



NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Violation of Election Code of Conduct Rises Before the Local Elections

WEEKLY

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The Election Commission came up with a strict code of conduct for the campaignings of upcoming local level elections on 13 May 2022. The provision prohibits the candidates and political parties from placing banners in public places, making merchandise with party logos, sharing promotional video/audio materials on social media etc. However, the candidates and political parties are conducting full-fledged campaigns; from making announcements in public places to placing promotional banners and flags in vehicles, polls, etc. across the country. The commission hasn't taken any actions against such parties or candidates.

Moreover, despite the strict provisions, the mayoral candidate to Kathmandu Metropolitan City, Keshav Sthapit, publicly lashed out at a woman who asked him a question about a sexual harassment case against him during an event. After huge public outrage, the election commission has sought clarification from Sthapit, but it is yet to see if any concrete action will be taken. All in all, the way the local elections campaigns are being conducted raises a big question as to why the Election Commission brought such strict provisions if it had no intention of taking action against violations.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#) and [Online Khabar](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Election Commission has directed the candidates and political parties, who use social media to campaign for local election 2079, to submit details of their social media accounts within 24 hours of publication of the final list of candidates to ensure the political candidates abide by the election code of conduct.
Read more: [Shilapatra](#)
2. The Election Commission has warned candidates and political parties to follow the election code of conduct and not spread misleading information on social media. Speaking at a press conference, the spokesperson of the commission warned that legal action under the Election (Offense and Punishment) Act, 2063, and other prevailing laws would be taken against those found using social media contrary to the code of conduct.
Read more: [BBC News Nepali](#)
3. The Election Commission has sternly warned against hate speech on social media directed at the candidates and political parties during the local elections as it could endanger the cleanliness, freedom, and dignity of the election. Legal action will be taken against those violating prevailing laws that specifies against such hate speech during the election.
Read more: [Election Commission Nepal](#)
4. Ballot papers of the elections to be used in different constituencies can now be viewed through the Election Commission website. As the election symbols of different political parties, alliances, and independently fielded candidates are different in every constituency, the ballot paper will also be different in each constituency.
Read more: [TechPana](#)
5. Internet Service Providers Association of Nepal (ISPAN) had cautioned that Nepal could witness a nationwide internet shut down beginning next week over payment issues. A meeting between the ISPAN and the Ministry of Communication and Technology on May 2 2022, has indicated positive development on this issue. The Election Commission has also expressed concern about the impact on local elections if internet service is shut down, and has directed the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology to prevent this from happening.
Read more: [TechPana](#), [NepalPress](#)
6. About Rs. 22 billion is being invested for the implementation of the "Digital Nepal Framework" withing the Digital Nepal Acceleration project initiated by the government to build digital economy and inclusive access to broadband services. Rs. 17 billion is being invested by World Bank, while the remaining Rs. 5 billion will be raised through business loans.
Read more: [TechPana](#)

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