



## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

### Local Level Election Daily Report

#### Electoral Silence Begins from 12 o'clock Tonight

Today is the last day for political parties, their cadres and independent candidates to campaign for the local level election which will be held at 753 local levels on Friday, May 13. The period of electoral silence starts at 12 o'clock tonight. The 48 hours before the main day of the election is called the electoral silence period. In this period, activities like campaigning and promotion cannot be done through any medium. Election Commission's Spokesperson Shaligram Poudel informed that the security forces would immediately take control of any activities that were found to influence the voters during the electoral silence period. During this period, there will be no discussion, interaction, assembly, conference or workshop, including election campaigning. The Election Code of Conduct, 2078 states that campaigning materials of political parties or candidates placed around 300 meters from the polling station should be removed before the start of the electoral silence period. The Election Commission has stated that 19 high-level committees have been formed to take immediate action against the political parties and candidates violating the election code of conduct.

The spokesperson of the commission said that they have instructed the Ministry of Home Affairs to make arrangements for tents in the polling station and counting centres due to the ongoing monsoon. Spokesperson Poudel said that instructions were given to the Ministry of Home Affairs after a discussion between the Election Commission and the Department of Water and Meteorology on May 10. In a press conference organized by the Election Commission on May 10, Dinesh Thapaliya, Chief

<b>Number of Local Levels</b>	<b>753</b>
<b>Total Number of Voters</b>	<b>17,733,723</b>
<b>Polling Booths and Polling Centres</b>	<b>21,955</b>
<b>Total Number of Candidates from Political Parties and Independent Candidature</b>	<b>145,112</b>
<b>Total Number of Political Parties Running in the election</b>	<b>65</b>

Commissioner of the Election Commission said that all the preparations for the election have been completed.

According to a news published on BBC Nepal, the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) will monitor the campaigning materials of the candidates on various social media after the initiation of the electoral silence period. During this period, the Election Commission has directed the NTA to remove content and other posts from the candidates and their supporters on Facebook, Twitter and Tiktok.

Although there will be no election campaign or door-to-door campaign during the electoral silence period, there are plenty of instances of voter-influencing activities such as gatherings, financial temptations, intimidation and threats which were witnessed in the last election. Although the election campaign was less unbridled than the previous election, it was found that there was unlimited expenditure on the mobilization of cadres. This report includes election activities, incidents of violation of the election code of conduct, human rights violations and abuses sent by our representatives across the country.

## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

**According to INSEC Ilam Representative Babita Mainali**, two polling stations in Ilam Municipality have been shifted to other places due to a congested space. The polling station at Ilam Education Foundation in Ilam Municipality has been shifted to the nearby Harrison National Academy School. According to the District Election Office, Ilam, the polling station in the stadium of Ilam Municipality-5 has been shifted to the building of the former ward office. According to District Election Officer Devicharan Phuyal, a meeting chaired by Ilam Chief Election Officer Harish Chandra Ingam decided to move the two centres from congested places to the open and comfortable spaces after discussions between the political parties on May 10. Election Officer Phuyal said that it has been decided to distribute the identity cards of the voters from the newly established polling stations. The Province 1 Election Office has informed that the election staff have taken the ballot papers and other election materials from the office of the Chief Election Officer in the district on May 10. The administrations of Taplejung, Ilam, Jhapa, Sankhuwasabha, Morang and Sunsari have decided to close the border from midnight on May 10.



**According to INSEC Dhanusha representative Dipendra Prasad Singh**, Nepali Congress, UML and independent candidates, leaders, cadres and supporters staged a motorcycle rally and demonstration in Janakpur this afternoon. Similarly, the Nepali Congress has taken out a motorcycle rally in Janakpur Sub-metropolitan-21, Bangashripur, while hundreds of CPN-UML cadres and supporters have staged a demonstration in Janakpur's Ramchowk. Similarly, Janaki Ram Sah, an independent candidate with a lantern as an election symbol demonstrated in dozens of tractors and auto-rickshaws with banners and election flags.

Meanwhile, a joint team of Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) Madhes Province Coordinator Raju Paswan, NEOC District Coordinator Raj Kumar Mahaseth and GEOC Representative and Advocate Rekha Jha visited Dhanushadham Municipality-1 Govindapur, Dhanushadham Municipality-3, Shree Dhanusha Janata Technical and Vocational Education Higher Secondary School, Kshireswarnath on May 10. Shree Kshireshwor Janata Higher Secondary School, Sakhuwa, Mahendranagar and Shree BP



## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Koirala Higher Secondary School, Laxminiya Municipality-4 have observed and monitored the preparation and management of polling stations. During the monitoring, it was found that the main doors of the designated polling stations and polling booths were closed, some of them had security personnel and district election officials were not present.

