

**PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL REPORT OF
THE ELECTION COMMISSION
FOR THE YEAR 2017
(01 . 01. 2017 – 31 . 12 . 2017)**

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Foreword

Election Commission

Although, Sri Lanka received universal franchise in 1931, there was no any dedicated institution to conduct elections till 1947. Therefore, this responsibility was assigned to an existing institution on ad hoc basis. During this period, a Commissioner and an Assistant Commissioner were appointed only for the purpose of elections while the Government Agents were directed to conduct elections at district level. Later two separate departments under two commissioners to conduct Parliamentary elections and Local Authorities elections respectively. The Department of Elections was established on October 01, 1955, amalgamating the existing two Departments of Parliamentary Elections and Local Bodies Elections. The main purpose for the establishment of the Department of Election was the annual certification of the electoral register and the conduct of elections. In terms of the 19th amendment to the Constitution adopted in 2015, the Department of Elections ceased to exist. Upon the recommendations of the Constitutional Council, His Excellency the President appointed the Election Commission on 13th November 2015 comprising of three members including the Chairperson. The first ever Election Commission comprised of the following members who assumed their duties on the 17th November, 2017 the Election Commission was officially established.

Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya (Chairman)

Mr. N. J. Abeyesekere , Presidents Counsel (Member)

Prof. S. Ratnajeewan . H. Hoole (Member)

Vision and Mission of the Election Commission

“A nation that safeguards universal franchise” is the Vision of the Election Commission.

The mission statement of the Election Commission,

“Raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders, ensuring the protection of people’s rights and conduct free, fair and credible elections efficiently and effectively that safeguard the people’s sovereignty and universal franchise based on democratic principles”.

The goals of the Commission are,

- Create opportunities for all qualified citizens to exercise their franchise fearlessly, freely and confidentially in elections conducted in a free and fair manner.
- Take measures to create awareness among every citizen to realize that the exercise of franchise is an inalienable right and involves him or herself actively in the election process.
- Ensure that equal and fair opportunities exist for all candidates during election periods.
- Preparation of an all-inclusive, updated voter's list is in place before every election.
- Take measures to engage all citizens in the marginalised sectors of society in the electoral processes confidently and adequately.
- Administer the election process competently and transparently.
- Facilitate the stakeholders to obtain relevant data and information pertaining to the Election Commission and the election process timely and adequately.

The Role of the Commission

After the establishment of the Election Commission on 17-11-2015, the duties carried out by the then Commissioner of Elections and the then Department of Elections, were brought under the Election Commission. The fundamental function of the Commission is to conduct free and fair elections in terms of the Article 103 (2) of the Constitution. Accordingly, the Presidential election, Parliamentary Election, Provincial Elections, Local Authorities Elections and the Referendum, should be held freely and fairly, and the revision of the annual electoral register should be carried out. In addition to the statutory work, the Election Commission has been entrusted with the task of filling vacancies in the Parliament, in provincial councils, and in local authorities and recognition of political parties.

Meetings of the Election Commission

Meetings of the Election Commission are held once a week depending on the requirement. 48 meetings were held for the year 2017.

The main issue confronted at the Commission meetings is the question of the quorum, because the Constitution says that the quorum is 3 whereas the total composition of the Commission is 3. This was because the 17th Amendment to the Constitution ruled that the Commission should comprise of five members and the quorum should be three. The 18th Amendment amended the composition as three but the three member quorum was not changed. Same numbers were implanted in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution without adjusting the number of the quorum and therefore, it has now become a problem. As this problematic situation has affected the meetings of the Commission, the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers to amend the quorum as two members, has been forwarded to the Attorney General's Department and the Legal Draftsman's Department to amend the relevant sections of the law. Amendment is awaited. In the circumstances, whenever a member was not able attend the meeting due to being out of the island or out of Colombo for some reason, measures are taken to contact him through information technologies such as Skype, mobile phones or occasionally with other technical tools.

Staff of the Election Commission

After the establishment of the Election Commission, the Department of Election ceased to exist. The terms, Commissioner of Elections and the Department of Elections were substituted by the Election Commission in the provisions of the Constitution.

All staff officers, officers and employees of the then Department of Elections were attached to the Election Commission with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. The entire staff of the Election Commission comprised of the Chairman, members of the Commission, the staff officers such as the Commissioner General of Elections / Director General, the Secretary, officers of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS), officers of the the Sri Lanka Accounting Service (SLAcS), Director (Legal), officers of the Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service (SLICTS), officers of the Sri Lanka Planning Service (SLPS) , Supra Grade Officers in Public Management Assistants' Service , Officers in Translators' Service, non staff level officers of Public Management Assistants Service (PMAS), Officers of the Development Officers' Service, Documentation Assistants, office assistants and drivers. The composition of the entire staff of the Election Commission as at 31st of March 2018 is as follows:

Officer / Employee category	Number
Staff officers (all staff officers excluding the Chairman and the Members of the Election Commission)	73
Public Management Assistants	383
Development Officers	27
Information Technology Assistants	14
Documentation Assistants	51
Receptionists	01
Office Employee Assistants	175
Drivers	46
Cleaners	01
Total	771

During the days of the Department of Elections, the Commissioner of Elections executed all activities of the Department under his supervision as the head of the institution. The Election Commission, established in terms of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, was entrusted to conduct free and fair elections and referenda previously conducted by the Department of Elections. Subject to the directions and control of the Commission the decisions of the Commission have to be executed by the Commissioner General of Elections who was appointed in terms of the Article 104 E of the Constitution. Furthermore, he should supervise the officers of the Commission.

The Four Year Strategic Plan of the Election Commission

In order to fulfill the tasks and functions assigned to the Election Commission more efficiently and in a more planned manner, a Four Year Strategic Plan was prepared in the year 2016. An annual action plan is being prepared to fulfill the functions of the Strategic plan and the activities scheduled for the relevant years indicated in the plan. All activities will be executed with the expectation of achieving the vision, mission and objectives of the Commission. The Commission is in the process of implementing the tasks according to the Action Plan for 2017 and also the duties assigned to it from time to time by the Government. In particular, the Commission decides policy matters and issues guidelines while the responsibility for the implementation of such decisions is vested with the Commissioner General and the entire staff. Accordingly, performance of the activities launched by the Commission for the year 2017 is published in this Report.

With the views and suggestions of all the stakeholders of the Election Commission, a strategic plan was prepared in accordance with the participatory process methodology to achieve the vision, mission and objectives of the Commission. It was launched on the 16th November 2016 with the participation of a large number of stakeholders including Government officials at the auditorium of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Activities in the Strategic Plan commenced in 2017. The goals set out for the year 2017 were achieved to a large extent in the year.

Commencement of activities related to Local Authorities Elections.

Even though the Election Commission planned to prepare and certify the electoral register for the year 2017 by 30.09.2017, it was stalled because of unexpected floods and slides islandwide, especially in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ratnapura, and Kegalle Districts. Some Divisional Secretariats and offices of Grama Niladaries were also submerged. Enumeration forms and other forms had to be reprinted and redistributed.

The Election Commission extensively discussed the situation and it was decided to certify the electoral register of 2017 on 31.10.2017. Delimitation activities for the conduct of Local Authorities Elections in 2017 were nearing completion and if the Local Authorities Elections were to be held in the last quarter of 2017, a large number of youths who have attained the age of 18 would be deprived of their voting rights, and therefore, the Election Commission undertook a challenging task by advancing the date of certification to 12.10.2017. It was an achievement of the Election Commission of being able to efficiently manage and successfully accomplish the task by making the electoral register available for the Local Authorities Elections of 2017.

The indefinitely delayed Local Authorities elections that caused by the non - conduct of polls for 9 local bodies in the Batticaloa District, ended when the Election Commission ordered the District Returning Officers and Additional / Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections as the Returning officers of the relevant 93 local bodies, to call for nominations. It was a challenging decision taken by the Election Commission to safeguard the sovereignty of the Sri Lankan people. This was a challenging decision when a petition had been filed in the Court of Appeal challenging the decisions of the Review Committee on the Delimitation of Local Authorities and a prohibition order in respect of the implementation of the delimitation report. A unanimous decision was taken by the Election Commission to conduct elections in the areas where the court order was not applicable and at the same time the petitions submitted to the Court of Appeal were withdrawn by the relevant plaintiff. Notice calling for nominations for the remaining 298 Local Authorities could be issued on 04.12.2017.

02. Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 / Revision of Electoral Registers – 2016

Registration of Electors annually in terms of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 is one of the most important statutory functions of the Election Commission.

- 2.1. The notice of the commencement of the enumeration of electors for the year 2016 under Section 12(1) of the Registration of Electors Act was published in the *Gazette* No. **1967/2** dated **16.05.2016** and in addition to that the same was published in Sinhala, Tamil and English newspapers, on the same day.
- 2.2. At the end of the completion of the activities relating to multiple registrations and inquiries into claims and objections the re-scrutinizing the names of all electors with the enumeration forms (BC Forms) was carried out. The Electoral Register was certified on **23.12.2016** in terms of Section 18 of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980. The notice under Section 20 regarding the certification was published in the *Gazette* No. **1998/35** on **23.12.2016** and in newspapers on the same day.
- 2.3. At the end of the certification of the Electoral Register for the year 2016, the Registering Officer of each electoral district provided statements, in terms of Section 23 of the Registration of Electors Act, to the Election Commission on total number of names in the electoral register. Based on this figure the Election Commission in terms of Article 98(8) of the Constitution determines the number of members to be elected for each electoral district at a Parliamentary Election, for the year 2016. By order of the Commission, it was published in the *Gazette* No. **2012/24** of **29.03. 2017**. Details are shown in *Table I*.
- 2.4. *Hence, when compared with the year 2015 the number of Members of Parliament for No. 19- Electoral District of Badulla was decreased by one and the number of members for No. 10 - Electoral District of Jaffna was increased by one in the year 2016.* Comparative statement on the number of Members of Parliament to be elected for each electoral district (2007-2016) under Article 98(8) of the Constitution is given in *Table II*.

03. Revision of Electoral Registers - 2017

- 3.1. The notice under Section 12(1) of the Registration of Electors Act relating to the commencement of the enumeration of electors for the year 2017 was published in the *Government Gazette* No. 2019/7 on 15.05.2017 and steps were taken to publish the same in Sinhala, Tamil and English newspapers, on the same day.
- 3.2. House to house enumeration was used to commence on 1st of June every year until the year 2012 and from the year 2012 it was advanced to mid May of the relevant year. Accordingly, the enumeration of electors for 2017 commenced on 15.05.2017. However, in terms of the Registration of Electors Act No. 44 of 1980, 1st of June in 2017 was considered the qualifying date to be an elector.
- 3.3. Instructions regarding the enumeration of electors in all electoral districts were issued to District Registering Officers on 17.03.2017 and the Election Commission enlightened the secretaries of the recognized political parties on 13.05.2017 about the procedure of appointing their representatives for the revision of electoral register.
- 3.4. With the objective of inclusion of all qualified electors in the electoral register, much attention was drawn in this year too to identify and register the communities/marginalized groups, who have not been included in the electoral register hitherto, as electors. Accordingly, instructions were given to all District Registering Officers/ Government Agents as well as to Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections to give priority to low income earners in urban areas, people living in urban high rise apartments, people migrating to urban areas, Tamil speaking people working in the plantation related jobs in Kalutara, Galle and Matara Districts of Central, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces and, internally displaced persons living in other areas of the Island due to actions of armed groups in Northern and Eastern Provinces. Also, a supplementary register was prepared under Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 10 of 2017 for the persons, who had been internally displaced after 2009 and had not registered elsewhere in the electoral register,. Accordingly, the task of registering all qualified persons was successfully completed in the year 2017.

- 3.5. As in the previous years, instructions were given to implement a special program in the year 2017 under the personal supervision of each Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections in the districts to register Tamil speaking persons serving in the plantation sector and other related jobs who have not registered as electors due to various reasons *viz.* inability to confirm the date of birth, issues in relation to the citizenship, being away from home during the enumeration period owing to their means of living and lack of interest in registering as electors. The support of the Superintendents of Estates, Plantation Community Facilitators, Welfare Officers of estates and Grama Niladharis serving in the divisions in estate areas was sought in inserting the names of many persons in the estates in the electoral register. A special program at district level was also launched during the claims and objections period to insert the names of electors in estate areas who have failed to have their names inserted at the enumeration.
- 3.6. As in the year 2016, in 2017, house to house enumeration of electors could be carried out in all areas of the Northern Province but house to house enumeration of electors was not possible in 28 polling districts in Jaffna Electoral District and 01 polling district in Vanni Electoral District, where people had not been occupying in their original places of residence. In relation to these areas, except the names of persons who were reported dead, the names of those in the previous electoral register and the names of newly qualified persons were inserted. Relevant details are shown in *Table III*.
- 3.7. Field work relating to the revision commenced on 15 May, 2017. Although it was planned to be completed by 30 September, 2017 initially, as mentioned earlier the certification of the electoral register had to be postponed till 12 October, 2017 due to floods and earth slips reported islandwide.
- 3.8. Accordingly, action was taken to conclude field activities of the enumeration of electors, which commenced on 15th May 2017, by the first week of August 2017, to prepare the "A" list, which contains the names deleted from the electoral register of the year 2016 and the "B" list, which contains the newly inserted names to the operative register, by 09.08.2017 and to exhibit "A" and "B" lists at all District Elections Offices, Divisional Secretariats, all Grama Niladhari Offices and all Local Authorities, under Section 13 of the Registration of Electors Act No. 44 of 1980, during the period from 10.08.2017

to 06.09.2017, for the perusal of general public and enable them to submit their claims, if their names were not included in the register until then. In the revision of electoral registers for the year 2017, there were 849,379 names to be deleted and 998,429 new names to be inserted ("B" list) to the operative register (2016) in relation to all electoral districts. Claims and objections were accepted during this period of exhibition. The District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections (Assistant Registering Officers) were advised to consider the written complaints received by the District Election Offices as well as the messages submitted through the website as "a request for claim", even though they were not submitted in the specific claim format. The notice about the exhibition of "A" and "B" lists under the Section 13(2) of the Registration of Electors Act was published in *Gazette* No. 2031/40 of 10.08.2017 and in all national newspapers on 10.08.2017.

- 3.9. Prior to the commencement of the enumeration, steps were taken to inform all recognized political parties to appoint representatives on their behalf to participate with the enumerators in the activities of house to house enumeration of electors, observe the delivery of enumeration forms (BC forms) to the chief occupants and acceptance of such forms, examine the same at the enumerators' offices and to submit their observations at the end of the field enumeration. Since 1981 this opportunity has been extended to all recognized political parties to engage their representatives in observing the duties of the enumerators and special enumerators. This will be a tremendous support in the preparation of an accurate electoral register. It is also the responsibility of all political parties to ensure the participation of their representatives in the enumeration process and ensure that the enumeration has been done correctly, without making complaints about depriving of the franchise of their party supporters, during an election period or when their supporters make complaints. However, only a very limited number of political parties appointed their representatives for this purpose and an insignificant number of those appointed also, contributed to this activity. During the year 2017 a series of awareness programs was implemented by Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections of District Elections Offices to educate those who were appointed by political parties about the process of revision of electoral registers and the responsibility of the party representatives. Since it was mentioned as a goal of the Election Commission's Four Year Strategic Plan, all the district election offices took

steps to get the maximum participation of political parties for the revision work in this year compared to previous years. It is happy to note that as a result, the participation of party representatives increased in 2017. The details regarding appointments and participation of representatives of political parties in the revision of the electoral register for 2017 are given in *Table IV*.

