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Effective Enforcement of Laws Essential to curb Gender based Violence



NHRC Officials and the representatives of the govt. bodies including the MoWCSW, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Security Agencies during the discussion held on the VAW at NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: The participants associated with the organizations working for eliminating the gender based violence have stressed on the need to enforce the prevailing laws in an effective manner so as to put an end to all forms of violence against women and children amid a discussion program held at the Commission.

In the wake of growing incidents of Violence against Women, the participants have also urged to amend laws as per the need of time and to promulgate new laws to address such menace. It's high time the Act related Acid is brought into enforcement, the participants emphasized in unison.

Dhan Bahadur Tamang, Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children

and Social Welfare; Radhika Aryal, Joint Secretary at MoWCSW; Laxmi Prasad Dhakal; Spokesperson for the Ministry of Home Affairs and DIG Mingmar Lama, Chief of Women and Children Service Directorate at Nepal Police among others expressed their views during the program held at the National Human Rights Commission.

At the program, NHRC Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma and other Officials expressed their concerns about the work accomplished by the concerned stakeholders towards the direction to end the violence against women and children.

The interaction concluded with a decision to write to MoWCSW on the following concerns.

1. There is an urgent need to revamp the law related to violence against women and relief distribution guidelines. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare will be corresponded in this regard.
2. Immediately rescue women and children victimized from violence against women and children and make arrangement for relief, reparation and compensation upon carrying out investigation for prosecution.
3. Make relief committees based in the districts further active.

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Inmates express Woes, Overall Improvement of Prison urged



Parliamentarian Panch Karna Rai, Officiating Chief District Officer of Khotang Arjun Rai, District level chiefs of security agencies and prison authority NHRC Sub Regional Head Lok Nath Ghimire during the prison monitoring in Khotang

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

KHOTANG: A joint team including the Coordinator of 'Study on human Rights of prison Inmates Observation and Inspection Working Group under the Social Justice and Human Rights Committee of the Legislature Parliament' Panch Karna Rai, Officiating Chief District Officer Arjun Rai, Office Head of the NHRC Sub Regional Office, Khotang Lok Nath Ghimire, Superintendent of Police Binod Raj Kharel, Assistant Superintendent of Police Raju Pandey, INSEC District Representative D.M. Rai and Federation for Nepalese Journalists representative Uttam Chaulagain conducted monitoring on the district prison in Khotang on February 8, 2015.

The objective of the monitoring of the prison was to observe the physical infrastructures, the human rights of inmates serving their term on various criminal charges and basic amenities facilitated to them by the prison authority and to recommend to the government for the necessary improvement of the situation.

The monitoring also aimed at examining the directives for improving the overall management system of the prison issued by honorable justices from time to time.

During the monitoring, the team found the pitiable physical condition of the prison, lack of qualitative health

services provided to the inmates, meager daily allowance continuously provided to the inmates since the Prison Act 1993 came into force. The inmates requested the Commission to step up the initiatives for the increment of the allowance to meet the ends meet of the inmates while the price of every commodity appears to soar day by day.

Similarly, mentally ill inmates were found kept with other inmates with normal health condition. The prison management has appealed to the Commission to take up initiatives to provide the separate prison cell for the mentally ill persons in the prison and to arrange for health treatment.

The inmates were found provided with the sports kits. They were also found provided with the income generating activities such as manufacturing of bamboo made furniture, indigenous Dhaka items including cap and other garments.



A crack seen on the wall of prison during the monitoring in Khotang district prison

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Khotang

Prisons should be transformed into Reformation Center: Com. Paudyal

KAPILVASTU: Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has said that the prisons and detention centers should be turned into rehabilitation centers.

Commissioner Sharma said this while speaking to the inmates during the monitoring on the prison and detention centers in Kapilvastu district.

Pointing out the necessity for the right to live with dignity of all citizens

in the prisons, Commissioner Sharma said that all the prisons and detention centers must be human rights friendly.

During the monitoring, the physical condition of the prisons was found to be in a pitiful condition while the inmates were found deprived of legal aid provision, basic amenities such as provision of sanitation including drinking water supply in the prison. It was also found that the daily allowance provided to the inmates was not at par with the increasing

price hike of the daily commodities. During the monitoring, it was found that seven senior citizens serving their term on various criminal charges were not provided with the senior citizen allowance.

The monitoring team led by Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal was comprised of Assistant Chief District officer Krishna Bahadur Khadka and Chief of NHRC Sub Regional Officer, Butwal Deepak Jung Dhoi Karki.

NHRC urges to book the Culprit

KATHMANDU: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern over the incident of acid attack perpetrated on two school girls namely Sangita Magar and Sima Basnet in the capital including another incident of rape perpetrated on a six year old girl in Bara district.

The NHRC team led by Commissioner Sudeep Pathak visited Sanigta Magar, one of the injured at the Sinamangal-based Kathmandu Medical College Teaching Hospital and obtained



NHRC Monitoring team led by Commissioner Sudip Pathak monitoring the health condition of the victims of the acid attack in the capital

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

the information about the incident. Though the doctor involved in the treatment informed that the injured victims are out of danger, it would

take more than a month to heal the wound caused from the acid attack.

It is learned that Seema Basnet, another victim of the attack returned home after first aid treatment, as per the press release issued by the Commission.

The Commission has, therefore, strongly urged the Government to immediately book those involved in throwing acid on schoolgirls and take stern action against them.

