



Land administration, police most corrupt: TIP

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KARACHI: The National Corruption Perception Survey 2011 of Transparency International Pakistan indicates that the land administration and police are the two most corrupt departments in the country while education and military, included in the survey for the first time, are the two least corrupt departments.

Speaking at the Karachi Press Club, the representatives of Transparency International Pakistan (TIP), including Chairman Sohail Muzaffar and Adviser TIP Syed Adil Gilani, apprised the media that the most alarming trend was the increase in the corruption ranks of Income Tax, Customs and tendering and contracting, ranked at 3rd, 7th and 6th most corrupt in 2011, whereas in the NCPS 2010, they were at 8th, 9th and 10th positions. The rank of the judiciary/courts has slipped from the sixth most corrupt to fourth most corrupt department in this year's survey. The survey was conducted by Gallup Pakistan.

Sohail Muzaffar said that corruption had reached unprecedented levels in Pakistan. He said that lack of accountability was being witnessed due to delays in punitive action by state organs against corrupt elements in corruption cases like the Pakistan Steel, NICL, Bank of Punjab, Rental Power Plants, Hajj 2010, KESC, PIA, Railways and Wapda. The judiciary is being confronted by deliberate defiance in implementing the Supreme Court's orders and the unwilling attitude of prosecution agencies, he said.

"When out of 40, 26 vacancies of judges are vacant in the Sindh High Court, then how can efficient justice be provided?" Chairman TIP Sohail Muzaffar questioned. Lack of political will to combat corruption could be seen from the efforts of the government to avoid transparency in procurements as the PPRA was being made dysfunctional by not appointing a managing director since October 2011. This year, the NCPS 2011 has shown that tendering and contracting, which was the least corrupt in erstwhile year, has jumped four places to become the sixth most corrupt.

Syed Adil Gilani said the Sindh government, in June 2011, issued a notification exempting the Sindh Bank from application of Public Procurement Rules 2010. The TIP filed a constitutional petition in the SHC against this notification, and on December 15, the chief justice in CP 2135, after reading that the chief secretary Sindh had cancelled the exemption notification, disposed of the petition, stating that the purpose of the petition had been served.

He said that similar to the afore-mentioned incident, the federal government had also issued a notification in July 2011 with the approval of ECC, amending Rule 5 of PPRA rules 2004. This would amount to exempting contracts based on the 39 MoUs signed by the president and prime minister with foreign private parties from complying with the Public Procurement Rules 2004 and competitive bidding.

He said that these also included tenders for 150 railway engines from USA and 75 railway engines from China, purchase of all PIA aircraft, 7,000MW Bunji Dam and 1,100MW from Kohala Dam. He further said the TIP had filed a constitutional petition against this amendment against the government in the SHC