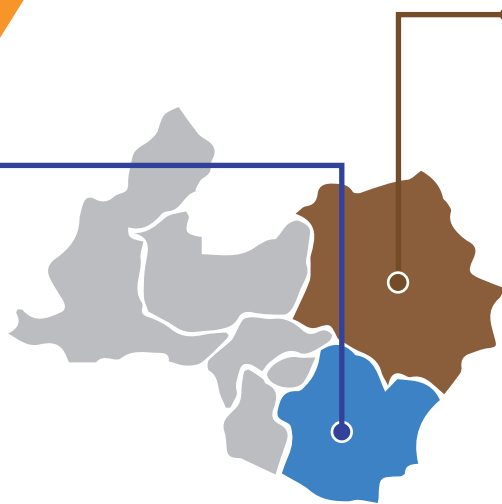


Welcome to the fourteenth **Citizen Insider**! Citizen Helpdesks is a group of young volunteers known as Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) who gather and disseminate information on critical issues affecting Nepali citizens to eliminate information gaps between the government, the media, donor organizations and communities; and improve collective decision-making.

## Rumors

### MANDAN DEUPUR, KAVREPALANCHWOK

“There is a rumor that if the residents did not rebuild their houses, then the government will retrieve Rs. 50,000 which they received as first tranche from them, blacklist them and also discontinue their other public benefits.”



### SUNKOSHI, SINDHUPALCHWOK

“I had received Rs.50,000 as the first tranche after my name was enlisted in the earthquake beneficiary list. I didn’t reconstruct the house as I didn’t have any additional money with me. Now, I hear that the government will blacklist those who didn’t rebuild their houses and will even discontinue the social security benefits that they receive. I know it is not possible to rebuild my house and as the government is also going to terminate the social security benefits that I have been receiving, I have thought of returning the first tranche that I have received. What is the process of returning it?”

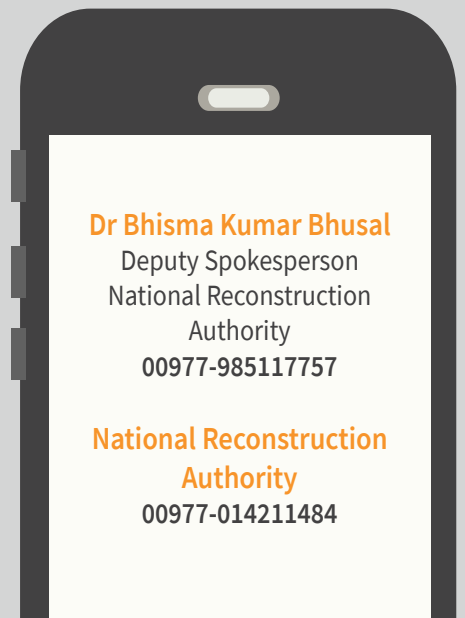
## Facts

The National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) has requested all the earthquake survivors who claimed Rs 50,000 as a first tranche, but did not rebuild their house to finish rebuilding it as soon as possible or return the tranche. The NRA has noted that legal action may be taken against the family who has received the first tranche, but has not rebuilt their house as per the government standards, or does not return the tranche.

If the family refuses to build their house or return the tranche, the government will recover an equal amount by terminating the public services they can receive. This includes social security.

If any beneficiary has not yet or is no longer able to rebuild their house, and wants to return the relief amount instead, he/she can go through the following steps:

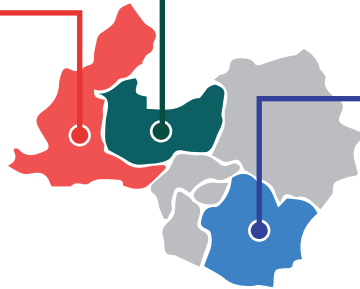
- Submit an application to the DLPIU [District Level Project Implementation Unit] requesting for his/her name to be removed from the beneficiary list.
- DPLIU will then provide their account number where he/she needs to deposit the amount to be returned.
- Provide one copy of the bank receipt to DLPLIU.
- Attach another copy of the same receipt with an application stating that he/she has returned the tranche as it is not required to construct the house and requesting for his/her name to be removed from the beneficiary list and submit it to NRA.



## Questions

### JWALAMUKHI, DHADING

“What happens to a migrant worker who has not renewed his/her work permit and is working abroad illegally?”



### BIDUR, NUWAKOT

“If a migrant worker who has not renewed his/her work permit and is working abroad illegally gets into some kind of problem then where can his/her family member file their concern?”

### MELAMCHI, SINDHUPALCHOWK

“If a migrant worker’s contract duration is over and is jailed while working abroad illegally, what action does the Nepal government take to bring back the citizen?”

## Answers

If a migrant worker continues to work after his labour permit expires and, in some cases, is jailed for doing so, the family members should submit an application requesting for support to return the migrant worker along with the copy of the migrant worker’s passport to the Department of Foreign Employment (DoFE). After receiving the application, DoFE will then send a letter to the concerned manpower, labour attache, and embassy requesting to send the migrant worker back to Nepal. The time duration for the case to be solved depends on the nature of the case and the regulations in the destination countries.

