay was designed to enable a group of about 12 voters to vote in a sequence at regular intervals of half to one hour from the opening to the closure of the poll and record their observations of the polling stations and the surrounding area at the time of their voting.

STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report has been structured in a way to reflect the distinct characteristics of this local government elections, particularly the conduct of the elections in several stages. The report covers the elections held in stages separately, provides information under the heads, pre-polls, the polls day and the post election period. Information is provided under District and local government institutions depending on the availability of information. General observations and recommendations are given in the final parts of the report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, MARCH 20TH 2002

The elections to 222 of the 311 local bodies in the country were held on 20th March 2002. Twenty political parties and 300 independent groups contested the elections held in 7,335 polling stations.

This report is based on reports received from PAFREL/MFFE election observers in the field. Approximately, 300 mobile teams covering 152 local authority areas were deployed. These reports were supplemented by information on the situation in polling stations obtained through a voter relay programme organized for the purpose and reports of incidents sent through telephone and fax by political parties and other organizations.

In the pre poll period there were in all 101 complaints of which 79 were by the JVP, 16 by PA, 3 by UNP, 2 by other and 1 by unknown individuals/party. The JVP thus accounted for 78.2 % of the complaints, PA 15.8% and UNP 2.9%.

Bulk of the complaints were against the UNP. Of the 101 complaints 85 were against the UNP, 4 against PA, 3 against other and 9 against unidentified individuals/party. The UNP thus accounted for 84.1% of the complaints made, unidentified party 8.9%, PA 3.9% and other 2.9 %.

The election violations and irregularities have been categorized under the headings: assault, damage to property, chasing polling agents, stuffing ballot boxes, threats and intimidation, snatching poll cards, carrying arms and use of firearms. The category of assault topped the list with 56 complaints followed by threats and intimidation 26, damage to property 13, arson 3 and removing poll cards 3. In terms of percentages category of assault accounted for 55.4 %, followed by threats and intimidation 25.7 %, damage to property 12.8 %, arson 3.1 % and removal of poll cards 3.0 %.

District wise, complaints were received from 17 seventeen districts in the pre poll period. Gampaha district headed the list with 22 complaints followed by Colombo 15, Anuradhapura 11, Ratnapura 11, Kegalle 10, Kurunegala 8, Matara 4, Polonnaruwa 3, Badulla 3, Kandy 3, Galle 2, Matara 2, Monaragala 2 and Hambantota, Kalutara and Nuwara-eliya 1 each.

There was a drop in the number complaints on the poll day. 81 complaints were received on the poll day compared with 101 in the pre-poll period. PA accounted for 58 of the complaints followed by unidentified individuals / party 11, JVP 11, other 1

and UNP 0. The main complainant in the pre poll period was the JVP. But on the poll day PA became the main the complainant. In terms of percentages PA accounted for 71.8 % of the complaints followed by JVP 13.6 %, unidentified individuals / party 13.6 % and other 1.2%.

Most of the complaints were against the UNP. Of the 81 complaints, 54 were against the UNP, 26 against unidentified individuals/party, and 1 against other. No complaints were recorded against the JVP and the PA. In percentage terms, UNP accounted for 66.8% followed by unidentified individuals / party 32.1% and other 1.2%.

By category of violations and irregularities, threats and intimidations topped the list with 24 cases followed by chasing polling agents 15, assaults 14, stuffing of ballot boxes 10, damage to property 6, removal of polling cards 5 and carrying firearms 4. In percentage terms, threats and intimidations accounted for 33.3 %, chasing polling agents 18.5 %, assaults 17.3 %, stuffing of ballot boxes 12.4 % damage to property 7.4 %, removal of polling cards 6.2 % and carrying fire arms 5 %.

District wise, complaints were received from 9 districts on the poll day. Gampaha district topped the list with 36 complaints, followed by Kurunegala 17, Puttalama 10, Matara 7 Ratnapura 4, Matale 3, Kandy 1, Monaragala 1, and Kalutara 1. The Gampaha district headed the list of complaints as in the pre election period. The number of districts, which recorded complaints was 9 when compared with 17 in the pre election period. Some districts, which recorded incidents in the pre election period, did not record any incidents on the polls day. These districts are Colombo, Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Galle, Polonnaruwa, Badulla, Hambantota, Trincomalee and Nuwara-eliya. Colombo, which recorded 15 incidents in the pre poll period, did not record any incident on the polls day. In Gampaha, the number of incidents increased to 36 on the poll day from 22 in the pre poll period. In Kurunegala too there was similar increase in number of incidents from 8 to 17. Puttalam, which did not have pre poll incidents, had 9 incidents on the poll day.

One of the notable features of elections in the country both general elections and local government elections is the widespread incidence of election violence, violations and irregularities in certain areas and relatively free and fair elections in most other areas. The reasons for this phenomenon have not been adequately investigated and analysed. The incidence of violations and irregularities in certain areas has been generally attributed to the actions of individual politicians of political parties who are alleged to be prone to violent politics. However, growing evidence from past elections suggests that violations and irregularities are pre-mediated and pre-planned by political parties, particularly, the two main parties. No political party wishes to have its domestic and international image damaged by committing incidents of violence and irregularities activities through out the country. They purposely plan to commit violence, violations and malpractices only where it is necessary. The objective is to get the required additional seats necessary to form a government or an administration. Violence and irregularities are generally concentrated in areas where party strengths are evenly balanced. Political parties have their strong and weak areas. These relative strengths are reviewed constantly and specifically on the eve of an election to take measures both legitimate and irregular to maximize support for the party. The irregularities are dictated by the nature of the current constitution which does not enable any party to obtain a clear majority to form a stable government or administration.

The validity of this hypothesis is evident from the fact that the incidents of violence and irregularities are generally concentrated in districts and areas where voter support is evenly balanced between the two main parties and the number of seats contested is high. The districts, which fall into this category, are Gampaha, Colombo, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Matara and Kandy.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION WISE ANALYSIS UNDER DISTRICTS

COLOMBO DISTRICT

Pre poll period

Maharagama Pradeshiya Sabha

4 incidents were reported from the Maharagama PS. All the complaints were from the JVP. In one instance, UNP supporters threatened Upali Costa and tried to paste posters of L. Galhena. In another instance, JVP candidate Bodhipala was assaulted by UNP supporters. Burning of the Maharagama election office of the JVP candidate Mr. Upali Costa by UNP supporters was reported. At Maharagama the JVP party office was burned by an unidentified group.

Moratuwa UC

JVP candidate Nihal Yatagama and his supporters were assaulted by UNP supporters traveling in van No. 15Sri 3940. In another instance, shops belonging to Ashoka and Sri Ranasinghe were damaged by Malani Gunaratna's supporters. JVP candidates of Moratuwa UC, Sunil Jayaratne and Suresh Indika were also assaulted by UNP supporters.

Kotte MC

Kotte MC UNP candidate S. Cooray abused and threatened a group of women pasting posters. In another instance, G.G. Wasantha and Sugath Premachandra were assaulted at Nawala while pasting posters, by UNP Suraj Jayasuriya's supporters traveling in a van 15 Sri 3940.

Moratuwa PS

Moratuwa UC candidate Manard Peiris's UNP supporters had threatened JVP members.

Kaduwela PS

JVP candidate Gunawardena Galgamuwa's house was damaged by an unidentified group. In another instance, Kaduwela PS UNP candidate Anil Perera threatened and assaulted Ananda Duminda and Gayan.

Homagama PS

Homagama PS JVP candidate Chaminda Suraj and his mother were assaulted by Sunil and his supporters said to be UNP supporters.

Kesbawa PS

JVP supporters were assaulted by UNP supporters. Dayawanse Athukorale was abducted and assaulted and Janaka was threatened.

Colombo MC

Colombo MC JVP candidate Mahesh Priyantha's election bill boards were damaged by UNP supporters.

Polls day violations

No incidents were reported in any of the local government body areas in the district.

GAMPAHA DISTRICT

Pre poll period

Incidents were reported from Ja-ela, Yakkala, Mahara, Katana, Kelaniya, Biyagama Minuwangoda, Mirigama, Wattala and Attanagalla PS areas.

