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Maldives falls 6 positions in the CPI 2019

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019 released today by Transparency International reveals that the Maldives, for the fourth consecutive year, is among the two-thirds of countries to score below 50.

The CPI annually scores and ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived level of public sector corruption, drawing on surveys and expert assessments. The index uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. The CPI is calculated using a composite assessment consisting of a minimum of three separate sources.

The Maldives, with a low score of 29, is ranked 130 out of 180 countries in the CPI 2019. Compared with the 2018 index, the Maldives has fallen two points in score and six positions in country ranking. The Maldives' 2019 score was drawn from three international sources: Global Insight Country Risk Ratings, Varieties of Democracy Project, and World Bank CPIA. The data for all three sources were collected in 2018.

Analysis of the CPI 2019 reveals the relationship between politics, money and corruption, including the impact of campaign finance regulations and how money influences political power and elections. Cross analysis with global democracy data shows that countries that have stronger enforcement of campaign finance regulations and inclusive and open consultation when it comes to political decision-making are able to combat corruption more effectively. In contrast, countries like the Maldives where vote buying is rampant and campaign finance is not adequately regulated performed poorly on the CPI.

To reduce corruption and restore trust in politics, Transparency Maldives echoes the call by Transparency International and recommends that the Maldivian government:

- Control political financing to prevent excessive money and influence in politics;
- Introduce a robust asset disclosure regime to prevent conflicts of interest and uncover illicit enrichment;
- Tackle preferential treatment to ensure budgets and public services are not driven by personal connections or biased towards special interests;
- Manage conflicts of interest and address “revolving doors”;
- Regulate lobbying activities by promoting open and meaningful access to decision-making;
- Strengthen electoral integrity and prevent and sanction misinformation campaigns.

For more information, visit: www.transparency.org/cpi2019

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