

**PAFFREL calls for easy facilitation of...**

# Franchise for 'Special Needs Groups'

**BY RUWAN LAKNATH  
JAYAKODY**

Elections monitoring body, People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), called for the setting up of a mechanism which would allow for groups with special needs and requirements to exercise their franchise with ease.

Executive Director of PAFFREL, Rohana Hettiarachchi said that in amending the electoral system, it was essential that an electronic electoral system along with an advanced voting system which allowed for the electors within the country and overseas, who cannot go to the polling station on the day of the election like those employed in the provision of essential services (for an example, nurses, doctors, patients, prisoners and polls monitors) and groups with practical difficulties along with those temporarily

living abroad, to use their vote.

The registration of the right to vote must be established at the time of the registration of the birth of an individual, he explained. A mechanism must be put in place for posters and cut-outs to be printed by the Election Commission following the idea being given by the candidate, he explained, adding that the posters and cut-outs should be of the same size, colour and quantity.

Aside to having specific locations for the display of the posters and cut-outs, a mechanism must be put in place to protect the display boards, he mentioned, adding that there should be stringent laws against those who give bribes to voters, and those who take bribes should be made to lose their voting right and pay back ten times the worth of the value of the bribe they received and took.