Ja-ela PS

PA polling agent M. Premachandra Silva was assaulted by UNP supporters and a police constable named Panagoda. Ja-ela UNP candidate Vikum Selosius was assaulted by Ernest, UNP candidate. PA UC member Gamini Dias was threatened with death by Nihal, Chamara and 20 other supporters of Ernest Fernando. Ja-ela PS JVP candidate Kulathunga Silva was threatened by the UNP candidate Chinthaka De Silva. In another case a UNP candidate had visited a JVP candidate at home and threatened him. UNP supporters Chinthaka De Silva, Pratap, Nelum and Prasanna who had come in vehicle No. 203-4823 had threatened Daya Costa and Kulathunga with death. Anthony Melvin and his supporters had been assaulted by UNP supporters who had come in a van. Ja-ela UC UNP candidate Sanath Weerapperuma and his supporters had visited Vikum Sisira's house and threatened him. JVP Supporters in Ja-ela UC were assaulted by UNP candidate Sudam Silva and his supporters.

Yakkala PS

Yakkala PS UNP candidate Edwin Jayawickrama had assaulted JVP candidates and they were hospitalized.

Mahara PS

UNP Supporters had threatened and tried to overturn the vehicle of JVP. PS candidate PA Dammika Sarath Kumara.

Katana PS

UNP supporters had visited the JVP election office at Averi Watta and threatened the JVP Katana candidate.

Kelaniya PS

John Amaratunga's UNP supporters had invaded a political meeting of the JVP and assaulted KA Pradeep.

Biyagama PS

UNP supporters in lorry No. 41-3174 had assaulted Chandrasiri.

Minuwangoda PS

A candidate for Minuwangoda PS had assaulted Lalith Bandara and Vincent Appuhamy and a bicycle belonging to them stolen. Party identity of both the accused and the victim was not given. Anuradha Wijesuriya of the JVP was threatened by UNP supporters of PS candidate Saliya Sarathkumara. Minuwangoda Kotugoda JVP party office was damaged by UNP supporters.

Mirigama PS

UNP candidate Daminda Panditharatna had assaulted Ranatunga a JVP supporter.

Wattala PS

JVP Ravindra and Ananda had being assaulted by UNP supporters who had arrived in van no. 57-9826.

Attanagalla PS

UNP supporters broke into a meeting attended by Upeksha Lakmali and candidate Thushara Chaminda and damaged goods and equipment, assaulted Swarna Chandralatha and tried to stab the JVP supporters. The election offices of JVPers Indraratne Polgampola and Upul Shrirathna Karunasiri at Nanwella were damaged by the UNP Attanagalla candidate Jeevan.

Polls day violations

Incidents were reported from Ja-ela PS, Katana PS, Negambo UC, Biyagama PS, Wattala PS, Gampaha PS and, Kochchikade PS. Bulk of the incidents were in Katana and Ja-ela PS.

Katana PS

Peter Hapuarachchi and his family who are PA supporters were threatened with death, if they cast their vote, by UNP supporters. Neville, a candidate for Katuwanpitiya had been threatened with bombs by unidentified persons.

K. C. De Silva and Vincent Appuhami stated that in Katuwakkala, Sara and his supporters armed with swords did not allow the polling agents to work. Party affiliation of the accused and the informant were not given in the complaints.

In Bambukuliya a group of people armed with swords and clubs threatened people not to vote. The group included Christie Hetiwarachchi, P.C. Priyantha, Jagath and Dilruk. Source of the complaint and the accused were not reported. Kaluwa, Mahathun and their supporters had removed polling cards of voters. Complainant and the accused were not reported. Near the South Welihena polling station Ligory Anthony keeping a register threatened to withdraw the Samurdhi payments of people who voted.

Michel Moses, Pirahasen Reginold and Manju threatened people who came to vote. A group of 15 people travelling in dolphin vehicle no. 56-9573 in Raddolugama threatened and hit people with clubs.

Near the Thoppuwa bridge Sirikumar and 25 other UNP supporters intimidated voters according to the PA.

PA candidate Singrayar Fernandopulle's cab was damaged by UNP supporters.

Viraj and Pirahason of the PA were assaulted when returning from the polling station by Jude, Pirahasan and 7 others. They were hospitalized.

According to a complaint by the PA Ananda was hit on the head by Ajith and Sarath with the back of a knife.

Around 30 – 40 supporters of the UNP assaulted PA candidate Vincent Appuhamy. His son was also assaulted for the second time according to PA sources.

Vincent Appuhamy of the PA was assaulted and chased away by some unidentified UNP supporters and his mobile phone and motorcycle stolen.

There were three bomb blasts at the Premachandrawatte and another blast near Gunadasa's house.

According to PA sources a group of people travelling in a number covered Hiace van with their faces covered bombed Katuwapitiya PA candidate Neville Priyanthas' house. A neighbour had informed that Kusal's house was bombed by an unidentified group. PA polling agent at the Kandawela Roman Catholic School was chased away according to PA sources.

The PA polling agents at the Kaluwarippu polling station, Ajith George and Sushantha were chased away by UNP supporters.

In Dedigama polling agents had been given alcohol and UNP supporters had chased away polling agents.

Chula Ashoka's shop was shot at and goods damaged by UNP supporters injuring one person according to PA sources.

Around 10 people at Irene's house said to be UNP supporters grabbed poll cards and chased away voters, complained the PA.

Lakshman, a UNPer from Athgala had taken polling cards and removed a voter's bicycle.

Peter Hapuarachchi's house was stoned by UNP supporters and threatened with death if he came forward as a candidate, complained the PA.

Bathiya Arachchi and his wife were not allowed to leave the polling station by a group of UNP supporters after duty in the polling station as polling agents according to PA sources.

UNP supporters in 10 vehicles armed with swords and clubs led by Lakshman threatened residents of the Athgala colony and surrounding houses, stated the PA.

UNP supporters in Jambugaswatta had fired shots in front of Ranjit's house and threatened him according to PA sources.

Ja-ela PS

PA had reported that Sriyantha Abeysekera of UNP and his supporters travelling in 15 number less vehicles threatened voters.

According to PA sources AD Jude Lakshman Pious and his 72-year mother were assaulted by UNP Sriyantha Amarasekara. Pious's leg was broken and he was admitted to the Ragama Hospital.

PA candidate Ashantha had been attacked by people in vehicle no. 51 5635(double cab) who are UNP supporters. Milroy was among them according to the PA.

UNP candidate Chintaka Silva had entered the polling station, taken away ballot papers and assaulted PA candidate Mahesh Wanigasekara, complained the PA.

Ja-ela PS PA candidate Mahesh Wanigasekara's house had been damaged by a group of people, stated the PA.

PA polling agents at Diyagla polling stations No. 09, 10 and 11 were threatened and ballot boxes stuffed by a group of people according to PA sources.

According to MDDR Ravindra Abeyratna had taken people in about 10 vehicles to every polling station and sent the police away.

Negambo UC

Kochchikade police OIC and a group of policemen had chased away polling agents and the PA candidates, at 10.40 a.m. It was reported that around 200 UNP supporters were present.

Gampaha PS

Stuffing of ballot boxes had taken place in several polling stations in the PS area by unidentified persons.

Kochchikade PS

Voters in Kochchikade, Marutana, Thoppuwa, Udanawa, Manaweriya, Bambukuliya, North Katana, West Katana, Negombo, and Thumbirigaskatuna had not been able to vote because UNP supporters had taken away their poll cards and threatened them with death according to PA sources.

KURUNEGALA DISTRICT

Pre poll

Incidents were reported from six PS divisions; Dodangaslanda, Ridigama, Pannala, Ibbagamuwa, Kocbigana, Mawathagama and from Kurunagala MC.

Dodangaslanda PS

Wasantha Kumara JVP candidate was assaulted by UNP supporters and hospitalized at Ridigama according to the JVP sources.

Ridigama PS

With the knowledge of Ridigama police in Dodangaslanda, Ridigama PS candidates were threatened and polling cards of people taken from voters by UNP supporters. JVP complained.

Pannala PS

P.M. Kularatne was assaulted, his wife threatened and goods stolen from his house by UNP supporters according to JVP sources.

At Pannala Maha Vidyalaya ballot boxes were stuffed by unidentified persons according to PA sources.

Ibbagamuwa PS

Kusumsiri Aberatne's election office in Ibbagamuwa had been damaged and the UNP candidate for Ibbagamuwa PS was held responsible, stated the JVP.

Kobaigana PS

JVP candidate J. J. Leclanande's shop at Kobaigana was burned and destroyed by unidentified persons according to JVP sources.

Mawathagama PS

UNP candidate Kamal had been taking polling cards of those who had come to vote at Samodaya National School according to a Human Rights Organization.

Kurunegala MC

Hemantha Bandara UNP candidate in a green cab no. 5867 had shot dead. H.M. Nimal at Yanthanpalawa according to PA sources.

Polls day violations

Reports on election violations were received from 8 local government bodies. Bulk of the complaints were from the Mawathagama PS.

