

GOVERNANCE

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Provincial Governments in Question as Inefficiencies and Political Discord Prevail

WEEKLY

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The effectiveness and relevance of provincial governments in Nepal have become subjects of intense debate in recent times. The heavy administrative costs, increased burden during inflation, and susceptibility to federal politics have contributed to the ongoing discussions. Unfortunately, the functioning of provincial governments has done little to dispel these concerns.

Six months have passed since the provincial elections, but only two out of seven provinces, namely Gandaki Province and Karnali Province, have managed to form complete governments. Lumbini Province is still awaiting the appointment of two ministers, while Bagmati Province and Sudurpaschim Province need to fill five and four ministerial positions, respectively. The destabilization caused by the Maoist-UML alliance breakdown continues to affect the provincial administrations, hindering their stabilization efforts.

Similar to the federal level, the provincial government system is characterized by power-sharing agreements among various mainstream political parties. However, past experiences have shown that many provinces have struggled to address the needs and expectations of their respective regions, failing to garner public appreciation. Province 1 is still embroiled in a [naming dispute](#), Madhesh Province faced [allegations of corruption](#) in the 'Beti Padhao-Beti Bachao' campaign, Bagmati Province became entangled in federal politics and witnessed frequent government changes, and Lumbini Province only recently finalized its capital. These instances have further eroded public trust in provincial governments.

While the federal government has yet to enact laws that devolve powers to the provinces, the shortcomings of provincial governments themselves cannot be ignored. Rather than focusing on the specific needs of their regions and formulating relevant legislation or programs to address unique challenges, provincial governments have often been preoccupied with internal conflicts and power struggles. Each province faces distinct challenges based on identity, geography, or other factors, but a unified lobby representing these concerns is conspicuously absent.

The current federal system in Nepal resembles an ornamental elephant's trunk—a symbol without practical utility. As the debate surrounding the effectiveness and necessity of provincial governments continues, it is crucial for authorities at all levels to address the inefficiencies, foster greater collaboration, and prioritize the needs of the people in order to restore confidence in the provincial government system.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. Vishnudev Paswan from Bhagwanpur Rural Municipality-1, Siraha, who filed a [complaint](#) against the chairman of the municipality for caste-based discrimination in March 2023, was beaten by some local leaders for the action. Nepal's constitution criminalizes any form of discrimination and untouchability, but the lack of enforcement and institutional willingness continues to make marginalized groups suffer.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
2. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal's Council of Ministers has taken shape after six months of elections and 11 changes. However, the government lacks inclusivity, with only three women ministers out of 25, falling below the constitutional threshold. No Dalit or Muslim representatives are included.
Read more: [EKantipur](#)
3. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal is making preparations to accept an invitation from his Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, scheduled for the first week of June. The official visit will entail significant discussions on various agreements regarding the export of electricity, cross-border transmission lines, railway connectivity, chemical fertilizer plants, and hydropower projects.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
4. The Parliamentary Committee on Law, Justice, and Human Rights has formed an 11-member sub-committee to look into the amendment of the [TRC Act \(2014\)](#). 28 amendments have been recommended to the bill, including the categorization of murder and other offenses based on their seriousness. The subcommittee will hold discussions with victims and other relevant stakeholders and submit the report before 15 June 2023.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
5. Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC) has secured slots at Sydney Airport in Australia for two weekly flights. NAC has made necessary arrangements to conduct direct flights to Sydney, utilizing the wide-body Airbus 'A' 330 aircraft. Additionally, NAC will begin regular flights from Malaysia to Gautam Buddha International Airport starting June 12.
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)
6. Between July and May of the current fiscal year, cardamom exports from Nepal exceeded a value of 7.28 billion rupees. In the span of the past ten months, Nepal has exported a record-breaking quantity of 892.16 thousand kilograms of cardamom. The main importers of Nepalese cardamom are India, Pakistan, Germany, Italy, and the United States. Despite the growth in production and exports, farmers are facing a decline in prices compared to previous years.
Read more: [EKantipur](#)

INTEGRITY ICON'S ACHIEVEMENT:

Integrity in action has yielded remarkable results yet again. In the leadership of Medical Superintendent Dr. Sumitra Gautam, Bhaktapur Hospital has been listed as the best among provincial-level hospitals in Nepal. Dr. Gautam is one of the extraordinary Integrity Icons highlighted in 2021.

Read more: [Naya Nepal](#)



Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

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