

Politicians flouting health guidelines PAFFREL complains to AIGP

People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), submitting a letter to Acting Inspector General of Police, C.D. Wickramaratne, has drawn his attention to the fact that most of the political parties and contestants who are due to contest the 5 August General Election tend to act oblivious to the health guidelines formulated by the Director General of Health Services and gazetted by the Minister of Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the public.

They have informed Wickramaratne that such ignorant actions by political parties and candidates could seriously imperil the lives of the voters and hence the effective intervention of the Police is needed to ensure that not only the political parties and candidates, but even the people who converge at Election rallies, adhere to the health guidelines strictly.

The election watchdog has stated

that if the Police fail to ensure that this task is followed to the letter, it could also seriously impede staging a free and fair Poll next month.

PAFFREL has pointed out to Wickramaratne that as per provisions contained in Section 6 of the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance, the Police have the power to detain all those who flout the Ordinance.

But, they have observed that the Police have shown remarkable ignorance in attempting to enforce the law when certain politicians are tending to violate the provisions contained in the Ordinance through their conduct in the run-up to the August Poll.

Hence, PAFFREL has urged Wickramaratne to enact the law against those who violate the provisions contained in the Ordinance, irrespective of their status or popularity in society.