



# राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रिय कार्यालय, Central Office

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



## Press Note

18th February 2015

### **Monitoring on Human Rights Situation conducted in six Districts, Directives issued for the Respect, Protection and Fulfillment 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.

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 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 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.



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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 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 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.



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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.

Mohna Ansari

Spokesperson