The Commission has also drawn the attention of the government towards taking effective steps to end all forms of violence against women, girls and children, make necessary arrangement for the treatment of the victims and also strictly monitor the import and selling of acid.



Commissioner Pathak obtaining the information on the police intervention on the incident of acid attack

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

District Prisons monitored, Directive issued for Improvement

SUNSARI: The team NHRC including the Commissioner Sudip Pathak has issued directives for necessary improvement of the regional prison at Jhumka, Sunsari district following the monitoring conducted on it.

Commissioner Pathak issued directives at the presence of the Chief of the prison management Ganesh Adhikari and Chief District Office of Sunsari district Chabilal Panth. The recommendations were made to establish schools for formal education provision to the inmates serving their

terms, to help register their skill oriented business at the department of industry, to install the complaint box at the prison and to provide a copy of the recommendation to the Commission regarding the exemption of the punishment to the inmates.

During the course of monitoring, Commissioner Pathak unveiled that the Commission has been inculcating concerted effort to turn prisons and detention centers into torture free places of rehabilitation within the forthcoming period of six years.

The physical condition of the Jhumka prison of Sunsari district was, however, found to be more satisfactory than those in other districts. Prison cells were accommodated with 1,390 inmates in the capacity of 1600 inmates.

The Head of the NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar, Kosh Raj Neupane, Superintendent of Police Sanjay Raj Sharma, local media persons including human rights defenders were present during the monitoring.

Concern expressed on Endemic 'Swine Flu', Precautionary Measures urged

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed serious concern over the media report about the outbreak of contagious 'Swine Flu' for the last few days and the death of a woman infected from it in the capital.

Issuing a press release, therefore, the Commission has drawn the attention of the government to bring about awareness in time and take precautionary measures to protect the citizens from further transmission of endemic Swine Flu. Likewise, the Commission has also drawn the attention of all stakeholders to remain aware and alert for the protection of the rights to health of the citizens provisioned in the constitution.

Having found the establishment of the 'Health Desk' along the bordering area of India for the control and prevention of the endemic 'Swine Flu,' the Commission has issued directives to its Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj, Butwal, Janakpur and Biratnagar offices to conduct monitoring on the effectiveness of these desks and submit the report accordingly.

Right to health of the people being taken seriously by the Commission,



NHRC monitoring team from NHRC Regional Office monitoring on the overall condition of district hospital in Biratnagar

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

the appropriate decision will be made upon receiving the reports on it, says the press release.

Meanwhile, sensing the possibility for endemic 'Swine Flu' to slip into the Nepalese territory, the NHRC monitoring team deployed by the Regional Office, Biratnagar conducted monitoring on the effectiveness of the Health Desk established along the bordering area to check the health condition of the people traveling to and from India, as per the directive issued by the Central Office.

Triggered by the outbreak of 'Swine Flu' in India, the Nepalese authorities at the bordering districts stepped up the precautionary measures by establishing Health Desk to minimize the impending danger, as per the news published in the 'Udghosh' daily including other local newspapers.

The monitoring team met with the Officiating Medical Superintendent Dr. Tanka Prasad Barakoti, District

Public Health Office, Senior Public Health Administrator Bhanu Yengden and Communication Officers Utsahv Pokharel and obtained necessary information at Koshi Zonal Hospital, Biratnagar. The team also found that the patients found infected from H1N1 virus were kept in a separate ward.

During monitoring on the health Desk at Jogbani border, the team found that the health desk was established with the three health workers deployed. A banner was installed outside the health desk bearing public service announcement on the steps of preventive measures to be taken against Swine Flu. The suspected persons with infection were checked with the help of infrared thermometer to measure the body temperature and other symptoms of infection. When found infected, the patients were immediately sent to Koshi Zonal hospital, Biratnagar. It also found that a ten bedded ward was separately arranged for the treatment of the patients infected from H1N1 virus.



The public service announcement of "Swine Flu" installed outside the health desk at Jogbani border

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar



NHRC monitoring team from NHRC Regional Office monitoring on the overall condition of district hospital in Biratnagar

Photo: Regional Office, Biratnagar

Thematic Discussions expedited for UPR Process

CHITWAN: A consultation on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was organized on 12 February 2014 on the issues of marginalized women including HIV survivors, LGBTI, Female Sex Workers and Female Drug Users in Chitwan.

Inaugurated with candle lit by NHRC Commissioner Sudeep Pathak, the objectives of the program was highlighted by Human Rights Officer Jayashwor Chapagain.

At the outset, Commissioner Pathak called upon the participants to be focused on the issue, fully utilize time allocated for the consultation so that the outcome of the workshop will be useful to connect the concerns raised to the international level through the UPR process eventually.

Similarly, Mr. Chapagain shared the NHRC activities accomplished with the marginalized communities including HIV survivors and LGBTI Group for UPR Process scheduled to

PARSA: The National Human Rights Commission held consultation as one of the series of programs on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report with the local level stakeholders in Parsa district on February 3, 2015.

The objective of the program was to gather inputs based on the truth with special focus on the implementation of the 9 core conventions to which Nepal is a party including overall human rights concerns raised by the stakeholders including district level human rights organizations, representatives of government bodies, civil society members.

The program also aimed at sharing on the implementation status of UPR recommendations upon receiving the recommendations via last UPR sessions held in Geneva including the transitional justice mechanisms,



Commissioner Sudip Pathak, Program Analyst Tek Tamata of UNDP-Nepal, Director Subarna Karmacharya among others at a consultation held on UPR process in Chitwan district

Photo: Sarki Man Tamang, NHRC Central Office

be presented in November 2015 in Geneva. He also shared the recently conceived slogan “Human Rights in every Household, a Base of Peace and Development.”

