Presidential Election 2015: Perspectives and Outcomes

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Highlights:

- Both, secondary (80%) and primary (20%) data have been used. Basically, the past results of Presidential Elections (1982-2010), Parliamentary Elections (2001, 2004 and 2010) and the Provincial Council Elections (2012-2014) were used at all level.

- The post war approaches of the present government (UPFA) toward democracy, good governance, national unity and integration will be reflected in the outcomes, where corruptions, accountability, poverty, nepotism, patriotism, violence, nationalism and communalism will be highly focused, while paying a bit of attention on development measures and the war victory.

- Party Strength

Table 01: **Cumulative results of Provincial Council Elections (2012-14)**

	GOVERNMENT			OPPOSITION			OTHERS	
UPFA	4,944,572	53.99%	UNP	2,413,659	26.35%	SLMC	236,260	2.58%
NFF	14,357	0.16%	JVP	367,003	4.01%	ACMC	15,491	0.17%
CWC	63,486	0.69%	DP	376,728	4.11%	DUA	5,045	0.22%
UCPF	23,913	0.27%	ITAK	547,422	5.98%	Others	99,343	1.08%
			DPF	51,000	4.11%			
Total	**5,046,328**	**55.10%**	**Total**	**3,755,812**	**41.01%**	**Total**	**356,139**	**3.89%**

- The voting behavior would vary based on the ethno-religious, socio-economic and the regional context.

Table 01: **Estimated Number of Electors by the Major Ethno-Religious Groups**

Sinhalese Buddhist	70.19%	10,559,728
Sinhalese Christian	4.69%	705,587
Sri Lanka Tamil (Hindu/Christian)	11.21%	1,686,487
Indian Tamil (Hindu/Christian)	4.16%	625,851
Islam (Moor & Malay)	9.71%	1,460,820
Others	0.04%	6,018
Total	**100.00%**	**15,044,490**

- "Declining Popularity" is the accepted parameter in the electoral political analysis. At the first presidential election which held in 1982, J.R. Jayawardena was able to obtain 52.91% votes, although his party got a land slide victory with a majority of 5/6 in the Parliamentary Election held in 1977. The fourth Executive President Chandrika Bandaranaike who secured 62.28% in 1994 was declined to 51.12% in 1999 with an annual drop rate of 2.23%.

- Accordingly, the popularity of President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the ruling UPFA (57.88%) have been declined by 10% - 15% since 2010, at the annual rate of 2.5% - 3%.

Table 02: **Drop in UPFA Vote Base in the Provincial Elections (2009-2014)**

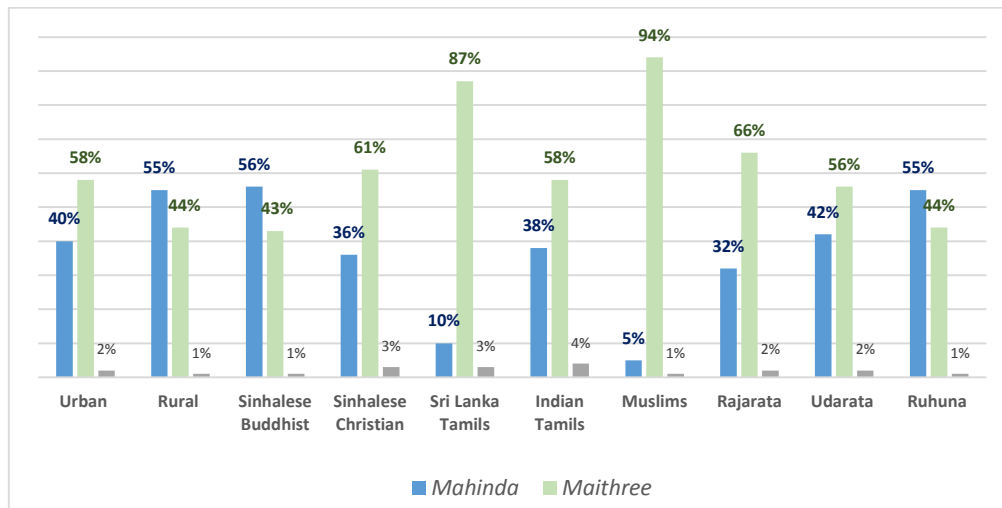| Province	2009	2014	Change
Uva	418,906	349,906	(69,000)
	72.39%	51.25%	*-19.72%*
Southern	804,071	699,408	(104,663)
	67.88%	58.06%	*-14.96%*
Western	1,506,115	1,363,675	(142,440)
	64.73%	53.35%	*-10.45%*

