

GOVERNANCE

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Government Land Corruption Scandal Unveiled

WEEKLY

Photo by kathmandupost.com

In a startling revelation, a deep-seated corruption scandal involving the illicit transfer of government land to private individuals has been uncovered. The notorious Lalita Niwas case, which first emerged nine years ago, has exposed a convoluted network of fraudulent practices, including the creation of fictitious tenants and the establishment of dubious trusts to facilitate land transfers.

The investigation into the scandal has revealed the complicity of influential figures, including prominent politicians and government officials, in this grand scheme. Key players in the corruption web include land revenue officials Mukunda Prasad Acharya and Dharma Prasad Gautam, who played instrumental roles in facilitating the improper ownership transfers. Additionally, businessman Min Bahadur Gurung and Supreme Court Justice Kumar Regmi were found to have profited from these illicit transactions. Shockingly, the scandal also implicates former secretaries Dinesh Hari Adhikari and Deep Basnyat, shedding light on the involvement of high-ranking bureaucrats in this pervasive corruption. Even more alarming is the discovery that the residences of the prime minister and the chief justice were acquired unlawfully through the misappropriation of government land.

While the government has taken action by nullifying all ownership transfers of government land and initiating investigations, concerns have arisen regarding the impartiality of the Anti-Corruption Commission's probe. The failure to indict key individuals, including Nepal Communist Party's general secretary Bishnu Poudel, has fueled speculation of potential political motivations behind the commission's actions. Although some individuals have voluntarily returned the illegally obtained land, advocates argue that restitution alone should not absolve them of punishment for their involvement in these criminal acts.

This wide-ranging scandal not only exposes systemic flaws within the land ownership system but also highlights the dire lack of accountability and integrity within the governance structure. Urgent attention and a comprehensive investigation are imperative. The government must demonstrate an unwavering commitment to upholding justice and the rule of law by holding all responsible parties accountable.

Restoring public trust and integrity within the land ownership system necessitates robust measures, stringent enforcement of regulations, and a resolute stance against corruption at all levels of governance.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Supreme Court of Nepal has granted an interim order allowing temporary same-sex marriages in response to a petition by the Blue Diamond Society. The petition called for the amendment of the Marriage Registration Rules, 2074 (2017). This order marks a significant step toward recognizing and upholding the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in Nepal.
Read more: [OnlineKhabar](#)
2. The Human Trafficking Research Bureau has noticed a significant increase in the misuse of visit visas for the purpose of foreign employment. Taking strong action, the department has been repatriating individuals who obtained visit visas with the intention of working abroad. Since the beginning of the year 2080, a total of 1,711 individuals have been sent back from international airports.
Read more: [Setopati](#)
3. The Nepal Demographic and Health Survey-2022 found that 18% of recent births in Nepal were delivered via C-section. Private hospitals had higher rates, reaching 90% in some major cities. Urban areas had a 22% prevalence of C-section deliveries compared to 12% in rural areas. The survey also noted a correlation between higher education levels in women and C-sections. While C-sections have potential lifesaving benefits, the increasing trend raises concerns about maternal health risks.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
4. During a weighing conducted by the CIAA, a shortfall in weight was discovered in the gold Jalhari at Pashupatinath Temple. The expected weight was 107.76 kg, but only 107.4687 kg was measured. The Pashupati Area Development Trust (PADT) claims 188 grams of gold is missing, while the CIAA estimates that 291.29 grams of gold is missing. As a result, the CIAA is currently carrying out a confidential investigation into the matter.
Read more: [My Republica](#)
5. Transport entrepreneurs and taxi drivers organized a protest, urging the government to make various policy changes. Their demands encompassed the prohibition of red number plate vehicles for passenger transportation and the cessation of online taxi bookings. Additional requests involved designated parking stands, the reversal of the decision to phase out 20-year-old vehicles, and the establishment of clear distinctions between private and rental vehicles regarding services offered.
Read more: [My Republica](#)
6. The "Lumpy Skin" disease has surged in 76 districts of Nepal, excluding Manang, resulting in the deaths of 25,408 animals. The Department of Livestock Services reports that out of 682,080 infected animals, 409,175 still haven't healed. To combat the outbreak, the government has initiated a comprehensive medication management system and imported 737,000 vaccine doses for treatment and prevention. Additionally, a budget of NRs. 100,000 per local level has been allocated for epidemic control in the upcoming fiscal year 2080/81.
Read more: [EKantipur](#)

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