- 3.10. In the revision of 2017 too, action was taken to inform chief occupants of the households in writing and to obtain further information about the incidents where the enumerators, at the time of accepting checked enumeration forms (BC Forms) from the enumerators, had not recommended the inclusion of the names on various grounds though the chief occupants entered those names, or where all the electors of a household were deleted in the year 2017 though they were registered in the year 2016 or where any name was deleted due to various reasons *viz.* failure to handover the BC forms. Based on the responses received from the chief occupants and the recommendations of the enumerators, the names which could be accepted to be registered at the place applied were accepted and "B" listed and all other claims were treated as claims received during the period for claims and the applicants were called for inquiries. Action was taken to insert the names in the electoral register, which could be accepted according to the information revealed at the inquiries.
- 3.11. When "A" and "B" lists were put on display under the revision of registers for 2017, 104,214 claims and 1,164 objections were received by District Registering Officers from electoral districts. Action was taken to call every person for inquiries treating all submissions made by them in any manner whatsoever, requests received through letters during the period of revision, UE Forms, requests received in respect of the letters sent to the names which were not recommended by the Grama Niladharis but were in the BC forms handed over to the Election Offices by the enumerators with or without the recommendations of the Grama Niladhari, as claims with a view to safeguarding the rights of all to vote and to make available in an all inclusive register of electors. For the first time action was taken in 2016 to introduce a computer programme where the general public can refer their issues relating to the Revision of electoral register via the official website of the Commission. Accordingly, the draft register of electors 2017 was displayed on the website and the opportunity was accorded to the electors to submit their problems on

the names and ID numbers. The District Registering Officers were required to conclude the inquiries into claims and objections before 20.09.2017. Number of claims and objections received, accepted and rejected at electoral district level are given in *Table V*.

3.12. Arrangements were made in the year 2017 too to counter multiple registrations in the electoral register as was done in the year 2016 as follows.

3.12.1. Newly inserted names within the district, i.e.

- ★ newly inserted names within the district and the names in the operative electoral register (2016) of the district,
- ★ newly inserted names within the district and newly inserted names in all other districts, and
- ★ newly inserted names within the district and the names in the operative electoral registers of all other districts

were examined and ascertained by using methods to check the multiple registrations. Instances where two or more persons have been registered under the same National Identity Card number were also revealed at the inquiries conducted through correspondence with relevant electors.

3.12.2. In the year 2017, the names of 126,481 electors were revealed as multiple registrations and steps were taken to register them only under one eligible address and the details of the number of names so deleted on grounds of multiple registrations from each electoral district are given in *Table VI*.

3.12.3. Enumerators were instructed to make every effort at the enumeration to record the National Identity Card Numbers of all persons, who have obtained National Identity Cards, as the production of a valid identity card has been made compulsory at the time of voting according to the Elections (Special Provisions) Act No. 14 of 2004. Even though the identity card number is given at the time of enumeration, the computer program used in the revision process detects any incorrect numbers. In such instances, the Department for Registration of Persons and the voter concerned were informed. Through this process it was possible

to correct a large number of errors in identity card numbers and to prevent the attempts made by voters to enter their names under several addresses due to various reasons. Particulars of the persons, who produced their National Identity Card numbers at the enumeration of electors in 2017 and the comparative statement on the number of persons, who have produced the National Identity Card numbers at the revision of electoral registers from year 2008 - 2017, are shown in *Table VII and VIII* respectively.

- 3.12.4. Particulars of the number of persons in each Grama Niladhari Division who did not have identity cards in their possession and the reasons for not obtaining them by now namely, inability to produce the birth certificate or any other document to prove their date of birth, not interested in obtaining the identity card or other reasons, were obtained from the Grama Niladhari's at the 2017 revision and steps were taken to inform them to the Commissioner of Registration of Persons. Accordingly, the Department for Registration of Persons took action, during the year 2017 to implement a new program to issue identity cards to those persons.
- 3.12.5. Under the recommendations of the Director/ Legal of the Election Commission and with the approval of the Election Commission, action was taken to investigate and delete the names of 31 persons from the electoral register as the Department of Elections/ Election Commission received reports, during the year 2017 and earlier years, that they were serving imprisonment for offences committed under the Act to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption and Election Laws or on other grounds. Details of the names deleted due to various reasons are given in *Table IX*.
- 3.12.6. Prior to the certification, the draft electoral register was exhibited at District Elections Offices and all Grama Niladhari Offices in addition to exhibiting it in the website from 10.08.2017 to 06.09.2017. As was done in the 2016 revision, general public was informed in 2017 through newspaper advertisements and electronic media to inform the Election Commission or the District Elections Offices before 06.09.2017, if their names were not in the electoral register.

3.12.7. The Electoral Register for the year 2017 was certified on 12.10.2017 under Section 18 of the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980. The Notice under Section 20(1) of the Act was published in *Gazette* No. 2040/36 of 12.10.2017 and in the newspapers on the same day. Number of registered electors in 2016 and 2017 according to the electoral districts is given in *Table X*.

3.12.8. The total number of registered electors in 2016 and 2017 are 15,611,970 and 15,760,867, respectively. Accordingly, there were more than 148,897 electors when compared to the year 2016 and the increase of the electors in the year 2016 when compared to the year 2015 was 190,765. Therefore, even though there was a numerical increase in the number of electors in the year 2017 compared to the year 2016 the percentage of increase in the number of electors in the year 2016 has decreased considerably compared to the year 2015. It should be noted that all citizens including political parties and civil society activists should draw their attention in this regard. The number and percentage of electors increased in the year 2015 compared with the year 2014, the number and percentage of electors increased in the year 2016 compared with the year 2015 and the number and percentage of electors increased in the year 2017 compared with the year 2016 are shown in *Table XI*.

3.12.9. A comparative statement of number of electors in polling divisions of each electoral district from the year 2008 to 2017 is given in *Table XII*.

4. Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 10 of 2017

4.1. According to the Registration of Electors (Special Provisions) Act, No. 10 of 2017, the provisions of the Special Provisions Act provided the persons with the right to vote if they were internally displaced as a result of acts of terrorist or armed groups in recent years. Accordingly, on 14th October 2017, Lankadeepa, Ceylon Today, Virakesari stated that persons would be entitled to their claims to register on the electoral register, if they were displaced in the above mentioned manner. The time given for claims was October 13-October 19, 2017. In order to provide broad publicity the above notice was republished on Lakkima, Daily News, Tinakkural and Uthayan newspapers

on November 16, 2017. Accordingly, 448 claim applications were received and after investigations, 53 in the Mannar District, 2 in the Batticaloa District and 3 in the Kilinochchi district were accepted. These 58 electors were provided with the right to vote in the elections based on the electoral register in 2017.

5. Preparation of a First - ever Separate Register of Electors for Local Authorities Elections

- 5.1 Even though the electoral registers were prepared and certified separately at the local authorities elections, the Election Commission had to prepare an electoral register, which was completely different from the annual electoral register, due to the new electoral system.
- 5.2 In terms of Section 12 B of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance (Chapter 262) as amended by Act, No. 22 of 2012, an electoral register was prepared and certified on 17.12.2017.
- 5.3 The electoral register prepared for the Local Authorities Elections has been prepared to include 4917 wards for 341 local authorities covering the entire country.
- 5.4 A ward mentioned above is a place where one member of a local government institution is elected. If it is a multi member ward, two or three members are elected for the Ward. These wards have been designed to include one or more polling stations. Generally, a polling station consists of 1500 votes. But in order to provide opportunity for the aspirations of the voters as much as possible, the number of votes in a ward may vary according to the geographical location and socio, economic and cultural factors etc.

6. Voters' Day

- 6.1. As in the previous years, steps were taken during the revision of electoral register 2017 too, to implement various programs at the district level on the "Voters' day" which falls on 1st of June, parallel to the awareness programs carried out for the benefit of the general public through electronic and print media. The main function of the Voters' Day in the year 2013 was held in

Colombo and after 2014, steps were taken to carry out various programs on the revision of electoral registers in other districts as well. With the need to emphasize the necessity of registering on the electoral register, many projects such as press conferences, motor car rallies, public meetings, walks, street dramas, short documentaries, distribution of handbills, displaying posters, cutouts and banners were implemented. In the year 2017, the main public awareness functions were held in Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Mullaitivu, Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa districts while various comprehensive public awareness programs were carried out in all other districts, covering every citizen including employees of private and public sector, farmer and fisher communities, estate sector employees, marginal groups. Programmes scheduled to be conducted at Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ratnapura and Kegalle were not conducted due to heavy floods and they were later implemented when the adverse condition were over. Extensive support of the officers of the Head Office of the Election Commission, District Registering Officers/ Government Agents and District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections and their staff made the island wide programmes a success and praiseworthy.

- 6.2. In concurrence with the Voters' Day, door to door collection of enumeration forms in selected Grama Niladhari divisions of selected Municipal Council and Urban Council areas was conducted on 04.06.2017 by the enumerators as well as officers of the Elections Offices. According to the observations of the District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections in this connection it was an opportunity to identify genuine residents and to accept BC forms from them under these arrangements and the attempts to insert names fraudulently with a view to getting their children admitted to popular schools in particular could be minimized.
- 6.3. Parallel to the programs conducted for the Voters' Day 2017, awareness of the students studying in universities and other higher educational institutions and youth citizens, was raised on the sovereignty of the people, franchise, electoral register and the electoral process. Under the program, a seminar jointly organized by the Election Commission and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) was held on June 1, 2017 at the Law Faculty of the University of Colombo. Before starting the seminar, two massive paintings were created by the young artists at the premises of the Law Faculty of University of Colombo. It should be noted that all the participants appreciated the sessions as well as the two drawings.

7. Parliamentary Elections Act, No.1 of 1981

7.1. Matters connected with the Recognized Political Parties

7.1.1. Publication of the Political Parties List Recognized for Election Purposes

Election Commission is required by Section 7(4) (a) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, to publish the list of recognized political parties in the *Government Gazette* at the commencement of every calendar year. Accordingly, the list of 64 parties, claimed at the beginning of the year 2017, was published in the *Extraordinary Gazette* No. 2004/2 of 30.01.2017. The list of these parties is given in *Table XIII*.

7.1.2. Calling for applications to be recognized as Political Parties for Election Purposes in the Year 2017

The provisions in the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981 regarding the recognition of political parties for the election purposes, were amended by Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 58 of 2009 which was passed on 16.09.2009 and according to the new provisions the Election Commission should call for applications in January every year from political parties for recognition. But, if any election is pending in this month, action relevant to calling for applications should be taken within 30 days after such election.

Following the Parliamentary Elections in April 2010, the then Election Commissioner called for applications in June 2010 in this regard. However, due to the holding of elections in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 and court orders issued refraining the holding of election to Pudukudirippu and Maritiméattu Pradeshiya Sabhas in Mullaitivu District where the nominations for 2011 local authorities elections were called and were valid, the registration for recognized political parties was suspended. According to the instructions given by the Attorney General on the directions of the Supreme Court in respect of two cases filed in the Supreme Court on violation of Fundamental Rights of two organizations, which expected to get registered as recognized political parties, against the suspension of calling applications for registration

as a recognized political party, applications were called from 01 to 28 February 2017 from the organizations which are seeking to register as recognized political parties. The newspaper advertisement in this regard was published on January 31, 2017 in Dinamina, Daily News and Thinakaran newspapers.

By the last day of the application, on 28.02.2017, 94 applications to be treated as political parties were received and every application received by post and by hand delivery at the Head Office by 28.02.2017 were taken into consideration. Accordingly, the first interviews for all the applications received during the prescribed period were conducted by the Election Commission on 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 and 26.04.2017. The second interview for the applications to be considered further by the Election Commission was held on 30.05.2017.

7.1.3. New Political Parties Recognized by the Election Commission for Election Purposes

As per the facts and documents presented at the First and Second Interviews and the criteria set out in Section 7 (5) (a) and (b) of the Parliamentary Elections Act, No. 1 of 1981, as amended by the Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Act, No. 58 of 2009, the Election Commission unanimously decided to treat following six (06) parties as recognized political parties for election purposes and that the mark

	Party	Symbol
1.	United National Freedom Front	Comb of Plantains
2.	United Left Front	Canoe
3.	Workers National Front	Sickle
4.	National Unity Alliance	Pair of Spectacles
5.	National Front for Good Governance	Double Flag
6.	Socialist Party of Sri Lanka	Balloon

appear before the party should be the symbol of the party.

Against the decision of the Election Commission, the Sinhale Vimukthi Peramuna filed the case No. 324/2017 at the Supreme Court which is still pending.

7.1.4. Amendments made in registered political parties

During the year 2017 the Election Commission accepted the amendments of several recognized political parties. Details of changes in party addresses and party secretaries are listed below.

7.1.4.1. On 31.01.2017 Mrs. Vishaka Rajakumari Paragasthenna was appointed as the Secretary of Our National Party, replacing Mr. Ruwan F. Guruge, former Secretary of the party. In place of Mr. T. Sridharan, Secretary of Pathmanabha Eelam Revolutionary Liberation Front, Mr. K. Sivarasa was appointed on 28.03.2017. Mr. M. Nizam Kariapper was appointed as the Secretary of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress on 07.09.2017, in the place of Mr. A.C. A. Mohamed Mansoor.

7.1.4.2 The Pathmanabha Eelam Revolutionary Liberation Front changed its name as Social Democratic Party of Tamils with effect from 28th March 2017.

7.1.4.3. The United Peace Front was named as United Peace Alliance with effect from 04.12.2017.

7.1.4.4. Democratic Peoples Front changed the name as the United Progressive Alliance with effect from 07 December 2017.

7.2. Filling of vacancies in a Member of Parliament

A vacancy was created in the membership of United Peoples Freedom Alliance of Galle District due to the decision of Court of Appeal on the petition submitted stating the disqualification of Ms. Geetha Samanmalie Kumarasinghe electing for a Parliamentary membership of Galle electorate representing United Peoples Freedom Alliance Elections at the Parliamentary Election held on 2015.08.17 while having a dual citizenship, which was upheld by the Supreme Court. Action was taken to appoint Mr. Ihala Medagama Gamage Piyasena to the vacancy with effect from 08.11.2017 since he had contested at the Parliamentary election and obtained the next highest number of preferential votes.

Details included in the *Table XIV*.

8. Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988 and Provincial Councils Elections

The terms of Provincial Councils of Sabaragamuwa, Eastern and North Central Provinces of which the election was held on 08th September 2012 were due to expire on 26.09.2017, 30.09.2017 and 01.10.2017 respectively. Acting on the provisions of the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988, the Election Commission was due to call for nominations for the above Provincial Councils on 2 October 2017. Closer to this time period, the government proposed to revise the existing laws and extend the terms of office of these provincial councils in order to hold the election to all provincial councils on one day. This could not be implemented due to court orders. The issuance of announcements of elections for the three provincial councils were postponed indefinitely, due to the changes made in the voting system and the commencement of the delimitation of wards. Provincial Council Elections (Amendment) Act No. 17 of 2017, which was introduced to amend the Act to change the preferential system mentioned in the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988 to a mixed proportional representation system viz. a mix of first past the post system and proportional representation system to be used in the local authorities elections, was passed in the Parliament with a huge majority and was enforced from September 2017. The Election Commission hopes that all work related to delimitation and amendments to the Act will be completed immediately and the Provincial Council elections would be held expeditiously.

