



## Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

May 12, 2022

### Continuation of Violation of Code of Conduct even on the last day of Electoral Silence

After the initiation of the Federal System of Government, this is the second local level election. Tomorrow, May 13 is the day for the citizens of Nepal to vote. A total of 145,011 candidates are running for 35,221 posts at different local levels in the upcoming election which is to be held from 7 am to 5 pm. There are 17,733,723 voters in this election. On the second day of the electoral silence period, clashes were documented in some districts of the country. The Election Commission distributed identity cards to the newly registered voters yesterday and today. Voters who do not have an identity card are allowed to cast their vote by showing their identity card, passport and land ownership. A team including INSEC chairperson monitored various polling stations in Kathmandu. Province offices and district representatives also monitored various polling stations. The election-related materials have already reached the polling booths, and there is the possibility of rainfall therefore tents have been arranged, and arrangements have been made for early voting for people with disability, informed Dr Indira Shrestha. INSEC has published an appeal today requesting the general public to exercise their voting right by participating in the local level elections. Stating that this local level election will make a significant contribution to the strengthening and consolidation of the human rights, social justice and rule of law process, INSEC has appealed to the voters to exercise their constitutional right to choose their preferred candidate and political party through election.

**According to Jhapa Representative Naresh Khati**, despite the requirement of clearance of flags around 300 meters of the polling centre, election-related materials haven't yet to be removed from the polling centre of Arjunthara Municipality-5. CPN UML has kept the bigger flag than what has been enshrined under the code of conduct.

**According to Binod Subedi, INSEC Morang representative**, Rabin Rai, immediate Mayor of Ratuamai Municipality, has been found asking vote for Nageshwor Prasad Singh, congress Mayor candidate from the five-party alliance on May 11 after the imposition of the electoral silence period. However, no complaints were lodged in this regard.

**According to Panchthar Representative Sahaman Bishwokarma**, police have informed that a clash broke out between the five-party alliance cadres and CPN UML cadres on May 11 after the imposition of the electoral silence period at Hilihang Rural Municipality-6. Anil Yonghang, 24, a CPN UML cadre suffered an injury to his head in the clash. Rakesh Thapa, DSP of the district police office informed that the clash occurred under the direction of Ganesh Yonghang, congress ward chair candidate for Hilihang Rural Municipality-6. Anil Yonghang was treated in the Panchthar hospital and sent back home. DSP Thapa informed that the clash broke out after cadres of the party alliance attacked the team of Bishnu Sapkota, CPN UML district chief and former

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chief of the district coordination committee. Police have started an investigation on the said incident. One motorcycle was also destroyed in the clash.

**According to Sunsari representative Jay Krishna Yadav**, the district administrative office has issued partial and full prohibitory order in four and three local levels of the district respectively. Indradev Yadav, Chief district officer informed that the prohibitory order has been issued in the bordering places for security purposes. Full prohibitory order has been issued for the districts sharing a border with India including Bhokraha Narsingh Rural Municipality, Koshi Rural Municipality, Harinagar Rural Municipality and Dewangunj Rural Municipality starting from May 12 (8 pm) till May 13 (5 am). As per the administration office, prohibitory orders have been issued in Itharu Sub-metropolitan city, Duhawi Municipality, ward number one, eight and nine and Inaruwa Municipality, wards number three, nine and ten. It has been mentioned in the order that the people could come out of their houses only in the coordination of security agencies during the time of prohibition.

**According to Dolakha Representative Uddav Pokhrel**, Police have arrested Nepali congress cadres Dhalkaji Phuyal on May 11 on the charge of beating CPN UML Cadres, Bijuli Prasad Sharma, from Tamakoshi Rural Municipality-6, Chyama. Police have arrested Mahesh Kafle, ward chairperson of Tamakoshi Rural Municipality, Bhirkot ward number 1 on May 12, who absconded with the voter's id. Ganga Paudel, DSP of the district police office informed that Kafle who absconded with the voters' id of 125 voters on May 11 was arrested from around Bhirkot where he was hiding. DSP Paudel notified that Kafle has been sent to the district police office for further investigation. As per the district police office, Kafle will be prosecuted under the Election (Crime and Punishment) act 2076.

