



CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES  
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மாற்றுக் கொள்கைகளுக்கான நிலையம்

## CPA Intervenes on the Challenge to the Proposed Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution

**12<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Colombo, Sri Lanka:** The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) and its Executive Director, Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, filed papers today intervening in the [petition filed by Udaya Gammanpila, MP](#) challenging '[The Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution](#)' (The Bill), a Private Member's Bill tabled in Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 by Vijitha Herath, MP. The proposed Bill seeks to make significant changes to the office of the Executive President. In terms of the Bill the President would no longer be the Head of Government and would be elected for a five-year term by a simple majority in Parliament.

CPA's intervention in this case is a reiteration of its longstanding position on the need to abolish the Executive Presidency. The promise to abolish the executive presidency has received the continuous support of the citizens of Sri Lanka including affirmation at every Presidential election since 1994. CPA has consistently advocated this position and was the only civil society organization that challenged the [18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution](#) which expanded the powers of the Executive Presidency in an arbitrary and anti-democratic manner. CPA also supported the [19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution](#) which sought to curtail some of the powers provided by the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and ushered in key reforms. At this time, CPA thus sees the proposed Bill as the most viable avenue of reform in order to achieve the single most important pledge on which the current President and Government were elected to office in 2015.