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1987-1989 මැතිවරණ ප්‍රචණ්ඩත්වය කෙරෙහි විශේෂ අවධානය සහිතව.

(A Study of Election Administration in Sri Lanka with Special Reference to
Electoral Violence during 1987 - 1989.)

එම්. ඩබ්ලිව්. අනුල ගාමිණී විතානවසම්

ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ ජේරාදේණිය විශ්වවිද්‍යාලයේ ශාස්ත්‍රපති උපාධිය සඳහා ඉදිරිපත් කැරෙන
පර්යේෂණ නිබන්ධනය

පර්යේෂණ අධීක්ෂක

ආචාර්ය ඒ. එම්. නවරත්න බණ්ඩාර

දේශපාලන විද්‍යා දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව
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Abstract

Electoral administration bears heavy responsibility in putting representative democracy into practice. Administering an election for democratic purposes necessarily involves an effective electoral administration mechanism.

It is the purpose of this study to examine the role of the electoral mechanism in running representative democracy in the context of Sri Lanka. The study identifies the factors necessary for the election mechanism to conduct a free and fair election under circumstances of anti-election violence. In addition, it identifies the essential political factors that should be present if the electoral mechanism were to succeed. For this purpose, the elections held between 1988 - 1989 have been analyzed and these include the provincial council elections, presidential elections and the parliamentary elections, i.e. wherever the LTTE and the JVP influenced the electoral administration.

The study revealed that widespread violence was directed against these elections by the LTTE in northern and eastern areas and the JVP in the rest of the country. The strategy of these violent organizations was two - pronged : on the one hand they attacked the contesting political parties and the voters. On the other hand, they directed their violence against all electoral machinery with the intention of sabotaging the administering of the election. From the point of initial arrangements right up to the time of transporting ballot boxes to the counting centers violence was evident. Violence very much affected the processing of postal votes, staffing and their transportation, preparation and distribution of poll cards, instituting polling stations,

administering polling stations and returning the ballot boxes to the counting centers. In the face of anti - election violence, the election authorities took a series of steps to restore the administrative machinery with the intention of regularizing the administration process. Despite this effort, the election administration failed to have free and fair elections.

The study identifies that, unlike in normal circumstances, several other factors are required for the efficient administration of an election during a period of violence. These factors have been identified in the following fields: legal provisions, the security mechanism, the political party system and civil society. It was recognized that the contribution made by these factors towards the fulfillment of a free and fair election was inadequate.