Alawwa PS

Voters were not allowed to vote at the Narammala polling station by UNP supporters, complained the PA.

Mawathagama PS

The UNP supporters had threatened PA supporters and not allowed them to vote according to PA sources.

At the Weuda Maha Vidyalaya, Boyagoda primary school and Pothubowa Maha Vidyalaya polling stations UNP candidates Chandra and Indunil Sanjeewa in numberless vehicles were seen assaulting PA supporters according to PA sources.

PA supporter Nelson was assaulted by Sunil and Raja and no action was taken by the mobile police, stated the PA. Vincent Appuhamy's son was assaulted at a place near Thimbirigaskatuwa by UNP supporters according to PA sources.

As complained by the PA people travelling in vehicle no. 56-4356 white dolphin were seen assaulting people on their way to vote. One Suranga was among those assaulted. PA polling agents at the Paragahadeniya Weuda Primary, Weuda Balika and

Boyagoda Primary Schools had been chased away by UNP supporters, charged the PA.

JVP had complained that polling agents at the Mawathagama PS polling stations had been chased away by unidentified people.

Bingiriya PS

According to PA sources PA supporters at the Brahamanagama polling station had not been allowed to vote by unidentified persons/party.

According to another complaint by the PA polling agents had been threatened and chased away.

Mahawa PS

The voters had been threatened and chased away by the UNP candidate no 21 at the Mahawa Ambepola, Ellaboda and the Diullawa polling stations, stated the PA

Galgamuwa PS

According to PA sources PA supporters of Maha Ambuwegama were stabbed with knives and a woman knifed had been hospitalized. A Bandula Mahanama of the PA was assaulted and his hand broken. Stuffing of ballot boxes had occurred.

Kurunegala MC

PA candidate and leader Lakshman Wabaruwa's house in Udawalpola was attacked by mobs at about 2.00p.m. on the 20th.

Wariyapola PS

In the Mamunuwa Vidyalaya polling station, PA candidate A.M.V. Ranbanda was assaulted by Kalubanda and chased away. Thereafter, the ballot box was stuffed by UNP supporters, stated the PA.

Pannala PS

According to PA sources, Piyal Ranasinghe UNP candidate had threatened and chased away polling agents in Kohombapola and Elbichchiya polling stations and stuffed the ballot boxes.

KEGALLE DISTRICT

Violations were reported from 6 local government institution areas in the district.

Rambukkana PS

A shop had been damaged by UNP supporters and the estimated cost is Rs. 4000/= according to PA sources. There was no cost of damage according to the police.

Kegalle MC candidate M.H. Sunimal Fernando and his supporters had been assaulted by PA supporters according to UNP sources.

UNPer HNA Sajeewa was threatened by PA supporter Kasun Wijesinghe, stated the UNP

Mawanella PS

According to JVP sources Nimal Priyankara was assaulted by the UNP candidate Asela Bandara. Later he was kidnapped and assaulted again breaking his hand.

PA sources stated that polling cards of people in the Hingula area had been taken by UNP supporters.

Sumith Prasanna had been assaulted by UNP supporters and hospitalized with a broken arm in Hemmatagama Hospital

Kegalla UC

A Lakbima newspaper reporter had complained that PA supporters in a procession had shouted at Prasanna Adhikari in foul language and subsequently visited his house in the night.

Galigamuwa PS

According to JVP sources Shandana Shiwaperumal was assaulted by Kegalle District UNP MP Jayathilake Podinilame's supporters.

Aranayake PS

JVP sources had stated that a UNP candidate had damaged the Election Office of JVP at Aranayake and threatened Bodawila.

Kobeigana PS

PA sources stated lealeclaratne's house was burned on the 17th and on the 18th Wickramasinghe's house was attacked damaging windows and household goods. The attacks were committed by UNP supporters.

Polls day violations

Compared with the pre poll period only one incident was reported on the polls day.

Rambukkana PS

According to PA sources Thivanka had been threatened near Mangalagama polling station by UNP supporters.

ANURAHDPURA DISTRICT

Pre poll

Incidents were reported from eight PS Divisions.

Rajangana PS

UNP supporters had visited several places in Rajanganawa, Galnewa and Kagama and damaged several houses. A group of 10-15 people had attacked these houses and stolen jewellery and money. 6 houses and 3 shops had been damaged and 4 houses burned. 30 families were reported destitute according to PA sources. According to JVP sources JVP election office was damaged and candidate Ranasinghe Bandara threatened by unidentified persons/party.

Galnewa PS

H.K.M. Senaratne and supporters were threatened by UNP supporters in front of his house, claimed the JVP.

UNP supporters had threatened and stolen some goods from H.K.M. Senaratne's house according to JVP sources. UNP candidate Nimal Samarasinghe and his supporters visited Galnewa candidate Dayaratne's house, damaged it and threatened householders with death. Truck no. 2226-7993 was used for the purpose according to the JVP.

Thirippana PS

According to JVP sources Thambuttagama JVP candidate H.M. Kusuma Kumari had been threatened by UNP supporters Ranjith Weregoda and Shanta carrying a bomb.

Nuwaragampalatha East

The PA complained about a plan by the UNP to chase away polling agents in certain polling stations and stuff ballot boxes.

Kitulpitiya PS

UNP supporters had assaulted JVP supporters according to JVP sources

Kabilithigollawa PS

JVP supporters in Kabilithigollawa had been threatened by PS candidate Manjula Tikiribandara and Dhammika Banadara of the UNP, claimed the JVP.

Horrowpathana PS

According to JVP sources 2 JVP election offices in Horrowpathana were damaged by UNP supporters.

Medawachchiya PS

The party office of the JVP candidate Palitha Dharmadasa at his house had been damaged by unidentified persons/party, claimed the JVP

Polls day election violations

Compared with the pre poll period no complaints were received from the Anuradhapura District on the polls day.

RATNAPURA DISTRICT

Pre Poll period

Complaints were received from five PS divisions in the District. Most of the complaints were from the Nivithigala PS.

Embilipitiya PS

According to JVP sources L.A. Wijithakumara JVP candidate for Embilipitiya was shot at.

C. Gurusinghe JVP candidate for Embilipitiya was assaulted by UNP supporters, claimed the JVP.

Nivithigala PS

Rukmal Priyadrsana and his supporters of the UNP had attacked JVPers Champika Pushpakumara, Sanjeewa Gunadasa and Kapila Pradeep Ranaweera, complained the JVP.

JVP had reported that UNP supporters of Ranjith who had arrived in 206-8789 three-wheeler had assaulted Karavita JVP supporters.

UNP candidates Janakamalli, Ranjith Ayya and Podi Indika had intimidated people. Atapalankanna PS candidates Tissa Samaraweera, Hemantha and provincial minister Tissa had damaged the house of PA candidates and their supporters and threatened them. Some PA candidates had been taken into custody on false accusations according to PA sources.

UNP candidate Rukmal had visited the party office of Nivithigala PS JVP candidate AG Jayaratna, threatened him and damaged his house, charged the JVP. UNP supporters visited B.A. Premadas's election office and threatened him according to JVP sources.

Karavita Ranjith and his supporters of the UNP armed with pistols, Galkattas and hand bombs had visited houses and snatched polling cards according to PA sources.

Balangoda PS

The JVP complained that A.E. Premasiri JVP candidate for Balangoda UC and his supporters were assaulted by UNP supporters.

Ratnapura PS

Ratnapura JVP candidate was assaulted at his office by unidentified persons / party and he was admitted to the Ratnapura Hospital

Kolonne PS

P.S.M. Ranjith Udayakumara of the JVP had been stabbed by UNP supporters and admitted to the Kolonne Hospital according to JVP sources.

Polls day election violations

Complaints were received from 2 PS divisions; namely Nivithigala PS and Atakalanpanna PS.

Nivithigala PS

At Karangoda Vidyalaya and Delboda Vidyalaya polling stations the UNP candidates had been intimidating voters according to PA sources.

PA polling agents in Denmali Vidyalaya were threatened with death. Abeysinghe's house was damaged and his wife threatened. No polling agents were seen in polling stations. UNP supporters had come in a tractor and threatened polling agents with death, stated the PA.

Atakalanpanna PS

An unknown group had chased away PA polling agents in Mawalanda polling station and intimidated voters.

UNP supporters had chased away polling agents in Kularatna Maha Vidyalaya, grabbed polling cards of voters and stuffed ballot boxes according to the PA.

MATARA DISTRICT

Pre poll violations

Election violations were reported from 2 PS divisions namely, Matara PS and Devinuwara PS.

