

# Opposition Parties call for PC Polls under old system

## ■ Joint declaration to Parliamentary Select Committee

Opposition Parties have agreed to hold the Provincial Council Elections under the old system during a discussion on holding the PC Elections and the

system under which they should be conducted, initiated by the election monitor PAFFREL yesterday.

The discussion, which was

attended by political party secretaries and representatives as well as representatives of election monitoring organizations, focused on the importance of

holding the Provincial Council Elections, the reasons for their delay, and the steps to be taken to conduct them expeditiously.

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## Opposition Parties...

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Out of the 42 opposition political parties and monitoring groups that participated in the discussion, all except one political party signed a joint declaration. It was also decided to forward this joint declaration to the Parliamentary Select Committee and the ruling party, PAFFREL said.

The joint declaration proposes to hold the currently postponed Provincial Council elections under the electoral system that existed prior to Act No. 17 of 2017. Parties also agreed to implement this until the final results of the Parliamentary Select Committee are received.

Furthermore, it was agreed to guarantee a 25 percent representation for women and youth on a voluntary basis.

Representing the opposition, United National Party General Secretary Thalatha Atukorale, Samagi Jana Balawegaya General Secretary MP Ranjith Madduma Bandara, General Secretary of the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna former MP Sagara Kariyawasam, Secretary of the Podujana Eksath Peramuna former Minister Lasantha Alagiyawanna, General Secretary of the Dewana Parapura Uwindu Wijeweera, General Secretary of the United Socialist Party Siritunga Jayasuriya, MP Shanakiyan Rasamanickam representing the Illankai Tamil Arasu Kachchi, Senior Vice President of the Sri Lanka Mahajana Party Sameera Senanayake, Central Committee

Member of the EPDP M.I. Murugan, Secretary of the United People's Forum Bandula Chandrasekera, Leader of the Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha Party Dr. K. Vigneswaran, Leader of the Tamil Progressive Alliance MP Mano Ganesan, Central Committee Member of the United Left Front Dr. Jayampathy Wickramaratne, General Secretary of the Malaiyaha Arasiyal Arangam former MP M. Thilakaraj, Janasetha Peramuna Member W.D.S. Weerasinghe, former MP Weerasumana Weerasinghe representing the Communist Party, Socialist People's Front Member Wilfred Jayasinghe, G. Thilakasiri representing the Democratic Left Front, Sri Lanka Muslim Congress General Secretary Nizam Kariapper, Pivithuru Hela Urumaya General Secretary Nalaka Perera, and VIEV election monitoring organization patron Mahinda Deshapriya, among others, participated in this event.

Representing the ruling party, National People's Power General Secretary (NPP), Dr. Nihal Abeysinghe, participated in this discussion. All four Members of Parliament representing the opposition in the Parliamentary Special Committee appointed to investigate and report on the electoral system under which the Provincial Council elections should be held, and to submit proposals and recommendations regarding it were also present.