Any individual going for foreign employment must return to the native country after his/her labour permit expires and cannot extend the labour permit and visa at the destination. Sub-article 2 of article 75 in the Foreign Employment Act 2074 states that the manpower agency that sends a worker abroad is accountable for bringing back any migrant worker working illegally (for example, due to visa expiration) through DoFE’s support. Sub-article 3 of the same article also states that any returning migrant worker alleged of working illegally will be banned for three years from going abroad again.

#### Uddhav Rijal

Spokesperson

Department of Foreign Employment

Kathmandu

00977- 8741322168

#### Nepal Government Ministry of Labour and Employment

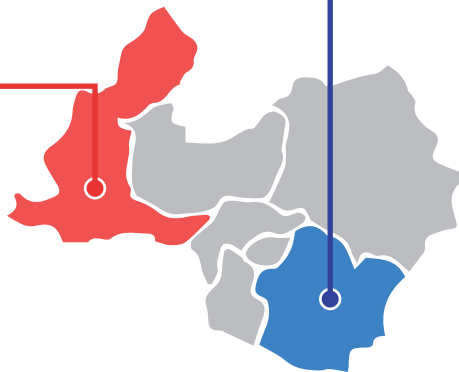
Department of Foreign Employment

00977-1-4782454

## Concerns

### **DHUNEBESI, DHADING**

“I want to understand what are the priorities of the local government while drafting the development plans?”



### **PANCHKHAL, KAVREPALANCHWOK**

“There are only two to three people who make the development plans. Isn't there any provision to include the issues of marginalized communities?”

## Answers

The rural municipalities and the municipalities should draft and implement short term, mid-term, long term, and strategic development plans for the development of their respective local regions within their jurisdiction. The plan must consider that the objectives, policies, time duration, and process align with that of the central and provincial government and reflects on good governance, child friendly-environment, climate change, disaster risk management, gender and social inclusion and other intersectional subject matters.

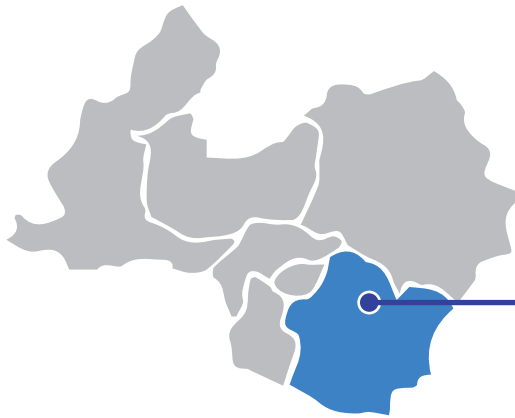
The decision-making and implementation process should ensure maximum participation of the local experts, professionals, marginalized and endangered communities, women and children, Dalits, youths, people with disability, minorities, senior citizens and other stakeholders.

### **SOURCE**

Local Government Operation Act, 2074

# Insights

## Story from the Field



### Santa Kumar Giri

Rabiopi, Kavrepalanchowk

Santa Kumar Giri from Kavre district of Nepal struggled to find opportunities for work in Nepal. The farming land he possessed did not provide sufficient income for an entire year. With no other alternative, he looked to foreign employment. After hearing his friends' experience and low salaries in certain countries, he decided to work in Iraq with the hope of earning \$3,000 per month. Though he earned this salary, he experienced an unfortunate accident at work which led to an eye injury. As a hardworking employee, his company sent him to Germany for his treatment. However, he lost his eye. Since returning to Nepal after treatment, he decided to start a business, a cloth shop in Tindobato of Banepa, with his own small investment. He shares his experience as a migrant worker to all the customers/visitors to his shop, especially youth aspiring to go abroad. Santa Giri suggests the following tips for youth considering going abroad:

- Collect information on the destination country's security and external affairs.
- Ensure that the manpower agency that you are dealing with is authorized by the government before starting the migration process with that agency.
- Keep one copy of all the related documents in Nepal and check if you are taking all these abroad.
- Deposit the amount in the manpower agency's account or make the payment in its main office not forget to keep the payment receipts.
- Find out whether there is a Nepal Embassy in the destination country.

## Know Before You Go - the latest Government Decisions

- Rural municipality and municipality: Resource book for Justice Committee performance evaluation ([Link](#))
- Information regarding Department of Foreign Employment's complaint management process ([Link](#))
- Update on private house reconstruction ([Link](#))
- Application sample for transportation request of deceased body from the airport ([Link](#))

The sources of information, rumours and issues presented here are collected from CFAs, community meetings, development agencies and face-to-face discussions in communities with over 1300 people in 4 districts between 1st April – 31st June 2018. The issues highlighted are chosen on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Citizen Helpdesks Bulletin is brought to you by **Accountability Lab** in collaboration with **Local Interventions Group**.