The Election Commission is of the opinion that postponing the conduct of any election from the scheduled date is going against the provisions related to the people's sovereignty and the franchise guaranteed by the Constitution.

8.1. Filling of vacancies in the Provincial Councils Membership

According to the Provincial Councils Elections Act, No. 2 of 1988, 11 Provincial Council memberships have been filled and information in this regard is included in the *Table XV*.

9. Local Authorities Elections

9.1. Although the necessary laws were amended regarding the holding of local authorities elections in 2017, a tendency of postponing the elections is evident because the relevant extraordinary Gazette Notification has not been published. Unrest was developing in the mass media organizations, civil organizations and the public and they raised their voice and pressurized the

government to hold the elections. Government published local authorities establishment gazette No. 213/29 dated 07.04.2017 and it was published in Gazettes No. 2025/35 dated 30.06.2017 and 2043/56 dated 02.11.2017. Accordingly, preliminary work started to hold the election for 341 Local Government bodies. Since several citizens filed a petition in the Court of Appeal (CA / Writ / 373/2017) against the report of the committee appointed by the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject to review the report of the National Committee for delimitation of wards of local authorities, an injunction was issued on 22.11.2017 with regard to the taking of action in respect of the afore said report. Therefore, it was decided to further postpone the election.

- 9.2. Out of the councils/ Sabhas mentioned in the Gazette relating to the report of the national committee for delimitation of local authorities, there were 93 councils/ Sabhas of which no amendment was made to their limits by the Review Committee and no printing errors had to be corrected. The Election Commission therefore, decided to publish nomination notices for these non problematic 93 Local Authorities and the Election Commission instructed the Returning Officers to publish nomination notices on the date of 27.11.2017. Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections, who were the District Assistant Returning Officers, took action to issue the nomination notices stating the nomination period from 11.12.2017 to 14.12.2017.
- 9.3. After issuing this nomination notice, the Petitioners withdrew the petition of the Court of Appeal referred to above, the nomination notice for the remaining 298 local authorities could be issued on 04.12.2017 stating the nomination period from 18.12.2017 to 12.00 noon of 21.12.2017.
- 9.4. According to the nomination notice, 519 nominations were received for the first stage and there were 466 political parties and 53 independent groups. Of the nominations, 19 nominations of political parties and 4 of independent groups were rejected. Hence, 496 nominations were accepted from 447 of political parties and 49 of independent groups.

- 9.5. For the second stage, nominations were received from 1399 recognized political parties and 183 independent groups, of which nominations of 20 political parties and 9 independent groups were rejected. Accordingly, 1553 nominations were accepted for the second stage, from 1379 of political parties and 174 of independent groups.
- 9.6. On 23.12.2017, the date of the Local Authorities Elections was declared as 10.02.2018 and the preliminary work to hold the election to 341 local authorities in the island began in December 2017.
- 9.7. With regard to the new voting system of the local authorities elections, 46 awareness programmes, lectures and media briefings have been held for the representatives of political parties and citizens in the months of October, November and December 2017.

Following dates were scheduled for the first and second stages of nominations.

Nominations Stage I

Nomination Notice	-	27.11.2017
Receiving of Nominations	-	11 - 14.12.2017
Postal Voting	-	27.11.2017 - 15.12.2017
Appointment of Authorized Agents	-	Before 8.30 a.m. on 08.12.2017
Age limit of youth	-	31.05.1995 - 14.12.1982

Nominations Stage II

Nomination Notice	-	04.12.2017
Receiving of Nominations	-	18.12.2017 - 21.12.2017
Postal Voting	-	01.12.2017 - 22.12.2017
Appointment of Authorized Agents	-	Before 8.30 a.m. on 15.12.2017
Age limit of youth	-	31.05.1995 - 21.12.1982
Poll Notice	-	26.12.2017
Poll date	-	10.02.2018 (47 days)

Although, action was taken to separate above dates under two stages, following dates were used for all Local Authorities commonly.

Publication of Notice of issuing postal votes	-	23.12.2017
Certification of postal votes	-	10.01.2018
Issuing of postal votes	-	12.01.2018
Marking of postal votes	-	22/25/26.01.2018 and 01/02.02.2018
Distribution of Official poll cards	-	before 12 midnight on 14.02.2018
Handing over to the post office	-	18.01.2018
Special Distribution	-	28.01.2018

9.8. Filling of Vacancies in the memberships of the Local Authorities

9.8.1. Filling of vacancies in the memberships of Local Authorities were not done during the year 2017. Dissolution of Local Authorities by *Gazette* notifications No. 1947/21 of 30.12.2015, No. 1907/50 of 27.03.2015 and No. 1936/44 of 15.10.2015 was the reason.

10. Staff of the Election Commission

10.1 Creation of new posts

10.1.1. By his letter No. DMS/1288 dated 14.01.2016, Director General, Department of Management Services of the Ministry of Finance approved nine posts of Senior Assistant Commissioners of Elections, Grade I/II of S.L.A.S., for the Election Commission. As response to the request made by the Election Commission, the Director General, Department of Management Services of Ministry of Finance changed them as four posts of Deputy Commissioners of Elections, Grade I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, and five posts of Assistant Commissioners of Elections, Grade III/II of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, by his letter No. DMS/1288 dated 04.01.2017.

10.1.2. By his letter No. DMS/1288 Vol 1 dated 01.08.2017, Director General, Department of Management Services of Ministry of Finance approved the recruitment of an officer in Class II/ III of an all island service to the post of Legal Officer, Grade III/II which was approved for the

Election Commission by the letter No. DMS/1288 dated 22.12.2015 of Director General, Department of Management Services of Ministry of Finance.

10.2. New Appointments

- 10.2.1. Mr. M. G. Lalith Ananda of Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was attached to this Commission from 06.01.2017 by the letter No. 75/10/3998 dated 04.01.2017 of Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management was appointed by the Election Commission with effect from 06.01.2017 as the Director (Projects) of the Election Commission, a position equivalent to the Deputy Commissioner of Elections.
- 10.2.2. By the letter No. 75/10/4677 dated 19.01.2017 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, Ms. W. M. C.K. Wijekuruppu of Class III of Sri Lanka Administrative Service was attached to this Commission with effect from 20.01.2017 and the Election Commission appointed her as the Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) of the Head Office with effect from 20.01.2017.
- 10.2.3 The Election Commission appointed Ms. R. K. D. K. K. Ratnayake of Grade II Class I of Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service, who was attached to this Commission by letter No. CS/ICTS/02/58 dated 13.02.2017 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, to the post of Assistant Director (Information and Communication Technology) with effect from 15.02.2017.
- 10.2.4. The Election Commission appointed Mr. Saman Sri Ratnayake, Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Additional Commissioner of Elections of Western Province, to the post of Additional Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) of the Head Office with effect from 31.03.2017.

- 10.2.5. Mr. P. S. Pathirana of Class III of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was attached to this Commission from 01.08.2017 by letter No.75/10/5808 dated 04.07.2017 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, was appointed by the Election Commission as an Assistant Commissioner of Elections of the Election Commission with effect from 01.08.2017.
- 10.2.6. Mr. K. Kandeepan, Sri Lanka Administrative Service Class III, attached to this Commission from 01.08.2017 by letter No. 75/10/5587 dated 04.07.2017 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, was appointed by the Election Commission as the Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Mullaitivu District Election Office with effect from 15.11.2017.
- 10.2.7. The Election Commission appointed Mr. S. H. Y. S. Boralessa of Class III of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was attached to this Commission from 02.08.2017 by letter No. 75/10/5654 dated 04.07.2017 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management, to the post of Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) with effect from 15.11.2017.
- 10.2.8. The Election Commission appointed Mr. A. B. I. De Silva, Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Additional Commissioner of Elections of Western Province, to the post of Additional Commissioner of Elections (District Coordination) with effect from 17.07.2017.
- 10.2.9. The Election Commission appointed Mr. M. G. Lalith Ananda, Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections / Director (Projects), to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Colombo District Election Office with effect from 17.07.2017.
- 10.2.10. Ms. W. M. C.K. Wijekuruppu of Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections / Director (Projects) of the Head Office was appointed by the Election Commission as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Colombo City Office with effect from 15.11.2017.

10.2.11. The Election Commission appointed Mr. M. G. Lalith Ananda, Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Colombo City Election Office, to the post of Director (Projects) of the Election Commission with effect from 15.11.2017.

10.3. Promotions

10.3.1. The Election Commission appointed Mr. R. M. A. L. Ratnayake, Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service who was serving as the Additional Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) of the Head Office, to the post of Director General of Elections of the Election Commission with effect from 08.02.2017.

10.3.2. Mr. A. B. I. De Silva, Special Grade of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Galle District Election Office was appointed by the Election Commission to the post of Additional Commissioner of Elections (Western Province) of the Election Commission with effect from 31.03.2017.

10.3.3. The Election Commission appointed Mr. Sumanasiri Ekanayake, Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Service I, who was serving as the Director (Information and Communication Technology) - (Acting) of the Head Office, to the post of Director (Information and Communication Technology) with effect from 01.07.2017.

10.3.4. The Election Commission appointed Mr. J. A. S. P. Jayasinghe, Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Parliamentary Elections) of the Head Office, to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Gampaha District with effect from 17.07.2017.

10.3.5. The Election Commission appointed Mr. K. J. S. Madhawa, Class I of Sri Lanka Administrative Service, and was acting in the vacant post of the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Kurunegala District Election Office, as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Kurunegala District Election Office with effect from 17.07.2017.

- 10.3.6 Mr. T. Akilan of Class I of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who was serving as the Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Jaffna District was appointed by the Election Commission to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Jaffna District Election Office from 17.07.2017
- 10.3.7 The Election Commission appointed Mr. W. H. R. Wijayakumara of Sri Lanka Administrative Service Class I, who served as Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Matara District Elections Office, to the post of Deputy Commissioner of Elections of the Galle District Election Office from 17.07.2017.
- 10.3.8 Ms. W. M. C. K. Wijekuruppu of Class I of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who served as the Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) at the Head Office was appointed to the post of Director (Projects) of the Election Commission by the Election Commission with effect from 17.07.2017.
- 10.3.9 Mr. H.W.N. Kumara, Class I of the Sri Lanka Accountants Service, who served as the Accountant (Procurements) of the Head Office, was appointed by the Election Commission as the Chief Accountant from 04.08.2017.
- 10.3.10 Mr. E.A. Weerasena, Class I of Sri Lanka Accountants Service, who was acting in the vacant post of Chief Financial Officer of the Head Office, was appointed by the Election Commission to function as the full time officer in the post of Chief Financial Officer from 04.08.2017.
- 10.3.11. Mr. P. C. P. De Silva of Class III of Sri Lanka Planning Service, who has worked in the Planning Division of the Election Commission, was appointed to perform duties in the vacant post of the Planning Director from 04.08.2017.
- 10.3.12. With the concurrence of the Constitutional Council, the Election Commission appointed Mr. R.M.A.L. Rathnayake of Special Grade of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service to the post of Commissioner General of Elections of the Election Commission from 25.11.2017 in addition to the post he has serving as the Director General of Elections of the Election Commission.

10.4 Staff Officers transferred out of the Election Commission

10.4.1. Ms. D.M.C.T.K. Dissanayake Class I of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who has served as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of the Election Commission, was released from the service of the Election Commission on 02.01.2017 to assume the duties in the Sri Lanka Navy as per the letter No. 75/1/15/18 (I) dated 01.12.2016 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management. The services rendered towards this Commission by her is gratefully appreciated. The first female, who held the post of Assistant Commissioner of Elections in the Department of Elections which was held by male officers hitherto the first female Assistant Commissioner of Elections was Ms. Chinthia Thusitha Kumari Dissanayake.

10.4.2. Mr. R.V.N.Gunawardana of Class 1 of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, who served as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Gampaha District, was released from the service of the Election Commission from 30.06.2017 to assume duties in the Sri Lanka Police Department, according to the letter No. 75/10/3795 dated 19.06.2017 issued by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Management. I gratefully appreciate the services rendered by him to the Department of Elections and the Election Commission for nearly 11 years.

10.5. New Appointments (Non-Staff)

10.5.1. An advertisement was published on the Commission's website to fill the vacancies in the Grade III of the Drivers' Service of the Election Commission and five qualified applicants were recruited to permanent service with effect from 02.01.2017.

10.5.2. Two members who qualified in the written examination held by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration on 29.11.2015, with regard to the recruitment to the Document Assistants vacancies of the Election Commission, were appointed to the post of Document Assistants Grade III of the Election commission from 02.10.2017.

10.5.3. The Ministry of Public Administration assigned 15 new officers of the Public Management Assistants Service from 01.03.2017 to fill the vacancies existing in the Public Management Assistants Service of the Election Commission.

10.6. Officers (non-staff) released outside the Commission due to promotions or other appointments

10.6.1. Ms. P.M.H. Chatramali of Public Management Assistants Service Grade III attached to the Elections Secretariat was released on 13.01.2017 to assume duties in her new post as she got through the open competitive examination for Grade III of the Sri Lanka Education Administrative Service.

10.6.2. Mr. M.S.M.Sajath of Class III of Public Management Assistants Service, who was serving in Jaffna District Elections Office was released on 24.11.2017 was released from the post of the Public Management Assistants' Service to assume duties in Grade 3 - 1 (A) of Sri Lanka Teaching Service.

10.6.3. Mr. K.D.M.M. Gamage of Grade III Public Management Assistants' Service attached to the Colombo City Election office was released from the post of Public Management Assistant Service on 30.11.2017, since she was appointed to a post of Grade II Labor Officer in the Labour Department.

10.6.4. Ms. D. Thabeetha, Class III Document Assistant, who was serving in District Elections Office in Vavuniya was released from the Election Commission on 14.05.2017 to assume duties as a Grade III Judicial interpreter (Sinhala / Tamil) of Judicial Management Assistants' Service of the Scheduled Public Officers Service of the Judicial Service Commission.

10.6.5. Ms. M. C.G. de Silva, Document Assistant Grade III, who was serving in Puttalam District Election Office was released from the Document Assistant post of the Election Commission with effect from 16.05.2017 as she received an appointment as a Supervising Management Assistant post of the Postal Department.

10.6.6. Ms. S. Losni of Class III of Office Employees' Service, who was serving in the Jaffna District Election Office was released on 13.01.2017 to completely leave the Office Employees' Service and assume duties as a Public Management Assistant since she passed the open competitive examination for recruitment to Grade III of Public Management Assistants Service.

10.6.7. Mr. Y. M. Y. M. Fernando, who was attached to the Matale District Election Office as a member of Office Employees' Service Class III, was qualified for the appointment of Grade III of the Drivers' Service of the Election Commission, and he was released from the Office Employees Service on 31.12.2016 to assume duties in the post of Grade III of Drivers' Service.

10.6.8. The Election Commission is grateful for the commitment made by above mentioned officers in their duties to the Department of Elections and the Election Commission.

10.7 Transfers out of the Department

10.7.1. Five officers of Public Management Assistants' Service were transferred out of the Election Commission under annual transfers in 2017.

10.7.2. In addition, 12 officers of the Public Management Assistants' Service, one Officer of the Development Officers' Service and one member of the Office Employees' Service was transferred out of the Election Commission upon their requests for personal reasons.

