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Use biometrics to capture voter info - ANFREL

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By Ruwan Laknath Jayakody

Local stakeholders should study the use of biometrics in capturing voter information to further promote the authenticity of voter data and the registration process should capture data on the differently-abled and the elderly to better prepare the Election Commission (EC) on the needs that should be provided to these sectors during polling.

These recommendations were made by the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) in their International Election Observation Mission Report titled The 2019 Sri Lankan Presidential Election: A Deepening Political Divide.

Regarding voter registration, ANFREL proposed that the EC should continue an active voter registration system which encourages regular updates to the voter registry and maintain accuracy and authenticity of the voter list and to further improve it by identifying the number of male and female voters, the number of voters with disabilities and the number of elderly voters per constituency.

The Parliament, ANFREL suggested, should amend the Registration of Electors Act, No. 44 of 1980 (As Amended) to have supplemental registers after the cut-off date to allow for the enfranchisement of all voters aged 18 on Election day.



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