Tek Tamata of UNDP-Nepal mentioned that the issues of marginalized and excluded communities need to be highlighted in the UPR process with ample priority given to them so that their voices are heard and the concerns are addressed.

During the program, NHRC Director Subarna Karmacharya also shared how NHRC is working to make UPR process more participatory, inclusive and effective to report in the Human Rights Council.

peace process, impunity together with recently emerged human rights issues and concerns in the country.

At the program, the stakeholder representatives came up with various human rights concerns such as pervasive practice of caste based discrimination, violence against women (VAW) including domestic violence endured by women in the district, human rights unfriendly behavior shown by police and security forces with people at boarder area etc.

Participants also explored the de-facto human rights situation in the post conflict period and raised concerns regarding the frequent threat posed to the journalists and meager labour wages. They also raised voice in unison to curb violence against women and widespread child labor.

The NHRC team comprising

At the program, presentations were made in order to stimulate the thematic group discussion. Human Rights Officer Chandra Kanta Chapagain from NHRC Butwal, highlighted the importance of UPR Process in UN Human rights system while HRO Jayashwor Chapagai’s presentation mainly focused on the issues of sexual minority groups.

Director Subarna Karmacharya highlighted the CEDAW and issues of women. During discussion participants raised the questions about individual NGO Report submission in UPR process, NHRC initiative on same sex marriage, practice of living together, citizenship and identity.

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HRO Badri Subedi, Commissioner Mohna Ansari, Chari of Women’s Commission Siekh Chand Tara and the district level Police Officer at a consultation held on UPR Process in Bara district.

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

Commissioner Mohan Ansari, Human Rights Officers Badri Prasad Subedi, Geeta Shrestha, the Office Head of NHRC Regional Office Janakpur Budhha Narayan Sahani including Human Rights Asst. Ajit Thakur was present at the consultation program.

Security beef up urged, Thirty Party Alliance asked to restrain



NHRC Officials including Chiefs and representatives of Nepal Police and Armed Police Force at a program held at NHRC on peace and security situation during the protest program organized by the Thirty Party Alliance

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

KATHMANDU: The National Human Rights Commission held discussion separately with the chiefs of the security agencies of the valley and the representatives of the thirty party alliances on the human rights concerns prior to the protest program scheduled for Saturday.

At the discussion, Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma drew the attention of the concerned stakeholders to ensure the rights of citizens to organize peaceful protest programs and to maintain peace and security.

The NHRC monitoring team will be mobilized for situation monitoring during the protest program.

At the discussion, Chief District Officers and the Chiefs of the Security Agencies said that they are doing their utmost to step up the security beef up in the wake of the announcement of the protest program by the Thirty Party Alliance

Similarly, the representatives of the thirty party alliance said that they are

committed to protecting the rights of the citizens and would do their best for the peaceful protest and restrain.

The discussions were held on the fulfillment of human rights during the protest program, management of the protest program, right to freedom of movement, protection of the rights of the demonstrators, security personnel including the general citizens.

Representing the thirty party alliance, Barsaman Pun, Hridayesh Tripathi, Jhaku Prasad Subedi, Salikram Jarmakattel and Pasang Sherpa were present in the discussion program.

Representing the Security Agencies, Additional Inspector General of Police Bigyan Raj Sharma, the Metropolitan Police Office, Additional Inspector General of the Armed Police Force Jiwan Thapa, Chief of Metropolitan Police Range, Uttam Kumar Karki, Senior Superintendent of Police, Lalitpur District Police Office Pushpa Chandra Ranjit and District Superintendent of Police of Bhaktapur District Police Office

Bikash Shrestha were present at the discussion program.

On the occasion, Chief District Officers Ek Narayan Aryal, Yadav Koirala and Anil Kumar Thakur of Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur districts respectively were present.

Meanwhile, the National Human Rights Commission monitored on the power demonstration organized by the thirty party alliance today. The team led by Commissioner Sudip Pathak monitored the situation at places including Koteswar, New Baneshwar, Ratna Park and Thapathali.

The team visited the office of the AIGP Bigyan Raj Sharma at his office and sought the information about the situation. AIG Sharma informed that the situation was normal and peace was maintained sufficiently with security beef up in the wake of the power demonstration of the thirty party alliance.

Similarly, the monitoring team had telephonic talk with Barsaman Pun, Hridayesh Tripathi from among the participating leaders in the demonstration and acquired the information on the ongoing situation during the demonstration. They have informed the team NHRC about the ongoing peaceful demonstration of power.

Monitoring teams deployed at various places of the valley have gathered the information about the situation being normal till 11: 30 AM. It is learned that the security personnel have confiscated the bamboo sticks from the demonstrators.



NHRC Officials and Representatives of Thirty Party Alliance at a program held at NHRC on the peace and human rights concerns during the demonstration organized by them in the capital

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

Human Rights Situation monitored during Demonstration

LALITPUR: The National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the incident of scuffle between the police and the demonstrators during the power demonstration organized by the thirty party alliance and the situation emerged thereof.

The incident occurred when the demonstrators attempted to trespass the no-entry zone near civil hospital at Baneshor, as per Ek Narayan Aryal, the Chief District Officer of Kathmandu district.