Matara PS

Two JVP members had been threatened by UNP supporters according to JVP sources. LK Premasiri had been threatened with death by UNP supporters and his bill boards and banners damaged, stated the JVP.

Devinuwara PS

UNP supporters had come in a double cab belonging to Mahinda Wijesekera and assaulted JVP supporters, complained the JVP.

The JVP had reported that an unidentified group had damaged the JVP Devinuwara office.

Akuressa PS

The election for this PS were contested by the PA, JVP and the Sinhala Maha Sammatha Bhoomiputhra Pakshaya (SMSBPS). The UNP did not contest as its nomination list had earlier been rejected.

The police had received 11 complaints of violence 7 of these had been made by the JVP – 2 against the SMSBPS, 1 against the PA and 4 against unidentified persons. The PA had made 2 complaints – 1 against the UNP and the other against the JVP. The SMSBPS too had made 2 complaints – 1 against the JVP and the other against the PA.

Polls day violations

Incidents were reported from 5 PS divisions in the Matara District

Weligama PS

JVP candidate for Hakmana PS MPM Kumara had been assaulted by supporters of UNP candidate Somadasa Jayasuriya, charged the JVP.

UNP candidate Samarawickrama had threatened the PA candidate Asmi at Weligama and prevented people from voting according to PA sources.

Devinuwara PS

The JVP had reported that Ajith Priyantha was assaulted by UNP Preeti's supporters at Devinuwara.

Thihagoda PS

The UNP candidate's supporters had stuffed the ballot boxes in Thihagoda according to JVP sources.

Kamburupitiya PS

Saman Pathinayaka and his UNP supporters had come in a Dolphin van no. 56-99827 and stuffed ballot boxes in Kamburupitiya, charged the JVP.

Matara UC

According to JVP sources UNPer Sunil Mohotti had arrived in a land rover 50 Sri 6713 and stuffed ballot boxes.

The JVP had complained that Aruna Vidana Gamage and 20 others had come in a Dolphin van 59-7566 and stuffed ballot boxes.

NUWARA-ELIYA DISTRICT

Pre poll Violations

Complaints were received from 3 local bodies.

Hanguranketha PS

In Rikillagaskada Hanguranketha, polling cards of voters had been taken away by UNP supporters according to PA sources.

Walapane PS

Polling agents and counting agents were threatened by UNP supporters, stated the PA.

PA candidate Lokunanda and WG Dingiribanda had been assaulted and Lokubanda was hospitalized according to PA sources.

Polls day violations

Hanguranketha PS

The PA stated that its candidates had been intimidated. In Hanguranketha polling stations about 60 polling agents from PA had been chased away. Three murders were reported in the area.

GALLE DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Beddegama PS

JVP candidate for Beddegama Jagath Chandana Nanayakkara had been assaulted by the UNP candidate and his supporters and he was admitted to the Galle Hospital with head and eye injuries according to JVP sources.

Hiniduma PS

The JVP complained that Richard Jayalath had been assaulted by UNP supporters and hospitalized at Hiniduma. His election office too had been damaged.

Polls day violations

No incidents were reported on the polls day in the Galle District.

POLLONNARUWA DISTRICT

Pre poll violations

Habarana PS

The JVP had reported that the Habarana JVP candidate TB Sumathipala was assaulted by the UNP PS candidate Nimal Kotagoda and Cyril and his bicycle smashed and that he was admitted to the Habarana Hospital.

Dimbulagala PS

A JVP welcome party had been attacked by UNP supporters and one JVP supporter was admitted to the hospital according to JVP sources.

Thamankaduwa PS

JVP candidate for Thamankaduwa WG Jayasinghe Banda had been threatened at his election office at Kumarapokuna by UNP supporters, claimed the JVP.

Polls day violations

No complaints were received from the Pollennaruwa District on the polls day.

MATALE DISTRICT

Pre polls Violations

Complaints were received only from the Pallegama PS.

Pallegama PS

According to JVP sources IG Harischandra of the JVP was assaulted by UNP supporters H.M. Ashoka, H.M. Yasaratna. U.G. Gamini Wijesuriya of the JVP was assaulted by UNP supporter B.G. Ukkubanda, complained the JVP.

Polls Day Violations

Matale PS, Rattota PS, Dambulla PS, Galwela PS.

JVP had made a complaint about election violations in these PS areas and the offences and the perpetrators had not been reported.

Pallepola PS, Matale PS, Naulla PS

The JVP had reported, threats, assaults, and stuffing of ballot boxes by UNP supporters in the above Pradeshiya Sabha Divisions

Yatawatta PS

UNP candidate MB Ekanayake had taken polling cards by force from voters according to PA sources.

BADULLA DISTRICT

Pre poll Violations

Incidents were reported from 2 PS Divisions.

Ridimaliyadda PS

According to the JVP sources JVP supporters were assaulted by the UNP candidate Upali Senarat and some victims hospitalized.

Mahiyangana PS

JVP supporters KD Jayakodi and Pathum riding a motor bicycle were obstructed by a jeep carrying UNP supporters led by Upali Senaratne and Gunadasa Ratnayake. The two JVP members were hit with iron bars and their motor bicycle damaged. The victims were admitted to the Mahiyangana hospital according to the JVP source. UNP supporters visited the house of JVP supporter R.M. Weerasinghe Bandara, threatened and assaulted his wife and tried to kidnap his two children. His wife was hospitalized.

Polls day election Violations

No complaints were reported on the polls day from the District.

KANDY DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Galaha PS

Suhai of SLMC and 200 supporters had damaged the JVP banners and bill boards according to JVP sources.

Panvila PS

In Wattegama JVP candidate for Panvila PS Mahesh Priyantha Alkatuwa had been assaulted by the UNP candidate Jayantha Pushpakumara, complained the JVP.

Kundasale PS

Kundasale PS UNP candidate Sesiri Dayaratna's supporters had arrived in a car and another vehicle and burned the JVP election office, charged the JVP.

Polls day election violations

Nawalapitiya UC

Polling agents in several polling stations in Nawalapitiya UC had been chased away by the UNP supporters and ballot boxes stuffed according to PA sources.

MONARAGALA DISTRICT

Pre polls violations

Complaints were received from one PS Division namely, Bibile PS.

Bibile PS

UNP supporters had threatened PA supporters and taken their polling cards, complained the PA.

M.M. Dharmasiri was assaulted by M Piyadasaa UNP local organizer according to PA sources. He was hospitalized.

Polls day violations

Bibile PS

In Medagama Thakkala Pola polling station Uva UNP minister Ranbanda's son HM Niel Kumara had taken 500 polling cards and JVP polling agents had been taken into custody by the Medagama police, charged the JVP.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Incidents were reported from the Kantale PS Division

Kantalai PS

HL Chandana PA candidate for Seruwila had stoned some JVP supporters, complained the JVP.

JVP candidate for Kantale PS Wimal Piyatissa and Lalith Priyankara were assaulted by UNP supporters according to JVP sources.

Polls day election violations

No incidents were reported on the polls day

KALUTARA DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Panadura PS

UNP candidate Maurice Shanta had assaulted Panadura JVP candidate Jagath Kumara, complained the JVP.

Polls day election violations

Horana PS

PA polling agents had been threatened at the Don Pedris polling station by the UNP candidate RP Peiris carrying arms according to PA sources.

HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Weeraketiya PS

PA candidate for Weeraketiya had been assaulted by the police mobile unit but the complaint about that to the police had been rejected, complained the PA.

Polls day election violations

No incidents were reported on the polls day in the District.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS MAY 20TH, 2002

The local government elections May 20th 2002 were held to elect members to 17 local government institutions: Colombo, Galle, Katunayake-Seeduwa, Panadura and Tangalle Urban Councils and Kesbawa, Kalutara Ambagamuwa, Naththandiya, Mihinthale, Thirappane, Haliela, Monaragala, Buttala and Ratnapura Pradeshiya Sabhas.

PAFFREL's election monitoring network covered the entire 17 local authority areas. Approximately 60 mobile teams were deployed in 17 areas. In addition, a voter relay was organized and carried out to obtain information on the situation prevailing within the polling stations. Out of the 825 polling stations in which voting took place PAFFREL monitors covered 596 polling stations.

This report is based on three sources of information on election violations: PAFFREL Monitors' Reports, complaints made over the telephone from various sources and complaints through faxes by the People's Alliance. Almost all the pre poll complaints were reported by PAFFREL monitors deployed while all the polls day complaints were received through telephone and faxes from political parties and other sources.

Pre poll complaints were received from Colombo, Hambantota, Badulla and Kalutara districts. Of the 7 complaints four were from the Colombo district and all these four complaints were from the Kesbawa PS division. In terms of category of violations, of the 7 complaints two are threats, 3 damages to party offices, 1 removal of poll cards and 1 serious assault.