10.7.3. The services of above officers are commended by the Election Commission.

10.8 Officers transferred to the Election Commission (Non-staff)

- 10.8.1. Four officers of Public Management Assistants' Service were transferred to the Election Commission under annual transfers.
- 10.8.2. Under inter - departmental transfers 08 officers of Public Management Assistants' Service, who expressed desire to serve in the Election Commission were transferred with the approval of the Election Commission.
- 10.8.3. A paper advertisement was published on 28.04.2016 to fill the vacant Development Assistants' posts of the Election Commission and action was taken to transfer seven Development Officers to the Election Commission in 2017, who were selected on the results of the interview held on 18 and 19.08.2016.

10.9. Retirements

During the year 2017, 23 members of the Election Commission staff including 4 staff officers, 17 officers of Public Management Assistants' Service, 1 member of Office Employees' Service and 1 member of Drivers' Service retired from service.

Executive officers and staff officers

- 10.9.1. Mr. U. Amaradasa joined the service on 1st March 1984 as a cadet of the Sri Lanka Administrative Service and served the Ampara Election Office from 01.03.1985 as an Assistant Commissioner of Elections of the Department of Elections. Thereafter he served as an Assistant Commissioner of Elections in Puttalam, Hambantota, Galle and Kurunegala Districts Election Offices and as a Deputy Commissioner of Elections in Kandy Elections Office from 01.06.2007. He was appointed as the Additional Commissioner of Elections (Parliamentary Elections) of the Head Office in 2011 and as the first Director General of the Election Commission on 12 January 2016, after the establishment of the Election Commission. By ending his committed and dedicated 32 years, 11 months and 7 days service he retired on 08.02.2017. The Commission is very grateful to Mr. U. Amaradasa for the valuable

service he rendered to the Department of Elections as well as to the Election Commission and the Commission commends his service and greatly appreciates.

10.9.2. Mr. A.O. M. Nafeel joined as an Assistant Commissioner of Elections in the Department of Elections from 01.12.1993 and worked at the Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Jaffna, Hambantota, Kalutara, Puttalam and Colombo District election offices. From 10.01.2012 he was appointed as the Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Vavuniya (Northern Province) and served the Department of Elections and the Election Commission very honestly and reliably. He retired after nearly 25 years of service on 14.04.2017. The service rendered by Mr. A.O. M. Nafeel to the Department of Elections and the Commission is appreciated.

10.9.3. Mrs. Damayanthi Wanigasinghe joined the service on 06.02.1979 as an officer of General Clerical Service of the Department of Elections. She served in the District Election Offices and various divisions of the Head Office and also as the Public Management Assistant in the Presidential Secretariat. Subsequently she was transferred to the Election Commission and retired on 11.07.2017. Mrs. Damayanthi Wanigasinghe served as the Acting Assistant Commissioner of Elections in the Colombo District for the Local Government Election held on 10.02.2018. She, who retired on 11.07.2017, is remembered for her great service rendered to the Department of Elections and the Commission.

10.9.4. Mr. S. M. A. A. Ashokathilake joined the service on 31.03.1993 as an officer of General Clerical Service of the Department of Elections and served as an Administration Officer (Acting) of the Vavuniya Election Office from 25.11.2017. When he retired from the Anuradhapura Election Office 24.12.2017 he had completed 24 years of service. The service rendered to the Department of Elections and to the Commission by Mr. Ashokathilake is appreciated.

10.9.5. Mr. Nisthar joined the Elections Department on 01.09.1988 as an officer of the General Clerical Service. He served as the Chief Public Management Assistant of the Hambantota Election Office and from 01.11.2017 he served as an Administrative Officer (Acting) of the Hambantota District Election Office to support the activities of the local authorities election. He retired from the Election Commission on 17.11.2017 and the service rendered by him to the Department of Elections and to the Commission is appreciated.

10.9.6. Mrs. W.M. M. Rani Weeraratne joined the Department of Elections on 06.02.1979 as an officer of General Clerical Service and served in District Election Offices. She worked as the Chief Public Management Assistant of the Gampaha District Election Office and from 01.11.2017 she attached to the Office of the Election Commission as the Administration Officer (Acting). Having completed 38 years of service on 28.11.2017 she retired from the Election Commission. Mrs. Rani Weeraratne was transferred from the Badulla Election Office to join with the staff of the Gampaha Election Office, which was established in concurrence with the establishment of the Gampaha District, and served there until her retirement. The service rendered by her to the Department of Elections and the Election Commission is appreciated.

10.9.7. The Commission wishes a joyful and healthy life for all those officers.

Non-staff members retired after 2017

10.9.8. Mr. M.T.K. Bandula (Galle), Miss. M. W. C. M. Vitharana (Head Office), Mrs. P.K.J. Gunasekera (Kurunegala), Mr. H.M. Sunil (Kalutara), Mr. B. Sumanadasa (Galle), Mrs. H.M. Dayawathi (Moneragala), Mr.D. M. Wickramasekera (Kalutara), Mr. S. B. Dissanayake (Anuradhapura), Mr.H. N. M. G. Jayaratne (Puttalam), Mr. D. A. J. S. Ranatunga (Gampaha), Mr. L. P. Premahilake (Matale) Mr. A. M. D. R. Alagiyawanna (Gampaha), Mr. H. D. M. Gunapala (Badulla), Mrs. W. A. Siriyalatha (Colombo District), Mr. P. G. Ariyatilaka (Matara), Mr. B. G.S. Edirisuriya (Hambantota), have served in the Election Office and retired in the year 2017. Service details are given in Table XVI.

The hard work and dedication of above officers rendered to the Department of Elections and the Election Commission is greatly appreciated and we wish them all a healthy and joyful retirement life.

10.10. Vacation of Post

10.10.1. Vacation of post notice was issued to Ms. H. M. C. N. K. Seneviratne, Public Management Assistants' Service Grade II attached to the Matale District Election Office was left the country after obtaining out of country leave, and failure to report for duties on the due date.

10.11. Resignation from the State Service

10.11.1. Mrs. H.M.D.S.K. Herath, Grade III of Public Management Assistants' Service, attached to the Colombo City Election Office, resigned from public service due to personal reasons.

10.11.2. Mr. M.K.V. Sandamali of Public Management Assistants Service Grade III, attached to the Galle District Election Office, resigned from the public service on 31.12.2017 due to personal reasons.

11. Training Programmes

11.1 Local Training

11.1.1. Officers of the Election Commission were made to participate in the training courses conducted by National Institute of Labour Studies, PRAG Institute, Skills Development Fund Institute, Institute for Development Administration of Sri Lanka, Miloda Institute, ICTAD Institute, Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, Center for Distance Education with the aim of upbringing the service efficiency and effectiveness.

11.1.2. A subject evaluation training programme for Document Assistants was held at the Elections Secretariat covering all District Election Offices and 50 officers participated in this training programme.

11.1.3. A subject evaluation training program was conducted at Kilinochchi Public Administration Training Institution with the aim of upbringing the service efficiency and effectiveness of Tamil Medium Officers in Northern Province Election Offices. A similar workshop was organized for the officers of the Eastern Province but it could not be held due to the commencement of the election period. It is expected to be implemented in 2018.

11.2. Foreign Training

Details of foreign scholarships and trainings, provided to staff officers and officers attached to the Election Commission are given below.

11.2.1. Mr. M. G. S. Ransinghe (Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Colombo District) is out of the country to pursue a postgraduate programme in Australia having obtained study leave from 02 January 2017 to 01 January 2019.

11.2.2. Mr. W.A.L. Wickramarachchi, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Nuwara Eliya District, took part in Young Connectors of the Future – 2016 training programme held in Sweden from 18 February 2017 to 26 March 2017.

11.2.3. Mr. Suranga Ambagathenne, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Ratnapura District participated in the post graduate programme held in Malaysia from 07 May 2017 to 13 May 2017.

11.2.4. Mr. E.A. Weerasena, Chief Financial Officer attended the training seminars on Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction held in China from 05 June 2017 to 22 June 2017.

11.2.5. Mr. Channa P. De Silva, Director (Research and Planning), Ms. W.M.C. Kumudunee Wijekuruppu, Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Local Authorities) and Ms. U.G.H.P. Dharmadasa Deputy Head (Language Policy Implementation) / Co-coordinator (Gender Equality) attended the Training programme on New Trends of Creating Voter Awareness held in India from 19 June 2017 to 23 June 2017.

- 11.2.6. Mr. W. H. R. Vijayakumara, Deputy Commissioner of Elections of Galle District is out of the country to pursue a postgraduate programme on Public Policy in Japan having obtained study leave from 13 August 2017 to 31 October 2017.
- 11.2.7. Mr. Rajendran Saseelan, Assistant Commissioner of Elections, Batticaloa and Mr. M. A. Gamini, Deputy Head (Language Policy Implementation) took part in the Election Management Capacity building Programme held in Korea from 25 July 2017 to 04 August 2017.
- 11.2.8. Mr. H. Indika Hathurusinghe, Assistant Commissioner of Elections of Badulla District, participated in a English Language training course held in India from 12 September 2017 to 02 December 2017.
- 11.2.9. Mr. M. G. Lalith Ananda, Director (Special Projects) attended the foreign training of Capacity Development Training Programme held in Malaysia from 20 October 2017 to 27 October 2017.
- 11.2.10. Ms. G.K.S.C.K. Yasarathne, Accountant (Payments) attended the International Programme on Management held in Thailand from 03 December 2017 to 10 December 2017.

12. Overseas Conferences and Official Tours

- 12.1. Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya (Chairman, Election Commission) and Mr. Rizan M. A. Hameed (Coordinating Secretary to the Chairman) participated in Indian National Day celebrations and the conference on The Methods of Empowering Young and Future Voters held in India from 23 to 27 January 2017.
- 12.2. Mr. R. M.A. L. Rathnayake (Director General of Elections) and Mr. M. M. Mohamed (Additional Commissioner of Elections - Legal and Investigation) participated in election observation in Indonesia from 13 to 16 February 2017.

- 12.3. Mr. N. J. Abeysekere, President's Counsel and member of the Election Commission attended the General Assembly of Asian Election Authorities held in Philippine from 20 to 22 March 2017.
- 12.4. Mr. H.M.T.D. Herath, Secretary of the Election Commission participated in Local Authority election observation in Maldives from 03 to 09 May 2017.
- 12.5. Professor S. Rathnajeewan H. Hoole, member of the Election Commission and Mr. M. G. Lalith Ananda (Director, Special Projects) observed the 19th Presidential Election of Korea from 28 April 2017 to 10 May 2017.
- 12.6. Professor S. Rathnajeewan H. Hoole, member of the Election Commission and Mr. Rizan M. A. Hameed, Coordinating Secretary to the Chairman of the Election Commission attended the 8th Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia held in Afghanistan from 23 - 26 September 2017.
- 12.7. Mr. M. M. Mohamed, Additional Commissioner of Elections (Legal and Investigation) and Mr. Nalaka Rathnayake, Assistant Commissioner of Elections (Admin) attended the workshop on Voter Awareness and Local Authorities election observation in Georgia on 23 October 2017.

13. Constructions And Assets

- 13.1. During the year 2017, a computer data disaster management center was installed at the Hambantota District Election Office of the Election Commission.
- 13.2. Amongst the construction work in the Commission, partition of office rooms for the Additional Election Commissioners and the Chief Accountant of the Election Commission was one. Preparation of a room for the Internal Audit Division and expansion of research and planning division were also carried out.
- 13.3. The election offices of the Colombo City and the Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala and Trincomalee districts were also air conditioned in 2017.
- 13.4. The computer network of Kalutara District Election Office was upgraded.

- 13.5. The roof of the Matara District Election Office, which was in a dilapidated condition, was repaired. The rest of the work is expected to be completed in 2018.
- 13.6. Construction of upstairs of the warehouse near Batticaloa District Election Office enabling lodging facilities for officers arriving from outside was also among the constructions in 2017.
- 13.7. Emergency repairs of District Election Offices and official quarters of Additional / Deputy / Assistant Election Commissioners were carried out within the limits of the provisions received for the year 2017.
- 13.8. In 2017, the Election Commission purchased the BFW-0772 motorcycle for Rs. 275,100.00 on 11.12.2017. No any other vehicles were purchased in the year 2017.
- 13.9. Action was taken to obtain recommendation to dispose the van bearing no. 61-7219 and the car bearing No. KE-6759 belonging to the Election Commission due to their high cost of maintenance and a committee in that regard was appointed on 19.09.2017. After receiving the recommendations of the committee, arrangements were made to publish a paper advertisement inviting for bids. Vehicles are to be released to the person who submits the highest bid immediately after the payments in cash are made.
- 13.10. The vehicle number PD-9319 belonging to the Election Commission was met with an accident on 18.09.2015 and was presented to the Sri Lanka Insurance Company to cover the damage. Accordingly, the Toyota Company, the agency, submitted a report that the repair work cannot be carried out. Since this cab has been obtained under lease, it was referred to the Director General of National Budget. The Director General of the Budget instructed the Commissioner of Motor Traffic to write off it as debris and take action to approve the cancellation of the registration. The relevant documents were prepared on those instructions and handed over to the Commissioner of Motor Traffic on 31.07.2017. As per the letter this vehicle has to be written off as debris, the registration has to be cancelled, has to be sent to the Director General of National Budget and then refer to the relevant insurance company.

13.11. According to the above particulars, total number of vehicles owned by the Election Commission as at 31.12.2017 is as follows.

Cars	Jeeps	Cabs	Vans	Crew Cabs	Lorries	Motor Bicycles
15	01	35	03	01	01	02

13.12. Out of these vehicles, 11 vehicles are more than 15 years old and the high maintenance cost is an issue.

14. Audit and Finance Particulars

14.1. For the year 2017, sixteen Audit Queries under various subjects were received and action was taken to answer them within the due period of time. These queries include the Appropriation Account relevant to the year 2016 and the Management Report of the Advance B Account and Auditor General's report.

14.2. The cost for the preparation of the electoral register of the year 2017 was approximately Rs.130 million and it shows a Rs. 30 million increase compared to the expenditure incurred in the year 2016 in this regard, Rs. 100 million. Reprint of electoral register at the councils/sabhas level where elections were scheduled to be was the reason for this increase.

14.3. The recurrent expenditure in the year 2017 and 2016 were Rs. 788.6 million and Rs. 577.6 million, respectively. The recurrent expenditure shows a huge increase when compared to the previous year. Incurring of costs for preliminary activities of Local Authorities Election, which was due to be held in 2017, caused the increase of recurrent expenses.

14.4. A total of 14 million Rupees was spent on the activities relating to the Voters' Day on the 1st of June of each year including the awareness programs.

14.5. The capital expenditure in 2017 was Rs.105.8 million and it was a Rs. 50.5 million increase than that of 2016. The increase in the capital expenditure was due to the construction of Computer Disaster Recovery Center at Hambantota District Election Office and the preparation of Complaint Tracking System by obtaining Rs. 29.1 million additional provisions through Supplementary Estimates.

- 14.6. Out of 254 applications of officers / employees for distress loans, 244 were granted in this year and loans up to Rs.37.9 million were paid. This is an increase of Rs. 13.1 million compared to the previous year and was directly due to the increase of basic salary of officers/ employees according to the budget proposals.
- 14.7. Revenue earned in the year 2017 by issuing extracts of the electoral register was Rs.5.87 million. It shows a considerable decrease when compared with the previous year since the revenue earned in 2016 was Rs.8.9 million. Limitation of issuing extracts of the electoral register at the end of the year since the preliminary activities relating to the Local Authorities commenced and requests made by the relevant authorities to verify information through the Commission instead of getting certified extracts from candidates for government interviews, caused this decrease.
- 14.8. With the increase of the production of the electoral register in CD format while limiting the preparation of the register in book form, Rs. 2.6 million revenue was earned during this year. Increase of selling compact discs to political parties due to the commencement of activities necessary for holding of Local Authorities Election in this year caused the increase of the revenue.
- 14.9. Rs. 2.4 million was spent on local and foreign training courses of officers/ employees to improve the performance of the Commission. Since provisions allocated to this vote are limited, this cost was reduced by approximately Rs. one million when compared to the year 2016.
- 14.10. During the year 2017, 45 Audit Quires have been carried out and 33 Audit reports were submitted. Audit and Management meetings were held on 25.04.2017, 19.07.2017 and 06.11.2017.