As per the monitoring team, the police resorted to lathi charge, pressure water and tear gas while attempting to control the mob. As per the information received 45 demonstrators as well as the common citizens were injured while 15 police personnel had sustained injury. The injured underwent the treatment at Civil hospital, Kantipur hospital and Bir hospital respectively.

The NHRC Commissioner Sudip Pathak urged the government and the demonstrators to remain restrain

The Commission has also drawn the attention of the government towards the arrangement for the treatment of the injured and also urged to circulate the information about the venue, route and the time of the demonstration and general meeting to the general citizens prior to the event in future.

The Commission will publish the report of the monitoring; the press release quoted NHRC Spokesperson Mohna Ansari as saying.

A Few Images of Monitoring on the Demonstration organized by Thirty Party Alliance



Photos: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

All Human Rights Concerns to get Ample Space in the Strategic Plan: Commission



NHRC Officials and the participants from NGOs and CSOs at a national level consultation held on NHRC strategic plan in Lalitpur

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has confided the stakeholder representatives from government and non-government organizations including civil society about providing ample space with high priority to all human rights in the fifth Six Year Strategic Plan of the Commission.

Chairperson Sharma was speaking at the national level consultation program on the draft Strategic Plan (2015-20) held in the capital.

'The would-be formulated strategic plan will help us delineate the future roadmap of the Commission and therefore the plan would be revamped as per the need in the years to come,' he added.

Speaking on the occasion, former NHRC Chairperson, Kedar Nath Upadhyay said that the strategic plan should be adequately flexible for effective implementation.

He suggested to include the human rights issues of more than 30,000 migrant workers contributing their service outside their motherland.

At the program, NHRC Commissioner Prakash Osti said that the strategic plan will give due stress on the improvement of human rights of impoverished section of society

including marginalized community at risk who are lagging behind in the course of social development.

Throwing light on the process of preparing the strategic plan, Commissioner Osti said that by far the Commission has organized consultation with 19 groups in 23 districts across the country.

At the program, Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal Lila Mani Poudel expressed his view stating that the implementation of the strategic plan in due course will provide guidance to the government towards the direction of the protection and promotion of human rights.

'Though the government has been doing its utmost for the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights, the concrete achievement couldn't be yielded in the field of human rights as desired due to the country being in the post conflict situation,' he added.

Delivering the welcome speech at the outset, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that the Commission is in need of constructive support from the stakeholders at the time of formulating the strategic plan.

Policy, Research and Planning Division Head Yagya Prasad Adhikari,

making presentation on the draft Strategic Plan, said that experiences and good practices of national human rights institutions in foreign land will also be incorporated in the strategic plan.

Mr. Adhikari also unveiled that the Commission has already prepared the guidelines and indicators in the course of formulating the strategic plan.

At the program, the participants brought up the human rights concerns and issues such as the monitoring on the human rights situation of the Nepalese abroad, untouchability, caste based discrimination, rights of senior citizens, rights of child, women's rights, persons with disability, rights of indigenous communities, Dalits, marginalized communities, Muslim community, Dalit community, prevention and control of gender based violence, citizenship provision in the name of mother to be incorporated in the strategic plan.

Similarly, suggestions with due emphasis laid on incorporating of human rights of persons with disability, protection of human rights of bordering area, right related to identity, right of the protection and promotion of mother language, civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights were also offered at the program.

On the occasion, Som Luitel, Gajadhar Sunar, Subodh Pyakurel, Karna Thapa, Charan Prasai, Chatra Pradahn, Ramesh Khatiwada, Binod Karki, Pramila Rajbhandari, Pratibha Muthbhari, Chatra Shanker, Pradip Pokhrel, Bhoj Raj Shrestha, Rajesh Hamal, Bal Sagar Giri and Raju Chapagain provided their comments and suggestions on various facets of human rights

The Commission has expressed commitment to finalize the strategic plan by incorporating the human rights concerns expressed at the program by the participants

Inputs provided by Development Partners



Mr. Renaud Meyer, Country Director of UNDP-Nepal and NHRC Officials during the sharing program on the Strategic plan held in Lalitpur

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar, Central Office

LALITPUR: Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma has said ‘We have come up with clear vision now to accomplish our endeavors to protect, promote and respect of human rights through the implementation of the fifth six year strategic plan (2015-20) which is equalized to our term at the Commission.’

Speaking at the sharing program held with the Development Partners on the NHRC Strategic Plan (2015-20), Chairperson Sharma said that the Commission will embark upon having institutionalized collaboration with the government, national and international institutions while accomplishing the NHRC endeavors facilitated through the strategic plan.

Talking about the priority areas of the strategic plan, Chairperson Sharma said that due priority is given to all spectrums human rights in the strategic plan.

Underscoring the need of sound collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers including the Office of the Attorney General for the necessary implementation of the NHRC recommendations made in the past, Chairperson also mentioned about

necessary collaboration with the NGOs, civil society and other external partner organizations.

Throwing light on the objectives of the program, Secretary Bhattarai said that the main objective of the sharing program was to brief the development partners about the content in the sixth draft of the strategic plan, to explore the areas where the development partners can contribute and how cooperation between the NHRC and development partners could be established to address the priority areas contained in the strategic plan.

At the outset of the program, Human Rights Officer Jaya Shor Chapagain of Policy, Research and Planning Division made his presentation on the status of sixth draft of strategic plan (2015-20).

