

GOVERNANCE

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16th Five-Year Plan Targets the Need of Sexual and Gender Minorities

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Photo By Ratopati

As Pride Month begins, there is some positive news for the sexual and gender minorities in Nepal. The 16th Five Year Plan prepared by the National Planning Commission (NPC), also approved by the government, has for the first time included programs and plans targeting the needs of the sexual and gender minorities.

In the plan, sexual and gender minorities have been included along with other marginalized and vulnerable groups. However, some provisions address the needs of sexual and gender minorities. The provisions include ending the conventional structures and norms that lead to harmful practices such as forced marriages against the members of the community and making the process of their identification and categorization more objective. The plan also highlights improving the judicial system to address sexual and gender-based minority rights.

Often discussed as one of the major challenges, the plan aims to simplify and ensure uniformity in the citizenship-acquiring process. Besides that, the plan promotes model entrepreneurs based on the contributions from small businesses run by sexual and gender minorities and other targeted groups. The plan also includes increasing the gender-responsible budget of each local unit from 40 percent to 50 percent.

While this initiative is a significant milestone in promoting gender equality in Nepal, it does not ensure meeting the holistic needs of sexual and gender minorities. In addition, the government must ensure these plans are put into action to bring tangible benefits to Nepal's sexual and gender minorities.

Read more: [Ratopati](#)

Governance issues of the week

- 1 The Supreme Court requested clarification from Madhesh Province following a petition challenging Madhesh Province's decision to distribute funds to its province parliament members. The Council of Ministers meeting in Madhesh Province had decided to allocate NRs. 50 million to directly elected MPs and NRs. 15 million to proportionally elected MPs.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
- 2 The government has made it mandatory to have a National Identity Card (NIC) number to issue government benefits such as social security, health insurance, and retirement facilities. Similarly, driving licenses will also be linked to NIC, enabling license details to be accessed by scanning the card. With this, the government is also speeding up the issuance of national identity cards.
Read more: [NagarikNews](#), [Setopati](#)
- 3 The latest report indicates that two additional Nepalis have perished in the Russian-Ukraine War, bringing the total number of Nepali casualties to 25. However, these figures are based solely on reported data. Despite ongoing efforts by the Nepal government, precise statistics regarding Nepalis recruited, injured, or deceased in the Russian Army have not been provided by the Russian government.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
- 4 A recent study by Nepal's National Statistics Office across 643 local units indicates that 99 percent of wards are vulnerable to various disasters. Among the 16 types of disaster listed in the census questionnaire, floods pose a threat to an alarming 63.3 percent of wards, followed by landslides at 59.7 percent and storms at 52.6 percent. The findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive disaster preparedness measures nationwide.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
- 5 Despite the government's target to increase revenue collection by 40 percent this fiscal year, monthly revenues have consistently fallen short by 10 percent. In the last fiscal year, revenue collection hit a five-decade low due to provisions such as import bans and cash margins on Letters of Credit (LCs). These figures have raised concerns regarding the government's revenue system and collection capacity.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
- 6 The recently published fourth Nepal Living Standards Survey (2079/80) report highlights that 65% of the workers in Nepal are engaged in daily wage labor compared to 28.7 % involved in monthly wage and 6.8% employed on a contractual basis. This high reliance on daily wage labor is attributed to the prevalence of the informal economy, agriculture-based firms, and related employment practices.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

Reading

[Summit for Democracy : Progress Factsheet](#)

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