

Press Statement: 28 January 2021

Maldives climbs 14 points in the CPI 2020

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2020 released today by Transparency International reveals that the Maldives climbed 14 points since last year.

The CPI annually scores and ranks countries and territories by their perceived level of public sector corruption, drawing on surveys and expert assessments. The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 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 score of 43, is ranked 75 out of 183 countries in the CPI 2020. Compared with the 2019 index, the Maldives has climbed 14 points in score and 55 positions in country ranking. The Maldives' 2020 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 the period January 2019 to January 2020

While the upward trajectory in the CPI index is a positive step, Maldives still remains among the two-thirds of countries to score below 50. Despite the progress Maldives has made in the recent past especially in the area of strengthening the legal framework the data shows that Maldives is still failing behind when it comes to effectively tackling corruption.

As the Maldives seeks to move towards adapting to the new normal and embark on recovering from the pandemic, it is imperative to look back on how the Maldives as a country is responding to the pandemic. An important takeaway from this year's CPI is that while corruption differs in scale and scope across regions, it proved to be a universal obstacle to effectively combating the pandemic. COVID-19 is not just a health and economic crisis, but a corruption crisis too.

Corruption undermines an equitable response to COVID-19 and other crises, highlighting the importance of transparency and anti-corruption measures in emergency situations. Transparency Maldives echoes the call by Transparency International and recommends the Maldivian government to:

- Strengthen oversight institutions to ensure resources reach those most in need. Anti-corruption authorities and oversight institutions must have sufficient funds, resources, and independence to perform their duties;
- Ensure open and transparent contracting to combat wrongdoing, identify conflicts of interest and ensure fair pricing;
- Defend democracy and promote civic space to create enabling conditions for holding government accountable;
- Publish relevant data and guarantee access to information to ensure the public receives easy, accessible, timely and meaningful information, including on public spending and resource distribution, which are particularly relevant in emergency situations.

For more information, visit: <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020>

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