



VIETNAM NEEDS TO SHOW MORE CONCRETE RESULTS IN ANTI-CORRUPTION

Citizens can and need to be more involved in the fight against corruption

Hanoi, 9 July 2013- Vietnamese citizens see the level of corruption in the country to be increasing, according to the findings of the Transparency International (TI)'s 8th Global Corruption Barometer, the largest cross-country survey of citizens' views on, and experiences of corruption.

Overall, 55% of Vietnamese people felt that corruption had increased over the past two years, higher than the average number of 48% in Southeast Asia. Only 18% of the people felt that corruption decreased and 27% perceived that it had stayed the same.

In the meantime, there is a considerable loss of Vietnamese citizen trust in Government anti-corruption efforts over time. In the 2010 survey, only 35% of the urban respondents of five big cities thought anti-corruption efforts were ineffective but this figure increased to 60% in 2013.

The Barometer also shows the problem of corruption in key public institutions in the country, which is weakening the very institutions which are meant to protect the legitimate rights and interests of citizens. Among 13 surveyed sectors, police, health and land services are perceived to be most affected by corruption and also have the highest level of incidence of corruption according to citizens' experiences.

"These findings show that there needs to be more concrete results from anti-corruption efforts in general and improvements in a number of key public institutions in particular in order for the Vietnamese Communist Party, Government and anti-corruption agencies to prove the effectiveness of the national anti-corruption policies and restore citizens' trust," said Dao Thi Nga, executive director of Towards Transparency, TI's National Contact in Vietnam.

According to the Barometer, stronger punishment of perpetrators of corruption, improved integrity among public officials and better protection of victims, witnesses and whistleblowers of corruption are recommended by citizens to be priorities for the government's anti-corruption efforts.

While becoming more pessimistic about the level of corruption and results of anti-corruption in the country, Vietnamese people have become less confident about their role in the fight against

corruption. In the 2010 survey, 68% of the urban respondents of five big cities agree that ordinary people can make a difference in anti-corruption but this figure dropped to only 42% in 2013. Vietnamese citizens also feel less empowered to take action than citizens in other Southeast Asian countries with only 60% of both rural and urban people believing that they can make a difference in anti-corruption, compared to the average of 76% of people from the region.

This attitude seems to affect people's readiness to be involved in anti-corruption. According to the findings of the survey, Vietnamese citizens have become markedly more reluctant to report corruption over time with the number of urban citizens willing to report a case of corruption having almost halved over the past two years, from 65% in 2010 to 34% in 2013.

"Fighting corruption is not only the responsibility of the Government. Citizens can and need to be more involved in anti-corruption for the authorities' efforts to be effective," said Mr. Le Truyen, former vice president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee and one of the advisors to the TI Programme in Vietnam. "However, the Government needs to encourage people engagement by improving the responsiveness and effectiveness of citizen denunciation and complaint handling mechanisms, by better protecting whistleblowers of corruption and by ensuring that people can access the services they are entitled to without having to pay bribes," he said.

The 8th edition of the Barometer surveyed 107 countries and territories, including Vietnam between September 2012 and March 2013. It explores the general public's views about the corruption level in their country and their governments' efforts to fight corruption; measures the frequency of bribery, reasons for paying a bribe, and citizens' attitudes towards incidents of corruption. In Vietnam, the 2010 survey was implemented in five big cities, including Hanoi, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho; the 2013 survey was conducted in 15 provinces and cities across both urban and rural populations of the country.

###

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption

Towards Transparency (TT) is the official TI national contact in Vietnam, operating with an aim of contributing to national efforts to prevent and fight corruption and promote transparency and accountability in Vietnam

The TI Programme in Vietnam is aimed to promote the effective implementation of anti-corruption policies and practices in government, business and society.

For more information, please contact:

Email: info@towardstransparency.vn;

Tel: 3.7153532