



निर्वाचन आयोग, नेपाल ELECTION COMMISSION, NEPAL



प.सं. च.नं./Ref:

Press Release

Date-21/04/2017

The Election Commission today held an interaction with a visiting UN delegation led by H.E. Mr. Alfonso Webson at the ECN, Kathmandu. During the interaction, matters related to local level elections were discussed. Representatives from the UN bodies including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women WFP, UNOPH took part in the interaction programme chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Ayodhee Prasad Yadav. The UN delegation was accompanied by the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Valerie Julliant, along with the heads of the UN's different offices in Kathmandu.

During the programme, Joint Secretary of the Commission Navaraj Dhakal presented updated preparations carried out by the Commission, including the legal provisions and representation of the women, Dalit and minority communities in the local level through the coming elections.

On the occasion, Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Yadav expressed that the Commission is at the final stage regarding the poll preparations on its part. Dr. Yadav also said that electing appropriate candidates and empowering them to run the office would contribute significantly to strengthen democracy at the local level. "Efforts are to be gear up for better representation, this time we are ensuring representation of

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“फोटो सहितको मतदाता नामावलीमा नाम दर्ता गरौं।”



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different groups, their capacity is to be enhanced to run the offices effectively," he added.

Representatives from the UN bodies expressed satisfaction with the preparatory works of the Commission stating that they realized 'democracy in action'. They stated that they found during their recent visit to the remote areas of Nepal that the common people as well as the voters are very enthusiastic to cast their voters in the May 14 elections. They also urged the ECN to make special arrangements for the physically handicapped and visibly challenged voters so that they could easily go to the polling stations and to enjoy their voting rights.

On the possibility of the election observation by the international organizations, the commission informed that, being local level election national observer, organization will observe the elections, however, the election body may grant permission to the UN bodies in Nepal and other international organizations to see electoral activities in Kathmandu on the Election day if they express their interest to the ECN through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Election Commissioners Iswori Prasad Poudyal and Sudheer Kumar Shah and Secretary Gopinath Mainali, among high level officials, were also present in the interaction.

Surya Prasad Sharma
Joint Secretary and Spokesperson