Mr. Chapagain briefly elaborated on the content of the draft strategic plan with main focus on the agenda furnished in the strategic objectives. He went on to illuminate that the objectives of the strategic plan are to investigate human rights violation cases and monitor human rights situation, to strengthen human rights promotion, to ensure the rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups and to expand the access, strengthen effectiveness and organizational development of the NHRC.

At the program, International advisor Elisabeth Abiri made her reflection on the presentation made by Mr. Chapagain. Following this, she called on all the representatives of the development partners to come up with their invaluable inputs and suggestions for each objective and priority area from their end.

Similarly, a few of the points she made as to what kind of tools the Commission may have to influence the Government of Nepal to implement the recommendations besides those objectives which are not at its control.

Through her reflection thereafter she explained the Organizational efficiency & development, Follow-up mechanisms, Accessible presence and services to all rights-holders, institutionalized co-operation with civil society organizations and other Commissions, Positioning, independence, trust and so on.

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Human Rights Officer Jaya Shor Chapagain presenting on the draft strategic plan among the development partners in Lalitpur

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar, Central Office

Monitoring on HRs Situation monitored across Lumbini Zone, Directives issued for the Protection of Human Rights

The NHRC team led by Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal has monitored the human rights situation in six districts of Lumbini Zone effecting from 9 till 18 February, 2015.

The monitoring has been conducted on district level hospitals, district public health offices, prison, district police office and custodies. Upon monitoring, necessary directives have been issued to the heads of the concerned offices for the respect, protection and fulfillment of human rights.

was cooked above the septic tank in Arghakhanchi district prison while food was cooked in open air in Rupandehi district. The open space in Nawlparasi and Arghakhanchi district prisons was found extremely congested for the movement of the inmates. The district based detention centers were overcrowded with the flow of the detainees and also these centers suffered from the lack the toilet and water.

Most hospitals were found less

Bahadurgunj based Shivaraj hospital wasn't in operation for the last 15 years due to lack of doctors. The monitoring has also unveiled that the operation couldn't be performed in Arghakhanchi district hospital due to the lack of anesthesia.

Despite the fact that 72 shutters were given on rent in Lumbini zonal hospital, the deplorable physical condition of the hospital was noticed during the monitoring. Toilets and the wards were found stinking and the hospital canteen was found to be unhygienic. Even the food stuff served in the canteen appeared to be stale and rotten. The price board wasn't displayed and the patients were charged with comparatively double the price in the hospital.

Likewise, the privately run chemists shops in the shutters of hospital premises were found with the advertisement board of the doctors working kept in the same hospital. In one case of monitoring, an unattended patient was found lying unconscious on the stretcher at the veranda of the hospital.

As per the monitoring, there has been complaint on the lack of necessary treatment for the referral cases of mentally ill patients from other zonal hospitals to the zonal hospital at Butwal. Such patients are again referred to Kathmandu, the city capital.

Similarly, the monitoring was conducted on the implementation status of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) under the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal. During the monitoring, it was found that the chiefs of most of the government offices were unaware about the enforcement of NHRAP. Though the information officers were posted at few offices, the flow of information wasn't brought into



Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal addressing a consultation on UPR Process held in Arghakhanchi district

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

The directives are inclusive of the recommendation for the improvement of the pitiable physical condition of the prison cells, accommodation of the inmates as per the prescribed capacity of the prison, provision of toilet and drinking water supply, health, education and library, playfield within the prison premises and the arrangement of sports kits. The directive is also issued to take necessary initiative to raise the daily allowance consistent with the market price of the daily stuffs.

During the monitoring, the open air toilet was still found in practice in Kapilvastu district. Similarly, food

number of human resources than it is prescribed. This hospital hardly distributed 15 to 20 types of medicines whereas the Government has the provision of 70 types of medicines for free distribution. The Commission has asked to make the necessary arrangement for the distribution of medicines prescribed by the government.

During the course of monitoring, it was found that there has been some improvement in the information system including the sanitation and other necessary health services in Kapilvastu district though the indoor health services in the oldest

UN Special Envoy called on NHRC



Chairperson Justice Anup Raj Sharma, Commissioner Mohan Ansari and other staff members of NHRC with the UN Special envoy led by Radhika Coomaraswamy during the latter's visit to the NHRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

A Special UN envoy led by Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy of UN Security Council for women, children and security Resolution no. 1325 met with the NHRC Chairperson Anup Raj Sharma and other Commissioners and solicited the information about the overall human rights situation in Nepal amid a program held at NHRC during the envoy's visit.

At the program, Dr. Coomaraswamy raised concerns over the violence

against women perpetrated during the armed conflict period, legal action taken against the perpetrators, pervasive domestic violence endured by women in Nepal, including overall human rights situation in Nepal.

Chairperson Sharma, presenting his views at the program, threw light on the efforts made by the Commission on the women's human rights concerns.

that though considerable amount of efforts have been made with regard to women's human rights, yet it remains inadequate.

Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta and Ms. Emily Kenney from Global Study team of UN Women along with UN Women Nepal team of Ms. Gitanjali Singh and Ms. Sharu Joshi Shrestha and NHRC Secretary Bed Bhattarai along with NHRC staff members were present on the occasion.

effect. The Commission has issued the directive to take initiative towards this as well.

The monitoring has also found that the contaminated water disposed from the Sugar Mill situated at Bahadurgunj hasn't been managed properly. Likewise, the workers at the mill were found wearing masks to avoid dusts and shoots emitted from the sugar mill.

