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* Sri Lanka MPs sign up to curb corruption

Sat, Oct 5, 2013, 08:40 pm SL Time, ColomboPage News Desk, Sri Lanka.



Oct 05, Colombo: Members of Sri Lanka Parliament have voted to set up the 48th national chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), the organization said in a release.

The legislators from the government as well as from the opposition at a parliamentary meeting have signed up to ensure there was transparent oversight of anti-corruption.

In 2004 Sri Lanka became the first South Asian country to sign the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

"It was tremendous to see nearly 20 MPs attend Parliament on a non-sitting day to establish their GOPAC Sri Lanka group and elect an executive committee reflecting MPs from government and opposition with gender equity reflecting the diverse ethnic and culture of democratic Sri Lanka," said GOPAC Oceania Chair John Hyde, who attended the meeting.

The GOPAC Sri Lanka MPs elected the leader of Sri Lanka Muslim Congress and Justice Minister Rauff Hakeem as the Chair while the United National Party (UNP) Nuwara Eliya district parliamentarian J. Sri Ranga was elected as secretary of GOPAC Sri Lanka.

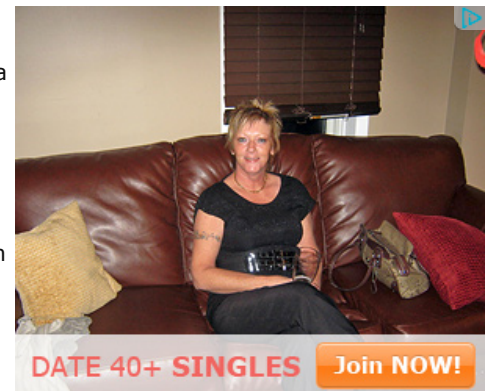
"The GOPAC MPs will meet on October 8 to adopt our yearly action plan - MPs at the AGM identified money laundering, review of the UNCAC and transparency in procurement as issues they may consider," said MP Sri Ranga.

MP Sri Ranga and Mr. Hyde have met on the sidelines of the UN's high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals Post-2015 in March in Indonesia and agreed that GOPAC should assist MPs in Sri Lanka to establish a parliamentarian-driven local chapter.

GOPAC is a worldwide alliance of parliamentarians working together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law. Based in Ottawa, Canada, GOPAC has 48 national chapters on 5 continents. GOPAC supports its members' efforts through original research, global anti-corruption capacity building, and international peer support.

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