Swift Promises of Ensuring Human Rights, But Slow Implementation

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been monitoring human rights violations and making recommendations for action since its establishment. However, of the 1,183 cases in which the NHRC has made recommendations in the last 20 years, the government has fully implemented only 51, accounting for only 4.31%. Also 765 i.e, 64.1% of cases have recommended compensation to the victims, with the total compensation amounting to NRs. 260 million. But, due to the lack of urgency and unwillingness of the institutions, the victims are still unable to receive the amount.

The government speaks about promoting human rights through strong and independent institutions like the Human Rights Commission in the national and international forums, but in reality, doesn't take into account their recommendations. In fact, the governments in place corrupt the reputation of such independent institutions by making political appointments and politicizing their works. What is the point of having institutions like the Human Rights Commission if their recommendations aren't taken into action?

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Governance Issues of the Week

1. The construction deadline of the Mid-Pushpalal Highway, one of the national pride projects, will expire on April 13 this year, after extending the deadline several times. The project officially started in the Fiscal Year 2007-08 to be completed by 2017-18 but is still nowhere near completion.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

2. Four ordinances including the provision on acid attacks, sexual violence, and social security schemes have been issued by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari, for the third time. The ordinances had become inactive twice, recently in February 2022, after failing to table in the parliament within 60 days.

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3. The government is planning to provide different discount packages for airline companies to operate commercial flights in the newly constructed Gautam Buddha International Airport which is expected to start operations from May 16, 2022. But, only Jazeera Airlines, Kuwait has confirmed its service, and 11 other airlines have shown interest to operate flights through the airport to date. Nepal has airways agreements with 40 countries where Tribhuvan international Airport is included as the only international airport.

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4. Nepal and India signed four agreements during the recent visit of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba to India. The four agreements include Nepal joining the international solar alliance, cooperation in the petroleum sector, expertise exchange between the Indian Oil Corporation and Nepal Oil Corporation, and India’s assistance to Nepal’s airways sector.

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5. The Supreme Court has demanded a written reply on the Contempt of Court case in the reconstruction of the Kasthamandap. The court had earlier issued an order to return the idols of Gorakhnath and Ganesh which are currently stored in the Hanuman Dhoka area. But it was inaugurated anyway without returning the idols on 3 April by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

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6. The government has recommended 20 people as ambassadors to different countries including China, Australia, and Russia. 12 people out of the 20 are from political appointments while 8 people are the Foreign Ministry staff recommended by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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