
ANNUAL REPORT

2016

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Transparency Maldives (TM), National Contact of Transparency International (TI), is a nonpartisan organization that promotes collaboration, awareness and other initiatives to improve governance and eliminate corruption from the daily lives of people. TM views corruption as a systemic issues and advocates for institutional changes that will punish and prevent corruption.

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THE YEAR 2016

It has been a busy year at Transparency Maldives.

We launched our #DropTheCase campaign in solidarity with local whistleblower Gasim Abdul Kareem who was arrested and prosecuted for exposing the bank account details of a company in the thick of the MMPRC grand corruption scandal – one of the biggest corruption scandals the country has ever seen. Although Kareem was sentenced to 8 months and 12 days in prison, the campaign sparked a public debate about whistleblowing for the first time in the country's history and Kareem was rallied locally and internationally as an anti-corruption hero. In November, Kareem was among the four anti-corruption heroes short-listed for Transparency International's 2016 Anti-Corruption Award.

In 2016, the Maldivian people joined us in our call for transparency, accountability and integrity in the public sector. Our #haamakurey campaign called MPs to declare and disclose their asset declarations. The public joined our call and began asking their MPs to make their asset declaration documents publicly available. As a result, 11 MPs publicised their asset declarations. But best of all, the public and media scrutinised these asset declaration documents and began to question the effectiveness of the current asset declaration system.

We introduced a televised panel discussion series focussing on a range of political and civil rights issues. The first panel discussion, Hiyaanai, was held following the exposure of the MMPRC corruption scandal. The next three panel discussions were held under the banner of Daganaa and the themes discussed include civil and political rights, Anti Defamation Bill, and decentralisation in the Maldives.

Our two-day human rights conference brought together human rights actors, the government, the legal community, and civil society organisations to discuss pressing human rights issues in the country. The conference was enriched by the presence of the Bhutanese journalist Namgay Zam who shared her experiences as a journalist facing defamation charges back home in Bhutan.

Like previous years, we continued to do what we love best – working with young people to prepare them for effective citizenship and instill in them key civic values that are required to create a society that respects diversity, human rights and democracy. This year we held two Youth Integrity Camps, one in Hanimaadhoo and the other in Fuvahmulah. We also conducted 48 workshops in 8 atolls on Maldivian heritage and civic responsibilities.

Despite immense government crackdown on dissent and free speech, our efforts to promote good governance and eliminate corruption has been possible through the tireless dedication of its staff, who continue to put in extraordinary effort, as well as our board members, who give their time and expertise to guide our work.

We are grateful for the generosity of our funders and the time and dedication given by our volunteers and interns.

MISSION

“Transparency Maldives strives to act as a catalyst for reforms that improve transparency and accountability in all sectors, to raise public awareness of and initiate public discussion on corruption and its detrimental effects on society and development, and to collaborate with individuals, state institutions, businesses, media, civil society organisations, local communities, religious and cultural entities, among others, in the fight against corruption in all its forms.”

VISION

“A Maldives in which the State, politics, business, civil society, and the daily lives of all people are free from corruption, which in turn will ensure transparent and accountable governance, leading to greater equality and social justice for all”

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1. ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Much of TM's advocacy messages, campaigns and lobbying efforts are designed to mobilize grassroots support and to get citizens to join the call for transparency, accountability and integrity in the public sector. As such, in 2016 TM utilized various mediums to advocate on issues and to get public support for our campaigns.



1.1 JOURNALISM TRAINING

While there are a number of media outlets in the Maldives, news and information is widely cast in the Maldives by social media activists and citizen observers who keenly observe and analyze developments in the country. To widen the pool of journalists that take part in the anti-corruption movement, TM along with Aisha Niyaz Consulting and ClimateTracker organized a 3 day journalism training called “Pen for Social Impact” in December 2016. The sessions focused on climate finance and governance, as well as reporting on climate change.



Follow the training, a journalist from AdduLive, Ahmed Nasooh, published articles on climate change, while another journalist from Sangu TV, Abdul Gadir, produced and narrated a video report on climate change. A third participant, Sham'aan Shakir created a photo story series of participants and facilitators from the workshop.

One of the most positive aspects of the training was to see the exchange of ideas and experience between the Save the Beach and the Island Livelihood Institute from N.Kudafari. Both organisations have been undertaking coral revival and farming initiatives in their respective islands.



