

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

Issue 20 | May 20, 2022

Many Local Units' Operations on Hiatus due to Improper Planning

WEEKLY

Photo from mapus.net

It's been a week since the Local Level Elections, 2022 were held across the country. As per the Local Level Election Act, 2016, the tenure of the local level representatives starts from the seventh day of the election date. However, until Thursday night (6 days after the election was conducted), the local representatives of only around 600 local units had been announced. More than 150 local units are vacant of local representatives due to election cancellations and slow vote counting.

None of the metropolitan cities or sub-metropolitan cities, except Ghorahi and Jitpursimara announced the results until Thursday night. In 2017, it took 17 days to count the votes of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. In this election as well, only 30 percent of the vote in Kathmandu has been counted. This shows how the government refused to take lessons from the past elections. Either the elections should have been conducted with enough time frame for vote counting, or the Election Commission should have sought other options like installing electronic voting in local units with massive voters or mobilizing more staff on vote counting.

Leaving the local levels deprived of elected representatives could affect crucial operations like recommendations for citizenships, selling lands, etc. When will the leaders and government in power keep citizens at the center when making decisions?

Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. Nepal observed a voter turnout of 64 percent in the Local Level Elections, 2022 with 17,733,723 registered voters, which was less than almost 10 percent of the last local level elections in 2017. The elections were also halted across 77 polling centers across 28 local units on the election day in Nepal, which the commission conducted afterward on different dates.
Read more: [Nepal Times](#)
2. There has been a significant increase in the number of youths traveling abroad for further studies since the second COVID wave. Rs. 43.67 billion has been disbursed from Nepal for foreign studies in the first nine months of the current fiscal year. It is 106.3 percent more compared to the amount in this period last year.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
3. 6 MOUs and agreements on cooperation in culture and education sectors have been signed between India and Nepal during the visit of Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi. It includes the establishment of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) chair at Kathmandu University and Tribhuvan University, the development and implementation of the Arun 4 project, etc.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
4. A ruling party cadre, Dhan Bahadur Kami won the Ward Chair of Kanakasundari Rural Municipality-8 in Jumla district as an independent candidate with his all-Dalit panel, after the party chose a non-Dalit candidate over him to represent the ward with majority Dalit population.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
5. The House of Representatives held its first meeting of the budget session on 18 May 2022. CPN (UML) had halted the parliamentary proceedings for 251 days. They have now withdrawn the halt considering the economic scenario and results of the local-level elections.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
6. The Janak Education Materials Center Ltd. is yet to print 2.5 million books for the new academic session of 2079, though the classes have already begun. The delay was reportedly caused due to the printing of ballot papers for local-level elections.
Read more: [Shilapatra](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs on local elections 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



Copyright © 2021 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.

Our return e-mailing address is:
suvechchha@accountabilitylab.org