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## Mega Cabinet will generate more corruption: Weliamuna

**By Yohan Perera**

Transparency International Executive Director J. C. Weliamuna said on Wednesday that a mega cabinet would generate more corruption in the government.

Addressing a seminar on Corruption in Public Sector organized by Sri Lanka Economic Association Mr. Weliamuna explained that over Rs 300,000 is spent for one vehicle as rental. When there are a large number of ministries a huge amount of funds have to be incurred for these perks. "This is also corruption," he said. He said this is existent from the very inception of the executive presidency.

Referring to public institutions Mr. Weliamuna said the corruption is generated through politics. He explained it is the ministers who appoint the heads of these institutions. "Most of these heads appointed by ministers are defeated politicians and their supporters will work towards the interests of the minister rather than public interests," he added.

He further charged that public funds are being used for ministerial propaganda and in that context pointed out that the post of Media Secretary was an unwanted one.

Mr. Weliamuna stressed the need for proper overseeing by the Parliament and for public demand for fighting corruption.

Former Auditor General S. C. Mayadunne who explained how and why corruption takes place said lack of proper discipline in independent commissions and the wrong impression that function of judiciary to safeguard the government are among the main reasons for its growth. Responding to a question raised by the audience on the VAT scam he accepted that audit reports did not disclose enough details on the scam.

Bribery Commission Director General P. Ranasinghe who came out with some interesting

disclosures during the question time said the commission has not penalized any minister or an MP who had refrained from disclosing his asserts since 2001. However he said two MPs have been in the net on various corruption charges recently. One has been already fined while the other will be charged shortly. Responding to a question on Former President Chandrika Kumaratunga he said an inquiry has to be held if she has engaged in corruption.

However he said the commission has not received any complaint against her to date.

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