

Welcome to the 18th **Citizen Insider**! Citizen Helpdesks is a campaign led by local Community Frontline Associates (CFAs) in Nepal with the objective to support open, transparent and accountable local governance. This campaign prioritizes participatory activities, peer learning and information sharing to enhance the trust between government and citizens. Alongside collaborating with citizens and local government, the campaign also supports government decision making based on the needs and expectations of citizens.

Questions

Bidur, Nuwakot

“Has the local government allocated budget and programs for the returnee migrants?”

Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk

“How has the local government prioritized the issue of foreign labor employment while formulating the yearly budget and program plans?”

Answers

It has not been mentioned anywhere that the issue of foreign employment should be prioritized while allocating the budget at local government units. However, most of the local government have introduced youth-centric programs to encourage the returnee migrants to stay back and work in homeland.

The article 11(F) of the Local Government Operation Act 2074 suggests the local units to plan programs for targeted groups, mobilize resources and manage it. However, it has not been mentioned anywhere to include migrant workers in priority.

The government has, however, created few policies to create employment opportunities and to utilize the skills of the migrant workers. The government has been providing trainings on self-employment and also providing financial support to them.

Source

Local Government Operation Act, 2074

Questions

Birendranagar, Surkhet

“What happens if the allocated budget is not spent within the same fiscal year?”

Melamchi, Sindhupalchowk

“What is the timeline for spending the allocated budget?”

Damauli, Tanahu

“Can the budget allocated for a certain heading be spent under a different heading? If yes, then what is the procedure to do so?”

Answers

Any local government unit has to spend the budget allocated for a particular fiscal year within the same year.

As per the article 75 of Local Government Operation Act 2074, if the allocated budget is not spent by the end of the same fiscal year, the remaining budget is transferred to the reserved fund of the respective municipality. However, the amount or the budget head under which the money could not be spent will be kept as a priority for next year.

However, in situations where the budget could not be spent due to certain criteria, that amount can be transferred to other budget heads. The ward council decides and requests the concerned municipality for the budget transfer. The municipal council based on their decision after a meeting, then transfers the budget. Therefore, in order to transfer the budget allocated for different budget head, the municipal council has to approve it. Otherwise, the unspent amount cannot be directly used for expenses under a different heading.

Additionally, the community for which the budget had been allocated for, should also approve the transfer.

Source

Local Government Operation Act, 2074

Krishna Prasad Sapkota
Local Government Expert
00977-9851027692

Questions

Nepalgunj, Banke

“For the proposal of how much amount is the public audit compulsory at the local level?”

Jwalamukhi, Dhading

“Is it compulsory for every ward to conduct public hearing? What is the provision for this?”

Answers

As per the the article 78 (5) of Local Government Operation Act 2074, municipalities have to conduct public hearings and public audits to make the public service delivery transparent, responsive, and accountable.

Any infrastructural development proposals exceeding Rs. fifty thousand excluding the programs related to the upliftment of the targeted group must go through public auditing.

Previously, the local government had to conduct public hearing thrice a year. Now, since the new working procedures have not been defined, there is no policy on the number of times the public hearing should be conducted. Nonetheless, every local level has been practicing the previous thrice-a-year rule for public hearing at the moment.

Source

Local Government Operation Act, 2074

Krishna Prasad Sapkota

Local Government Expert
00977-9851027692



Bhim Neupane

Panauti, Kavrepalanchowk

The Mayor of Panauti Municipality, Bhim Neupane formed a group consisting of deputy mayor Gita Banjara, chief administrative officer Bijayraj Poudel and others. The group visited the locals there to understand their perspective, suggestions or complains towards the local representatives and the government. This decision to visit every house of all 12 wards was made during the meeting of the municipal executive council.

"Gaun Gaunma Singhadurbar" (bringing government to the people) has been the slogan that emerged out with the formation of the new federal system denoting that the government will now reach each village, which has not been the reality so far. If the government representatives could reach every household in their units, then the citizens could put their issues forward fearlessly. The environment of government offices still does not allow them to be open. Therefore, this method would help the government to plan citizen friendly programs, and build positive relation with the local people. Only then, the citizens will feel the idea of government reaching each doorsteps.

The campaign that started from the Rayale, ward no 1 of Panauti has been completed after reaching all 12 wards. People are happy that the government representatives came to them to hear their issues, complains and to collect their feedback. The locals say that it has become easier for them to talk to the government representatives in their own yard rather than travelling miles to their offices. They have been praising this attempt of the municipality openheartedly.

The aspiration for "Gaun Gaunma Singhadurbar" would be achieved if all the 753 local units in Nepal adopts this practice of the Panauti municipality.

Know Before You Go - the latest Government Decisions

- Ministry of labor employment and social security establishes a call center for the migrants to obtain useful information on foreign Employment ([Link](#))
- Public procurement module for municipality and rural municipality - 2075 ([Link](#))
- List of foreign employers blocked for conducting foreign employment in Nepal by Department of Foreign Employment ([Link](#))

The sources of information, rumors and issues presented here are collected from CFAs, community meetings, development agencies and face-to-face discussions in communities with over 1500 people in 4 districts between 13th February – 13th April 2019. The issues highlighted are chosen on the basis of prevalence and relevance. The information presented here is correct at the time of issue.

Citizen Insider is brought to you by the **Accountability Lab** with support from the **American Embassy** to Nepal.

