

Transparency International survey against corruption in four provinces of Pakistan

Karachi: According to a current survey accomplished by Transparency International (TI) Corruption in the provinces of Punjab and Baluchistan has declined whereas it has increased in the provinces of Sindh and NWFP. The survey carried out June-July 2009 in the four provinces concerning the citizens' awareness as to the level of corruption in the four provinces. Compared to 2006, corruption awareness in 2009 indicates that Sindh Province had surpassed Punjab Province as the most corrupt province. Corruption in the NWFP has increased by 13 %, Sindh by 5 % whereas Punjab corruption supposed to have decreased by 9 % and Baluchistan by 10 %. On October 7, 2007, TI Pakistan has already said that NRO ordinance was against the basic rights of the citizens of Pakistan, and is a reversal of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) ratified by Pakistan in August 2007. The NRO has not only damaged the Pakistan's image, but the restraint of the NRO still damaging the credibility of Political Parties.

“No sitting Member of Parliament or a provincial assembly shall be arrested without taking into consideration the recommendations of Special Parliamentary Committee on Ethics or Special Committee of the Provincial Assembly on Ethics, before which the entire material and evidence shall be placed by the chairman NAB.” The National Assembly has formed 41 Committees, but since last 17 months, the Special Parliamentary Committee on Ethics or Special Committee of the Provincial Assembly on Ethics has not formed, which is harming the image of political parties in general. “TI Pakistan is of the view that corruption is the ‘cancer’, which has deprived Pakistan, the Rule of Law since the last 60 years and has weakened the very foundation of the Nation.” It has limited the economic growth, in a weak investment position, and reduced the effectiveness of development programmes. It has diverted the important and scarce public resources towards private gains, dictatorial rule of military and civilian rulers. This has resulted in increased illiteracy, the poor becoming poorer and breakdown of democratic and administrative institutions. It has caused militancy amongst the deprived youth, which is now threatening the very existence of the state. TI Pakistan has also been requesting the GOP to provide them copies of the Tender documents, Evaluation reports and Contract Agreement of the Rental Power Plants under the PPRA and FOI Ordinances. Despite repeated requests, the concerned departments have failed to supply the documents. A great deal of controversy generated regarding the manner in which invitations to set up the rental power plants called for.

According to rules, the tender documents had to be prepared according to the Public Procurement Rules 2004. In the tender document, constraints were to receive seven 7%, down payment. It reported that in a number of cases, post tender, the down payment has risen to 14 % and now withholding tax in this amount has waived. This selective concession is a violation of transparent award of contracts under PPRA 2004.