

GOVERNANCE

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Nepal's Transitional Justice Process Progresses: But Concerns Persist over Partisan Influence

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Nepal's transitional justice process has lately seen some progress, but concerns remain about its ability to deliver meaningful outcomes. In August 2024, the government introduced an amendment to the Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act, raising hopes for justice. The amendment had been delayed for over two years due to controversial provisions, such as the categorization of crimes, which many feared would promote impunity. The bill, widely criticized by victims and civil society, had also been stalled by the Supreme Court, which called for removal of such provisions.

Earlier, in April 2024, the government formed a committee to recommend leadership for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP), both of which had been without leadership since mid-July 2022. However, the process was delayed when the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) declined to participate until the law was amended. Recently, the government reconstituted the committee, now including former chief justice Om Prakash Mishra, former ambassador Arjun Karki, rights activist Stella Tamang, former Attorney General Khanna Bahadur Khatri, and NHRC member Manoj Dawadi. The committee has two months to recommend ten office bearers—five for each commission.

The TRC and CIEDP, central to the justice process, have consistently underperformed due to operational challenges and political interference. The TRC has received over 63,700 complaints, while the CIEDP is handling around 2,400 cases. Despite years of work, their efforts have mostly been limited to collecting complaints and conducting preliminary investigations. Both commissions now have a renewed four-year mandate, with possible extensions, making it crucial to appoint effective and impartial leadership to ensure justice for victims.

However, concerns about the impartiality of the recommendation process persist. The victims and the civil society groups have called for greater transparency and participation in the selection process. So far, the transitional justice efforts appear more focused on appeasing victims and international stakeholders than on delivering genuine justice, with significant promises yet to be translated into concrete actions.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The President of Rashtriya Swatantra Party, Rabi Lamichhane has been arrested on embezzlement charges related to cooperative funds, following a report from the House of Representatives' special investigation committee. The Kaski District Court had extended his judicial custody for seven days on 24 October 2024. Meanwhile, RSP supporters have been protesting and demanding his release, claiming that the arrest reflects political vendetta.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

2. Nepal Airlines Corporation, which operates four aircraft for international flights, is facing issues with its all four planes. One of the two wide-body aircraft is grounded due to engine problems, while the other is in Italy for a complete test. Similarly, a narrow-body aircraft arrived 19 hours late from Delhi on 19 October due to an oil filter issue, and another landed three hours late from Dubai because of a computer system issue, raising concerns about air safety and management.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

3. On 23 October 2024, the political leaders from various parties met with the President Ram Chandra Paudel amid speculations of a forthcoming party-division ordinance from the government. They urged the President to suspend such ordinance if it is introduced. There is growing speculation about a possible split within the Unified Socialist Party, which holds 10 seats in the parliament, but five of its members are expected to return to the UML.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#), [Setopati](#)

4. Dhan Raj Gurung, the Deputy President of the Nepali Congress and former Minister, who is also facing allegations of cooperative fraud, has reportedly received around NRs. 9.12 million from Min Bahadur Gurung, owner of BhatBhateni Supermarket. It has come to light that the former minister used these cheques to repay a loan. Min Bahadur Gurung was under legal allegations related to the Lalita Niwas land embezzlement case when Dhan Raj Gurung was a Law Minister.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

5. The government has paused the deployment of Nepali workers to Israel amid escalating conflicts with other countries. The Department of Foreign Employment stated that workers will only be sent once conditions stabilize. Previously, 2,112 Nepali workers had been selected to go to Israel as caregivers under the G2G process; but, the process has been on hold until their safety can be assured.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

6. The limited revenue generation capacity of provinces and their dependence on federal funds has been concerning. For instance, Karnali Province has presented budgets totaling NRs. 200 billion over the past six years but generated only NRs 2.798 billion internally—just 1.3% of its total budget. This internal revenue falls short of covering even administrative expenses, highlighting the province's financial reliance on the federal government.

Read more: [myRepublica](#)

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