

03rd of January 2005

H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
President,
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01

Your Excellency,

Offer of Assistance to minimize corruption in rebuilding process

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) commends the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka in seeking aid for relief and reconstruction following the unprecedented National Disaster caused by the Tsunami Waves on 26th of December 2004.

We take this opportunity to inform your Excellency that past global experience reflects unimaginable corruption and wastage in managing and disbursing funds received for reconstruction.

Due to the urgent nature of relief and reconstruction operations, it is not unusual for any government to move swiftly ignoring strict procedures and there will be many who will want to take advantage. Therefore, the reconstruction process must be protected against corruption at all levels. If any corruption is permitted, the resultant misappropriation and distortion will place an unbearable burden on Sri Lanka to meet the overwhelming needs of those affected.

In that context, we urge that the issue of combating potential corruption be immediately addressed. Transparency International Sri Lanka is willing to lead a civil society movement in an organized action plan to prevent corruption in the rebuilding exercise. This will benefit the country and the government, by ensuring that all resources are utilized exclusively for the reconstruction purpose.

In this regard, we seek a meeting with Your Excellency or an official from Centre for National Operations at the earliest to discuss how we could assist the Government.

FOR TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SRI LANKA

J.C. WELIAMUNA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: Hon. Mahinda Rajapakse, Prime Minister.
Mr. Lalith Weeratunga, Secretary to the Prime Minister.
Ms. Tara de Mel, Director, Center for National Operations.
All Donor Agencies