



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, HariharBhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Release

(For the immediate use in the mass media)

26<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

## Parliamentary and provincial Elections Process Phase I Monitoring Concluded

National Human Rights Commission has concluded monitoring the polling process of the House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections phase I from human rights perspective in 32 districts today. For ensuring fair, free and fearless environment in the election 27 monitoring teams have been deployed by the Commission.

In accordance with the information received by the monitoring teams bombs exploded in some districts including Rolpa, Rukum, Bajhang, Bhojpur, Nuwakot, Gorkha but there were no human casualties. Explosive materials found near to the polling centers including Taplejung, Dhading, Baglung, Darchula districts, similarly some people injured when clashes ensued between rival parties in Bajura, Dolakha, Jajarkot, Okhaldhunga and Sindhupalchowk. Security personnel fired shots in the air to control the situation in Dolakha, Bajura and Sindhupalchowk. Polling was postponed due to fire in the ballot box (of first-past-the-post) at Bafikot Rural Municipality (A) polling station and fire in the ballot box (of proportional representation) at Gattasaina polling Station of Athbiskot Municipality-5.

Polling stations were very far in some places and elderly citizens, persons with disabilities and pregnant women, who could not trek five hours to reach their polling stations, were deprived of their voting rights, due to lack of effective dissemination of voter education and awareness to voting rights, voters had not reached the polling centers even by 2:00 pm in some places and almost polling centers are not found to be physically disabled friendly. Due to the rumor of unsigned ballot paper distribution spread and created conflict, polling process was postponed for sometimes at one of the polling stations in Lamjung. Anyway, Voters are found to have reached to the polling stations to use voting rights though there were some incidents of bombs exploded, cold climate and disadvantageous geography.

The Commission urges concerned parties to ensure voters' education and manage polling stations well so that voters can cast their votes easily in the days ahead.

.....  
Mohna Ansari  
Member /Spokesperson