

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

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## Vacant for Two Years, Government now chooses Deputy Speaker Five Months before the Elections

Photo by Naresh Shrestha from THT

The position of Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives has remained vacant for two years. But the government has only now shown urgency to fill the position, which is five months prior to the parliamentary and provincial elections. The tenure of the parliamentarians will end on 7 December 2022.

The current government, as reported, has been seeking a majority in the Constitutional Council, which has a vacant deputy speaker as a member. The Constitutional Council, composed of the Chief Justice, leader of the opposition, chair of the National Assembly, Speaker, and Deputy Speaker, recommends nominees for chiefs and officials of constitutional bodies. It is also responsible for appointing a Chief Justice, a position that has been vacant since the impeachment of a former Justice, Cholendra SJB Rana. The government appointing a deputy speaker now suggests that the governing political party just wants to add one more vote to their own causes within the Constitutional Council.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The government has expedited the spending of the budget money as the end of the fiscal year approaches. It paid out a huge sum of NRs. 14.72 billion alone on Saturday, despite the weekend, setting a record for the highest one-day capital expenditure. As of early July, the capital expenditure had reached 50.2% of the budget allocation.  
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
2. The Investment Board Nepal has been in discussion with an Indian state-owned power company, NHPC Limited, for the construction of the West Seti Hydropower Project. The national pride project had been in limbo since a Chinese company pulled out from the project four years ago.  
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
3. The House of Representatives have passed a bill to amend some acts against sexual violence, which includes extending the statute of limitation in rape cases. The bill has extended the deadline to report rape cases from the existing one year limit to two years for an adult, and three years after turning 18 for a minor.  
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)
4. As per the Nepal Rastra Bank, NRs. 9.8 hundred billion has entered Nepal as remittance in the first eleven months of the fiscal year, which is 3.8 percent more compared to the period of the previous year. The negative rate growth in remittance was being attributed as a major reason for the decline in foreign exchange reserves, so the increase in remittance could result in an increase in foreign exchange reserves.  
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
5. The Attorney General's office has raised serious concerns over the government expenditure on COVID prevention and control. The Nepal government data suggests the expenses on COVID prevention and control to be at NRs. 92.5 billion in the last two years. But no proper record on spendings worth NRs. 60 billion is available.  
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
6. The government recently released guidelines relating to digital service tax to bring big tech companies like Facebook, Tiktok, and YouTube into the tax net in Nepal. The companies are required to pay a 2% service tax if they earn more than NRs. 2 million annually. The rule applies to even those companies that aren't separately registered in Nepal.  
Read more: [Ekagaj](#)

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Presented by



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