

REQUEST FOR PROACTIVE ACTIONS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AND CONTROL/REGULATORY BODIES IN PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Bureau for Social Researches (BIRODI) request that anti-corruption and control/regulatory bodies acts proactive in next month and a half, meaning that they do not limit their actions by formal legal obligations, and to proactively, without violating the law, take the actions to protect public interest, i.e. to contribute to the democracy and integrity of the election process. This is specially addressed to the Anti-Corruption Agency which should focus on detecting/restrain secondary funding of political parties (preventing of violation of article 12 and 13 of the Law on Financing the Political Parties) and “public officials’ campaign”, article 29 of the Law on Anti-Corruption Agency.

Also, Republic Broadcasting Agency (RBA) should bring General Binding instructions which contribute to the restrain “public officials’ campaign” in media (in cases when public officials are speaking as their political party representatives and when they are presented as party members, in party premises and with party’ labels), by their announcing just with the their political party’s functions.

BIRODI invites politicians running in the campaign to present their “public official’s” activities according to anti-corruption principles, to contribute to the restraining “public officials’ campaign” and secondary financing of the political parties, and thus prove their anti-corruption integrity.

Bureau for Social Researches support current efforts of Anti-Corruption Agency in investigations of “public officials’ campaign”, which is an act of unethical public officials’ conducting. BIRODI consider that GOPAK members (Global organization of parliamentarian's against corruption) in Serbia, as well as the first Vice-president of the Government, Aleksandar Vucic in charge for fight against corruption, should additionally contribute fighting this phenomenon.

BIRODI disapprove statements of current and former public officials which by stating the “legitimacy” try to influence on anti-corruption bodies, especially Anti-Corruption Agency and doing it compromise integrity of election process.

“Public officials’ campaign” and secondary financing the political parties are two the most widespread ways of bypassing the Law on Financing Political parties since its adoption. Findings on “public officials’ campaign” in previous Parliamentary Election in Serbia (2012) and misuses in financing political parties BIRODI published in two studies – “Mediji u izborima” (Media in elections) and “Cista politika” (Pure Politics), available at www.birodi.rs/publikacije.

In Belgrade, February 13th 2014