It was also found during the course of monitoring that the peasants of Kapilvastu, Nawalparasi and Dang suffered due to the lack of appropriate price of sugarcane. They seemed to have undergone critical juncture due to the lack of fixing of new price of

sugarcane by the government. The sugarcane peasants also came up with the complaint that they still have pending amount of sugarcane to be reimbursed to them.

The only lower secondary school situated at Susta, Nawalparasi catered education to the local level children but the same children were learned to have been deprived of secondary and higher secondary level education due to the lack of schools in the area.

During the monitoring, the local residents came up with the grievances that they have to walk a distance covering around 135 KM to another ward for buying the medicine due to the lack of health post in their ward.

They also came up with the grievances that they haven't been provided with the land ownership certificate as yet. The monitoring also unveiled that the lack of embankment of the nearby river has caused high risk to the local residents during the rainy season. The directive issued by the Commission has included this issue as well with due concern.

The Commission has also issued directives to the security agencies including the police, armed police and other law enforcing agencies to be conscious about human rights and instill human rights friendly behavior through the orientation, training and the capacity development program arranged for them from time to time.

Sharing Meeting on the Strategic Plan (2015-20)

Development Partners to pledge Support



Representatives of the Development Partner agencies during the sharing on the draft strategic plan of the Commission held in Lalitpur district

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

LALITPUR: A sharing program was organized with development partners on the fifth six year strategic plan (2015-20) on 4th February, 2015.

The objective of the program was to appraise the content of the draft strategic plan to the international community including development partners and receive suggestions and inputs from them.

At the program, delivering welcome remarks, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that having the slogan 'Human rights for all in every household, a base for peace and development' at the center, the fifth strategic plan is going to be formulated for six years' time equalizing the six year term of the newly appointed office bearers.

He said that extensive consultation was held to assimilate the suggestions from the district level stakeholders on the pertinent human rights issues. He added that it was equally important to acquire international cooperation in formulating the plan. In this regard, he called on the representatives of the development partners to provide comments and suggestions besides other regular support provided

through the Strengthening the Capacity of National Human Rights Commission (SCNHRC) project.

He also took it as a pleasure to share about the recent endorsement of the Financial Regulations of the Commission by the Government. He expressed his hope that the longstanding endorsement of the regulations will help expedite the NHRC activities in more vibrant manner.

At the outset, a presentation was made on the draft strategic plan by Policy, Research and Planning Division Head Yagya Prasad Adhikari. Elaborating the content of the draft strategic plan based on SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats), Mr. Adhikari mentioned significant human rights issues to be incorporated in the strategic plan.

Appreciating the presentation on the draft strategic plan, Deputy Chief of Mission from Embassy of Denmark Jan Muller Hansen said that the draft so far appeared to have been formulated with lot of analytical thoughts. He, however, pointed out that having included many diverse human rights concerns, draft appears

to be very ambitious. He, therefore, suggested to embark upon as to where the Commission wants to be after six years of time and also how it can get there to achieve the set goals.

Underscoring the need to identify the gaps and to contemplate challenges, he suggested segregating both short term and long term goals.

'Development partners are looking forward that these concerns are addressed while formulating the draft strategic plan,' he concluded.

On the occasion, Pia Lignell, Program Manager from Swiss Embassy congratulated for having made ample progress in the draft strategic plan formulated on the basis of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats).

Underlining the Strategic Plan being the guiding document, she suggested to be specific on the weaknesses and lapses by taking into account the risk management. She, however, expressed her anxiety over whether or not one week time is adequate to finalize the draft and asked as to how the Commission is going to implement the plan as such and what

changes the Commission would like to see after six years.

Urging to be specific on the implementation plan of the strategic plan, she expressed her Commitment on behalf of the Swiss government to extend any support in finalizing the draft strategic plan.

She laid her emphasis on building trust and common understanding between the NHRC, UNDP and Developing Partners and at the same time suggested to have a meeting to discuss on the Strategic Plan, its action plan including way forward.

Deputy Country Director of the UNDP-Nepal Sophie Kemkhadze said, 'I appreciate the presentation made on the draft strategic plan and I am happy that we are a part of the formulation of the draft. Also we can clearly see how strategic plan is developing and pleased to see that it is revamped in such a manner that it is getting its shape better gradually.'

Appreciating the district level consultation on the strategic plan, she observed that the draft is more elaborated and analytically prepared on the basis of SWOT.

'We are happy to extend our support in finalizing the draft as we are pledging support from the very beginning to the draft formulation,' she concluded

Yam Nath Sharma, Assistant Country Director of UNDP-Nepal said, 'I extend my congratulations on having been successful to have the Financial Regulations endorsed eventually.'

He added that hindrance had caused to the NHRC endeavors resulting in the implication in capacity development. He, therefore, urged to link the financial regulations with strategic objectives.

Similarly, Indra Gurung, Special Advisor of Embassy of Finland congratulated the Commission for having developed the resources and suggested to make best use of them. She further urged to incorporate Human Rights based Approach (HRBA) to Development issues

including the components related to Human Rights education in the draft strategic plan with high priority.

Consultant Dr. Shree Krishna Shrestha responded to the queries and concerns raised in the program. He said that focus is on as to where the Commission is going to land up with the strategic objectives.

'Having wide mandates at disposal and huge expectation from the side of the general people, we got to see the areas of the jurisdiction of the Commission and the risk factors altogether to have smooth implementation of the Strategic Plan and the process is still going on, he stated.

He also said that once the implementation modality is ready, we have to revisit the strategic plan outlined.