15. Special Projects

15.1. Four Year (2017-2020) Strategic Plan of the Election Commission

In pursuance to the instructions of the Ministry of Finance to the effect that every public institution should formulate a strategic plan for the ensuing five years, action was pursued on the approval of the Election Commission, to prepare a Strategic Plan for the period of four years from 2017 to 2020 incorporating projects, programs and activities envisaged to be implemented within the period of next four years.

In the process of preparing the Strategic Plan, the views and proposals of all stakeholders including the staff of the Election Commission, Public Officers, Political Party Representatives, Civil Organizations, Observer Groups, Media Personnel, Women, Youth, Disables and Senior Citizens Organizations, Trade Union Activists, were solicited.

The Strategic Plan was launched at a ceremony held on 16-11-2016 at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, Colombo 07. All the officials of the Election Commission who were assigned the task of formulating the strategic plan were included in the Committee appointed to implement the same.

Accordingly, in regard to the Strategic Plan programmes which were to be carryout during the year 2017 could be successfully completed. Out of them special attention has been drawn to the following programmes.

15.2. Awareness programmes on People's Sovereignty and Universal Franchise for youths implemented through National Youth Services Council and Youth Organizations including Youth Clubs.

Under this, 21 awareness programmes on electoral process were held for trainees of Colleges of Education and 13 Youth Parliamentary awareness programmes were held at district level.

15.3. Programme launched in association with the Ministry of Education to create awareness among School Children in Secondary Classes on Democracy and Universal Franchise through Students' Parliament.

Action was taken to hold 20 district level awareness programmes for Principals, officers of Education Administration Service who are in charge of civic education and teachers and 84 awareness programmes for school students on the Student Parliament programme implemented by the Election Commission with the Ministry of Education.

- 15.4. In 2017, five awareness programs on electoral process were held at the Elections Secretariat and the Sarvodaya Training Center, Aluthgama, Bandaragama for the officers recruited to the Sri Lanka Administrative Service in the years 2015 and 2016. In addition, new officers of Education Administration Service were also educated on the electoral process at the College of Education at Maharagama.
- 15.5. As per the Strategic Plan of the Election Commission, more than 100 programs have been implemented to educate executive members, activists of political parties and lawyers on the democracy, universal franchise, sovereignty of the people and functions and duties of the Election Commission and of the new electoral process. These training programs were held at the Elections Secretariat and also at District Election Offices, for district level political party activists and professionals.
- 15.6 Ten workshops were conducted to obtain the contribution of mass media to implement the four year strategic plan, to enhance youth and women's participation in elections and to make aware journalists of print, electronic and social media on concepts like democracy, sovereignty, universal franchise, etc., and also on strengthening the women's representation in public representative agencies, youth and political process and new election methods.
- 15.7 A quarterly news letter named "Power of the Cross" was published on the duties and functions of the Commission, under the highlighted fields which were recognized in the four-year participatory strategic plan of the Election Commission from 2017-2020. Its first volume, October - December 2017, was released by the name of "The Expression of Democracy is Franchise, Let's Protect Universal Franchise".
- 15.8. In concurrence with the awareness programs conducted through electronic and print media on registration on electoral registers, action was taken, with the assistance of all CDMA and mobile telecommunication operators in Sri Lanka and on the sponsorship of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka, to send short messages (SMS) on 30.06.2017 and 30.08.2017 to all mobile phone subscribers of each network on the necessity and importance of registration on the electoral register.

15.9. Possession of the same place in the society by women, where the man possessed is a good trend in democracy. During a wide-ranging discussion over achieving women's representation of 25% in local authorities were held, 108 awareness programs under the theme "Women goto Work after work" were performed through women's societies / community based organizations to raise awareness of women of all districts about democracy and universal franchise. This enabled them to get a better insight into the fundamentals of democracy.

16. Other Work Carried Out by the Election Commission

16.1. Universal Franchise 85 Academic Journal

Action was taken to issue the second print and Tamil and English translations of the Academic Journal which was launched to mark the 85th anniversary of the receipt of universal franchise by Sri Lankan people.

16.2. Productivity Improvement Programme

An awareness lecture on productivity promotion was held for all officers of the Election Commission on 19.08.2017 under the program of Productivity Improvement in the Election commission, and Mr. Upali Marasinghe, Secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum Resources contributed as the resource person.

16.3 . Election law amendments and judicial actions

A committee was appointed to amend election laws to make the elections free and fair and through this committee the laws relating to various fields of the election process was drafted. Drafts were prepared to amend the laws to give opportunity to the 18 year old voters to vote at their age, expand and clarify the requirements to be completed when making alliances, expansion of opportunities for the registration of political parties. Amendments of law were also drafted to control the massive propaganda and financial spending of political parties and candidates, which is a serious social problem in the election process and to give equal opportunity to all candidates, and not to allow polluting the voting rights through financial and propaganda forces and to obtain assistance of election observation organizations and other civil organizations in this regard.

Preparation of the annual electoral register is of equal importance compared to the conduct of elections. The main reason is any person whose name is not in the electoral register (not registered) is deprived of casting vote. Citizenship, completion of the 18 years of age and normal residence are the main requirements for registration. Various legal issues were raised about the reasons for non registration of names and about objections. Attorney General provided advice in this regard extending a good cooperation. On the advice of the Hon. Attorney General, the officers of the Attorney General's Department strongly supported the Commission in the judicial proceedings in relation to the cases filed by various persons in various courts.

16.4. Media Guidelines

A Permanent Representative Committee for the publication of amended media guidelines issued by the Election Commission and the process to be followed by State and private media institutions in the course of adhering to the media guidelines was established and several rounds of discussions were held, to discuss these matters with them and to come into agreements on acting in accordance with the media guidelines. Such media guidelines published through the Government Gazette have to be approved by Parliament.

16.5. Website / Facebook Page

Web page of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (Election Commission of Sri Lanka), which is run by the Election Commission, has been very helpful to the social network users on the revision of the electoral registers and elections. Also, the citizens used social networking sites to use this page to present their ideas and issues to the Election Commission. Its updating started, and is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

16.6. International Youth Day

A Youth Camp was organized by the Election Commission and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems at Thulhiriya to celebrate International Youth Day, on 11th, 12th and 13th August, 2017. Action was taken to get the participation of youth of all districts representing various voluntary organizations and youth clubs and to educate those who arrived, about the revision of electoral registers, electoral process, universal franchise and democracy.

16.7 Awareness programs for voters

An event was held on 26th August 2017 in front of the National Youth Services Council to raise awareness of the electors of Maharagama area in par to the revision of electoral registers. On the basis of the draft electoral register 2017, it was examined through the online method whether the person is registered as an elector and if he has not get registered, the officers of the Election Commission immediately provided advice on the submission of claims and other issues and assisted those who has not handed over B.C. to complete necessary information.

16.8. 14th International Conference on Parliamentary Studies (ICPS)

The Election Commission together with the International Center for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) organized the 14th International Conference on Electoral Studies at the Jetwing Blue Hotel in Negombo on May 25 and 26, 2017 with the participation of over 100 persons including the Heads of election management bodies of nearly 40 countries, representatives of international organizations engaged in election related activities, the international media etc,. At the end of this convention, foreign delegates visited the Dambadeniya Shrine which has a historical value of Sri Lanka and watched a cultural show performed by the Civil Defense Department.

16.9. In addition to the programs mentioned above, a series of awareness programs for the students of several schools including Prince of Wales College were held by the Election Commission under the Youth Program.

16.10. Intervention of the Election Commission on Disabled voters.

Twelve awareness programs, providing coverage in all the provinces of the country, in order to make the disabled community aware about actions they should take to win their rights and raise the awareness of the state sector officers about the rights of the disabled community, were held in 2017 with the leadership of the Election Commission, for the Public sector institutions (Sri Lanka Police, Local Government Institutions) and Non Governmental Organizations (IFES, CMEV, CAMID) who are working for the Rights of Disabled community, making the vision of the Election Commission, which is "A Nation that safeguards the Universal Franchise" more meaningful.

- 16.11 In these workshops special attention of the Commission was given to ensure the provision of formal accessing facilities for disable voters. Accordingly, the Commission decided to select and process all centers, expected to be used as polling centers at the time of elections, as centers with barrier free access. The provision of accessing facilities to all 52 polling centers in the Kilinochchi district where the majority of disabled people are living was done with the guidance of the Assistant Commissioner of Elections/ Kilinochchi.
- 16.12. For the benefit of visually impaired voters, an awareness glossary of instructions on the revision of the Electoral Register prepared by the Braille system was launched at the voter's day celebration on 01.06.2017 with the assistance of the CMEV. Also, arrangements were made upon their requests to make a representative of the Commission to participate at the awareness programmes to educate the members of different organizations and institutions that have been established by different parties.
- 16.13. Two awareness programs were conducted by IFES for all Additional / Deputy / Assistant Commissioners of Elections for the inclusion of the disabled community into the electoral system and a roundtable discussion was held with all the stakeholders involved in the electoral process on how the identified action could be deployed for the coming elections.

16.14. Record Room

Action was taken to establish the record room of the Election Commission in a new premises and maintain in a more organized manner. A program was established to ensure that its documents were kept secure and accessible to all parties in a convenient manner. A full-time officer has been attached to this task. A formal training on archival materials has been given to this officer by the National Archives Department to fulfill the services of the record room in a more effective manner.

16.15. Disaster Recovery Center

Carrying out activities for the establishment of the Disaster Recovery Center at the District Election Office, Hambantota and carrying out the work of the new data center and other maintenance work was a major task completed in

the last year and action has been taken to introduce a new computer software for asset management in the procurement sector to maintain it in more effective and efficient manner.

16.16. Election Complaint Tracking System

Preliminary steps have been taken for the implementation of the Election Complaint Tracking System, to carry out preliminary action to establish an efficient e-mail system for the existing e-mail system and steps have also been taken for the compilation of necessary measures for the LGN 2.0 project provided by ICTA and for the provision of internet facilities under ADSL technology to all districts including the Head Office to the extent required by each district.

17. Conclusion

The Department of Elections that had been in existence for a period of 60 years was established as the Election Commission in terms of the provisions in the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, has not confined to its fundamental duties such as certification of the register of electors and conducting of elections. This has expanded its tasks according to the four year strategic plan to achieve the wide vision “A nation that safeguards universal franchise “and as its mission to “Raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders, ensuring the protection of people’s rights and conduct free, fair and credible elections efficiently and effectively that safeguard the people’s sovereignty and universal franchise based on democratic principles “. This has become the key challenging task of the Election Commission.

In order to achieve the aforementioned Vision and Mission, plans were drawn addressing key strategic areas or thrust areas. They are;

- Awareness Raising and conscientisation
- Legal and Advocacy Work
- Institutional Development
- Research and Information Sharing

The following has been identified as goals of the Commission,

- Create opportunities for all qualified citizens to exercise their franchise fearlessly, freely and confidentially in elections conducted in a free and fair manner.

- Take measures to create awareness among the citizens to realize that the exercise of franchise is an inalienable right and involves himself or herself in the election process actively.

- Ensure that equal and fair opportunities exist for all candidates during election periods.

- Preparation of an all-inclusive, updated voters' list is in place before every election.

- Take measures for all citizens in the marginalised sectors of society to engage in the electoral processes confidently and adequately.

- Administer the election process competently and transparently.

- Facilitate the stakeholders to obtain relevant data and information pertaining to the Election Commission and the election process timely and adequately.

Even though the thrusts, goals, objectives and the activities are developed with a strategic manner a few major strategies that would be applied in implementing the strategic and operation plans as follows are required;

- Institutional development.
- Capacity building of the staff.
- Securing more funds from the Treasury.
- Working in collaboration with civil society organizations, both local and international, which are interested in promoting democracy.
- Encourage citizenry to safeguard universal franchise.

It is noteworthy that the achievement of the above mentioned performance in the year 2017 was made possible through the liningup, planning and implementation of programs and activities and also through a methodical review of the activities in the annual action plan according to the four-year strategic plan.

The recent election held after the establishment of the Election Commission was significant for several reasons such as the first ever election under the Election Commission, being the first ever island wide local authorities poll conducted simultaneously, and the introduction of a new electoral system that comprise of proportional representation and ward systems. It should be noted that the Commission was able to successfully achieve that challenging target.

The main task of the Election Commission is to conduct free and fair elections according to the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. However, it was not possible to conduct local government polls that were due in the year 2016, due to the delimitation and related activities. Even though, nominations were called for 93 local bodies from 11th to 14th December, 2017, and for 248 local bodies from 18th to 21st December, 2017. The decision had been taken to conduct the elections on 10th February 2018.

One of the major functions entrusted to the Election Commission by the Constitution is the preparation and the certifying of the annual Register of Electors and it was done on the 12th October, 2017.

Similarly, acting in accordance with the Parliamentary Elections Act No 1 of 1981, filling of vacancies in Parliament and in accordance with the Provincial Council Elections Act No. 2 of 1988, filling of vacancies in the Provincial Councils, were carried out as another key task assigned to the Election Commission.

According to the Strategic Plan prepared for the Election Commission for the years 2017-2020, Election Commission has taken measures to implement island wide awareness programs in 2017 under the theme of an all inclusive register and an electoral process where no qualified voter is left behind. The Election Commission anticipates an increment of voter turnout to a figure more than 75% at local authorities elections compared to 65%, the voter turn out that had been recorded in 2015, as a result of the major awareness programmes and activities that are carried out covering several key areas in accordance with the strategic plan.

Although the term of offices of the Provincial Councils in Sabaragamuwa, North-Central and Eastern Provinces was over in 2017, election of these provincial councils has not been held in the year 2017 due to commencement of the delimitation owing to the revision of the Provincial Council Elections Act. The Election Commission believes that the aforesaid election will be held in the year 2018 without delay and further anticipates that the

Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government and which is entrusted with the key responsibility of making relevant legal revisions and the issuance of statutory gazette notifications, would expedite these tasks.

It is worth mentioning that the commitment, cooperation and assistance extended by the major units of the Election Commission, *viz.* Secretariat of the Election Commission, Parliamentary Elections unit, Local Authorities Elections unit, Legal and Investigation unit, Planning and Research unit, Finance and Asset Management and Procurement unit, IT unit, Internal Audit Division, Administration and Establishment division, and all officers of district election offices for their extensive support in time, wealth and work have contributed much towards the success of achieving the targets in the year 2017.

Election Commission

Sarana Mawatha,

Rajagiriya.

15th May, 2018.