**According to Sindhupalchowk Representative Nati Babu Dhital**, a clash occurred between UML and Nepali Congress on the evening of May 11 at Helambu Rural Municipality-3. Two were injured in the sharp weapon (*Khukuri*) attack. Mandorje Tamang Nepali congress cadre has been injured by the sharp weapon attack from UML cadre at Helambu Rural Municipality-3 and UML cadre Fyanjo Tamang, 36, has been injured by the sharp weapon attack from congress cadre. Both the injured have been admitted to Melamchi hospital for treatment.

Similarly, cadres of Maoist attacked UML cadres with an iron rod on the evening of May 11 at Chautara Sagachowkgadi Municipality-13. UML cadres Sarad Thaoa and Bikash Puri have been injured in the attack. Two Maoist cadres Ganga Shrestha and Kul Bahadur Shrestha were arrested from the incident spot for their involvement in the attack. The injured has been admitted to Chautara hospital for treatment.

Maoist has accused that the cadres of Nepali congress pelted stones on the house of Yubraj Dulal, former social development minister and other two Maoist cadres on May 11 at Chautara Sagachokgadi Municipality-7.



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**According to Ramechhap Representative Nawaraj Ghimire**, a clash broke out between the cadres of CPN UML and Maoist on May 12 at Gokuldhunga Rural Municipality-3. Yam Bahadur Karki (Bhupal), 40, ward chairperson candidate from Maoist (Centre) has been injured in the clash. The clash occurred between the Maoist group along with Karki and a group led by Rabin Sunwar, 35, from UML. Raj Kumar Thing, DSP of the District Police Office informed that the one who suffered an injury on the head received primary health care at Rasnal hospital and was later transferred to Trauma Centre Kathmandu for further treatment.

Ramesh Sunwar, 35, Congress Candidate for Ward Chairperson was injured in the clash between the cadres of Nepali Congress and RPP on May 11 at Umakunda Rural Municipality-3. The clash broke out between the two parties when they encountered each other in the process of the door-to-door election campaign after the imposition of electoral silence. Sunar suffered from a head injury in the clash. Police have informed them that he is being treated at Bamti hospital. Raju Prasad Dhakal, inspector of the district police office informed that Pabitra Kumar Sunar, 41, ward chairperson candidate from RPP and a local, Pradip Shrestha, 33 have been arrested on the charge of being involved in the clash.

**According to Baglung Representative Srijana Panta**, it has been accused that the cadres of the Nepali congress attacked Rajan Paija, a UML ward chairperson candidate of Badigada Rural Municipality. Kamal Raj Acharya, UML Badigada village committee chairperson accused that the group of Arjun Kumar Paija, Nepali congress adigad rural committee deputy chairperson attacked Rajan Paija, chairperson candidate, Manohar Singh Paija, Chairperson of Badigad Rural Municipality, Ganesh Paija, Nimesh Acharya, Kiran Sunar and Chandra Paija with a sharp weapon and injured them. CPN UML Badigad village committee issued a press release stating that a group of 15 people led by Arjun Kumar Piaja beat and attacked the group including the chairperson candidate Paija while they were sleeping in the CPN UML Badigada Rural Municipality office. Kamal Raj Acharya informed that chairperson candidate Piaja's suffered an injury on his hand and Chandra Puija's hand is broken. Injured are being treated at Burtiwang Hospital. Indra Bahadur Rana, DSP of district police office Baglung informed that they have recovered sticks, two pieces of sharp weapon and three motorcycles from the incident spot. As per the police, the political affiliation of arrested individuals hasn't been identified.