1.2 MAY DAY RALLY

TM together with Youth Integrity Network, Dhi Youth Movement, Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN), Maldives Ports Workers Union, Teachers Association of Maldives, Tourism Employees Association of Maldives, and Maldives Association for Physical Disables organised an International Workers Day rally with support from the Women's Development Committee of the Male' City Council. The goal of the rally was to empower workers and call to ensure freedom of speech in the workplace without fear of retribution. The rally also aimed to highlight the rights of migrant workers enshrined in the Maldivian constitution and call on the state, businesses and related institutions work to end discrimination and xenophobia against migrant workers.

Just a day ahead of the rally, Maldives Police Service announced that the rally will not be allowed to take place. However, the organisers of the event attempted to go ahead with the rally as planned. On May Day, riot police did not allow the rally to proceed and cordoned off the streets blocking workers from joining the rally. The organisers of the rally issued a joint press statement condemning the actions of the Police.



1.3 DROP THE CASE

TM launched a major campaign in solidarity with local whistleblower, Gasim Abdul Kareem. Kareem exposed the bank account details of a private company that was in the midst of one of the biggest corruption scandals in the country's history. The bank accounts details exposed how \$70 million of public money was siphoned off. He was consequently arrested and prosecuted for unlawful acquisition and disclosure of information. TM launched a campaign with the hashtag #DropTheCase urging the State to drop the charges against Kareem and highlighting the important role whistleblowers play in stopping corruption. The campaign was highly successful in bringing the issue to public attention. The #DropTheCase hashtag focusing on Kareem became one of the most trending hashtags in the country's social networks. The press statement that was jointly issued by TI and TM calling on the state to drop the charges against Kareem was picked up by almost all the national newspapers and sites. A statement was also issued by the New York Bar Association urging the Prosecutor General of the Maldives to dismiss the case. A dedicated website to give updates on Kareem's case was developed and launched in September.

The campaign sparked public conversation about whistleblowing and the public rallied in support for Kareem. Although the charges against Kareem was not dropped. Kareem was given the minimum sentence for the offence. He was immediately released as he had already served in excess of the time that was required under the sentence in police detention.

#DropTheCase

**Gasim Abdul Kareem is *our*
Anti-Corruption Hero**

**He has been shortlisted for the
International Anti-Corruption Award**





1.4 MABASSAA CAMPAIGN

In order to public participation in policy making, TM launched a campaign called MaBassaa ('Include Me') in August 2016. The aim of this campaign is to empower the public to proactively seek information and participate in development projects related to Climate Change.



The campaign was launched at the “Muraka Meehun” festival organised by IUCN Maldives. At the event, TM was able to reach a wide cross section of the population including children, youth, the elderly and expatriate workers. TM used the opportunity to disseminate advocacy material of climate governance and anti-corruption.

Through this event, TM reached approximately 350 individuals. Two governance updates were also published building on the theme of inclusive participation. In September 2016, TM published two videos focusing on the theme of inclusive governance.



1.5 HAAMAKUREY

The #haamakurey campaign calling MPs to make their asset declaration publicly available was first launched in December 2014 along with the publication of a position paper that explored the problems with the current asset declaration regime in the Maldives. Between December 2014 and June 2015, various efforts were undertaken to increase public awareness and demand for asset declaration of public officials. These include a public poll on TM's Facebook page, a petition on Avaaz, two articles published on Haveeru and CNM, two advocacy videos produced and aired on four TV channels, and sessions on asset declaration conducted for various audiences (university students, local councillors, youth).

In March 2016 TM revived #haamakurey campaign when a member of the public began using the hashtag calling MPs to publicise their asset declarations. Under the campaign, members of the public were encouraged to call/message their MPs and ask them to make their asset declarations publicly available. As a result, 11 MPs publicised their asset declarations. The public and media also began scrutinising the asset declaration documents on MPs and raised questions about the effectiveness of the current asset declaration system.

1.6: “IN NEGOTIATION WITH LAND LORD” EXHIBITION

Art is a powerful tool that can be used to resist authoritative governments, challenge perceptions and mobilise communities for social change. Based on past experience of working with the art community, such as the week long art exhibition focusing on migrant worker rights in 2015, TM sought to hold another exhibition in 2016 focusing on (in)equality.

The 2016 exhibition titled ‘In Negotiation with Land Lord’ showcased a collection of art created following a two week long workshop. During the workshop artists working with different mediums and with varying levels of experience came together to explore various issues related to equality in the context of the Maldives.



