

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

Issue 8 || March 11, 2022

Ambiguous Broadcasting Regulation Threatens Individual Freedom of Expression

WEEKLY

Photo by: Nordwod from Unsplash

The National Broadcasting Regulation added new provisions to regulate “online television” (Youtube channel for instance) creating confusion among stakeholders. The minimum standards on passing such regulations are not properly followed.

As per new provision online televisions are eligible to operate only after registration with NRs. 5 hundred thousand fees. Initially, the regulation was only governing cable and satellite television, which requires frequency that the government owns. However, online media platforms aren't owned by the government, so it is surprising to see a registration amount being mandated. Is it another way for the government to exert taxes, or is it a ruse to limit civic space?

The word “online television” itself is vague. There is no clear indication if it includes all the vlogs and informal content posted by individuals on social media like YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, etc, or only the channels that claim to publish news. Such ambiguity on laws is always a threat to citizens but an opportunity for authority to interpret in their favor.

Read more: [Shilapatra, Kantipur](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. On the occasion of International Women's Day, a 10 point declaration was issued to draw the world's attention to the effects of climate change stating that the melting Himalayas affect everyone, especially women, and having unity against it is imperative. 40 women from different sectors took a 13-day trek from Kathmandu to the Kalapathar area of Mount Everest to issue the declaration.
Read more: [Rato Pati](#)
2. 20 thousand citizens' complaints have been filed against local units and local representatives since the last elections in 2017. The CIAA has run cases against 39 elected representatives including mayors, deputy mayors, and local unit and ward chairs on the charges of corruption and irregularities. Surprisingly, none of the charged representatives are females.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. The Ministry of Finance has approved a budget of NRs. 8.11 billion for the local level elections, taking place on 27 April 2022. The Election commission had demanded a budget of NRs. 8.95 billion which the Ministry reduced by NRs. 840 million.
Read more: [Setopati](#)
4. The Supreme Court of Nepal has issued an interim order to stop the extraction of riverine materials such as stone, pebbles, and sand for the time being. The order reads that the continuous extraction violates the existing regulations, and seriously affects biodiversity as well as everyday human life.
Read more: [Khabar Hub](#)
5. The government has planned to inaugurate the Gautam Buddha International Airport on 16 May 2022, finally, after 10 years in construction and 40 billion NRs. spent. However, the authorities have shown no eagerness to reach an agreement with international airlines to formally start the operations, marketing, and promotion of the airport.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
6. The labor desk allocated to verify labor permits at Tribhuvan International Airport has been removed by the Ministry of Labor, Employment, and Social Security. The labor permits will now be verified by the immigration officer from the Online Information System, which allows migrant workers to enter from any gates at the airport.
Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

Presented by



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