Nepal has been plagued by corruption for years, with political leaders and representatives often implicated in bribery, embezzlement, and other forms of financial misconduct. The Annapurna Post, a leading Nepali media outlet, recently released a comprehensive report detailing 100 cases of corruption in the country, shedding light on the kleptocratic and widespread nature of the problem. The report covers a range of corruption cases, from the illegal acquisition of land to public procurement deals, and the purchase of widebody aircraft, procurement deals with the Omni Group, and the illegal land acquisition of Nepal Trust. The report also highlights the need for accountability and transparency in Nepali governance, with a particular focus on the institutional and policy factors contributing to corruption in the country. For example, the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), the primary organization responsible for monitoring and preventing corruption in Nepal, is given limited authority to only monitor cases of bribery and embezzlement, and is prohibited from acting upon decisions made by the cabinet, parliament committees, and the House of Representatives.

The report also notes that many corruption cases in Nepal are related to infrastructure projects, with construction companies and those in power creating a cycle of corruption that is difficult to break. For example, the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has been criticized for its limited authority to only monitor cases of corruption, and its slow response to allegations of corruption.

As Nepal continues to grapple with corruption, the Annapurna Post’s report serves as a reminder of the urgent need for accountability, transparency, and reform. Only by addressing the institutional and policy factors contributing to corruption in Nepal can the country hope to break free from the cycle of kleptocracy and build a more just and equitable society.