

GOVERNANCE

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Report of the Investigation Committee on the Land and Immovable Property of Tribhuvan University Uncovers Massive Encroachment and Corruption

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The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology has released the report of the Investigation Committee on the Land and Immovable Property of Tribhuvan University (TU). Of the total 5,050 acres of land originally acquired by the government for the establishment and operation of TU, approximately [2,539 acres have been found to be encroached](#). In Kirtipur alone, more than [1,500 ropani of TU's land](#) is illegally occupied by 18 institutions, including religious institutions. The report shows that the encroached 843 ropanis land is registered under government, private, non-governmental and religious institutions. Additionally, [696 ropani of land outside](#) Kirtipur has been misappropriated. The report further states that the failure to protect TU's land involves the responsibility of the then Prime Minister, Minister of Education, Vice-Chancellor of TU, Registrar among others.

The report was prepared by a five-member committee led by former secretary Sharada Prasad Trital, formed on [May 31, 2023](#), and submitted in the presence of then Education Minister Bidya Bhattarai. The committee conducted extensive studies of TU's land and other immovable properties in Kirtipur, Naikap, Dhungeadda, and Patan. However, the then government, led by [PM KP Sharma Oli](#), did not make the report public at the time.

The investigation committee identified five key reasons behind the failure to protect Tribhuvan University's (TU) land:

- **Negligence of TU officials:** University officials neglected their legal responsibilities by failing to document and update land records, contributing to the improper distribution and usage of land and breaches of contract. The committee identified several authorities including the TU Assembly, the Prime Minister (as Chancellor), and the Minister of Education responsible for this negligence.
- **Political interference:** Political influence and collusion among political leaders had led to the misuse and encroachment of university land. Political pressure, vested interests, and favoritism dominated the process of land distribution.
- **Lack of cooperation from government bodies:** Despite repeated requests from TU to the Ministry of Education for assistance in land registration, ownership transfer, and record updating, the ministry and other concerned agencies failed to coordinate and support.
- **Involvement of TU employees:** The committee observed that certain Tribhuvan University (TU) staff were directly implicated in or enabled land encroachment. This was due to their extreme negligence, failure to uphold their legal obligations, and inaction in filing complaints or taking decisive measures.
- **Weak legal and policy mechanisms:** The growing tendency to encroach on public land and the absence of clear legal and policy provisions for land protection were also identified as contributing factors.

The extensive landholding of TU is the missed opportunity for significant advancements. These lands could have been utilized for research and innovation hubs, fostering academic growth, providing student residences, and developing modern infrastructure, each of which would promote accessible and equitable education. Further with a transparent mechanism in place this could even have generated substantial income for the university.

Beyond these missed possibilities, the situation highlights deeper structural issues: a lack of strict land management policies, inadequate government records of public assets, and the absence of transparent mechanisms for land usage and monitoring that creates a ripe environment for manipulation and encroachment. The case of TU land misappropriation is not a new phenomenon and rather reflects a profound crisis of morality, institutional values, transparency, and deeply rooted corruption within public institutions of Nepal. It is imperative that the response does not follow the usual pattern—limited to public outrage and inaction. Instead, this moment must mark a turning point leading to the full recovery of encroached land and the prosecution of those responsible. [Read more](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. **Writ petitions filed against the dissolution of the House of Representatives:** Ten writ petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the government's decision to dissolve the House of Representatives. The petitioners have asked the court to cancel the Prime Minister's appointment and reinstate Parliament. The Supreme Court has set October 29 as the hearing date, which will take place before the Constitutional Bench. [Read More](#)
2. **Reconstruction fund receives limited support:** The government's "Physical Infrastructure Reconstruction Fund," created to rebuild infrastructure damaged during the September 9 demonstrations, has gathered only NPR: 55.7 million—far less than expected. Established under the Government Infrastructure Reconstruction Committee Decision, 2082, the fund has struggled to attract contributions despite repeated appeals from the Ministry of Finance, as the private sector itself incurred heavy losses during the protests. [Read more](#)
3. **Government recalls 11 ambassadors:** The interim government has recalled 11 ambassadors, directing them to return to Nepal by November 6, 2025. The recall includes envoys to China, Germany, Israel, Malaysia, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the UK, the US, and Japan. These ambassadors were appointed under a quota-sharing arrangement between CPN-UML and Nepali Congress. However, ambassadors such as Dr. Shankar Sharma (India) and Chitrakleha Yadav (Australia) remain in post. As the interim government cannot appoint new envoys, the positions will stay vacant until after the elections. [Read more](#)
4. **Corruption charges against a member of the Madhesh Province Assembly and 15 others:** The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has filed corruption charges against 16 individuals. Among them are Saroj Kumar Singh, a member of the Madhesh Province Assembly and former minister, as well as the chair and treasurer of several consumer groups. The specific consumer group chairs and treasurers involved were responsible for the construction of a Dharmashala, the completion and beautification of a temple, road gravelling, etc. They are accused of embezzling Rs 3.8 million, an amount reportedly transferred to Singh's wife. [Read more](#)
5. **43 local units remain to submit a budget for fiscal year 2025/26:** Three months after the fiscal year ended, 43 among the 753 local units have yet to announce their annual budgets, despite the legal mandate to do so by Ashad 10. Of these, 34 are from Madhesh Province alone. Officials attribute the delay largely to political disagreements among local representatives, which have stalled budget approvals. The prolonged stalemate has raised concerns about disrupted service delivery and delayed development activities at the local level. [Read more](#)
6. **83 individuals involved in the criminal activities during and following Genz protest arrested:** Kathmandu police have investigated 83 individuals, with 19 arrested for possessing arms and ammunition, 52 for public disturbance. They have however been released on bail with regular attendance requirements. The rest of the 12 are still in custody for further investigation. Some of these arrested have prior criminal records. [Read more](#)

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