Sharing Meeting on the Strategic Plan (2015 - 20)

Sophie Kemkhadze added that half-a-day sitting on finalizing the draft strategic plan would be appreciable.

Meanwhile, responding to the concerns raised in the program, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said, 'human rights education will be the devise for human rights to reach to the every household in the community and we will be successful in doing so.'

He also reiterated that the commission will embark upon the action plan and institutional framework for the strategic plan in better articulated facet. 'A half-a-day meeting will be arranged to facilitate the final touch to the draft strategic plan,' he concluded.

Commissioner Prakash Osti, throwing light to the implementation of the strategic plan to materialize the set slogan, made his remarks on various contents of the strategic plan. He said

that contact link will be established in all 75 districts of the country in order to bring about awareness on human rights.

The Commission will collaborate with Nepal Bar Association in all 75 districts, he added.

'If we mobilize the district based human rights defenders, journalists, professors, women volunteers including health workers at the leadership of the local chapter of Nepal Bar Association, it will be easy to reach human rights education from village to village, he observed.

He further said, 'the need of the hour is the establishment of the human rights training center.'

He also said that the Commission has a plan to get help from the Frequency Modulations (FM) stations situated in each district.

'We have segregated the issues pertaining to economic, social and cultural rights. Our plan will be focused particularly on the protection and promotion of women's rights, control and prevention of gender based violence, child rights, rights of senior citizens, rights or persons with disabilities, rights of Dalits and disadvantaged groups, he claimed.

He also expressed his belief that a few new tasks of sustainable nature will definitely push the Commission towards fruitful and positive direction.

Thanking the representatives of the development partners for attending the program with short notice, Commissioner Prakash Osti concluded his remarks.

Program Analyst of the UNDP Tek Tamata, Senior Program Officer of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Rajesh Hamal and Program Officer of Embassy of Denmark Manju Lama were also present at the sharing program.

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Inputs provided...

The floor was, therefore, opened for discussion on the draft strategic plan to reach out to the point that would pave ways for the inclusion of the inputs provided by the participants in the would-be finalized Strategic Plan.

Various participants including Renaud Meyer, Country Director, UNDP, Sophie Kemkhadze, Dy. Country Director UNDP, Pia Lignell Program Manager, Swiss Embassy, Rajesh Hamal-Sr. Program Officer Swiss Embassy, Jan Mollex Hansen – DCM Embassy of Denmark, Manju Lama Program Officer

Embassy of Denmark, Yam Nath Sharma ACD, UNDP and Tek Tamata Program Analyst UNDP, provided their inputs on various on the content of the strategic plan with main focus on the strategic objectives laid out for forthcoming six years period.

The inputs provided were basically on implementation of the strategic plan with the segregation of time period covering either one or two years, lesson learned in the past and good practices adopted, strategic objectives and mandates, annexing of implementation plan including monitoring and evaluation framework to the strategic plan, being aware of what is in Commission's

Sharing Meeting on the Strategic Plan (2015 - 20)

hand to fulfill the objectives in the long run, risk factor, result based management, institutional capacity and capacity gaps, institutionalized cooperation between the NHRC and the government bodies, judiciary and quasi judiciary and other external partners, HRBA to development, necessary breakthrough made through the strategic objectives, opportunities and challenges as well as the formation of steering committee to oversee the strides



Representatives of the Development Partner agencies during the sharing on the final draft of strategic plan of the Commission held in Lalitpur district

Photo: Umesh Rana Magar, Central Office

made and tracking down of the work accomplished by internalizing the core values via prescribed matrix.

Human Rights Officer Jaya Shor Chapagain responded to a few curiosities expressed by the invitee representatives of the development partners.

Meanwhile, mentioning about the duties and power vested on the Commission by the constitution, Chairperson added that the Commission has retained its status in 'A' category in the International Coordinating Committee of the National Human Rights institutions. 'This certainly encourages us to make the commission more visible and audible now with the diverse rights issues taken up in the NHRC pipeline,' Chairperson stated.

On being asked about how the Commissioners would like to be remembered, Chairperson said, 'We, the present set of NHRC Officials would like to be remembered as the champions for the protection of human rights in the years to come.'

'Considering the future enhancement of collaborative footing with NHRC to work for the protection and fulfillment of human rights, the representatives of the development partners expressed their commitment

in unison to pledge support to the Commission not merely as donors but as partners.

Renaud Meyer, Country Director of UNDP-Nepal said, 'My colleagues Sophie, Yam Nath and Tek at UNDP will work on the project way forward and share with the development partners to support their areas of interest. We will be working closely with the NHRC to achieve their strategic goals and objectives set for six years.'

Similarly, lauding the Strategic Plan development team members for their wholehearted contribution, Chairperson Sharma envisaged that once the final shape is given to the Strategic Plan with the inputs provided by all stakeholders concerned including the development partners, it will sketch the clear future map of the Commission.

In his closing remark, acknowledging the continuous support extended by the UNDP and the Development Partners for strengthening the capacity of NHRC for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nepal, Chairperson Sharma said that Commission is more than happy to receive further support for improving human rights system in the country.

At the program, Commissioner Praksh Osti, the Coordinator of Strategic Plan Formulation Committee was also present.

Awareness on HRs possible through Local Resources: Com. Paudyal

ARGHAKHANCHI: At program held with the district level stakeholders in Arghakhanchi district Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal said that the Commission is all set to finalize the fifth six year strategic plan (2015 -20). This, he said, would be instrumental to pave ways for human rights to reach to every household as a base of peace and development.