- It is noteworthy that the rural voters in the South are the main decisive factor in any national elections, because they hold around 50% of the total votes. Although Mahinda Rajapaksa was able to obtain 2/3 from the rural base in 2010, now it has been dropped by 12% in the Ruhuna Region (base of Mahinda), 20% in Udarata (Hill country) and 50% - 70% in Rajarata (base of Maithree). It is a huge setback for Mahinda Rajapaksa, since he is about to lost in the urban and the minority electorates in the Northern, Western and Eastern provinces.

Table 03: **Presidential Election 2010: voting behaviour in the Rural Region of Southern Sri Lanka**

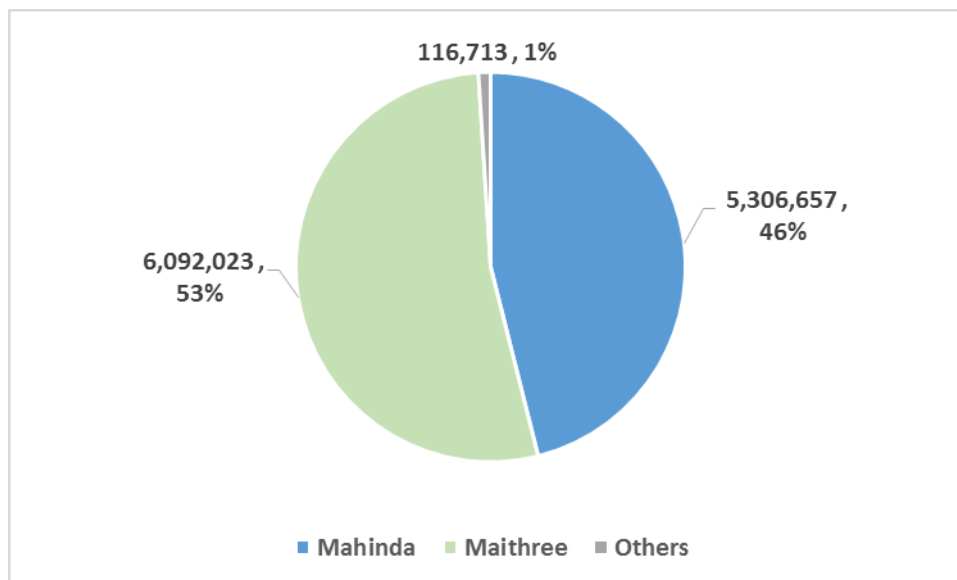| #	Electorate	MR	SF
1	Homagama	66.62%	32.50%
2	Horana	66.34%	32.21%
3	Dompe	69.79%	29.04%
4	Karandeniya	71.01%	27.37%
5	Kamburubitiya	70.04%	28.37%
6	Beliatta	66.93%	31.59%
7	Uda-Dumbara	65.31%	31.77%
8	Dambulla	65.97%	32.03%
9	Hanguranketa	61.43%	34.69%
10	Seruwila	63.10%	34.47%
11	Ampara	67.94%	30.45%
12	Medawachchi	69.25%	28.80%
13	Minneriya	69.48%	28.98%
14	Wariyapola	68.09%	30.38%
15	Aanamaduwa	70.37%	27.67%
16	Mahiyangana	60.26%	37.67%
17	Wellawaya	70.12%	28.10%
18	Kalawana	67.81%	30.14%
19	Rambukkana	64.20%	34.33%
	Average	*67.06%*	*31.08%*

- It was observed that generally the views of the voters are divided as follows;

Chart 01: *Voting Behaviour by Key Variables*

(Bar chart — Voting Behaviour by Key Variables. Legend: Mahinda, Maithree)

Category	Mahinda	Maithree	Others
Urban	40%	58%	2%
Rural	55%	44%	1%
Sinhalese Buddhist	56%	43%	1%
Sinhalese Christian	36%	61%	3%
Sri Lanka Tamils	10%	87%	3%
Indian Tamils	38%	58%	4%
Muslims	5%	94%	1%
Rajarata	32%	66%	2%
Udarata	42%	56%	2%
Ruhuna	55%	44%	1%

- The error margin is ±2.0%. Approximately 10% of the voters who are identified as the secondary floating voters may be influenced by the manipulations and electoral violence which is expected to be held at last movement.