Of the 7 complaints 6 are by the JVP and 1 by the Sinhala Urumaya. All the complaints were against the UNP. Polls day election violations were received from Colombo, Gampaha, Hambantota, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Puttalam, Monaragala and Anuradhapura districts.

In all there were 38 complaints on the polls day. Gampaha topped the list with 16 complaints followed by Colombo 7, Hambantota 5, Ratnapura 4, Kalutara 2, Puttalam 2, Monaragala 1 and Anuradhpura 1.

Most of the complaints were by the PA. Of the 38 complaints PA topped the list with 24 complaints followed by JVP 8 and unidentified persons/party 6. There were no complaints by the UNP. Of the total of 38 complaints UNP headed the list with 34 against followed by unidentified persons/party 4. There were no complaints against the PA and the JVP.

In terms of category of offences categories of threats and intimidation and assaults topped the list with 9 cases each followed by chasing of polling agents 7, snatching of polling cards 6, stuffing of ballot boxes 3, impersonation 2 and damage to property 2.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION WISE ANALYSIS UNDER DISTRICTS

COLOMBO DISTRICT

Pre poll election violations

Kesbawa PS

UNP supporters who had arrived in a three-wheeler had destroyed banners and cut outs being prepared by JVPers Kusumsiri Fernando, Dharmapala and Priyantha for a meeting, complained the JVP.

Western Province JVP member Lakshman Nipunaarchchi and his supporters were threatened by a UNP supporters of Deepal Gunawardena and their decorations destroyed according to JVP sources.

A JVP meeting at Palanwatta was attacked and decorations destroyed by UNP supporters. The party office too was damaged, charged the JVP.

The JVP party office at Makulduwa was burned by JVP supporters, claimed the JVP

KALUTARA DISTRICT

Panadura UC

The UNP Panadura candidate displayed cut outs and posters and removed 300 polling cards from voters in Wekada

HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT

Tangalle PS

Tangalle JVP candidates Padmasiri Gamhewa, Sarath Ediriweera, Srinath De Silva and Ruwan Senarath were attacked by UNP supporters of former TC members Sahiya Wedarachchi and Janaka Wedarachci while they were pasting posters for a rally in Tangalle. UNP supporters had shot at Srinath De Silva and he was admitted to the Tangalle hospital with a hand injury according to JVP sources.

BADULLA DISTRICT

Badulla PS

JVP candidate D G Gunadas's party office decorations and billboards were destroyed by UNP supporters of Thilak Jayasena and Gunadasa was threatened, charged the JVP.

COLOMBO DISTRICT

In the Colombo district most of the election violations had occurred in the Kesbawa PS.

Kesbawa PS

According to PA sources polling cards had been snatched at Batuwandara school, Arrawwala Dharmapala Vidyalaya and Arrawwala West Vidyaloka polling stations by UNP supporters.

Nimal Ariyadasa UNP candidate had chased away the JVP agents and the Kesbawa PS JVP candidate Susil Senaviratne, charged the JVP.

Senaka Damayantha Silva UNP had brought some supporters from Moratuwa and intimidated voters, claimed the JVP.

Complaints of impersonation by the JVP agents at the Piliyandala Somaweera Chandrasiri polling station had been ignored by the SPO according to JVP sources.

According to a complaint from an unidentified source Sirimal De Mel had come in a bus bearing no. GD 9775 and stuffed ballot boxes.

Colombo UC

Sagara Senarat Colombo MC UNP candidate had come in vehicle no. 315 Sri 2857 and stuffed ballot boxes at Nawagampura and Polhengoda polling stations according to JVP sources.

Police had taken into custody 4 people who attempted to impersonate. Anton Diyanwala whose party affiliation is not given had threatened the police to release them.

GAMPAHA DISTRICT

All the incidents reported in the Gampaha district had taken place in the Seeduwa Katunayake UC area.

Seeduwa Katunayake UC

At Amandoluwa Maha Vidyalaya, Amandoluwa Roman Catholic School, Katunayake South Bodhirathnaramaya, Liyanamulla, Social Service Center, Seeduwa Devi Samara Vidyalaya and Katunayake Roman Catholic School polling stations, UNP supporters from out side the area had snatched polling cards and chased away PA supporters, complained the PA.

PA candidate Gamini Hettiarachchi had been threatened by UNP candidate Kamalsiri according to PA sources.

The house and property of Nimal Silva had been damaged and householders assaulted by UNP supporters. His brother's house had also been damaged, charged the PA.

UNP supporters in several vehicles had thrown smoke bombs at PA supporters and threatened PA polling agents, according to PA sources.

A group of UNP supporters had thrown a bomb at Gamini Hettiarachchi and threatened polling agents, reported the PA.

Jinadasa Kithulgoda's van had been forcibly stopped by UNP supporters and Kithulgoda was threatened and attacked, charged the JVP.

Dileep Wedarachchi had assaulted JVP supporters R.W. Nandasena, J.W. Karunasiri and H.G. Ananda and they had been hospitalized reported the JVP.

Hambantota UC

Dileep Wedarachchi MP had intimidated voters, assaulted JVP supporters near the Pirivena polling station, and injured JVP supporter M. Premaratna had been hospitalized in Tangalle. Impersonators handed over to the police had been released by the police according to JVP sources.

KALUTARA DISTRICT

Panadura PS

UNP supporters had taken voters into a house and threatened them according to an unidentified source.

Unidentified people travelling in two vehicles GB 3225 54-6594 and 253-6093, 130-4438 had collected polling cards according to an unidentified source.

RATNAPURA DISTRICT

All the 4 complaints of election violations were reported from the Ratnapura PS.

Ratnapura PS

At the Kahangama Bauddha Kanishta Vidyalaya polling agents had been chased away. The sources of information and the accused party had not been reported. D. William Singho and W. Maitriapla two of the polling agents had been threatened with bottles by UNP supporters and voter lists and other documents removed according to JVP sources.

Manoj Premaratne UNP PS candidate had polling cards with him and was instructing voters, charged the PA. Voters at Anoya polling station had been intimidated and their polling cards taken away by UNP supporters, reported the PA.

PUTTALAM DISTRICT

Naththandiya PS

PA supporter Nishantha and his wife and children were threatened with death and the polling agents were chased away at the Naththandiya, Mawila and Halpathawila polling stations by an unidentified party according to PA sources.

At Ihala Katuneriya, PA polling agent Gerald Wasantha was chased away by UNP supporters, reported the PA.

MONARAGALA DISTRICT

Monaragala PS

Impersonation had taken place at Hulanduwa South Primary School. UNP Monaragala MP Ranjith Madduma Badara had assaulted people and he was assisted

by the police chief Linton. Complaints had not been accepted by the Monaragala police, according to PA sources.

ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

Thirappana PS

M. Premaratne had been seriously assaulted by UNP supporters and admitted to hospital.

POST ELECTION VIOLENCE 20TH MARCH 2002

PAPFREL election monitors continued their monitoring activities for a period of two weeks after the Election Day. On 21st March 2002 information on 38 post election incidents was received. 31 of these complaints were from the JVP and the balance from other organizations. Complaints reported were from Hambantota, Monaragala, Anuradhapura, Gampaha and Kurunegala districts. Among the complaints there were 4 incidents of clashes between factions within the UNP received from the Wattala area.

At Beruwala a UNP supporter had been stabbed to death at around 5.30 p.m. on the polls day allegedly by two PA supporters.

Complaints were received by faxes too. At beruwala in the Kalutara district PA candidate, M.H.M. Jalaldeen and his supporters were threatened by the UNP supporters. M.S.M. Rahim and M.M.Endeen of the UNP had threatened A.M.M. Fazaldeen of the PA. On the 22nd of March, a group of UNP supporters had attacked and destroyed a shop belonging to JVP member Lalith Premathilake situated at the Weliamba Delwala junction on the Ratnapura Delwala main road. On the same day UNP supporters had arrived at JVP'er Lalith Premathilake's house assaulted householders and damaged household goods according to JVP sources. UNP member Hemachandra and his supporters has visited the house of JVP activists at Pathkolagolla and attacked and damaged household goods, stated the JVP. A.M. Nimal Ratnayake who had served as a senior presiding officer at a polling station had been assaulted and injured by an unidentified group.

Two incidents from Udunuwara, Kandy and Dompe, Gampaha regarding irregularities at the counting centers had been reported by two UNP candidates.

