

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

Issue 10 | March 25, 2022

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Election Commission Fails to Maintain Existing Printing Machines, Wasting NRs. 500 Million for Printing Tenders

Photo by Bank Phrom from Unsplash

The election commission has called for tenders for election printing, locking up existing sophisticated printing machines. Two machines were bought almost five years ago from Omni Group without fulfilling the bid process for over NRs. 218 million. The machines were used for printing during the national assembly election, presidential election, annual reports, election books, etc. in the year of purchase, but haven't been in use since.

After procurement of the machines, the election commission had trained a few staff for machine operation. Since the staff have transferred, the commission claims they don't have the manpower to operate the machines. But, instead of training new staff, the commission has now allocated NRs. 500 million for the upcoming elections printings, which includes bids worth NRs. 120 million for printing materials. The printing machine was originally purchased due to increased state expenditure on external printings, but the machines are now inoperable due to poor maintenance, while the state's expenses on external printing continue to increase.

It is a normal trend in Nepal to look for commission during public procurement and tenders. This act of the election commission is also said to be the same by the office of Auditor General, who had been pressuring the election commission to operate the printer since 3 years ago.

Source: [Kantipur Print Headline on March 21](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The government is preparing to distribute senior citizen allowance from the age of 65. The senior citizens between 65 to 70 should apply for the allowance, and selections would be done based on their necessities. But until now, no study has been done on how much resources it would require for the government to distribute these allowances. The decision is being considered a populist stunt to increase the vote banks, prior to elections.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
2. The Supreme Court has issued a short-term interim order against the election commission to not implement the code of conduct requiring the local representatives to resign from their post if they are filing candidacy again. Although the commission claims to have brought the provision to prevent local representatives from misusing the funds, it conflicts with the earlier provision which mentions that elections should be held two months prior to the representative's tenure ends. This ensures that the operations at the local level aren't affected.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. The Nepal Law Commission has proposed an amendment in the National Civil Code Act - 2017 to add a provision that "the divorced woman who remarries again should return the property inherited from her ex-husband". The women should return the property to their children, if they have no children to the ex-husband, and if the ex-husband has passed away then to the inheritor. The draft has been widely criticized for violating women's fundamental rights in the constitution.
Read more: [BBC News](#)
4. The election commission has made a decision to use the Vote Counting Video Management System at vote counting and storage centers. It will allow the election commission to monitor the illicit election activities during counting through videos from Kathmandu. The commission has assigned local governments to install the video system at vote counting centers with their own funds.
Read more: [Election Commission](#)
5. In the World Air Quality Report 2021 released by [IQAir](#), Kathmandu has been listed as the sixth most polluted city in the world. Similarly, in the country's list, Nepal has been listed as the 10th most polluted country.
Read more: [Ratopati](#)
6. The construction of Lumbini Provincial Hospital in Butwal will be entrusted to Sharma & Company and Rasuwa Construction or their joint venture company. The tender for the construction of Lumbini Provincial Hospital had remained intact, even after the Public Procurement Monitoring Office wrote a letter when it was felt that the tender was targeted to these 2 companies only, asking the the Lumbini State Infrastructure Development Authority to amend it. Only the two companies submitted bids till the last day.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



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