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- Therefore, the result of the Presidential Election 2015 can be predicted as:

Chart 02: *The Result of Presidential Election 2015*

(Pie chart — The Result of Presidential Election 2015. Legend: Mahinda, Maithree, Others)

- 116,713 , 1%
- 5,306,657 , 46%
- 6,092,023 , 53%

Elec. District	Reg. Voters	Total Poll	Reject.	Valid Votes	Mahinda	Maithree	Others
Colombo	1,586,598	1,221,680	10,995	1,210,685	544,808	653,770	12,107
		77%	0.9%	99.1%	45%	54%	1.0%
Gampaha	1,637,537	1,293,654	10,349	1,283,305	628,819	654,486	12,833
		79%	0.8%	99.2%	49%	51%	1%
Kalutara	897,349	717,879	5,025	712,854	349,298	363,556	7,129
		80%	0.7%	99.3%	49%	51%	1%
Mahanuwara	1,049,160	818,345	8,183	810,161	372,674	429,386	8,102
		78%	1.0%	99%	46%	53%	1%
Matale	379,675	292,350	2,923	289,426	140,372	146,450	2,605
		77%	1.0%	99.0%	48.5%	50.6%	0.9%
Nuwara Eliya	534,150	411,296	8,226	403,070	149,136	245,872	8,061
		77%	2.0%	98.0%	37%	61.0%	2.0%
Galle	819,666	655,733	4,590	651,143	364,640	280,642	5,860
		80%	0.7%	99%	56.0%	43.1%	0.9%
Matara	623,818	486,578	3,406	483,172	275,408	203,415	4,349
		78%	0.7%	99%	57.0%	42.1%	0.9%
Hambantota	462,911	370,329	2,592	367,736	202,255	162,172	3,310
		80%	0.7%	99%	55%	44.1%	0.9%
Jaffna	529,239	333,421	5,001	328,419	41,052	282,441	4,926
		63%	1.5%	98.5%	12.5%	86%	1.5%
Vanni	253,058	182,202	3,644	178,558	16,070	159,809	2,678
		72%	2%	98%	9.00%	89.5%	1.5%
Batticaloa	365,167	244,662	3,670	240,992	26,509	210,868	3,615
		67%	1.5%	98.5%	11%	87.5%	1.5%
Digamadulla	465,757	344,660	3,102	341,558	99,052	239,091	3,416
		74%	0.9%	99%	29%	70%	1%
Trincomalee	256,852	179,796	2,517	177,279	49,638	125,868	1,773
		70%	1.4%	98.6%	28%	71%	1%
Kurunegala	1,266,443	987,826	6,915	980,911	549,310	421,792	9,809
		78%	0.7%	99.3%	56%	43%	1%
Puttalam	553,009	398,166	3,185	394,981	193,541	197,491	3,950
		72%	0.8%	99.2%	49%	50%	1%
Anuradhapura	636,733	503,019	4,024	498,995	239,518	255,485	3,992
		79%	0.8%	99.2%	48.0%	51.2%	0.8%
Polonnaruwa	307,125	248,771	1,741	247,030	82,755	163,040	1,235
		81%	0.7%	99.3%	33.5%	66.0%	0.5%
Badulla	620,486	490,184	6,372	483,812	212,877	266,096	4,838
		79%	1.3%	99%	44%	55%	1%
Monaragala	339,797	261,644	2,616	259,027	145,055	111,900	2,072
		77%	1%	99%	56%	43.2%	0.8%
Ratnapura	810,082	648,066	4,536	643,529	353,941	284,118	5,470
		80%	0.7%	99.3%	55%	44.15%	0.85%
Kegalle	649,878	513,404	4,107	509,296	269,927	234,276	4,584
		79%	0.8%	99.2%	53%	46.0%	0.9%
TOTAL	15,044,490	11,603,664	107,723	11,495,940	5,306,657	6,092,023	116,713
		77.13%	0.93%	99.07%	46.16%	52.99%	1.02%

- The report is published on 2nd January 2015.