

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

22nd October 2019.

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

Dear Mr. Deshapriya,

Laying Foundations During the Period of Election

As per the Daily Mirror article published on 22nd October 2019, development programmes including laying the foundation stones for the Kurundugahamada and Bokkawala water projects were held under the patronage of Hon. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and Hon. Minister Rauff Hakeem recently. Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) was informed by the Kandy District Election Office that neither the National Election Commission nor the District Office were informed about the said event.

Direction No. 3 (i) of the Extraordinary Gazette No.2141/52 of 19th September 2019 stipulate that "Functions such as laying foundations, opening ceremonies and vesting in the public utilizing government funds and State properties should not be organized or conducted during the period of election..." There is therefore a potential violation of the gazetted directions of the Election Commission.

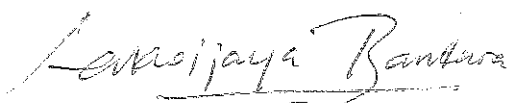
TISL lodged a complaint with the Kandy District Election Office on 2019/10/22 on the same matter and please be kind enough to look into this complaint and take prompt action, if necessary, to ensure electoral integrity.

If you require more information, please be kind enough to contact the Provincial Coordinator Miss Thamali Rajapaksa or the 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)