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Table I**Order under Article 98(8) of the Constitution – Number of Members to be returned for each electorate at Parliamentary Elections – 2017**

Electoral District	Number of Members which each Electoral District is entitled to return
01 - Colombo	19
02 - Gampaha	18
03 - Kalutara	10
04 - Mahanuwara	12
05 - Matale	5
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	8
07 - Galle	10
08 - Matara	7
09 - Hambantota	7
10 - Jaffna	7
11 - Vanni	6
12 - Batticaloa	5
13 - Digamadulla	7
14 - Trincomalee	4
15 - Kurunegala	15
16 - Puttalam	8
17 - Anuradhapura	9
18 - Polonnaruwa	5
19 - Badulla	8
20 - Moneragala	6
21 - Ratnapura	11
22 - Kegalle	9
TOTAL	196

Comparative statement of the number of Parliamentary Members to be elected for each Electoral District under the Article 98(8) of the Constitution – 2007 - 2016

Electoral District	Years and the Number and Date of the relevant Gazette									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	1569/20 03.10.2008	1621/18 30.09.2009	1674/5 05.11.2010	1715/4 18.07.2011	1771/2 13.08.2012	1796/7 06.02.2013	1853/3 10.03.2014	1898/6 19.01.2015	1969/15 31.05.2016	2012/24 29.03.2017
01 - Colombo	20	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
02 - Gampaha	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
03 - Kalutara	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
04 - Mahanuwara	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
05 - Matale	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	7	7	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
07 - Galle	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
08 - Matara	8	8	7	8	8	8	7	8	7	7
09 - Hambantota	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
10 - Jaffna	9	9	10	6	6	6	6	7	6	7
11 - Vanni	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6
12 - Batticaloa	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
13 - Digamadulla	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
14 - Trincomalee	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
15 - Kurunegala	15	15	15	16	16	16	15	15	15	15
16 - Puttalam	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
17 - Anuradhapura	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
18 - Polonnaruwa	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
19 - Badulla	8	8	8	9	9	8	9	8	9	8
20 - Moneragala	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	5	6	6
21 - Ratnapura	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
22 - Kegalle	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
TOTAL	196	196	196	196	196	196	196	196	196	196

Revision of Electoral Register - 2017

Details of Polling Divisions and Polling Districts in Northern Province where house to house enumeration was conducted

Electoral District	Polling Division	Total number of Polling Districts	Number of the Polling Districts where house to house enumeration was not conducted	Number of Polling Districts where house to house enumeration did not take place	Total number of Registered Votes in 2016
10 - Jaffna	C - Kankasanthurai	58	22	35 - 55, 57	33,125
	E - Kopai	60	2	04,05,	2,956
	K - Killinochchi	100	4	46,97,98,99	3,097
11 - Vanni	A - Mannar	74	1	55	464
Total		292	29		39,642

Table IV

Revision of Electoral Register - 2017

Details of the number of appointments and participation of Political Party Representatives for enumeration of electors

Electoral District	No of Polling Districts	Number of Representatives appointed by Recognized Political Parties																								
		Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchchi		United People's Freedom Alliance		United National Party		People's Liberation Front		Jana Satha Peramuna		People's Alliance		Maubima Janatha Pakshaya		Lanka Sama Samaja Party		Sri Lanka Freedom Party		Sri Lanka Muslim Congress		Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna		Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya		
		Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed	Number of Agents participated	Number of Agents appointed
01 - Colombo	1,062	-	-	975	33	404	18	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	48	3	-	-	394	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
02 - Gampaha	1,171	-	-	1,169	1,169	13	13	15	15	-	7	7	1	1	2	2	-	-	13	13	3	3	-	-	-	-
03 - Kalutara	540	-	-	542	57	129	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	191	12	-	-	213	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
04 - Mahanuwara	827	-	-	889	199	-	-	-	-	75	-	-	-	-	317	20	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
05 - Matale	324	-	-	412	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	485	-	-	593	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
07 - Galle	703	-	-	676	146	514	81	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	72	6	-	-	479	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
08 - Matara	446	-	-	206	45	295	71	28	11	-	-	-	-	-	18	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
09 - Hambantota	413	-	-	456	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - Jaffna	629	150	4	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 - Vanni	351	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
12 - Batticaloa	416	105	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	6	-	-	-	-
13 - Digamadulla	518	29	1	326	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 - Trincomalee	305	39	8	122	7	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - Kurunegala	949	-	-	1,061	329	475	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	130	16	-	-	484	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 - Puttalam	387	-	-	411	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 - Anuradhapura	634	-	-	677	275	202	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	431	100	-	-	311	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 - Polonnaruwa	287	-	-	187	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19 - Badulla	523	-	-	367	60	281	14	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	61	2	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - Monaragala	351	-	-	117	13	3	-	4	-	-	8	-	-	-	257	10	-	-	74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21 - Ratnapura	627	-	-	533	118	150	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	121	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 - Kegalle	573	-	-	218	17	35	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	133	13	-	-	151	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12,521	325	32	9,939	2,777	2,501	343	60	26	75	23	7	4	1	1,867	222	61	7	2,244	70	3	3	3	3	3	3

Table V

Revision of Electoral Registers – 2017

Submission of claims and objections under Section 14 of Registration of Electors Act
No. 44 of 1980.

Electoral District	Claims		Objections	
	Number of Claims Received	Number of Claims Allowed	Number of Objections Received	Number of Objections Upheld
01 - Colombo	38,327	23,186	232	68
02 - Gampaha	5,707	4,364	76	22
03 - Kalutara	11,028	3,943	51	32
04 - Mahanuwara	3,136	2,376	47	9
05 - Matale	1,979	1,503	33	17
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	1,452	967	152	29
07 - Galle	3,689	2,362	100	57
08 - Matara	2,935	2,054	60	7
09 - Hambantota	2,417	1,593	66	23
10 - Jaffna	1,224	1,118	6	6
11 - Vanni	1,333	465	5	3
12 - Batticaloa	1,072	844	28	21
13 - Digamadulla	813	635	12	6
14 - Trincomalee	1,550	628	17	8
15 - Kurunegala	3,776	2,970	52	26
16 - Puttalam	1,864	1,011	17	7
17 - Anuradhapura	4,699	1,944	28	10
18 - Polonnaruwa	1,238	986	15	5
19 - Badulla	6,349	1,980	41	16
20 - Moneragala	1,491	911	43	25
21 - Ratnapura	5,490	2,821	59	31
22 - Kegalle	2,645	1,548	24	15
TOTAL	104,214	60,209	1,164	443

Table VI**Revision of Electoral Registers – 2017****Number of names in each Electoral District that have not been registered due to multiple registration**

Electoral District	Number of names deleted
01 - Colombo	19,832
02 - Gampaha	21,238
03 - Kalutara	7,724
04 - Mahanuwara	4,785
05 - Matale	2,467
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	6,490
07 - Galle	4,368
08 - Matara	3,674
09 - Hambantota	1,883
10 - Jaffna	5,752
11 - Vanni	3,284
12 - Batticaloa	3,422
13 - Digamadulla	2,955
14 - Trincomalee	2,786
15 - Kurunegala	6,302
16 - Puttalam	5,644
17 - Anuradhapura	5,314
18 - Polonnaruwa	2,110
19 - Badulla	3,660
20 - Moneragala	2,289
21 - Ratnapura	6,419
22 - Kegalle	4,083
TOTAL	126,481

Table VII

Revision of Electoral Registers – 2017

Number of persons who submitted details of their National Identity Cards

Electoral District	Total Number of Electors	Number of Persons who submitted their National Identity Cards	Percentage %
01 - Colombo	1,652,389	1,626,525	98.43
02 - Gampaha	1,724,309	1,678,665	97.35
03 - Kalutara	941,742	917,029	97.38
04 - Mahanuwara	1,097,342	1,069,232	97.44
05 - Matale	395,786	384,558	97.16
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	562,025	534,497	95.10
07 - Galle	848,877	821,205	96.74
08 - Matara	644,800	611,641	94.86
09 - Hambantota	479,498	461,745	96.30
10 - Jaffna	555,210	517,866	93.27
11 - Vanni	273,707	261,366	95.49
12 - Batticaloa	389,582	374,622	96.16
13 - Digamadulla	493,742	476,829	96.57
14 - Trincomalee	272,822	262,216	96.11
15 - Kurunegala	1,315,715	1,270,353	96.55
16 - Puttalam	587,683	563,048	95.81
17 - Anuradhapura	672,161	637,583	94.86
18 - Polonnaruwa	321,594	305,782	95.08
19 - Badulla	649,472	623,759	96.04
20 - Moneragala	360,368	342,836	95.13
21 - Ratnapura	852,473	824,836	96.76
22 - Kegalle	669,570	644,119	96.20
Total	15,760,867	15,210,312	96.51

Table VIII

Comparative Statement of Percentage of persons who produced National Identity Cards by persons at the Revision of Electoral Registers in year 2008-2017

Electoral District	Percentage in Production of National Identity Cards by persons with respect to each year									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
01 - Colombo	89.44	91.67	91.91	95.37	96.69	97.19	97.53	97.54	98.10	98.43
02 - Gampaha	88.64	89.14	89.63	94.72	95.52	95.39	95.51	95.96	96.70	97.35
03 - Kalutara	83.00	87.39	88.24	94.73	95.56	95.59	96.32	96.36	97.17	97.38
04 - Mahanuwara	88.88	93.19	93.97	94.72	95.85	95.56	97.25	96.15	96.65	97.44
05 - Matale	86.94	88.27	88.38	93.80	94.41	94.35	95.76	95.76	96.51	97.16
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	88.13	88.42	91.32	92.02	93.87	92.66	92.49	94.03	94.79	95.10
07 - Galle	88.24	89.01	88.56	93.33	95.17	95.18	95.37	95.76	96.26	96.74
08 - Matara	79.63	80.52	82.07	89.97	91.02	92.77	94.72	93.25	94.56	94.86
09 - Hambantota	87.42	87.38	90.56	93.08	93.48	94.42	95.33	94.36	95.84	96.30
10 - Jaffna	33.94	32.76	75.27	83.39	85.58	87.09	88.36	90.33	92.56	93.27
11 - Vanni	57.63	41.48	67.44	81.11	87.46	87.96	91.41	92.46	94.65	95.49
12 - Batticaloa	77.88	78.80	79.21	88.22	90.52	91.58	94.70	94.15	95.53	96.16
13 - Digamadulla	85.72	86.92	89.38	92.70	93.53	93.97	94.54	95.05	95.47	96.57
14 - Trincomalee	76.99	79.86	82.78	90.71	91.08	92.09	94.84	94.90	96.06	96.11
15 - Kurunegala	87.00	84.65	87.77	92.68	93.02	93.34	94.50	94.83	96.03	96.55
16 - Puttalam	84.17	88.50	88.13	90.06	93.05	92.42	94.09	93.53	94.53	95.81
17 - Anuradhapura	81.54	83.92	84.88	90.39	90.79	91.30	91.65	92.17	93.23	94.86
18 - Polonnaruwa	84.22	84.57	87.77	90.68	91.20	91.33	92.48	92.85	94.25	95.08
19 - Badulla	83.48	84.57	86.48	91.65	93.27	93.38	94.63	94.83	95.44	96.04
20 - Monaragala	79.34	81.79	82.09	89.37	90.37	91.33	91.78	92.81	94.16	95.13
21 - Ratnapura	86.00	86.27	87.70	91.85	93.09	94.02	94.48	94.80	95.75	96.76
22 - Kegalle	85.44	86.73	89.22	92.75	94.13	93.87	94.77	94.65	95.75	96.20
Total	82.71	83.24	87.67	92.36	93.60	93.86	94.79	94.93	95.87	96.51

Table IX

Details of the number of electors whose names had to be deleted from the 2017 Electoral Register due to serving of prison terms under the Bribery Act and for offences committed at elections under Elections Laws and for other reasons

Number and name of the Electoral District	Number of Names deleted due to Bribery offences	Number of Names deleted due to violating of Election Laws	Number of Names deleted due to serving of Prison Terms on other grounds	Total number of Names deleted from the Electoral Register
01 - Colombo	-	-	3	3
14 - Trincomalee	-	-	2	2
15 - Kurunegala	-	-	1	1
17 - Anuradhapura	-	-	31	31
Total	-	-	37	37

Table X**Comparative statement showing the number of registered electors
according to Electoral Districts 2016 - 2017**

Electoral District	Total Number of Electors - 2016	Total Number of Electors - 2017
01 - Colombo	1,649,716	1,652,389
02 - Gampaha	1,705,310	1,724,309
03 - Kalutara	930,901	941,742
04 - Mahanuwara	1,086,161	1,097,342
05 - Matale	391,892	395,786
06 - Nuwara-Eliya	556,936	562,025
07 - Galle	843,470	848,877
08 - Matara	641,047	644,800
09 - Hambantota	475,510	479,498
10 - Jaffna	548,079	555,210
11 - Vanni	269,111	273,707
12 - Batticaloa	383,429	389,582
13 - Digamadulla	486,440	493,742
14 - Trincomalee	268,096	272,822
15 - Kurunegala	1,304,995	1,315,715
16 - Puttalam	579,604	587,683
17 - Anuradhapura	664,163	672,161
18 - Polonnaruwa	318,405	321,594
19 - Badulla	643,580	649,472
20 - Moneragala	355,474	360,368
21 - Ratnapura	843,834	852,473
22 - Kegalle	665,817	669,570
Total	15,611,970	15,760,867

Table XI

Number and percentage of electors Increased in 2016 Compared to 2015 and the Number and percentage of electors increased in 2017 Compared to 2016

Year	Total Number of electors	Increase in comparison with the last year	Percentage Increase
2015	15,421,205	376,715	2.50%
2016	15,611,970	190,765	1.23%
2017	15,760,867	148,897	0.95%

Table XII

Comparative statement of the registered number of electors according to the Polling Divisions 2008 - 2017

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Colombo North	95,385	84,646	88,525	84,294	86,016	87,542	89,771	93,408	92,840	92,387	
B Colombo Central	139,822	135,771	137,214	129,648	128,920	130,186	131,482	133,539	131,126	129,274	
C Borella	58,757	57,397	59,727	56,177	56,100	57,373	60,109	63,002	63,166	62,499	
D Colombo East	68,643	66,126	66,866	65,258	66,014	66,572	66,941	68,603	68,096	68,032	
E Colombo West	38,921	39,070	40,753	38,179	38,597	39,625	40,609	42,448	42,567	41,852	
F Dehiwala	61,194	59,298	64,003	61,950	61,454	60,543	59,812	61,407	60,887	61,096	
G Ratmalana	66,622	66,370	68,900	66,176	66,143	65,626	66,793	69,712	69,908	68,628	
H Kolonnawa	112,363	111,951	114,648	113,919	115,064	118,098	120,617	126,882	130,112	130,201	
I Kotte	73,009	71,550	73,486	72,214	71,863	73,539	74,934	76,640	75,806	74,480	
J Kaduwela	158,736	159,980	163,949	162,287	163,316	168,043	173,355	179,178	182,195	184,026	
K Awissawella	108,138	108,965	111,159	111,751	112,827	115,098	117,472	120,369	121,671	122,787	
L Homagama	155,720	156,962	160,840	161,646	164,625	169,679	174,909	180,862	184,578	188,282	
M Maharagama	121,247	122,236	124,956	123,343	124,323	127,060	129,801	134,280	134,837	134,485	
N Kesbawa	148,696	149,981	153,670	153,368	155,873	160,493	164,774	171,325	173,353	175,317	
O Moratuwa	114,601	113,007	113,795	112,460	112,546	113,257	115,219	119,291	118,574	119,043	
Total	1,521,854	1,503,310	1,542,491	1,512,670	1,523,681	1,552,734	1,586,598	1,640,946	1,649,716	1,652,389	