In Negotiation With Land Lord

Attainment of equality is a continual process with an elusive and contradictory nature. Compelled by the challenges we face as a society, we continuously negotiate our understanding of equality as a concept.

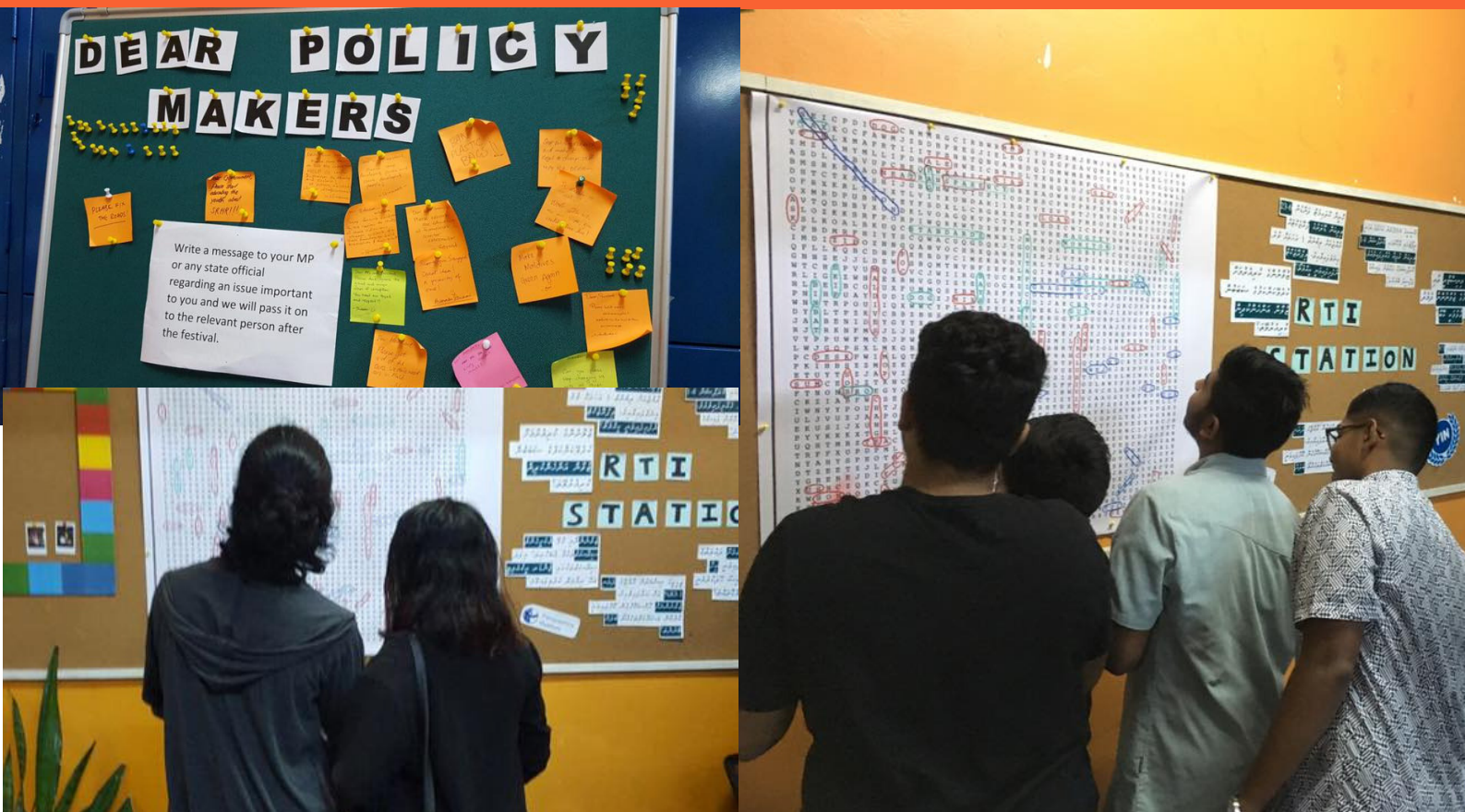
In Negotiation with Land Lord is a project made during a two week long workshop where people from different backgrounds came together to explore various aspects of equality.

We aim to discover, define and negotiate (in)equality.



