

Program for the Protection of Public Resources
Transparency International Sri Lanka
5/1, Elibank Road, Colombo 5

17th October 2019

Mr. Mahinda Deshapriya,
Chairman,
Election Commission of Sri Lanka,
Rajagiriya.

Dear Mr. Deshapriya,

Promotion of a presidential candidate by using a special project and using state owned vehicles for election campaigning

As per a report submitted to Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) by its Observers, election propaganda materials of a presidential candidate were distributed among the public who had participated in a meeting held at the premises of Kulandai Housing Project. This meeting was held on 16th October 2019 and Hon. Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickramasinghe had participated in the said event. Furthermore, a state owned helicopter was used by Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe for his visit to Jaffna. Please find the attached corresponding photographic evidence. Video evidence can also be provided if necessary.

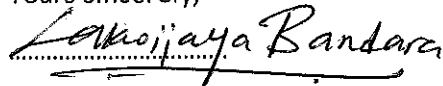
Direction No. 4 (i) & (ii) of the Extraordinary Gazette No.2141/52 of 19th September 2019 stipulates that long term or medium term special programs that are implemented for the provision of facilities to the public or for the development of the country or continuous programs to provide citizens with common amenities should not be used for any promotion of parties/ groups or candidates. Direction No. 05 (iii) of the Extraordinary Gazette No.2141/52 of 19th September 2019 stipulates that public funds should not be utilized for the use of airplanes or helicopters or other vehicles for political propaganda activities. This therefore is a potential violation of the gazetted directions of the Election Commission.

Please be kind enough to look into this complaint and take prompt action, if necessary, to ensure electoral integrity. If you require more information, please be kind enough to contact the Provincial Coordinator Mr. Mirin Thanogan or National Coordinator Mr. Lakwijaya Bandara on 0763223442/0763223662.

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) is the Sri Lankan Chapter of the global movement against corruption. The Program for the Protection of Public Resources (PPPR) is TISL's election observation program committed towards preventing the abuse of public resources during elections.

Thank You.

Yours Sincerely,



Lakwijaya Bandara

National Coordinator(PPPR)