Electoral District No. 02 - Gampaha

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Wattala	103,893	106,210	109,719	110,473	111,917	114,428	120,471	125,173	127,280	128,734	
B Negombo	96,028	97,931	100,283	100,211	101,256	103,115	106,213	109,112	109,725	110,383	
C Katana	127,421	129,654	133,064	134,438	136,431	139,658	143,885	148,608	151,378	153,255	
D Divulapitiya	99,742	101,185	102,840	103,522	104,658	106,431	108,529	110,484	111,717	112,518	
E Meerigama	114,566	115,629	117,554	118,430	119,820	121,853	124,679	126,995	128,521	129,634	
F Minuwangoda	120,860	122,125	124,651	125,627	127,569	129,885	132,981	136,025	138,385	139,971	
G Attanagalla	120,900	122,537	125,135	125,880	127,387	130,058	133,023	135,908	137,582	139,243	
H Gampaha	133,606	135,460	138,142	139,361	141,687	144,152	147,280	151,060	152,932	154,739	
I Ja-Ela	127,821	130,751	133,160	133,622	135,422	138,704	143,843	148,882	151,145	153,100	
J Mahara	134,581	136,686	139,512	140,093	141,796	144,717	149,453	153,765	156,277	158,581	
K Dompe	104,155	105,793	107,601	108,536	110,245	112,475	115,356	117,896	119,607	121,136	
L Biyagama	107,786	109,931	112,583	113,668	115,042	117,747	121,702	125,324	127,217	128,683	
M Kelaniya	83,105	83,922	85,319	84,507	84,455	86,853	90,122	92,655	93,544	94,332	
Total	1,474,464	1,497,814	1,529,563	1,538,368	1,557,685	1,590,076	1,637,537	1,681,887	1,705,310	1,724,309	

Electoral District No. 03 - Kalutara

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Panadura	105,569	107,372	109,615	109,514	110,436	112,555	114,828	118,253	119,528	120,379	
B Bandaragama	118,942	121,314	124,917	126,385	128,559	131,024	133,887	137,822	140,061	142,517	
C Horana	108,781	110,552	112,931	114,561	116,915	119,927	122,511	126,320	128,508	130,583	
D Bulathsinhala	74,991	76,084	77,750	78,953	79,868	81,045	82,123	83,756	84,538	85,124	
E Mathugama	99,737	100,841	102,859	104,046	105,205	107,114	108,996	111,177	112,551	113,897	
F Kalutara	106,878	108,854	111,362	112,307	113,872	116,212	117,931	120,381	121,750	123,295	
G Beruwala	104,363	106,646	109,535	110,623	112,209	114,791	117,033	119,864	121,126	122,402	
H Agalawatta	93,972	95,258	96,657	97,220	97,830	99,146	100,040	101,802	102,839	103,545	
Total	813,233	826,921	845,626	853,609	864,894	881,814	897,349	919,375	930,901	941,742	

Electoral District No. 04 - Mahanuwara

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Galagedara	52,553	52,612	53,372	53,282	53,484	53,816	54,214	54,856	55,270	55,550	
B Harispaththuwa	147,475	147,715	150,507	151,271	152,688	154,765	157,463	160,889	162,704	164,585	
C Pathadumbara	78,688	78,777	80,864	81,485	82,896	83,974	85,375	87,092	88,252	89,288	
D Udadumbara	55,629	55,796	56,357	56,635	57,334	58,056	58,637	59,794	60,422	60,797	
E Theideniya	45,144	45,222	45,765	45,733	46,254	47,166	47,685	48,892	49,349	49,729	
F Kundasale	85,857	86,575	88,903	89,150	90,563	92,990	94,870	97,629	99,014	100,562	
G Hewaheta	65,176	65,411	66,594	66,832	67,710	68,298	69,243	70,854	71,632	72,168	
H Senkadagala	72,906	74,216	76,219	76,228	77,805	79,340	81,149	83,497	84,574	85,287	
I Mahanuwara	36,938	37,445	38,245	38,194	38,364	39,124	40,020	41,107	41,611	41,548	
J Yatinuwara	76,996	77,362	78,150	78,341	78,738	79,734	80,420	82,220	83,097	84,045	
K Uduuwara	76,812	76,994	78,548	79,206	79,945	81,023	82,298	84,328	85,163	86,234	
L Gampola	91,146	92,165	94,806	96,036	97,640	99,791	102,219	105,250	106,424	108,052	
M Nawalapitiya	85,136	86,499	89,477	90,100	91,894	93,903	95,567	97,401	98,649	99,497	
Total	970,456	976,789	997,807	1,002,493	1,015,315	1,031,980	1,049,160	1,073,809	1,086,161	1,097,342	

Electoral District No. 05 - Matale

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Dambulla	119,453	120,546	123,266	125,118	127,483	129,776	131,831	134,105	136,062	137,704	
B Laggala	64,696	65,208	66,402	67,125	68,234	69,126	70,323	71,625	72,366	72,607	
C Matale	75,154	75,652	78,091	79,337	80,854	82,717	84,225	85,946	86,954	88,115	
D Raththota	83,381	83,698	86,353	88,216	89,978	91,696	93,296	95,349	96,510	97,360	
Total	342,684	345,104	354,112	359,796	366,549	373,315	379,675	387,025	391,892	395,786	

Electoral District No. 06 - Nuwara-Eliya

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Nuwara-Eliya	247,069	253,103	264,167	268,982	284,684	294,421	302,836	312,531	317,400	320,363	
B Kotmale	70,730	71,585	73,805	73,860	75,297	76,106	78,068	80,252	81,445	82,139	
C Hanguranketha	65,969	67,076	67,907	68,335	69,128	69,981	71,053	72,143	72,980	73,642	
D Walapane	73,369	75,339	76,671	76,956	78,584	80,259	82,193	84,045	85,111	85,881	
Total	457,137	467,103	482,550	488,133	507,693	520,767	534,150	548,971	556,936	562,025	

Electoral District No. 07 - Galle

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Balapitiya	50,109	50,513	51,276	51,528	51,832	52,337	52,852	53,708	54,225	54,652	
B Ambalangoda	68,780	69,778	71,416	72,088	73,119	74,482	75,524	76,798	77,951	78,554	
C Karadeniya	67,025	68,012	69,500	70,314	70,912	71,647	72,572	74,040	74,887	75,549	
D Bentara-Elpitiya	84,772	85,287	86,370	86,882	87,808	88,704	89,500	90,826	91,665	92,059	
E Hinduma	94,245	95,142	96,715	97,268	98,436	99,617	100,757	102,352	103,325	103,774	
F Baddegama	89,805	90,554	91,821	92,621	93,458	94,708	95,641	97,080	98,162	98,686	
G Rathgama	74,442	75,298	76,292	76,581	77,062	77,698	78,182	79,599	80,323	80,471	
H Galle	71,575	72,807	74,715	75,150	76,676	78,287	79,685	81,627	82,746	83,215	
I Akmeemana	84,872	86,383	88,400	89,321	90,877	92,414	94,175	95,874	97,344	98,652	
J Habaraduwa	76,190	76,796	78,025	78,454	79,052	79,988	80,778	81,987	82,842	83,265	
Total	761,815	770,570	784,530	790,207	799,232	809,882	819,666	833,891	843,470	848,877	

Electoral District No. 08 - Matara

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Deniyaya	86,311	87,379	89,088	90,235	91,118	93,486	97,610	99,895	101,277	101,907	
B Hakmana	85,686	86,662	87,726	88,109	88,469	89,780	91,791	93,355	94,219	94,781	
C Akuressa	87,510	88,208	89,405	90,150	90,857	91,920	93,769	95,226	96,086	96,641	
D Kamburupitiya	77,705	78,408	79,521	79,350	79,571	80,321	81,524	82,457	82,928	83,436	
E Devinuwara	74,601	75,075	75,950	76,080	76,424	77,314	78,690	79,870	80,200	80,509	
F Matara	80,334	81,096	82,675	82,168	82,541	84,662	86,984	88,660	89,901	90,695	
G Weligama	86,711	87,972	89,413	89,776	90,029	91,041	93,450	95,455	96,436	96,831	
Total	578,858	584,800	593,778	595,868	599,009	608,524	623,818	634,918	641,047	644,800	

Electoral District No. 09 - Hambantota

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Mulkirigala	93,685	94,957	96,573	97,147	98,073	99,219	100,711	102,268	102,908	103,760	
B Bellatta	74,470	75,258	76,128	76,330	76,717	77,414	78,234	79,020	79,237	79,406	
C Tangalle	109,409	111,202	113,630	114,961	116,505	118,213	120,148	122,348	123,599	124,620	
D Thissamaharamaya	143,622	147,219	151,871	153,622	156,982	160,552	163,818	167,973	169,766	171,712	
Total	421,186	428,636	438,202	442,060	448,277	455,398	462,911	471,609	475,510	479,498	

Electoral District No. 10 - Jaffna

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Kayts	53,111	55,033	21,459	20,949	21,548	21,763	22,057	22,571	22,883	23,216	
B	Waddukkoddai	63,991	74,327	44,196	44,352	45,195	46,416	47,621	48,216	48,569	49,102	
C	Kankasanthurai	69,082	78,146	67,898	61,706	61,196	62,371	63,217	63,936	63,883	64,620	
D	Manipay	71,114	84,616	49,280	50,537	51,723	53,488	54,567	55,500	56,463	57,237	
E	Kopay	65,798	77,389	50,653	51,583	53,616	54,844	55,891	56,935	57,776	58,437	
F	Uduppidi	56,426	65,192	37,329	37,431	37,926	38,945	39,204	39,762	40,133	40,457	
G	Point Pedro	48,613	52,851	33,511	33,399	35,054	35,686	36,138	36,822	37,557	37,903	
H	Chawakachcheri	65,141	73,438	48,002	48,802	49,479	50,494	51,702	52,701	53,604	54,222	
I	Nalloor	72,558	87,658	40,938	40,922	42,466	45,248	46,699	47,749	48,163	48,754	
J	Jaffna	64,714	77,021	30,308	28,907	28,610	32,269	33,050	33,747	34,695	34,528	
K	Kilinochchi	90,811	90,334	61,217	63,754	68,600	75,465	79,093	81,702	84,353	86,734	
Total		721,359	816,005	484,791	482,342	495,413	516,989	529,239	539,641	548,079	555,210	

Electoral District No. 11 - Vanni

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Mannar	85,322	86,501	68,989	67,862	75,737	79,366	79,433	83,224	84,764	86,147	
B	Vavuniya	112,924	115,385	113,689	101,092	94,644	104,252	109,705	112,808	112,573	114,599	
C	Mullaitivu	68,729	68,821	53,771	52,455	53,683	58,317	63,920	67,169	71,774	72,961	
Total		266,975	270,707	236,449	221,409	224,064	241,935	253,058	263,201	269,111	273,707	

Electoral District No. 12 - Batticaloa

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Kalkuda	97,135	97,703	99,955	100,616	100,878	102,970	105,056	108,625	111,275	113,270	
B	Batticaloa	155,537	156,445	161,116	162,451	165,173	169,494	172,499	177,565	180,916	183,953	
C	Paddiruppu	80,972	81,734	83,679	84,032	83,636	85,741	87,612	89,716	91,238	92,359	
Total		333,644	335,882	344,750	347,099	349,687	358,205	365,167	375,906	383,429	389,582	

Electoral District No. 13 - Digamadulla

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Ampara	145,479	146,835	150,993	153,079	155,761	158,827	161,999	166,870	196,574	171,248	
B Samanthurai	71,442	72,881	74,743	75,640	76,849	78,668	80,357	82,529	84,200	85,895	
C Kalmunai	66,135	66,971	68,198	68,239	68,955	69,971	71,254	72,735	73,738	74,946	
D Pothuvil	137,779	139,422	142,214	144,329	146,451	149,476	152,147	155,872	158,928	161,653	
Total	420,835	426,109	436,148	441,287	448,016	456,942	465,757	478,006	513,440	493,742	

Electoral District No. 14 - Trincomalee

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Seruwil	69,047	70,691	69,966	70,141	71,522	72,728	74,070	75,375	76,007	77,234	
B Trincomalee	86,685	87,069	87,555	85,852	84,425	85,535	86,978	89,547	90,621	91,907	
C Mutur	85,401	87,395	89,369	89,370	90,929	93,427	95,804	99,446	101,468	103,681	
Total	241,133	245,155	246,890	245,363	246,876	251,690	256,852	264,368	268,096	272,822	

Electoral District No. 15 - Kurunegala

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Galgamuwa	96,354	96,908	98,209	98,981	99,915	101,879	103,488	105,417	106,309	107,140	
B Nikaweratiya	87,897	88,754	90,304	91,048	92,046	93,520	94,910	96,771	97,830	98,562	
C Yapahuwa	105,779	106,803	108,425	109,191	110,317	112,036	113,858	116,036	117,329	118,420	
D Hiriyala	92,150	92,875	93,835	94,322	95,054	96,603	97,886	99,980	101,299	102,504	
E Warriyapola	71,905	72,405	73,405	73,977	74,823	75,820	76,817	78,137	79,137	79,793	
F Panduwasnuwara	70,131	70,587	70,966	71,344	71,622	73,115	74,100	75,401	76,059	76,427	
G Bingiriya	82,441	83,046	83,932	84,674	85,241	87,025	88,306	89,934	90,928	91,654	
H Katugampola	89,310	89,566	90,591	90,966	91,654	93,390	94,505	96,196	96,889	97,460	
I Kuliypitiya	94,743	95,268	96,299	96,422	97,158	99,039	100,474	102,618	103,654	104,445	
J Dambadeniya	89,631	90,129	91,208	91,393	92,252	93,570	94,560	95,860	96,723	97,115	
K Polgahawela	73,283	73,837	74,597	75,017	75,656	76,506	77,321	78,623	79,295	80,071	
L Kurunegala	81,523	82,680	84,534	85,062	86,301	87,987	89,332	91,753	93,502	94,425	
M Mawathagama	82,656	83,758	85,696	86,351	87,559	89,265	90,682	92,688	94,030	95,202	
N Dodangaslanda	65,846	66,612	67,322	67,538	68,212	69,232	70,204	71,309	72,011	72,497	
Total	1,183,649	1,193,228	1,209,323	1,216,286	1,227,810	1,248,987	1,266,443	1,290,723	1,304,995	1,315,715	

Electoral District No. 16 - Puttalam

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Puttalam	102,643	103,897	107,720	111,943	115,165	120,546	125,702	132,374	135,790	139,701	
B	Anamaduwa	101,696	102,696	104,546	105,771	107,886	110,658	112,978	116,171	117,885	119,309	
C	Chillaw	108,244	109,066	110,426	111,670	113,388	115,896	118,171	120,939	122,741	123,852	
D	Naththandiya	83,218	84,303	85,339	85,875	86,577	88,594	89,975	92,258	93,708	94,651	
E	Wennappuwa	99,774	100,789	101,683	102,298	103,392	105,012	106,183	108,567	109,480	110,170	
Total		495,575	500,751	509,714	517,557	526,408	540,706	553,009	570,309	579,604	587,683	