1.7 TM STALL AT KATTI HIVVARU FESTIVAL

Continuous engagement with youth is a priority at TM. As such TM participated at the Katti Hivvaru Festival organised by Dhi Youth Movement (DYM) from 7-10 December 2016. TM's stall had a public board for young people to write messages for policy makers. Education Minister, Aishath Shiham visited TM's stall and wrote a response on the board to one of the questions set by a young person.



1.9 LOBBYING MEETINGS

Lobbying international actors to ensure Maldives is on the agenda of global actors continues to be a key advocacy goal for TM, particularly given the deteriorating human rights situation in the country. In this regard in 2016, TM held 33 meetings with different international actors ranging from diplomats, international organisations and journalists to brief and update them on the social and political developments in Maldives.



2. STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY AND BROADENING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Civil society empowerment and community engagement are key focus areas of TM's work. Strengthening Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to demand for transparency, accountability and inclusivity is key to a participatory democracy. In this regard, TM conducted a number of engagements focussing on CSO capacity building and community engagement on various issues



2.1 CIVIL SOCIETY EMPOWERMENT

Empowering Civil Society Organisations (ECSO) is a two-year program, which began in August 2015, focusing on enhancing the capacity of civil society in the Maldives to promote accountability and transparency of public institutions. One of the objectives of ECSO is to improve skills and knowledge of CSOs participation in governance and undertake anti-corruption advocacy.

As such in 2016, two regional CSO capacity building workshops were conducted. The workshop for CSOs in Kaafu atoll took place in Male' in April with 16 participants (14 CSOs and 2 WDCs) from 6 islands. The workshop for CSOs in Seenu and Gnaviyani atolls were held in Fuvahmulah in May with 9 participants (4 CSOs and 5 WDCs) from 4 islands.

2.2 COMMUNITY VISITS

In October 2016, TM visited Laamu Fonadhoo and Maamendhoo to collect stories on climate issues and to engage with the community to understand the issues they face. While collecting stories on climate issues, TM also monitored a community waste management projects in both islands and produced a video, highlighting climate related vulnerabilities faced by Maamendhoo community. This video was shown on a side event at COP22.

During the community visits, meetings were also held with island councils, Women Development Committees and other stakeholders of both islands to identify and understand the issues of their respective communities. The community of Fonadhoo identified waste management as their primary issue while the Maamendhoo community identified gender-based violence as a key issue. In Fonadhoo island TM arranged meetings with the council and the waste management centre. A legal camp was also held in Maamendhoo to guide citizens in seeing redress on various issues.





3. CIVIC EDUCATION AND TRAININGS

Civic education, particularly for young people, is essential to create positive citizenship and instills in young people key civic values that are required to create a society that respects diversity, human rights and democracy. In 2016 TM conducted a variety of civic education workshops for school children, university students and young people who were out of the formal education system.

3.1 JUDICIAL INTEGRITY WORKSHOP

In 2016, TM organised workshops for higher education students covering sessions on history of Maldivian judiciary, legislative gaps in the judiciary, gender equality and judicial corruption. Three workshops were held in three atolls: Male (for Faculty of Arts students studying in MNU), S. Hithadhoo (for Faculty of Shariah and Law students from MNU) and GDh. Thinadhoo (for MI College students). A total of 71 students were trained through these workshops.

3.2 MALDIVES HERITAGE PROJECT

The 12-month Maldives Heritage Project builds on TMs ongoing and past efforts to educate, empower and foster civic-mindedness in the youth of Maldives. During the implementation phase, a total of 48 workshops, across 8 atolls, were conducted to children and youth for age groups 10-13 years and 14-18 years. A total of 1161 students (484 male, 677 female) were trained in this period.



Increase in globalisation and changes in the sociopolitical landscape of the Maldives is believed to be increasingly distancing young people from civic / democratic values and celebration of Maldivian Heritage.

Through the Maldives Heritage Program we hoped to invoke in young people what it is to be a 21st century Maldivian.

