CORRUPTION RISKS IN SRI LANKA

The overarching power and influence of the executive is weakening the national integrity system of Sri Lanka.

KEY FINDINGS

Erosion of checks and balances

The centralisation of power on the executive has eroded the constitutional checks and balances, leading to abuse of power and widespread misappropriation of funds. The supremacy of the legislature as the mandate of the people has been challenged along with the independence of the judicial system.

Politisation of the public sector

The independence of the public sector suffers from political influence. Although the Public Service Commission oversees the appointments, promotions, transfers, discipline, and dismissals of public officers, the commission itself is appointed by the president.

Gaps in the anti-corruption mechanism

Sri Lanka’s Bribery Act of 1994 is yet to undergo any revision or update. The current act does not include private and civil society sectors and does not conform to the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

KEY FACTS: CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2013

RANK: 91/177
SCORE: 37/100

What does this mean?
The Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption, scoring from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). A score of less than 50 indicates a serious corruption problem.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013
WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

Ensure the independence of the public service

Lobby for the revision in laws and the constitution in order to ensure an independent public service.

Revision of Bribery Act

It is recommended to revise the existing Bribery Act to better conform to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and international best practices.

Laws ensuring the right to information

Introduce, adopt and implement laws to ensure citizens’ right to information to promote transparency and accountability within all sectors and strata.

KEY FACTS: WHAT DO CITIZENS THINK ABOUT CORRUPTION?

64% of Sri Lankans believe that corruption in the country has increased over the last two years.

62% of Sri Lankans believe that corruption in the public sector is a problem or a serious problem.

43% of Sri Lankans reported paying a bribe to the police in the last 12 months.

Source: Global Corruption Barometer 2013

CONTACT US

Transparency International Sri Lanka is a national chapter of Transparency International, a civil society organisation dedicated to curbing both international and national corruption. Our chapter’s mission is to contribute to increased understanding of corruption, strengthen anti-corruption structures and processes and upholding of integrity.

To find out more about our work and how you can help, get in touch:

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“…Political patronage and influence-peddling for financial gain have increasingly cast their shadow over all aspects of governance and accountability.”

Transparency International Sri Lanka
National Integrity System Assessment: Country Report 2014