AKURESSA PRADESHIYA SABHA ELECTION - 8TH MARCH 2003

The Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabha Election, which was fixed for 20th March 2002, was postponed following rejection of the United National Party (UNP) nominations by the Commissioner of Elections and the Court case filed against that decision. The election was held on 8th March 2003 in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling on the case.

Nominations were filed for 21 seats on the basis of 27 candidates from each party or independent group.

Pre Poll Situation

An unusual feature of the campaign was the display of posters, banners and cutouts with candidate numbers with the Bhumiputa Party symbol aero plane in green (UNP colour) by some UNP candidates, whose nominations had got rejected. An attempt appears to have been made to show that a liberal UNP type pact which operated during the Ratnapura PS election is in force at Akuressa. The existence of such a pact was vehemently rejected by the Bhumiputhra Party. Such practices can only subject the present election laws and procedures to ridicule. Although the Commissioner of Elections had instructed the police to uphold the election laws and the DIG and the Police Inspector of the area had taken steps to eliminate such practices it was not possible to prevent such acts by some persons who were not candidates.

The postal voting that took place on 27th and 28th February was free and fair. No complaints were received regarding the delivery of poll cards. Some acts of violence had taken place among PA, JVP and Bhumiputhra supporters. 9 cases of election related violence were reported and majority of these were stated to be against the JVP. There were two acts of arson, which are considered grave acts.

Polls day situation

No election violations were reported on the polls day

Post election situation

The election was free of post election incidents and violence.

SUMMARY OF SALIENT FEATURES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS, 2002 / 2003

a) Elections were held in 4 phases as follows.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| I | Elections held on 20.03.2002 to 217 local government bodies |
| II | Elections held on 25.03.2002 to 08 local government bodies |
| III | Elections held on 20.05.2002 to 17 local government bodies. |
| IV | Elections held on 08.03.2003 to one local government body. |

- b) Elections to local bodies in 7 districts in the North and East are yet to be held
- c) Elections were to be held to elect representatives to 18 municipalities, 37 urban councils and 256 Pradeshiya Sabhas in the country as a whole.
- d) In addition to political parties 380 independent groups had handed over the nominations.
- e) There were 26,312 candidates contesting 4,395 seats at these elections.
- f) 148 nominations were rejected including 82 from political parties.
- g) There were pre-election campaign periods for each phase of the election.
- h) Results were announced on completion of each phase of the election.
- i) Most of the complaints were against the UNP.
- j) There were no complaints against the JVP and independent groups.

CONCLUSIONS

The local government election was flawed in terms of its organizational aspect. It was conducted in stages and in some areas the elections are yet to be held, depriving the right of the voters to exercise their democratic right to vote. The conduct of the elections in stages was a departure from the practice of holding the elections on a single day.

The results of the election were announced on completion of each stage. This may have influenced the results of the other stages particularly in the context of local government elections contested on party basis and on national issues.

According to election monitoring reports all stages of the local government elections were conducted in a free and fair manner in the vast majority of local government bodies. However, as in previous elections there were some areas in which the elections were marred by serious infringements of electoral law, intimidation and violations. In general, these are the areas, which had registered a pattern of violence and election violations over several elections in the past.

At the local government elections held on 20th March 2002, the areas with most serious problems were Nivitigala, Atakalampanna, Yakdehiwatta, Pelmadulla (Ratnapura District), Ekala, Katana, Ja-Ela, Kandana (Gampaha District), Chilaw, Bingiriya, Madampe (Puttalam District), Narammala, Pannala, Wariyapola, Galgamuwa, Mawathagama (Kurunegala Districts), Nawimana, Kamburupitiya, Thihagoda, Devinuwara, Weligama (Matara District), Bibile (Monaragala District) and Hanguranketa (Nuwara Eliya District).

The problems areas at the elections held on 25th March 2002 were Dehiatta Kandiya, Sooriyapokuna and Lathpandura.

At the local government elections held on 20th May 2002 the elections were seriously flawed at Katunayake Seeduwa UC area, Kesbawa, Attidiya, Ratnapura, Kegalle and Galle.

The election offences experienced at all stages of elections included assaults, threats and intimidation, stuffing of ballot boxes, chasing away of polling agents, removal of polling cards, damages to property, carrying arms and bombs, intimidation and chasing of polling agents. Absence of polling agents at polling stations were reported from the districts of Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Kalutara, Gampaha, Matale, Puttalama, Matara, Monaragala, Badulla, Anuradhapura, Nuwara Eliya and Digamadulla. In this respect the larger number of violations was reported from Hanguranketa. Out of 63 polling booths in the Hanguranketa PS division, only 6 polling stations could be visited by PAFFREL monitors due to the very high level of intimidation. Reports received by monitors from candidates and voters revealed that there were opposition polling agents in only 3 polling stations. There were no PA polling agents in any of

the stations and JVP agents were present only in three. This was a serious problem because it provided opportunities for impersonation and stuffing of ballot boxes if necessary.

The incidents of violence and election violations, recorded at the local government institutions were hardly, spontaneous events. The past experience of several elections both parliamentary and local government suggests that these incidents were pre-meditated and organized by parties concerned.

According to available reports there were not many complaints against the police and the election staff of the polling stations. Few incidents of police complicity with the party in power were reported. Instances of non-acceptance of complaints against the governing party had also been reported. The range of election related violence and irregularities suggest that the police were ineffective in several areas or were unwilling to perform their duties effectively. There were also few instances where senior presiding officers at polling stations had ignored complaints of impersonation by polling agents.

The drop in the extent and level of violence, election violations and irregularities at this election can be attributed several factors. First, it is likely that government had made a genuine effort to minimize election violence and violations, especially after coming to power on an agenda of peace, democracy and good economic management. Second, the intensity of the contest in this local government election was low due to several reasons, including the holding of the election immediately after the 2001 general election, the notion that people vote for the party in power in elections which follow a general election, unorganized election campaign of the main opposition party the PA following post general election violence and remand imprisonment of PA organizers on allegations of election violence and irregularities. The general experience is that violence and irregularities increase when the contest is intense. Third, no party in power takes the risk of tarnishing its image by resorting to widespread election violations and irregularities. Such acts are therefore confined to pre-determined areas depending on the overall election strategy. Finally, there are both visible and invisible means of influencing the outcome of an election. Election monitors generally report visible violence and violations. Election violence such as threats, intimidation, removal of polling cards and threatening polling agents can be done invisibly. Direct violence and election violations at polling centers can be abandoned if invisible methods are equally effective in given circumstances.

The local government elections were relatively free and fair compared with many elections in the past two decades. But there is no room for complacency. It is too early to treat this election as a beginning towards free and fair elections and a sound political culture. Reversals had taken place in the past. A step forward was followed by several steps backward. Civil society has to be vigilant and constant pressure has to be maintained to persuade the government and the political parties in the opposition to take meaningful steps towards achieving the goal of free and fair elections.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There is growing consensus among the public that the present system of local government elections needs review. The experience of successive local government elections during the last two decades has revealed that election violence and violations which characterize the parliamentary and provincial council elections have gradually engulfed the electoral process of local government institutions as well. The conduct of local government elections on the basis of political parties and proportional representation and preferential vote has resulted in undesirable features inconsistent with the objectives and functions of local government institutions.

- (a) Local government institutions are generally concerned with local government issues such as provision of sanitary and drainage facilities, waste disposal and management of the environment, provision of health, library and recreational facilities, construction and maintenance of minor roads, street lighting, social welfare facilities for the poor etc. These are matters which affect the day to day life of the people and their quality of life. Those who secure election to local bodies should address these issues efficiently and effectively. The growing tendency toward conducting election campaigns on the basis of national issues leads to the neglect of local government issues on which the quality of life of the people of the area depends.
- (b) The conduct of local government elections on party basis has enabled the party hierarchy, ministers, members of parliament and provincial councillors to control or influence the functioning of these local bodies. The process of re-centralization of powers devolved to provincial councils under the 13th amendment from time to time has now taken a different form in respect of Local Government Institutions. Local Government Institutions are now being controlled by top party men according to their own political agendas. It is the party which appoints the Chairman/Mayor. The party appointee may not be the candidate who has secured the highest number of votes. These developments will negate the objective of encouraging civic minded, respectable and competent people to contest local government elections and manage the local institutions effectively to deliver the services required by the people of the area. Further, the people's choice is subjugated to party decision making.
- (c) The contest of local government elections on party lines and proportional representation basis has increased the cost of election campaigns enormously. Rallies, meetings, processions, musical shows, posters and printed materials involve large expenses. It is a question as to why candidates who offer themselves to serve the people should spend so much and indulge in violence to get elected. As a result of this ever increasing

campaign expenses candidates with substantial financial resources enjoy an unfair advantage over their rivals with less resources but more civic minded and competent. The financing of political life including electioneering is a necessity and a problem. It is a source of scandal and corruption. The way in which such political activity is financed may result in severe inequalities. When costs of election campaigns are high citizens without private wealth maybe prevented from contesting. Further election campaigns are considered unfair when wealthy candidates or parties with rich supporters spend much more than their opponents.

