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PML-N against rulers' flawed policies not Zardari: Nisar

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Saturday said the PML-N is targeting the rulers' flawed policies and not President Asif Ali Zardari or the PPP government.

Talking informally to media persons after a function organized by Transparency International to present shields to members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Chaudhry Nisar said they would not support any move which could damage the democratic system. "We are targeting the rulers' poor policies and not the president or the government," Chaudhry Nisar said.

The statement of Chaudhry Nisar came a day after the address of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif at a public rally in Lahore where he came down hard on President Zardari asking him to quit or face the public wrath.

Chaudhry Nisar said that army should not be dragged into politics, adding that any interference from undemocratic forces would jeopardize the country's sovereignty.

The opposition leader said that criminal indifference of the government towards the menace of corruption, price-hike and load shedding forced the PML-N to come out on roads.

To a question, he said the month of March got no significance, adding that the issue was being raised intentionally. However, he said, it does not matter to complete five-year tenure rather the government's performance itself decides addition or reduction in its period.

Meanwhile, addressing the ceremony, Chaudhry Nisar, who also heads the PAC, said the performance of the parliamentary body had proved if public representatives work with commitment to maintain transparency then it is never impossible to achieve desired results.

He pointed out that the opposition leader was made PAC chairman so that no one could raise fingers at the parliamentary accountability system, adding that never in the past any PAC could complete even a single report.

He said the incumbent PAC had cleared backlog of 11 years and would accomplish the task of its working on audit objections for the period of the present government during March next and the report would also be completed by June or July, next year.

However, he said, the PAC was facing many serious hurdles as they are about to take up audit reports of the present government. He said there was need to remove reservations of the PAC in this connection. Chaudhry Nisar complained that the government did not implement directives of PAC on 22,000 audit objections. He recalled that some very important decisions were taken during the visit of Prime Minister Gilani to office of the Auditor General to strengthen the department but those decisions were yet to be implemented.

He said the time has come that no compromise be made on rooting out corruption and promotion of

governance based on transparency.

Praising the work of Transparency International Pakistan (TIP), Chaudhry Nisar said there should be close coordination between TI and PAC. He also expressed hope that the TIP would continue its function in Pakistan despite facing many problems here.

Speaking on the occasion, chairman of TIP Sohail Muzaffar said the recovery of Rs115 billion was a big achievement of the PAC. He said the PAC had become major hurdle in way of corruption.

He said Pakistan should take concrete steps to bring back Rs100 billion of embezzled money being kept in Swiss banks. He also suggested that some powers of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) be shifted to NAB as the FIA was making wrong use of anti-corruption laws.