Over 7 months
we conducted

48 workshops in
23 islands
across 8 atolls

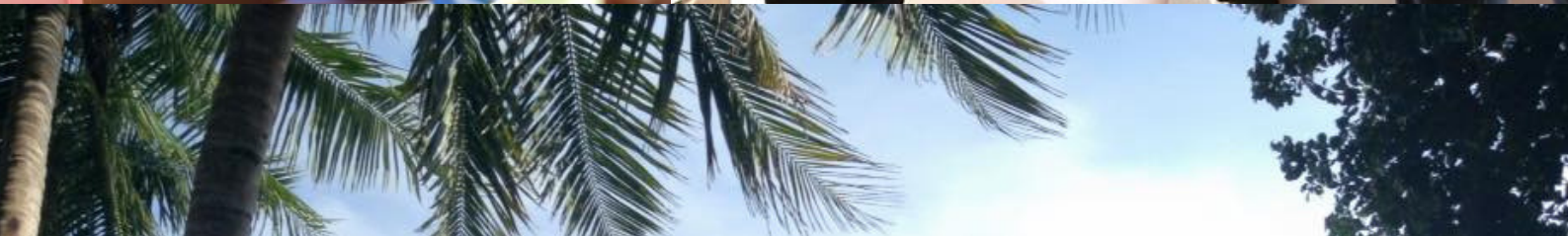
1161
young people
participated

484
males and
677
females

MALDIVES HERITAGE PROGRAM



**TRANSPARENCY
MALDIVES**
A Coalition for Integrity



3.3 YOUTH INTEGRITY NETWORK

In 2016, TM held a 5-day Youth Integrity Camp for youth aged 16 - 24 in two atolls: Gn. Fuvahmulah and Hdh. Hanimaadhoo. The camp covered sessions on corruption, democracy, right to information, advocacy, governance and public policy and was attended by 35 young people.

3.4 WOMEN'S WING AND YOUTH WING LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT

The Women's wing and Youth wing leadership and empowerment training was jointly organised by TM and UNDP. 66 men and women from political parties, civil service and private sector were trained on political leadership and women's empowerment.

Six training workshops were held for youth wing and women's wing members of five major political parties (MDP, JP, PPM, AP, MDA) and one training was conducted for independent registration. The sessions covered; internal party governance, women in politics, women in Islam, campaign messaging, leadership skills and overcoming challenges.

Social media messages were shared on Twitter and Facebook throughout the course of the training using the hashtag #anhenVERIN. 'Anhen' means women, and 'verin' means leaders in the local language Dhivehi.



4. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Over the last few years civil and political liberties such as freedom of assembly, speech and association enshrined in the Constitution of the Maldives have been restricted through new legislation such as a new NGO regulation and the Anti-Terror Act. This overall decline was reflected in the 2016 Freedom House ratings in which the Maldives is no longer categorised an electoral democracy and is listed as a ‘partly free’ country. Despite these challenges it is important that civil society actors are empowered, educated and multiple platforms for advocacy are rolled out in order to reclaim the lost democratic space and protect and promote human rights in the Maldives. To contribute to this need a number of activities ranging from reviews of legislations, conferences and social media campaigns were implemented by TM in 2016.



4.1 HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

In December 2016, a two-day human rights conference was held with over 35 participants from the government, the legal community and NGOs. The purpose of the conference was to bring together human rights actors from across the country to discuss the pressing human rights issues in the country and present papers outlining these challenges.



The conference featured a key presentation about the legal review of the of the Anti Defamation Act passed in 2015, which significantly restricted freedom of expression in the country. Namgay Zam, a well-known journalist from Bhutan shared her experiences as a journalist facing defamation charges back in her home country. In addition, the different stakeholders presented and engaged in discussions on the following themes: human rights and Islam; finding redress for survivors of domestic violence; access to rights for persons with disabilities; human rights concerns and climate change; barriers to women's political participation and the rights of migrant workers. In the closing ceremony of the conference, the human rights campaign "Dhevana Baabu" was launched.

4.2 SALLAA NEWSLETTER

Salla is a Dhivehi language monthly newsletter that highlights key human rights issues prevalent in the country. The purpose of these monthly newsletters is to give citizens concerns on human rights issues and create debate and discussion on human rights issues. Two issues of Salla were released in 2016. The first issue focussed on human rights and freedom of expression, and was published in September 2016. The second issue was on freedom of assembly and was published in November 2016.

4.3 LAUNCHING OF FACEBOOK PAGE “DHEVANA BAABU”

“Dhevana Baabu” which translates to “Chapter Two” is a human rights social media campaign run with the aim of highlighting current human rights issues in the Maldives. Chapter Two of the Maldives Constitution is the bill of rights. Since the commencement, the Facebook page for the campaign has garnered over 500 likes, and several hundred views and interactions on posts made on the page.