Electoral District No. 17 - Anuradhapura

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Medawachchiya	75,683	76,180	77,235	78,545	79,798	80,540	81,996	84,532	87,814	89,113	
B	Horowpathana	73,590	74,340	75,659	76,941	78,179	79,450	81,099	83,197	84,292	85,337	
C	Anuradhapura East	88,157	89,311	91,051	92,376	94,447	95,879	97,576	100,541	101,966	103,230	
D	Anuradhapura West	93,534	94,818	96,576	97,333	99,285	100,912	102,691	105,679	107,064	108,122	
E	Kalawewa	115,275	116,878	119,040	120,545	122,269	123,257	125,162	127,728	129,343	130,449	
F	Mihinthale	59,137	59,698	60,898	61,689	62,678	63,665	64,778	66,720	67,685	68,548	
G	Kekirawa	73,885	74,709	77,815	79,079	80,247	82,037	83,431	84,754	85,999	87,362	
Total		579,261	585,934	598,274	606,508	616,903	625,740	636,733	653,151	664,163	672,161	

Electoral District No. 18 - Polonnaruwa

Letter and Names of Polling Division		Number of Electors in each Year										
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A	Minneriya	77,084	77,993	79,150	80,050	81,214	82,507	83,395	85,218	86,247	87,113	
B	Medirigiriya	72,402	73,468	74,640	75,069	75,945	76,884	77,505	79,488	80,087	80,889	
C	Polonnaruwa	130,851	132,818	136,704	139,246	141,194	143,801	146,225	149,659	152,071	153,592	
Total		280,337	284,279	290,494	294,365	298,353	303,192	307,125	314,365	318,405	321,594	

Electoral District No. 19 - Badulla

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Mahiyanganaya	85,562	87,023	88,930	89,817	91,095	93,387	95,715	98,579	100,114	101,623	
B Vivaluwa	48,231	48,680	49,388	49,474	49,888	50,648	51,295	52,471	53,031	53,548	
C Passara	60,002	60,554	61,473	61,041	60,794	61,933	62,901	64,400	65,104	65,384	
D Badulla	51,468	52,622	52,908	52,574	52,912	54,327	55,185	56,438	57,212	57,739	
E Hali Ela	63,124	64,270	64,992	65,471	65,756	68,278	69,909	71,482	72,208	72,680	
F Uva Paranagama	59,472	59,745	60,426	60,542	60,980	61,925	62,689	63,831	64,338	64,600	
G Welimada	68,937	70,022	71,148	70,990	71,751	73,308	74,436	76,520	77,575	78,382	
H Bandarawela	77,312	78,272	79,697	79,576	80,351	82,025	83,147	85,325	86,336	87,288	
I Haputale	60,706	60,783	61,379	61,807	62,005	64,135	65,209	67,001	67,662	68,228	
Total	574,814	581,971	590,341	591,292	595,532	609,966	620,486	636,047	643,580	649,472	

Electoral District No. 20 - Moneragala

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Bibila	74,692	76,199	78,054	78,847	80,096	81,564	83,003	85,327	86,506	87,688	
B Moneragala	96,386	98,634	100,703	101,638	103,361	105,741	107,678	111,209	112,547	113,959	
C Wellawaya	129,564	133,397	136,695	139,072	141,885	145,459	149,116	153,940	156,421	158,721	
Total	300,642	308,230	315,452	319,557	325,342	332,764	339,797	350,476	355,474	360,368	

Electoral District No. 21 - Ratnapura

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Eheliyagoda	89,518	90,650	92,205	92,845	93,607	94,867	96,170	98,312	99,195	99,848	
B Ratnapura	108,122	110,050	113,018	114,426	116,667	119,011	121,108	123,974	125,840	127,148	
C Pelmadulla	75,685	76,793	78,327	79,253	80,979	82,414	83,934	86,746	88,130	89,123	
D Balangoda	96,855	98,407	100,447	101,506	103,244	104,792	106,575	109,420	111,441	112,829	
E Rakwana	92,891	94,272	95,738	97,049	98,788	100,524	102,618	105,704	107,346	108,371	
F Nivithigala	86,973	88,119	90,132	91,156	92,824	94,281	96,156	99,067	100,188	100,917	
G Kalawana	57,232	58,290	59,375	60,147	61,048	62,055	62,773	64,520	65,536	66,326	
H Kolonna	127,375	129,448	132,094	133,432	135,519	137,815	140,748	143,836	146,158	147,911	
Total	734,651	746,029	761,336	769,814	782,676	795,759	810,082	831,579	843,834	852,473	

Electoral District No. 22 - Kegalle

Letter and Names of Polling Division	Number of Electors in each Year										
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
A Dedigama	83,554	84,324	85,333	85,488	85,997	87,119	87,800	88,946	89,562	89,943	
B Galigamuwa	64,565	65,021	65,920	66,071	66,245	66,936	67,375	68,101	68,425	68,701	
C Kegalle	67,118	67,828	68,978	69,151	70,159	70,719	71,183	72,320	72,676	73,112	
D Rambukkana	62,325	62,800	63,419	63,667	64,112	64,829	65,337	66,432	67,111	67,521	
E Mawanella	83,066	84,195	85,907	86,606	87,640	89,437	90,627	92,362	93,464	94,485	
F Aranyaka	51,391	51,792	52,254	52,457	52,718	53,113	53,207	53,941	54,034	53,975	
G Yatiyanthota	69,964	70,632	71,589	71,991	72,624	73,626	74,244	75,739	76,091	76,636	
H Ruwanwella	70,448	71,222	72,154	72,128	72,460	73,069	73,498	75,083	75,785	76,425	
I Deraniyagala	61,507	62,276	64,115	64,422	64,883	65,955	66,607	68,078	68,669	68,772	
Total	613,938	620,090	629,669	631,981	636,838	644,803	649,878	661,002	665,817	669,570	

Table XIII

The list of recognized political parties declared by the Election Commission on 17.11.2017 in terms of Section 7 (4) (B) of Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981

1	Ahila Ilankai Tamil Congress
2	Akhila Ilankai Tamil Mahasabha
3	Our National Front
4	Ilankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi
5	Eelam People's Democratic Party
6	Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front
7	United People's Freedom Alliance
8	United National Freedom Front
9	United National Party
10	Democratic Unity Alliance
11	United People's Party
12	Eksath Lanka Maha Saba party
13	United Left Front
14	United Socialist Party
15	United Peace Front
16	Okkoma Wasiyo Okkoma Rajawaru Sanvidhanaya
17	Up-Country People's Front
18	Workers National Front
19	People's Liberation Front
20	Democratic Tamil National Alliance
21	Jana Setha Peramuna
22	National Congress
23	National People's Party
24	National Freedom Front
25	Nationl Unity Alliance
26	Jathika Hela Urumaya
27	Nationalities Unity Organization
28	Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal
29	Social Democratic Party of Tamils
30	Desha Vimukthi Janatha Pakshaya
31	Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization
32	Tamil United Liberation Front
33	New Democratic Front
34	Nawa Sama Samaja Party
35	Nawa Sihala Urumaya
36	Purawesi Peramuna
37	Frontline Socialist Party
38	People's Alliance
39	Democratic United National Front
40	Democratic People's Front
41	Democratic People's Liberation Front
42	Democratic National Movement
43	Democratic National Alliance
44	Democratic Party
45	Democratic Left Front
46	Maubima Janatha Pakshaya
47	Mahajana Eksath Peramuna
48	Muslim National Alliance
49	National Front for Good Governance
50	Ceylon Worker's Congress (P.Wing)
51	Lanka Sama Samaja Party
52	The Liberal Party
53	Sri Lanka Labour Party
54	Sri Lanka National Force
55	Sri Lanka Freedom Party
56	Sri Lanka Vanguard Party
57	Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna
58	Sri Lanka Mahajana Pakshaya
59	Sri Lanka Muslim Congress
60	Communist Party of Sri Lanka
61	Socialist Party of Sri Lanka
62	Socialist Alliance
63	Socialist Equality Party
64	Sinhaladeepa Jathika Peramuna

Recognized Political Parties with problems about the office of the Secretary

65	All Ceylon Makkal Congress
66	Eelavar Democratic Front
67	United democratic Front
68	Eksath Lanka Podujana Pakshaya
69	Jathika Sangwardhena Peramuna
70	Sri Lanka Prograssive Front

Table XIV

Filling of the Vacancies in the Memberships of Parliament - 2017

Electoral District / Whether the vacancy filled under Article - 99 A of the Constitution	Name of the Member whose seat in the Parliament has fallen vacant	Political Party / Independent Group	Reason to Create the Vacancy	Date of notice of the vacancy by the Secretary General of the Parliament	Name of the new member / Action taken	Mode of Filling the vacancy	No. and Date of relevant Gazette
According to Electoral Districts	Geetha Samanmalee Kumarasingha	United People's Freedom Alliance	Supreme Court Decision on Duel Citizenship	06.11.2017	Ihala Medagama Gamage Piyasena	Under Section 64(2) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981	2044/27 08.11.2017

Table XV

Filling of the Vacancies in the Memberships Of Provincial Councils - 2017

Provincial Council	Administrative District	Name of the Member whose seat was Vacated	Political Party / Independent Group	Date of notice given by the Provincial Council Secretary	Reason for Vacancy	Name of the member who was elected/ action taken	Gazette No.	Date of the relevant Gazette
Western	Colombo	S. Kuhawaradana	United Progressive Alliance	21.12.2017	Resignation	Stanly Anthony Shamugam	2055/33	24.01.2018
	Colombo	Uswatta Liyanage Senaka Damayanta De Silva	United National Party	19.12.2017	Resignation	Krishantha Yogadas Pancharathnam Ram	2052/27	05.01.2018
	Gampaha	Jayaweera Arachchige Royze Vijitha Fernando	United National Party	18.12.2017	Resignation	Sudasing Manchanayake Appuhamilage Kithsiri Manchanayake	2058/27	14.02.2018
	Gampaha	Madampe Appuhamilage Manjula Prasanna Sampath	United National Party	12.12.2017	Resignation	Uthuwana Pathirannehelage Chandrasoma Saranalal	2055/33	24.01.2018
	Nuwara Eliya	Dunuthilaka Mudiyansele Renuka Menike Herath	United National Party	15.03.2017	Death	Asoka Priyantha Bandara Herath Herath Mudiyansele	2012/28	30.03.2017
	Kandy	Ashoka Jagath Wijenayake	United People's Freedom Alliance	17.04.2017	Death	H. A. Ranasinghe	2016/45	28.04.2017
Southern	Vacancies hve not been Created							

Northern	Vavuniya	Sendilnadan Mayuran	Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	01.07.2017	Resignation	Rathnalingam Jeyasekaran	2029/22	25.07.2017
	Mannar	Abbas Abdul Rifkahn	United People's Freedom Alliance	09.10.2017	Resignation	Abbas Alikhan Shareef	2042/22	26.10.2017
	Mannar	Habeebu Mohamadu Razees	Sri Lanka Muslim Congress	05.12.2017	Resignation	Abdul Niyaz Seeni Mohammed	2055/34	24.01.2018
	Jaffna	Immanuel Arnold	Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi	14.12.2017	Resignation	Sabarathnam Kugadas	2055/34	24.01.2018
Eastern	Vacancies hve not been Created							
North Western	Vacancies hve not been Created							
Uva	Moneragala	Attanayake Mudiyanseelage Kithsiri Senarath Bandara Attanayake	United People's Freedom Alliance	29.08.2017	Death	Kuda Bandara Medawela	2036/22	13.09.2017
North Central	Vacancies hve not been Created							
Sabaragamuw a	Vacancies hve not been Created							

Table XVI

Details of officials of the Election Commission who retired from Government Service during the Year-2017

Serial No.	Name of the Officer	Designation	Date of assuming duties at the Department of Elections	Office Served at the time of retirement	Date of retirement	Service Period						Date of first appointment of the Government Service
						Total period in the Government Service		Service period in the Department of Elections			Days	
						Years	Months	Days	Years	Months		
1	Mr. U. Amaradasa	Director General of Elections	01.03.1985	Election Commission	08.02.2017	32	11	7	31	11	7	01.03.1984
2	Mr. A. O. M. Nafeel	Deputy Election Commissioner	01.12.1993	Vavuniya	14.04.2017	24	4	29	23	4	13	16.11.1992
3	Mrs Damayanthi Wanigasinghe	Administrative Officer	06.02.1979	Colombo District Office	11.07.2017	38	5	5	28	3	0	06.02.1979
4	Mrs G. H. Bandumathie	Administrative Officer	14.11.1995	Election Commission	12.02.2017	36	6	12	21	2	29	31.07.1980
5	Mrs W. M. M. R. Weeraratne	Administrative Officer (Actg.) P.M.A.S. 1	06.02.1979	Gampaha	28.11.2017	38	9	22	38	9	22	06.02.1979
6	Mr. M. T. K. Bandula	P.M.A.S. 1	01.09.1980	Galle	15.10.2017	37	1	14	37	1	14	01.09.1980
7	Miss M. W. C. M. Witharane	Chief Management Assistant, P.M.A.S. 1	03.04.2002	Head Office	11.07.2017	36	10	23	15	3	8	18.08.1980
8	Mrs P. K. J. Gunasekara	P.M.A.S. 1	23.06.2007	Kurunegala	05.05.2017	36	8	15	9	10	12	20.08.1980
9	Mr. H. M. Sunil	Chief Management Assistant, P.M.A.S. 1	11.06.1992	Kalutara	03.06.2017	36	8	9	24	11	23	25.09.1980
10	Mr. B. Sumanadasa	P.M.A.S. 1	21.04.1993	Galle	02.03.2017	36	7	6	23	10	9	24.07.1980
11	Mrs. H. M. Dayawathie	P.M.A.S. 1	11.01.1993	Moneragala	05.01.2017	36	3	18	23	11	25	18.09.1980

12	Mrs. D. M. Wickramasekara	P.M.A.S. 1	05.02.1991	Kalutara	01.02.2017	35	10	29	25	11	27	03.03.1981
13	Mr. S. M. A. A. Ashokathilaka	Administrative Officer(Actg.) P.M.A.S. 1	31.03.1993	Anuradhapura	24.12.2017	30	10	22	24	8	23	02.02.1987
14	Mr. M. R. M. Nisthar	Chief Management Assistant, Administrative Officer(Actg.) P.M.A.S. 1	01.09.1988	Hambanthota	17.11.2017	29	2	6	29	2	16	11.09.1988
15	Mr. S. B. Disanayake	P.M.A.S. 1	08.08.1997	Anuradhapura	01.07.2017	28	10	0	19	10	23	01.09.1988
16	Mr. H. N. M. G. Jayarathne	P.M.A.S. 1	05.05.2010	Puttalam	01.07.2017	25	7	25	7	1	26	06.11.1991
17	Mrs. D. A. J. S. Ranathunge	P.M.A.S. 1	06.02.2008	Gampaha	13.04.2017	28	7	12	9	2	7	01.09.1988
18	Mrs. L. P. Premathilake	P.M.A.S. 1	01.03.1991	Matale	11.10.2017	26	7	10	26	7	10	01.03.1991
19	Mr. A. M. D. R. Alagiyawanna	Chief Management Assistant, P.M.A.S. 11	01.01.1999	Gampaha	13.04.2017	36	8	16	18	3	12	28.07.1980
20	Mr. H. D. M. Gunapala	P.M.A.S. 11	15.05.2009	Badulla	30.03.2017	28	6	27	7	10	15	31.08.1988
21	Mrs. W. A. Siriyalatha	P.M.A.S. 11	01.03.2005	Colombo District Office	12.11.2017	26	11	16	12	8	11	27.11.1990
22	Mr. P. G. Ariyathilake	O. E.S. (Special Grade)	01.12.1983	Matara	30.08.2017	33	8	29	33	8	29	01.12.1983
23	Mr. B. G. S. Edirisooriya	Driver (Special Grade)	01.01.2004	Hambanthota	14.02.2017	25	6	13	13	1	13	01.08.1991