During the visit to Arghakhanchi district, the team lead by Commissioner Sharma carried out monitoring on the district based prison and detention center including hospital and issued directive to improve physical facilities and health services.

Meanwhile, the team held interaction with the district level stakeholders. Commissioner Sharma claimed that the Commission would use the local

media, NGOs, Women's group and local club for the promotion of the human rights in village level. He also stressed on addressing the human rights with main focus on the rights of child and senior citizens.

Similarly, Commissioner Sharma pointed out the human rights unfriendly words used by the security forces and alerted them to avoid immoral words that tend to degrade the self-esteem of the people in general.

He added that the Commission will look over the situation in which



Commissioner Govinda Sharma Paudyal being interviewed by the media person of a local FM station in Arghakhanchi district

Photo: Sub-Regional Office, Butwal

consumers are compelled to eat stale and contaminated food. He advised to use the local resources such as FM radio which can play pivotal role in bringing about awareness on human rights rather than playing mere love songs all the time.

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Thematic Discussions expedited...

Basant Adhikari, National Consultant, facilitated the group discussion. Mr. Adhikari proposed to make groups on the issues of HIV affected women, issues of Female sex worker and issues of LGBTI and drug user.

Key Issues raised were the lack of the provision for control over property, unequal wage practice in informal labor market, no evaluation of domestic work, Sexual violence,

in security, discrimination and exclusion (FSW), Social problems like caste based discrimination, witchcraft, child marriage, marriage with a person with huge age difference, patriarchal family structure.

The concerns were also raised on the violence in work place, violence by clients, hotel owner (FSM), arrest and abuse by police, prosecution on public offence (FSM), transfer of citizenship to child from women (FSM), gender insensitive behavior by law enforcement agencies, non-implementation or misuse of national policies, laws and program designed to support women (maternity and child delivery allowance, uterus prolapsed surgery etc.

Similarly, various problems faced by the HIV survivors, Group 3 LGBTI



Participants and the resource persons of the thematic group discussion on UPR process held in Chitwan district

Photo: Sarki Man Tamang, Central Office

were discussed comprehensively for necessary inclusion in the UPR process.

A total of 25 participants including women, LGBTI groups, HIV affected and concerned government agencies including representatives of Nepal Police, Women Development Office, District Public Health office) proactively took part in the program.

Similarly, the prototype thematic group consultation was organized on UPR process on the issues of marginalized women including HIV survivors, LGBTI, Female Sex Workers and Female Drug Users on 22 February 2014 in Itahari under NHRC Regional Office, Biratnagar.



Participants dancing at a cultural function held in Chitwan district

Photo: Sarki Man Tamang, Central Office

Concern expressed over the Case filed against Journos

LALITPUR: Issuing a press release, the National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the directive issued by the Commission of Investigation on Abuse of Authority (CIAA) to file the case of public offense against two journalists in Banke district as per the media report.

Since this is against the freedom of press provisioned by the Constitution, Commission has issued the directive to the Nepalgunj Regional Office to discover the fact with regard to the news and submit the report within 24 hours, reads the press release.

The Commission has also requested all stakeholders to pledge support to the fact finding team deployed by the Commission in this regard.

A public offence case was filed against journalists Tilak Gaule of Sagarmatha TV and Chakranath Devkota of Mountain TV on February 9 after they recorded a video while CIAA was arresting Banke Police chief DSP Suman Kharel while he was taking bribe in Nepalgunj.

Bring the Situation into Normalcy

BARA: Issuing a press release, the National Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over unpleasant situation emerged through the escalation of agitation over the shifting of the government offices in Bara district for the last couple of days.

The press release says that the team deployed by the Commission has been conducting on-the-spot monitoring in this regard.

Though it is the fundamental right of the citizens to organize peaceful protest program to express dissatisfaction in a democratic system, the Commission would like to draw the attention of

Incident of Police Firing monitored in Parsa



Commissioner Mohana Ansari and HRO Geeta Shrestha during the on-the-spot monitoring on the incident of police firing in Parsa district

Photo: HRO Badri Subedi, Central Office

PARSA: The NHRC Team including Commissioner Mohana Ansari, Human Rights Officers Geeta Shrestha, Badri Prasad Subedi including Buddha Narayan Sahani monitored the incident of Police firing at Baderwa-8, Harapur village, Birgunj.

The incident took place on 28 January 2015 while the Police tried to arrest Sarjug Tharu Chaudhary on the charge

of his alleged involvement in wild life smuggling. The team met with the family members of victim Sarjug Chaudhary and villagers and enquired about the incident. The team also met with the people who were injured during the incident of firing. Chairperson of National Women's Commission Shekh Chand Tara was also present in the monitoring team.

all concerned not to violate the rights of others while enjoy own, reads the press release.

The Commission has, therefore, urged both the agitating party and the security force to restrain and seek out the solution to the problem through dialogue and consensus.

The Commission also urged the Government to consider the interest of the local residents while making such a decision to shift the government offices elsewhere.



A vehicle belonging to a media house vandalized by the band enforcers in Birgunj

Photo: Regional Office, Janakpur

National Human Rights Commission

Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur, Nepal

Phone: 00977-1-5010015/16/17

Hot Line: 00977-1-5010000

Fax: 00977-1-5547973, 5547976

Email: nhrc@nhrcnepal.org

Website: <http://www.nhrcnepal.org>

Please send your feedback to nhrc@nhrcnepal.org

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