

Program for the protection of Public Resources
Transparency International Sri Lanka
5/1, Elibank Road, Colombo 5
07th October 2019

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

Dear Mr. Deshapriya,

Using Government Vehicles for Election Propaganda Campaigning

As per the reports submitted by Transparency International Sri Lanka's (TISL) District Observer, it has been observed that Mr. Ranjith Shantha Kahawala, Chairman of the Urban Settlement Development Authority of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Cultural Affairs, had allegedly engaged in political campaigning during office hours on 4th October 2019 at the opening ceremony of the New Democratic Front's party office in Kandy (TISL has received evidence in this regard) and according to the District Observer, he has been allegedly using a state vehicle for similar purposes.

Direction No. 5 (i) of the Extraordinary Gazette No.2141/52 of 19th September 2019 stipulate that pool of vehicles belonging to the State including motor cars, jeeps, cabs and buses, should be taken extra care during the period of election so as to prevent such vehicles being used for the promotion of election propaganda campaigns of any political party, independent group or candidate and Direction 2 (i) stipulate that the officers who are entitled with political rights may engage in political activities during office hours, only on personal leave or special leave approved in advance. This therefore is a potential violation of the gazetted directions of the Election Commission.

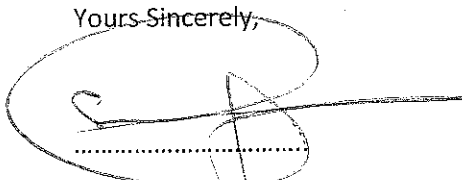
Please be kind enough to look into this matter and take prompt action to ensure electoral integrity.

If you require more information, please be kind enough to contact the provincial coordinator Miss Thamali Rajapaksa 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,


Asoka Obeysekere

Executive Director