4.4 LEGAL REVIEW OF THE ANTI DEFAMATION AND FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY ACT

Over the last two years the Government enacted two key legislations-- Defamation and Freedom of Expression Act (also known as Anti-Defamation Act) and Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act--that curtailed freedom of expression and assembly in the Maldives. TM reviewed both legislations for an in-depth understanding of the limitations constituted by the laws and to provide as an advocacy tool in future campaigns.

The review of the Anti-Defamation Act focused on the historical concepts of defamation and legislative history of freedom of expression in the Maldives. The review also looked at other relevant legislation with respect to the Freedom of Expression Act. The review of the Freedom of Peaceful Assembly Act focused on the importance of freedom of assembly in the local and global context, and analyzed the relevant local and international legal instruments and standards relevant to freedom of assembly.

Both the reviews found limitations in the respective laws, including conflicts with human rights best practices and international standards. The reviews also provided recommendations to address such limitations.

4.5 HUMAN RIGHTS LOBBYISTS TRAINING

In October 2016, a 3-day human rights lobbyists' training was conducted for 38 participants to inculcate an understanding of human rights and a culture of holding state institutions accountable for their inherent responsibilities of protecting, promoting and protecting human rights. The training program brought together human rights activists and CSO actors from across the country and the discussions ranged from generic human rights principles to specific rights issues in the Maldives and how human rights lobbying can be used to address these issues.

• The rights that someone has simply because he or she is a human being & born into this world.

CORE PRINCIPLES:
Human Dignity
Equality
Non-discrimination
Universality
Interdependency
Indivisibility
Inalienability
Responsibilities



5. LEGAL AID

The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) is one of many such centres established in over 40 countries by Transparency International Chapters. The ALAC in Maldives was established in 2012. In addition to providing free legal aid to victims and witnesses of corruption and human rights violations, the ALAC in Maldives also provides communication and advocacy support for its clients on a case by case basis.

In 2016, TM ALAC provided legal advice to 26 clients ranging from associations and informal groups to members of the general public and migrant workers. A majority of the cases ALAC received were regarding fraudulent hiring and bidding processes and migrant worker related issues. In addition to this, ALAC also conducted awareness raising sessions on RTI in the islands of L. Maamendhoo and N. Kudafari. In N. Kudafari the ALAC also conducted door-to-door sessions to increase community awareness on anti-corruption and right to information.



6. 'DAGANAA' PANEL SERIES

Under the Daganaa ('Spotlight') panel discussion series TM organised four panel discussions were organised by TM in 2016 focusing on a range of corruption, political and civil rights issues. The first panel discussion 'Hiyaanaai' was held on the MMPRC grand corruption scandal. The panelists included MP Eva Abdulla, MP Ali Hussein, Former Auditor General Ibrahim Niyaz and TM Project Manager, Thoriq Hamid. The panel was broadcast live on Sangu TV and was covered in all the major newspaper outlets as well as covered as a news story on VTV, RTV and Sangu TV.

The second Daganaa panel focused on civil and political rights and was in held in May 2016. Panelists include the former Human Rights Commissioner Jeehan Mahmood, former Chief Superintendent of Police Mohamed Hameed, Executive Director of Maldivian Democracy Network, Shahindha Ismail, and Mihaaru Journalist, Mohamed Hamdhoon. The panel discussion was broadcast live on Raajje TV.

The third panel discussion of the Daganaa series, held in August 2016, focused on the defamation bill. The panelists include Editor of Maldives Independent, Zaheena Rasheed, MP Imthiyaz Fahmy, Vice President of Adhaalath Party, Ali Zahir, and Ahmed Tholal from TM. In the run up to the panel discussion, TM organised a a social media campaign with the hashtag #Angabandu or #silenced to protest the defamation bill. TM also shared posters encouraging public to call their MPs and ask their MPs to not vote for the defamation bill.

A Daganaa panel discussion focussing on decentralisation in the Maldives was held in December 2016. The panelists were former TM staff member, Aiman Rasheed, Decentralisation advocate, Mohamed Nazeef, Former Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mujuthaba Ahmed and MP Ali Hussain. The panel was broadcasted live by Raaje TV.

7. KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE

‘Peace, Tolerance and Non Violence’ organized by MDN, Maldives

Monitoring Impact and Learning training conducted by TI, in Bangkok

Second Forum on Citizens Observers organised by the European Commission, Brussels

Women, Peace and Security: Localising UN Security Council resolution 1325, Maldives

22nd Conference of the Parties (COP22), Marrakesh
TI Regional Impact meeting, Dhaka

Third Asian Electoral Stakeholder Forum organised by ANFREL, Bali

Human Rights Topics from Around The Asia Region, organised by BABSEACLE, AJAR & UN OHCHR, Bali

5th Asia Pro Bono Conference, organised by BABSEACLE, Bali

8. COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE UPDATES

Ancient judiciary of the Maldives: <https://goo.gl/FScM25>

Legislative gaps: <https://goo.gl/ijWQ8F>

Criminal procedure in the Maldives: <https://goo.gl/FVAihF>

Mechanisms of Climate Change expenditure must be strengthened:
<https://goo.gl/i2vfu2>

Governance Update: When development projects go wrong, who loses?:
<https://goo.gl/HvZL8W>

Governance Update: Climate related expenditure and financial statements must be ensured as free from corruption: <https://goo.gl/uRD3Zh>

Sallaa: Human Rights and Freedom of Expression: <https://goo.gl/Poyd5E>

Why the Maldives need a better national plan, not 'pledge-based' development: <https://goo.gl/V4T84U>

Governance Update: Ma Bassaa: a campaign on inclusive governance:
<https://goo.gl/eizpV4>

Sallaa: Freedom of Assembly: <https://goo.gl/t9zzGj>

Transparency review 1: <https://goo.gl/pR53aE>

PUBLICATIONS

Maldives Migrant Worker System Assessment 2015:
<https://goo.gl/9j56E8>

OP-ED

Gasim Abdul Kareem: The Hand that Rocked the Boat:
<https://goo.gl/udpmaQ>

PRESS STATEMENTS

Maldivian Democracy Network, jointly with Transparency Maldives, Gender Advocacy Working Group and Voice of Women issued an open letter to the media on adhering to internationally accepted ethical standards in journalism:

<https://goo.gl/MKAumf>

TM calls on all political actors to stand up against corruption:

<https://goo.gl/6ugAxC>

Transparency Maldives, jointly with Youth Integrity Network, Dhi Youth Movement, Maldivian Democracy Network, Maldives Ports Workers Union, Teachers Association of Maldives and Tourism Employees Association of Maldives issued a press statement on International Workers Day 2016 :

<https://goo.gl/DpUDca>

Transparency Maldives sent a letter to the Anti Corruption Commission of Maldives raising concerns over the MMPRC corruption case and its investigation: <https://goo.gl/w9rqgb>

Transparency Maldives condemns the recent arrest of journalists and clamping down on press freedom: <https://goo.gl/ivqJVZ>

Transparency Maldives calls on the State to deliver on their constitutional duty to uphold and protect civil and political liberties: <https://goo.gl/qRoJRz>

TM calls on citizens to hold government and institutions accountable:

<https://goo.gl/ceXewT>

TM calls on citizens to hold government and institutions accountable:

<https://goo.gl/uXGvaw>

TM condemns Maldives Police Service (MPS) decision to stop the May day rally and call for MPS to build public confidence in the institution: <https://goo.gl/czPVqp>

TM condemns the continued persecution of anti-corruption actors in the Maldives, including media outlets and anti-corruption activists:

<https://goo.gl/SReJtS>

Transparency Maldives calls on the President of the Maldives to consider concerns raised by various actors before ratifying the Anti Defamation Act:

<https://goo.gl/ZxaWaT>

Transparency Maldives calls on the Parliament to immediately reconsider criminalisation of defamation which will further restrict freedom of expression in Maldives.: <https://goo.gl/epFiqn>

Transparency Maldives calls on all state institutions to address allegations of widespread corruption and conduct an independent investigation free from political influence: <https://goo.gl/hoocA8>

Transparency Maldives and Transparency International call on Prosecutor General to dismiss the case against Gasim Abdul Kareem:

<https://goo.gl/LUDai3>

TM calls on the Government of Maldives to reconsider the hasty and detrimental decision to withdraw from the Commonwealth and to consider public opinion on the matter: <https://goo.gl/x99m26>

Release of Maldives whistleblower Gasim Abdul Kareem welcomed; he should now be exonerated: <https://goo.gl/TqwkDB>

Maldives Prosecutor General should dismiss case against whistleblower:

<https://goo.gl/ns9xok>

