



The Balen government has triggered fresh constitutional and political debate after issuing a series of ordinances. The government [suspended](#) the Parliament within 24 hours of convening its first session on April 23, 2026, and chose to legislate through ordinances. So far, President Ramchandra Paudel has promulgated seven of eight different ordinances related to universities, health science institutes, the Constitutional Council, and the removal of politically appointed public officials under Article 114 of Nepal's Constitution.

An ordinance is a temporary law issued by the president on the recommendation of the executive cabinet when Parliament is not in session or when immediate action is deemed necessary by the government. It carries the same legal mandate as an act passed through the Parliament. However, it must be tabled and approved within 60 days of Parliament reconvening, failing which it automatically lapses.

In Nepal, the extensive use of ordinances has raised repeated concerns over executive overreach and the weakening of parliamentary processes. Critics argue that ordinances are intended for genuine emergencies in a democracy, not as a means to bypass legislative debate and political negotiation.

The recent ordinance debate is especially heated as the parliament had just convened prior to this abrupt suspension despite commanding nearly two-thirds of the majority in the parliament. The government's response? It has defended the move as an attempt to improve efficiency, depoliticize institutions, and accelerate reforms.

However, the proposed amendments have received mixed responses. The "Special Provisions Ordinance on the Removal of Public Officials, 2026" will reportedly [remove](#) 1,594 politically appointed public officials across various sectors, including education, health, energy, and aviation. The concern is regarding how the government will accommodate such a large number of vacancies within a short timespan, since prolonged absence of appointments could directly affect the functionality of those institutions.

The ordinance related to the Constitutional Council has also faced significant criticism. Previously, Council meetings and decisions required the presence and unanimous approval of all members. The amendment now allows meetings with only four members present and decisions by a simple majority, meaning just three members can make key decisions. The Constitutional Council is responsible for recommending appointments to key constitutional bodies, including the Supreme Court, the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, the Election Commission, and the National Human Rights Commission. The amendment weakens safeguards designed to ensure broader political consensus and institutional independence in these appointments.

The ongoing ordinance debate raises broader questions about the balance between efficient governance and democratic accountability. While the government may require flexibility during urgent situations, excessive reliance on ordinances risks weakening Parliament's core role in debate, oversight, and lawmaking in Nepal's federal democratic system.

Governance Issues of the Week

- 3.62 billion embezzled at PRIA:** The CIAA has charged 14 individuals including senior government authorities and Chinese Contractor Company CAMC Engineering Co Ltd. over alleged illegal tax exemptions at Pokhara International Airport (PRIA). Former ministers of finance, tourism secretaries and Civil Aviation Authority (CAAN) executives of the Gandaki province are all tied to the case. The CIAA states that in granting a separate implementation agreement by the authorities, exemptions of taxes and duties were allowed against the original procurement contract. This waiver has resulted in the contractor gaining double benefits while Rs 3.62 billion of public funds have been misused. [Read more](#)
- 1,301 Projects Shortlisted for startup loan:** The Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI) has shortlisted 1,301 from over 10,000 applications for the 'Startup Enterprise Loan Program'. IEDI has been supporting similar startup loans to hundreds of entrepreneurs in the past two fiscal years. This year, Rs 1.26 billion has been allocated for innovative, tech-based ideas with offers of loans ranging from Rs 500,000 to Rs 2 million. Final selections are optimized this time as they shall be based on onsite inspections, proposal evaluations, presentations, and bank credit appraisals of the candidates. [Read more](#)
- Kamaiya and Kamalari Communities Demand Resettlement:** Freed Kamaiya and Kamalari communities of Western Terai seek accelerated efforts from the government in their resettlement process. In being stalled since 2018, leaders from Kanchanpur have submitted a memorandum demanding a strong Commission to address land, education, and healthcare issues. Despite being freed 25 years ago, many families in Kailali and Kanchanpur still live in temporary camps without land titles (Lalpurja) and have called for implementation of early reports from the government and legislation to permanently end forced labor. [Read more](#)
- 12 employee organizations dissolved via ordinance:** The government has dissolved 12 employee trade unions through a new ordinance amending Nepal's laws. The Department of Labor canceled registration of unions linked to major political parties, including civil service and health worker organizations. All offices are ordered to close union offices, return vehicles and facilities, and reassign union-affiliated employees to regular duties. Individuals and organizations using public land and buildings without proper payment or lease agreements are also directed to vacate immediately. The unions claim such decisions as unconstitutional and prepare to challenge it before the court. [Read more](#)

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