- (d) The party basis of elections to local government and proportional representation and preference vote system have led to increase in political violence and malpractices at the local government elections as well. This politicization of society at local government level and the political violence associated with it have adversely affected civic activism and participatory development at local government level necessary for strengthening democratic institutions.
- (e) The party basis of local government elections has also resulted in one party administrations in several local government bodies, particularly in Municipal and Urban Council areas for long periods. One major reason for this situation is the fact that party loyalties in this country are much stronger than the commitment of people to democratic norms. This tendency towards prolonged one party administration is also reinforced by the contest of local government elections on national issues. Although these administrations are democratically elected by the people they are undesirable because prolonged periods of power tend to corrupt people and affect the efficiency and effectiveness of an administration.
- (f) The proportional representation system has complicated the election process at the local government level while not achieving the advantages of the system which provides for minority representation. The present procedure in submission of nomination papers, preparation of names of candidates in alphabetical order and counting of votes are difficult, time consuming and complicated to both the election authorities and political parties. There was no clamour for minority representation at local government level at the time of the introduction of the proportional representation system at the local government level. The ideal situation at the local government level is for various communities to live in harmony and achieve the mind set changes among all communities which will enable the election of respectable, civic minded, competent people irrespective of their race. This will prevent divisive tendencies in society on communal grounds and promote communal harmony.

In view of these undesirable features and unhealthy trends in the election process time is opportune to review the entire local government election process.

The aspects of the existing electoral process, which need review, are discussed below.

- (a) The return to the ward system of election/representation seems to be more appropriate from several perspectives. The ward system will enable the voters to make their choice according to the priority needs of the areas: under the ward system a member will not be able to evade responsibility on the ground that he has to serve the entire local government area. A change to the ward system will also attract local respectable people as candidates who are now reluctant to contest because of the unhealthy features of the existing system. The election campaign will focus on local issues and the needs of the people of the areas are likely to be addressed by the member for the ward.
- (b) The operation of the election law pertaining to local government elections has resulted in various problems and unhealthy features such as postponement of elections, filing of court cases against decisions to reject nomination papers by the Election Commissioner and court cases challenging the preference count of the candidates of the same party. The problems arising from rejection of nomination papers on trivial, although legal grounds leads to certain unhealthy features. While the election campaign momentum is lost when elections are postponed candidates can resort to more subtle and hidden ways of influencing the voters until the day of the elections. When election results are announced on the completion of each stage of the elections the results of the subsequent stages are likely to be unduly affected. The laws governing elections are enacted to ensure the legality and the impartiality of the electoral process. But if nomination papers are rejected on trivial grounds it affected the democratic rights of political parties to contest the election thereby weakening the democratic process. The goal of the election commissioner should be to promote maximum participation by parties recognized by him and not to prevent such participation. Provision should therefore be made for the election commissioner to settle these problems at his level in consultation with all the parties on a consensual basis to minimize recourse to courts. At present nomination papers are rejected on grounds such as forwarding photocopies of birth certificates of candidates and the absence of the signature of the authorized party or independent group official. Parties and independent groups can be given two or three hours to complete the nomination papers as required by the law after the detection of the mistakes by the election authorities.

Court cases challenging the preference count of candidates of the same party have also led to some unhealthy features. When courts can direct the commissioner of election to stay the gazetting of the names of new members until the court cases are determined, the smooth transition to the new administration is disrupted. It is necessary to examine whether recourse to courts on this scale is justified.

The present practice of not permitting observers both international and local to enter polling stations and counting centers reduces the effectiveness of monitoring. It is at the polling stations that serious violations and malpractices can take place. Monitors should be allowed to enter the polling stations subject to conditions and guidelines to be laid down by the election commissioner.

The filling of the senior presiding officer's journal should be made compulsory and the SPO's should be required to record both incidents of violence and malpractices and positive developments at the polling stations and counting centers. The junior presiding officer can also be required to fill a journal independently. The Assistant Returning Officers who supervise polling booths should ensure that these journals are filled.

All candidates should be required to submit a declaration of their assets to the returning officers with the nomination papers. Such declarations should be sealed and kept with the R.O. for scrutiny if required at a later date. The expenditure to be incurred by candidates in their election campaign should be subjected to a ceiling. Campaign expenditure at local government elections has risen sharply. Rising campaign expenditure would discourage civic-minded responsible citizens from contesting elections. It would also tempt those candidates who secure election to use their position to make money. This ceiling can be revised periodically based on increase in costs of election campaigns.

The provisions made under the current election law to prevent impersonations are not adequate. Impersonations relating to voters who have gone abroad for employment are substantial. The preparation of a separate register of voters living abroad at the time of revision of the election registers can be considered. This list could be made available to the SPO's who should exercise due care in the issue of ballot papers to such persons. Making the national identity card mandatory for voting is an effective method of preventing impersonations.

The extent to which vehicle transport is allowed for election work has to be examined. The local government areas are relatively small and the need for current level of vehicle transport particularly on the polls day requires scrutiny. Vehicle transport use can lead to abuse of official vehicles and an increase in violence and election violations by facilitating mobility for large groups of people to roam the area committing offences.

The implementation of these recommendations on a piecemeal basis is not desirable. It should be preceded by a comprehensive review of the current electoral process and the laws governing the process. The recommendations could be incorporated in a new electoral process, which would eliminate the current unhealthy features and achieve the following objectives.

- (a) Strengthening democracy at the local government level.
- (b) Elect an administration which will address local government level issues and deliver services efficiently and effectively to enhance the quality of life of the people in the area.
- (c) Elect civic-minded people with integrity to run the administration.
- (d) Enhance good governance at the local level.
- (e) Eliminate election violence and malpractices at the local level.
- (f) Eliminate control of local government administration by central government politicians.
- (g) Develop local level leaders.
- (h) Strengthen the process of decentralization of government.

New electoral systems aimed at achieving these objectives can only succeed in a frame work comprising sound policies, electoral laws and regulations with little room for interpretation, institutions embodying checks and balances, mechanisms for enforcing rules and regulations and punishing violators and the emergence of a political culture leading to respect for and compliance with democratic norms and practices and good governance.

Institutions for which Local Government Elections were held
Under Four Phases

PHASE I - 20.03.2002 – Local Government Elections
(222 Local Government Institutions)

① **Colombo District**

1. Municipal Council of Dehiwala- Mount Lavinia
2. Municipal Council of Sri Jayawardenapura Kotte
3. Urban Council of Moratuwa
4. Urban Council of Kolonnawa
5. Urban Council of Seethawaka
6. Urban Council of Maharagama
7. Kotikawatte Mulleriyawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
8. Kaduwela Pradeshiya Sabhawa
9. Homagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
10. Seethawaka Pradeshiya Sabhawa

② **Gampaha District**

11. Municipal Council of Negambo
12. Municipal Council of Gampaha
13. Urban Council of Wattala – Mabola
14. Urban Council of Minuwangoda
15. Urban Council of Ja – Ela
16. Wattala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
17. Katana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
18. Diwulapitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
19. Meerigama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
20. Minuwangoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
21. Attanagalla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
22. Gampaha Pradeshiya Sabhawa
23. Ja-Ela Pradeshiya Sabhawa
24. Mahara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
25. Dompe Pradeshiya Sabhawa
26. Kelaniya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
27. Biyagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa

③ **Kalutara District**

28. Urban Council of Horana
29. Urban Council of Beruwala
30. Panadura Pradeshiya Sabhawa
31. Bandaragama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
32. Horana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
33. Bulathsinghala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
34. Mathugama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
35. Dodamgoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
36. Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
37. Beruwala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
38. Agalawatte Pradeshiya Sabhawa
39. Walallavita Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(K)

Kandy District

40. Municipal Council of Mahanuwara
41. Urban Council of Wattegama
42. Urban Council of Kadugannawa
43. Urban council of Gampola
44. Urban Council of Nawalapitiya
45. Thumpane Pradeshiya Sabhawa
46. Harispattuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
47. Akurana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
48. Pujapitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
49. Pathadumbara Pradeshiya Sbhawa
50. Panvila Pradeshiya Sabhawa
51. Ududumbara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
52. Minipe Pradeshiya Sabhawa
53. Meda Dubara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
54. Kundasale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
55. Patha Hewagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
56. Kandy Gravets and Gangawatta Koralya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
57. Yati Nuwara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
58. Udu Nuwara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
59. Udapalatha Pradeshiya Sabhawa
60. Ganga Ihala Koralya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
61. Pasbage Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(S)

