

GOVERNANCE

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Debate Intensifies Over Extending CIAA's Jurisdiction to Private Sector Under New Amendment Bill

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The debate over whether to extend the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA)'s jurisdiction to the private sector under the [CIAA Third Amendment Bill 2020](#) and the Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 has become increasingly prominent and getting more traction. On one side, rising private sector irregularities are fueling calls for broader oversight, while on the other, many question whether the same agency should be responsible for policing both public and private sectors.

The proposed amendments would bring private institutions mainly banks, medical colleges, hospitals, and similar organized institutions within the CIAA's jurisdiction. To address ongoing disagreements, the government established a nine-member committee in September 2024, aiming to build consensus. Yet, political parties remain divided: lawmakers from the Nepali Congress are strongly against CIAA's involvement in private sector oversight, while representatives from CPN-UML argue that private sector entities receiving government funds or grants should be monitored.

For the CIAA, these amendments would expand its reach and align Nepal's anti-corruption framework with the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which Nepal ratified in 2011. The UNCAC urges member states to take necessary measures to prevent corruption in the private sector, foster collaboration between law enforcement and private entities, and develop standards to protect private sector integrity. However, questions remain about whether the CIAA should meet these standards alone.

Existing oversight mechanisms already monitor various private sector functions. For instance, the Nepal Rastra Bank oversees compliance in the banking sector, the Medical Council regulates hospitals, and the Inland Revenue Department enforces tax compliance. Some suggest that if centralized anti-corruption oversight is necessary, a separate body focused on private sector corruption might be more suitable. Or the government could also utilize other anti-corruption oversight agencies that share similar responsibilities.

Given the CIAA's current scope, which includes over 6,743 ward offices and 753 municipal units, and other numerous government institutions, incorporating the private sector would require significant resource expansion in terms of human resource and other technical capacity. Additionally, incorporating the private sector could heighten the risk of bribery and other forms of corruption within the CIAA itself, a concern that the agency must carefully consider. The agency should also be mindful of this. Whether the CIAA can manage this additional responsibility effectively remains a key consideration in this ongoing policy debate.

Read more: [Nayapatrika](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The ownership of the land donated to CPN-UML was transferred to Bhat-Bhateni SuperMarket and Department Store, right before a hearing at the Supreme Court. Before the donation was announced, the land's ownership was with Road Show Real Estate, owned by Kalu Gurung. The hearing was scheduled for Monday but was later deemed unfeasible by the SC, as Min Bahadur Gurung, the owner of Bhat-Bhateni, has two ongoing cases in the SC.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. The ongoing tussle between the Federal Government and Nepal Electricity Authority has taken a new turn, as the NEA has warned to cut off supply to consumers of dedicated and trunk lines if arrears aren't paid within 15 days. The government had asked the NEA to resume power supply to the affected industries within 24 hours on the 25th of November and to collect arrears within 15 days, based on the Time of Day (TOD) meters and adhering to the report of the Lal commission, which was set by the former prime minister, Puspa Kamal Dahal.

Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

3. The committee to recommend incumbents has allotted seven days for the candidates to apply in the positions of two chairs and eight members in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons by issuing a public notice on Friday. The victims of the 1996-2006 conflict and human rights activists have demanded mandatory public hearings of short-listed candidates before nominations are made, opposing the committee's plan of basing the nominations by evaluating their resumes and backgrounds and citizen feedback.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

4. The maternity ward constructed at the cost of 16 crores remains unused in Janakpurdhham, Madhesh Province. The vice chancellor of the institution claims there are technical hurdles operating the ward, citing the road between the ward and the provincial hospital to be the primary issue, claiming difficulties to operate unless the road is closed off, but the local ward chair claims that the road is historic and shutting the road would cause public outrage.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

5. CPN-UML has strategized to collect private information on individual voters to find out the political inclination or affiliation of each voter from mid-February to mid-April next year. A UML party member stated that the party cadres will recognize who their sympathizers are and who's associated with other parties; the survey has already started in the districts where byelections are being held next month on December 1st. Political experts view this move as an intrusion into personal safety and the adoption of extremist strategies.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

6. The 10-hour closure of Tribhuvan International Airport has caused a massive hike in the airfare. Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Agencies (NAFEA) has objected to the ever-increasing airfare by airlines. Their complaint is that 1,500 migrants leave the nation every day, increasing the business of airlines, but the airfares don't stabilize. The president of NAFEA has argued that limited working hours of airlines currently creates an artificial shortage. The association has requested the Nepal government to arrange for workers who have obtained labor approvals to use Indian airports with an 'NOC letter'.

Read more: [myRepublica](#)

Reading

[A Preliminary Loss and Damage Assessment of Flood and Landslide September 2024](#)

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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