



राष्ट्रीय निर्वाचन अनुगमन सञ्जाल (नेमा) National Election Monitoring Alliance (NEMA)

सचिवालय: टुकुचामार्ग, घर नं. ९६, गौरिघारा, काठमाडौं, फोन/फ्याक्स: ०१ ४४११४२९, ईमेल: nema2007@gmail.com

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Press Statement

National Election Monitoring Alliance (NEMA) has completed all preparatory works for conducting Constituent Assembly (CA) election observation throughout the country in order to assist for a free, fair and fearless election. NEMA has deployed one observer in each polling center across Nepal. In this backdrop, NEMA has mobilized a total of 20,004 observers. Of which, 18,854 observers are placed at the polling stations/centers and 1,150 as mobile observers. The mobile observers shall observe the election environment even beyond the polling center/stations.

Daily Monitoring Report

NEMA has been regularly monitoring the state of compliance of 'The Code of Conduct (CoC) on Election to Members of the Constituent Assembly 2007' since 23 March 2008 and publishing a special bulletin every day. The bulletin carries the cases of violation of the CoC and disseminating it to the Election Commission, National Human Rights Commission, United Nations Mission in Nepal, Concerned Government Offices and general public through Press. So far, NEMA has documented 290 instances of CoC violations. Among them, 149 instances are related to obstruction and attacks to political cadres and their supporters, 28 instances are of abduction, 24 instances are of threat, intimidation and torture, 4 instances are of killings, 3 instances are of disappearance and 82 instances are in other cases.

Telephone Survey

NEMA has been conducting a weekly survey on the environment of CA election in all 75 districts through telephone. The last week's survey findings reveals that 41 districts have a favorable environment for the election, 29 districts have moderately favorable environment and 5 districts namely Kalikot, Jumla, Dhadhing, Dhankuta and Dhanusha are ranked as sensitive and critical.

Report from Observation Team

NEMA has been conducting field observation visits in sensitive districts to assess the election environment. The field observation reports confirm that there is conducive environment in most of the districts where voters were found very excited and eager to take part in election. However, there are some concerns and problems in few districts.

- There is likelihood of vote rigging and booth capture in remote areas and regions devoid of transportation.
- Psychological pressure on the voters to vote in ones favor by disseminating false information that votes would not be secret.
- In some districts, double enlistment of voters has been found hence the possibility of double voting is probable. (In Bardiya, 8,000 slum dwellers have been enlisted in two places).



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- The threat of impeding cadres of other political parties from casting their votes in election is possible in some districts.
- Political parties cadres have been prevented from participating effectively in election campaigning, in some districts.
- Some political parties cadres have tried to intimidate people and political parties stating only voting in favor of pro-republicans would be allowed.
- Some armed groups in Terai have tried to disrupt the election process by abducting and intimidating election officials, candidates, political party cadres and voters.
- Observers are being threatened, outskirts polling booths are unsecured and possibility of violence and explosion in urban area of districts can also potentially mar the election. Nevertheless, after Nepal-India boarder is sealed, such activities can be expected to go down.

Attack on NEMA

CPN Maoist cadres have attacked Mr. Gyan Bhahadur Khadka, NEMA Ramechhap Constituency - one Coordinator and Mr. Bijaya Dahal, NEMA observer in Ramechhap district. Similarly NEMA Khotang observer Mr. Fadi Ram Timalsena has also been threatened against any reporting of CoC. Moreover, today (April 8, 2008), Maoist cadres have kidnapped Mr. Prem Prasad Pokhrel, NEMA Sunsari constituency coordinator. Further, Nepali Congress cadres have threatened Mr. Prem Bahadur Ale, NEMA Doti observer.

Subodh Raj Pyakurel

Convener