

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

Issue 11 | April 1, 2022

Billions spent on View Towers and Welcome Gates. Where is Nepal's Development Headed?

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Photo by Xion Design Studio from Unsplash

The rampant construction of view towers across the country has gained widespread criticism lately. It is reported that an estimated NRs. 17 billion has been spent so far on constructing these view towers. The recently built 10 storey view tower in Tilottama Municipality cost over NRs. 140 million, the view tower in Rolpa Municipality cost NRs. 47.7 million, and the 18 storey view tower being built in Damak Municipality is expected to cost NRs. 1.56 billion. The construction of these view towers is the result of competition and imitation among leaders and is not based on the real need. For instance, after KP Sharma Oli initiated the construction of a view tower in Jhapa, Pushpa Kamal Dahal quickly planned one at Rolpa Municipality. Such competition can be seen among local leaders as well.

Moreover, similar to view towers in hilly areas, welcome gates have become an attraction for local and provincial leaders in Madhesh province. In Birgunj Metropolitan City, four welcome gates have been constructed within a distance of four kilometers. The federal parliamentarians in Parsa are found to have spent NRs. 9.2 million to build welcome gates under the Local Infrastructure Development Partnership Program. These kinds of infrastructures make us wonder what development means to our leaders.

Read more: [Ekagaj](#), [Kantipur](#), [Onlinekhabar](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. Only 4 out of 23 representatives of the House Finance Committee attended a meeting with the Ministry of Finance aimed to provide budget consultation. As per the House of Representatives' regulation, the committee meeting cannot proceed until 51% of the total committee members are present. The meeting which also had participation from the bankers association was conducted anyway.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
2. During the 3-day visit of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Nepal and China have signed nine agreements on different sectors including economy, transport, education, and vaccines. No progress, however, could be made on the projects under the Belt and Road Initiative. Nepal is still seeking grants while China is insisting on offering soft or concessional loans.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
3. The election commission has made a legal provision to bar the local contractors from becoming candidates at the local level elections, in order to curb the political corruption observed at the local level. The candidates are required to declare that they aren't involved in any construction or property-related activities at local levels in the 19 point self-declaration form.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
4. The majority of the local levels have been unable to distribute relief worth NRS. 10,000 to 50,000 families affected by COVID-19 from NRs. 5 billion dispersed by the Ministry of Finance to each local unit. The data shows that only 45 local units until now have distributed NRs. 136.1 million to the affected families.
Read more: [Setopati](#)
5. In the face of local elections, the Bhimeshwor Municipality of Dolakha district has begun to distribute NRs. 100 million with the direct orders of the mayor and deputy mayors to their close political cadres. The municipality has also made suspicious distributions like NRs.15,000 for a water construction project, and NRs. 15,000 for pig farming.
Read more: [NagarikNews](#)
6. The Nepal Oil Corporation has recommended the government give public holidays on Saturdays and Sundays, and impose an odd-even system on vehicles to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel. The corporation has also recommended the government encourage the usage of electric vehicles, at a time when the price of petroleum products is increasing drastically.
Read more: [Naya Partika](#)

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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