

The “Irrigation Associations Organizational Rules” have now inserted Articles 38-1 and 38-2 regarding penalization of vote buying and interfering with elections. In order to uncover and prosecute vote buying in the 2010 irrigation associations president and committee members elections, the Ministry of Justice had on April 26, 2010 instructed this Office to supervise the relevant district prosecutors offices in monitoring their local elections. This Office had immediately issued written instructions to the High Prosecutors Office as well as the respective district prosecutors offices regarding the investigative measures, and directed them to undertake investigation and prosecution of vote buying in these elections once the statutory amendments enter into force.

The said inserted statutory provisions of the “Irrigation Associations Organizational Rules” were promulgated by the President on April 30 and had entered into force on May 2. This Office had immediately supervised the High Prosecutors Office and the respective district prosecutors offices in collaborating with the police, investigative and governmental ethics personnel in proactively deploying resources and gathering information; where vote buying is suspected, various intelligence gathering measures including monitoring of communications, investigation of funds, summoning persons for questioning, or compulsory measures including detention, search, taking into custody and ordering bail are implemented.

The 2010 irrigation associations president and committee members elections were successfully completed on May 15, 2010, and results in investigation of these elections to date are as follows:

1. In the presidential elections: 33 complaints of vote buying were received, involving 79 people; 6 raids were conducted, 3 people were taken into custody, and 5 people had been released on bail;
2. In the committee membership elections: 33 complaints of vote buying were received, involving 77 people.

The aggressive monitoring and investigative efforts of the prosecutorial, police and investigative authorities have successfully deterred those who were intending to buy votes. Those who still insisted on crossing the line have been sanctioned according to law and barred from winning the elections. These efforts have convinced the general public of the determination of the prosecutorial, police and investigative authorities to prosecute and root out vote buying, ensuring clean elections and winning of elections by the best candidates.

The Supreme Prosecutors Office