**According to Manohar Pokhrel, INSEC Saptari representative,** teachers' organizations, teachers affiliated with unions and other officials have been involved in the rally, meetings, assemblies and other election-related programs against the code of conduct of election for the campaigning of the local level election that is to happen on May 13, 2022. The election regulation committee, leaders and candidates conducted a discussion program on the topic ' of election strategy with the teachers on May 8 in the party office of Congress at Rajbiraj.

There was the participation of teachers in the rally conducted by NCP (Socialist Unified) on May 8, 2022, using cars, jeeps and motorcycles. Officials of Gajendra Narayan Singh hospital were found participating in the door-to-door campaign conducted by Congress on May 9 at Rajbiraj. Officials of Mahendra Bindeshwori Bahumukhi Campus are continuously participating in the campaign in violation of the election code of conduct. Photos and videos of teachers' and officials' participation in different election programs are also circulated on social media. Janardhan Gautam, Chief District Officer informed that they have continuously been urging the political parties not to conduct any act contrary to the election code of conduct and also notified that the parties have expressed their commitments towards not violating the same in all-party meetings.

**According to Durga Pariyar, INSEC Siraha representative,** a clash occurred between the cadres of congress and Maoist in Mirchaya Municipality in front of the local police office Mirchaya on May 9. Hari Bahadur Bali, DSP of the local police officers, Mirchaya informed that Shrawan Kumar Yadav, Mayor candidate from Maoist party's car's (numbered 01-023 cha 1851) windows were broken amid the clash. DSP Oli informed that both the parties were called in the police station to resolve the economic dispute that occurred between them in ward number 2. The car of the mayor candidate who arrived for the discussion was destroyed however, no one was hurt and the car was sent for refurbishment.

**In Kathmandu,** the Election commission has asked for an explanation from Pushpa Kamal Dahal, NCP Maoist Chairperson and Arju Rana, leader of Nepali congress on May 10. Prachanda was asked to explain his statement that he passed at the general assembly conducted in Chitwan stating that the 'country will plunge into a disaster if supporters do not vote for Renu Dahal and Congress leader Deuba was asked to provide explanation on the statement she passed on one of the programs at Kailali stating that 'if they make the candidate of alliance win, four-five of them will be granted with free visa and ticket to Malaysia.' Commission has asked them to send an explanation within 24 hours.



## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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**According to INSEC Gorkha Representative Hariram Uprety**, UML cadres Bikram Lama and Gopal Lama were injured in an attack by the Nepali Congress cadres on May 9. CPN-UML has nominated Krishna Nepali for the post of chairperson of Aarughat rural municipality. Both the injured have sustained injuries in their eyes. The injured have been treated at Arughat Primary Health Centre.

**According to INSEC Dang Representative Jayanarayan Pun**, Labaru Chaudhary, 53, a candidate for the post of chairperson of Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan-17 from the CPN-UML has died. Chaudhary, who had kidney and liver problems, died in Kathmandu on May 10 while undergoing treatment. Earlier, he was a ward member and this time he was the candidate for Ward Chairperson. Chaudhary was brought to Kathmandu for treatment after the problem escalated during the campaign. According to Dang's Chief Election Officer Ritendra Thapa, a letter was sent to the Election Commission further moves after the death of the candidate.

**According to INSEC Rupendehi Representative Rima BC**, the CPN-UML has alleged that the cadres of the alliance pelted stones at the vehicle of Devi Prasad Regmi, the ward chairperson candidate of Butwal Sub-Metropolitan-12. According to Regmi, the Hilux vehicle (Ba 20 Cha 6785) was pelted with stones while four people were on board during the election campaign. Although there was no loss of life, the windshield of the vehicle was broken.

**According to Parbati Acharya, INSEC Kapilvastu representative**, in the violation of election code of conduct, the Nepali Congress has launched an election campaign program at Bangangaa Municipality-1, Uptahawa using four-wheeled vehicles, auto rickshaws and motorcycles along with flyer and banners. Similarly, children are also used in the rally. After the death of Subhawati Kurmi, 55, Nepali Congress' Deputy Mayor candidate, on May 9, in Maharagunj Municipality, all the election-related programs scheduled for May 10th were withheld. Similarly, Om Prakash Tiwari, ward chair candidate of Buddhabhumi Municipality-8 and Rajendra Tharu Chaudhary, 39, ward member candidate of Kapilvastu Municipality-10 died on April 29 and May 7 respectively.

**According to Rukum West Representative Manisha KC**: On May 10, 2022, ward chairperson Suryaprakash Malla from Nepali Congress, ward members Mitra Lal Oli, Rajesh KC and Hupjung Bohara were injured in an attack by CPN-Maoist cadres at Banfikot Rural Municipality-3 Daha on May 27. It is alleged that the CPN-Maoist cadres ignited two motorcycles used in the election campaign of the Nepali Congress. After regular clashes between Nepali Congress and CPN-Maoist cadres in the district, the district leaders of the Congress and the CPN-Maoist had issued a joint statement on the morning of May 9 urging them not to have a scuffle.

