

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

Issue 55 | February 3, 2023

## New political party in highlight once again following Home Minister's dismissal

Photo from TKP

On January 27th, 2023, the Supreme Court ruled against Rabi Lamichhane, Chair Person of the Rashtriya Swatantra Party (RSP), and stripped him of his roles as MP and Home Minister. He was found guilty in a citizenship case for not obtaining a Nepali citizenship certificate after giving up his foreign citizenship.

Lamichhane's case was a significant challenge to Nepal's politics and governance. His party received an enormous public mandate during the 2022 general elections, and he himself had a wide number of followers who believed him to be a face of change and justice. However, when the Rastriya Swatantra Party entered the government, the citizenship case against him was already in court. Further, the then Home Ministry had also instructed the police to look into the matter.

Home Ministry in Nepal oversees the issues of citizenship. Despite this conflict of interest, Lamichhane chose to become the Home Minister, which went against his beliefs in good governance and the rule of law. The Prime Minister and other coalition leaders also showed disregard for the constitution by allowing him to take the role.

The Supreme Court's decision emphasizes that no one is above the law and constitution. The decision has also given Lamichhane and RSP a chance to revert to their stance on the rule of law and good governance and not gain ministerial positions that could lead to a conflict of interest. The other RSP lawmakers, party members, and well-wishers should keep a check on the decisions that this new political party is going to make in the next few days. There is a looming crisis in the party if mistakes are made yet again.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Ministry of Finance has requested the provincial and local governments to reduce their expenses by at least 20 percent, as the revenue of the federal government has dropped to negative. As of the January-end of the fiscal year 2022/23, the revenue of the government stands at NRs. 477.73 billion, which is 571.51 billion less compared to the revenue collected in the same period last year.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2022 of Transparency International hints at the slight progress of Nepal in anti-corruption. The index has ranked Nepal as the 110th least corrupt country among 180 countries in the survey. Nepal, despite moving up seven spots compared to its position in 2021, still falls in the category of a country with rampant corruption.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

3. Nearly 1,500 government websites under the Nepal government's main server 'gov.np' shut down on 28 January 2023 following the cyber attacks from an unidentified group. The obstruction crashed the websites for 4 hours on Saturday afternoon, affecting critical operations like international flights. It shows the need for better cyber infrastructure and security in Nepal.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

4. The Cricket Association Nepal has decided to lift a ban on the rape-accused cricketer, Sandip Lamichhane after he was released on a bail of NRs. 2 million by the Patan High Court. Although he was released, his case is still active and is awaiting a final hearing while he is banned from leaving the country. Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office has demanded the court annul the order to release the cricketer on bail.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

5. The Butwal International Center, which cost around 1.11 billion government funds, was inaugurated with much fanfare on 27 August 2022. But, the hall is yet to operate due to the lack of procedure for the operation of conference halls. The Physical Infrastructure Ministry had prepared the procedure and sent it to the Finance Ministry for approval in August, but it hasn't been approved yet.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

6. The Indian government has recently announced its budget of \$549.14 billion for Fiscal Year 2023/24. In the union budget, India has allocated NRs. 14.08 billion to Nepal as a grant, which is 29.41% more compared to last fiscal year. Nepal will be the second largest grant receiver in South Asia, after Bhutan, as per its recent budget.

Read more: [The Annapurna Express](#)

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