Matale District

62. Municipal Council of Matale
63. Dambulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
64. Pallepola Pradeshiyaa Sabhawa
65. Galewela Pradeshiya Sabhawa
66. Abanganga Korale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
67. Laggala Pallegama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
68. Naulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
69. Milgamuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
70. Matale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
71. Yatawatte Pradeshiya Sabhawa
72. Rattota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
73. Ukuwela Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(L)

Nuwara Eliya District

74. Municipal Council of Nuwara Eliya
75. Hatton Dik Oya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
76. Urban Council of Thalawakale / Lindula
77. Nuwara Eliya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
78. Kotmale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
79. Haguranketha Pradeshiya Sabhawa
80. Walapane Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(T)

Galle District

81. Urban Council of Ambalangoda
82. Urban Council of Hikkaduwa
83. Balapitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
84. Ambalangoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
85. Karandeniya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
86. Benthota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
87. Elpitiya Pradeshiya sabhawa
88. Neluwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
89. Thawalama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
90. Nagoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
91. Niyagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
92. Baddegama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
93. Yakkalamulla Pradeshiya Sbhawa
94. Hikkaduwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
95. Akneemana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
96. Bope Poddala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
97. Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(B)

Matara District

98. Municipal Council of Matara
99. Urban Council of Weligama
100. Kotapola Pradeshiya Sabhawa
101. Hakmana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
102. Mulatiyana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
103. Pasgoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
104. Malimbada Pradeshiya Sabhawa
105. Kamburupitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
106. Thihagoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
107. Devi Nuwara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
108. Dikwella Pradeshiya Sabhawa
109. Matara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
110. Weligama Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(P)

Hambantota District

111. Urban Council of Hambantota
112. Weeraketiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
113. Katuwana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
114. Beliatta Pradeshiya Sabhawa
115. Tangalle Pradeshiya Sabhawa
116. Agunukola Palassa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
117. Ambalantota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
118. Tissamaharama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
119. Hambantota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
120. Lunugamvehera Pradeshiya sabhawa

10
Kurunegala District

121. Municipal Council of Kurunegala
122. Urban Council of Kuliyaipitiya
123. Galgamuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
124. Girihawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
125. Polpithigama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
126. Nikaweratiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
127. Kobeigane Pradeshiya Sabhawa
128. Mahawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
129. Ibbagamuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
130. Wariyapola Pradeshiya Sabhawa
131. Panduwas Nuwara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
132. Bingiriya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
133. Pannala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
134. Kuliyaipitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
135. Alawwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
136. Polgahawela Pradeshiya Sabhawa
137. Kurunegala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
138. Rideegama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
139. Mawathagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
140. Udubaddawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

11
Puttalam District

141. Urban Council of Puttalam
142. Urban Council of Chilaw
143. Kalpitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
144. Puttalama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
145. Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
146. Wanathavilluwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
147. Anamaduwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
148. Karuwalagaswewa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
149. Nawagaththegama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
150. Chilaw Pradeshiya Sabhawa
151. Vennappuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

12
Anuradhapura District

152. Municipal Council of Anuradhapura
153. Medawachchiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
154. Rambewa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
155. Kabithigollawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
156. Padaviya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
157. Kahatagasdigiliya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
158. Horowpathana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
159. Thalawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
160. Nuwaragampalatha East Pradeshiya Sabhawa
161. Nuwaragampalatha Central Pradeshiya Sabhawa
162. Nochichiyagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
163. Rajanganaya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
164. Galnewa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
165. Ipalogama Pradeshiya Sabhawa

166. Kekirawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
167. Palagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
168. Galenbindunuwewa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(13)

Polonnaruwa District

169. Elahera Pradeshiya Sabhawa
170. Hingurakgoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
171. Medirigiriya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
172. Lankapura Pradeshiya Sabhawa
173. Dimbulagala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
174. Thamankaduwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(14)

Badulla District

175. Municipal Council of Badulla
176. Urban Council of Bandarawela
177. Urban Council of Haputale
178. Urban Council of Mahiyanganaya
179. Ridi Mahiyadda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
180. Soranatota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
181. Meegahakula Pradeshiya Sabhawa
182. Kandeketiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
183. Passara Pradeshiya Sabhawa
184. Badulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
185. Uva Paranagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
186. Welimada Pradeshiya Sabhawa
187. Bandarawela Pradeshiya Sabhawa
188. Ella Pradeshiya Sabhawa
189. Haputale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
190. Haldumulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(15)

Monaragala District

191. Bibile Pradeshiya Sabhawa
192. Medagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
193. Madulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
194. Siyabalanduwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
195. Badalkumbura Pradeshiya Sabhawa
196. Kataragama Pradeshiya Sabhawa
197. Wellawaya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
198. Thanamalvila Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(16)

Ratnapura District

199. Urban Council of Balangoda
200. Ehaliyagoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa
201. Kuruvita Pradeshiya Sabhawa
202. Palmadulla Pradeshiya Sabhawa
203. Imbulpe Pradeshiya Sabhawa
204. Atakalampanna Pradeshiya Sabhawa
205. Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabhawa
206. Nivithigala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
207. Ayagama Pradeshiya Sabhawa

208. Kalawana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
209. Embilipitiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
210. Kolonna Pradeshiya Sabhawa
211. Balangoda Pradeshiya Sabhawa

(17)

Kegalle District

212. Urban Council of Kegalle
213. Warakapola Pradeshiya Sabhawa
214. Galigamuwa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
215. Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabhawa
216. Rambukkana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
217. Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabhawa
218. Aranayaka Pradeshiya Sabhawa
219. Yatiyantota Pradeshiya Sabhawa
220. Ruwanwella Pradeshiya Sabhawa
221. Dehiovita Pradeshiya Sabhawa
222. Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabhawa

PHASE II - 25.03.2002 – Local Government Elections 2002 (8 Local Government Institutions)

(18)

Ampara District

1. Ampara Urban Council
2. Dehiattakandiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
3. Uhana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
4. Damana Pradeshiya Sabhawa
5. Padiyathalawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa
6. Lahugala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
7. Namal Oya Pradeshiya Sabhawa
8. Damana Pradeshiya Sabhawa

PHASE III - 20.05.2002 – Local Government Elections (17 Local Government Institutions)

Colombo District

1. Municipal Council of Colombo
2. Kesbawa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Galle District

3. Municipal Council of Galle

Ratnapura District

4. Municipal Council of Ratnapura
5. Ratnapura Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Gampaha District

6. Urban Council of Paliyagoda
7. Urban Council of Katunayake – Siduwa

Kalutara District

8. Urban Council of Panadura
9. Kalutara Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Hambantota District

10. Urban Council of Tangalla

Puttalam District

11. Naththandiya Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Anuradhapura District

12. Mihintale Pradeshiya Sabhawa
13. Tirripana Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Badulla District

14. Hali Ela Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Monaragala District

15. Monaragala Pradeshiya Sabhawa
16. Buttala Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Nuwara Eliya District

17. Ambagamuwa Pradeshiys Sabhawa

**PHASE IV - 08.03.2003 – Local Government Elections
(One Local Government Institution)****Matara District**

1. Akuressa Pradeshiya Sabhawa

Country's Local Government Institutions

No	District	No. of Municipal Councils	No of Urban Councils	No of Pradeshiya Sabhas	Total
1	Colombo	4	3	5	12
2	Gampaha	2	5	12	19
3	Kalutara	0	4	10	14
4	Kandy	1	4	17	22
5	Matale	1	0	11	12
6	Nuwara Eliya	1	2	5	8
7	Galle	1	2	15	18
8	Matara	1	1	12	14
9	Hambantota	0	2	9	11
10	Kurunegala	1	1	18	20
11	Puttalama	0	2	10	12
12	Anuradhapura	1	0	18	19
13	Polonnaruwa	0	0	6	6
14	Badulla	1	2	14	17
15	Monaragala	0	0	10	10
16	Ratnapura	1	1	13	15
17	Kegalle	0	1	10	11
18	Jaffna	1	3	12	16
19	Kilinochchi	0	0	3	3
20	Mannar	0	0	4	4
21	Vavuniya	0	1	4	5
22	Mullativu	0	0	4	4
23	Batticaloa	1	1	10	12
24	Ampara	1	1	14	16
25	Trincomalee	0	1	10	11
	TOTAL	18	37	256	311

Source Department of Elections