Transparency Maldives launches training for Long-Term Observers for Presidential Elections

6 July 2013: Transparency Maldives has started a training programme for its Long-Term Observers for the upcoming Presidential Elections in the Maldives. The three-day training programme started on Saturday.

The long-term election observation – the first of its kind in the Maldives – will cover all atolls of the country and will consist of up to 42 observers deployed in selected islands.

The LTOs will monitor areas such as campaigning, pre-election electoral processes, voter education, vote buying and misuse of state resources. The LTOs will regularly meet with all key stakeholders and seek their feedback.

The objectives of the long-term observation include increasing confidence in the electoral processes, increase civil society participation in the democratic process, and make recommendations on areas that could be further improved.

At the function to launch the training, President of the Elections Commission, Mr Fuad Thaufeeq, addressed the participants, highlighting the need for domestic observers and the positive role of domestic observers in strengthening the electoral system.

The training is conducted by experts and representatives from relevant state institutions, including the Elections Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, the Maldives Police Service, and staff of Transparency Maldives.

Commenting on the training, TM’s Executive Director Ilham Mohamed said: “We are excited to experiment the first ever systematic long-term domestic election observation in the Maldives. We are preparing for a comprehensive Election Day observation recruiting up to 200 observers who will be assigned to randomly selected ballot boxes.

“We thank and recognize the contributions of domestic elections observers towards a credible elections.”

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