Previously, CPN-UML central member Chandra Bahadur BK was attacked and wounded by CPN-Maoist cadres while he was staying at home with his relatives. CPN-UML leader Dandi Karki informed that Chandra Bahadur was undergoing treatment at the Mission Hospital Chaurjahari. Police have arrested Ganesh Bahadur Khadka,

## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Chairperson of Triveni Rural Municipality of the CPN-Maoist on May 11 on charges of attacking a police station a few days ago.

**According to Humla Representative Nanda Singh:** The Armed Police Force (APF) had rescued a team of polling officers from Nara Lake, a 4,800-foot-high polling station, from three polling stations in Namkha Rural Municipality-6 of Humla District when the Election Commission failed to provide helicopters. CPN-UML cadres have alleged that CPN-Maoist cadres pelted stones at the party cadres on May 9.

As per CPN-UML Humla district central member and in-charge Dal Rawal, UML's candidate for the post of Tanjakot rural municipality chairperson Ajmal Budha and Purna Prasad Dhakal of pelting stones at them. The injured have been identified as Purna Prasad Dhakal, 42, of Tanjakot rural municipality-2 and Ajmal Budha, 44, a candidate for the post.



*Photo courtesy: Election Officer's Office Naumule/Dailekh*

**According to INSEC Dailekh representative Amar Sunar,** a polling station has been set up at the ward office under construction at Naumule Rural Municipality-3. Polling officer Sandeep BK said that there was no other physical infrastructure near the polling station which has 782 voters.

**According to Narendra Singh Karki,**

**INSEC Darchula Representative,** District Election Office Darchula has informed that a total of 1,081 officials including 139 polling officers and 139 assistant polling officers have been posted in the district. 110 polling stations and 139 pooling centres have been designated in nine local levels of the district. There are a total of 88,285 voters in the district including 43,174 female and 45,111 male voters. Dirgha Raj Upadhayaya, Chief District Officer informed that 2000 security forces have been deployed in the by adopting a three-tier strategy for the security of the polling stations. Chief district officer Upadhayaya notified that 11 polling centres in the district have been enlisted under the list of the highly sensitive booth from a security perspective.

The international border shared with India has been closed for 72 hours starting from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Election officials stationed at the Moti Mahila Organization Basic Tinkara of Byas Rural Municipality-1, have left for Changaru and Tinkar in Nepal Army's Helicopter on May 9. Tinkar in the village sharing border with China and Changaru is the village sharing border with India.

Nepal civil service officials' union has expressed objection stating that cadres of NCP Maoist had scuffled Basanta Khatri, District committee member of civil service officials' union on May 9 in the process of visiting the polling centre. Khatri, who has been a



## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

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health worker, was going to Hunainath Secondary School Chandanpur of Malikarjun Rural Municipality-4, after being stationed there for the local level election. According to inspector Lokendra Bahadur Singh, victim Khatri has lodged a complaint in the name of five individuals and an investigation is ongoing on the said incident.

**According to Mainamati Chaudhary, INSEC Kailali representative,** Jayananda Paneru, Chief election officer, informed that a total of 3,095 officials including 6,19 polling officers, 600 assistant polling officers, 619 helping staff and 1,238 other staff have been stationed in 2,36 polling centres of 13 local levels.

**According to Ganesh Joshi, INSEC Doti representative,** the all-party meeting for the election has been concluded in the district on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Kafle, chief election officer informed that all the stakeholders have expressed their commitment in the selection of parties for election, selection of volunteers, implementation of code of conducts during the silent period along with all other necessary actions to complete the election peacefully and impartially on the all-party meeting.

**According to Shivaraj Dhungana, INSEC Achham representative,** Gajendra Prakash Tharu, information officer of Achham has informed that ballot paper, the voting booth and other election-related documents have reached polling centres of 91 wards in all 10 local levels. Information official, tharu notified that ballot paper, the voting booth and other required documents are sent in two phases on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May after classifying the polling centres as near and distant booths.

**According to Lily Kunwar, INSEC Kanchanpur representative,** Bhan Bahadur Mahara, information officer of the district election office total of 1,705 officials have been stationed along with the election materials to conduct elections in all nine local levels of the district. He further informed that the officials have been stationed since they are responsible for works starting from the dissemination of voter's id cards to establishing the structure for polling.

**According to Bhupendra Bista, INSEC Dadeldhura representative,** Officials have been stationed in all seven local levels of the district on 10<sup>th</sup> May along with necessary election-related materials for the commencement of the election. There is a total of 84,871 voters in the district including 41,906 male and 42,965 female voters. Mohan Raj Joshi, Chief District Officer informed that Nepal police, Temporary police, Armed police forces and Nepal Army have been stationed in all parts of the district in order to strengthen security amid the arrival of local level election.

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*For Human Rights and Social Justices*

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