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In the annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) just released, Sri Lanka has increased its score marginally by 0.1 from last year to reach 3.2 points and is placed in the 91st position among 178 countries. Last year Sri Lanka was placed at 97 among 180 countries. How do the panellists intend to combat corruption? Read more...

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@shiharaneez "As the situation currently stands the option favoured by the Government for those families affected by the new HSZ is that they will be relocated. Relocation is taken to mean the settling of people in a location not of their origin.2 In the Sri Lankan context resettlement and return are terms used interchangeably to mean the return of families to their original homes and properties. There are diverse views among the affected families, but a number of these families have continued to demand their right to return to their homes and communities. In addition to this there are issues arising from the manner in which the civilians displaced by the HSZ have been treated in respect of their fundamental rights, the lack of basic information, transparency and due process. While humanitarian agencies have attempted to ensure that basic humanitarian standards are maintained, it is unclear if they are now more likely to assist in the relocation plans of the Government. In addition, the Trincomalee HSZ also raises concerns as to whether this model of declaring HSZs and SEZs, without taking adequate consideration of local people's rights and wishes, will be used in the North." Excerpt from transcurrents.com Read more...

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Urgent - Question for panelists
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The recent agitation, involving thousands of fisherfolk in and around the Negombo lagoon vehemently opposed the development of the lagoon for sea-plan tourism, and had the project shut down. Police and Army could not control the crowd. Over 2010 alone, student unrest in Universities increased considerably. A number of trade unions are joining the fray. Any one of these incidents alone can be cast aside or seen as isolated incidents by minority groups. Collectively though, tens of thousands of people have been involved in demonstrations against government (including those who voted it into power), and there is no sign that this trend is abating.

How do the panelists see this trend of civil unrest affecting economic stability and investor confidence?

Best,

Sanjana

Sanjana Hattotuwa Senior Researcher TEDGlobal Fellow about.me Read more...

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