**According to Hiraram Upreti, INSEC Gorkha representative**, a clash broke out between the cadres of congress and Maoist on May 11 at Ajirkot Rural Municipality-1, Ghyachwok. Lilaraj Lamichane, DSP of district police office informed that, Maoist cadres Bel Bahadur Gurung, 24 and Bishnu Bhujel, 30 of Arjikot Rural Municipality-1, ghyachwok have been injured in the clash. The clash broke out due to the unresolved conflict that occurred during all-party meeting on May 11. The injured ones are being treated in the Jaubari primary health centre. DSP Lamichhane informed that the case is being investigated.



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**According to Makwanpur Representative Puspa Raj Adhikari,** Bishnu Rai, chairperson of the Katlekhola Tole Committee of the CPN-Maoist and Hari Rai, vice-chairperson of the RPP Rural Committee were injured in a clash between Nepali Congress and the CPN-Maoist cadres over the election environment. The injured ones are undergoing treatment at Chure Hill Hospital in Hetauda. Informing about the incident, DSP Tek Bahadur Karki of the District Police Office said that they have received requests from both the parties and further investigation will be carried out after the treatment of the injured. During the silence period of the local level member election 2079 BS, the locals have stopped the distribution of drinking water pipes in Makawanpur as a strategy to gain votes. Locals have stopped drinking water pipes being distributed in Bakaya rural municipality of East Makwanpur against the election code of conduct.

Locals have alleged that the cadres of the Nepali Congress were about to distribute three coils of water pipe. A police team had reached the spot after a dispute between the locals and the driver of the van in which the pipe was being taken. The driver of the van dropped the pipe on the road and returned, said DSP Tek Bahadur Karki of District Police Office, Makwanpur.

The tin sheets (*Jasta*) taken by Ananta Kumar Aryal, the ward chairperson candidate for Manahari rural municipality-3 for distribution have been seized by the locals. Locals have seized 27 such tin sheets at Manahari-3 Lamitar against the election code of conduct. A local Bishnu Adhikari said that Aryal had violated the election code of conduct and handed him over to the police under the pretext of cheating the people during the electoral silence period.

**According to Baitadi Representative Nari Badu,** a clash has broken out between the cadres of Congress and CPN-Maoist cadres at Salleli in Kuwakot of Purchaudi Municipality-5 on May 12. According to DSP Ramesh Bahadur Pal of the District Police Office, Naresh Bohara and Gopal Bohara of the Nepali Congress were injured in the clash. He said that the clash took place after the police patrol team returned at 11 pm and now the situation is normal. Both the injured have been referred to Dadeldhura Sub-Regional Hospital in Dhangadhi for further treatment. Bikram Kunwar, a candidate for the post of Mayor from the CPN-Maoist has accused a group of Nepali Congress cadres of attacking a ward member candidate from the CPN-Maoist. Chief Election Officer Tilak Karki said that no written complaint has been lodged so far despite verbal reports of violation of the general code of conduct from various quarters.



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**According to Kailali Representative Mainamoti Chaudhary**, a clash has broken out between Nepali Congress and CPN-UML cadres in Godavari Municipality-6 on May 12. It is alleged that six UML cadres were injured when Nepali Congress cadres entered the house of CPN-UML ward chairperson candidate Jaggu Chaudhary in Godavari Municipality-6 on May 12 and attacked him with a sharp *Khukuri*. According to CPN-UML District Member Kamal Rana, Nepali Congress cadres entered the house of CPN-UML candidate Jaggu Chaudhary from Godavari Municipality-6 and attacked Bintiram Chaudhary's left.

Bintiram Chaudhary, Rabin Chaudhary, Santosh Singh, Laxmi Chaudhary, Basanti Chaudhary and Deepak Kathayat were injured in the attack. Jaggu Chaudhary, a ward chairman candidate, said that Chaudhary was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Attaria due to a deep wound on his right arm. According to DSP Rabindra Pandey of Area Police Office, Malakheti, a search operation is underway as Nepali Congress cadres involved in the incident are absconding. He said that the incident was being investigated even though no written complaint was received from the victim.

**According to Kanchanpur Representative Lily Kunwar**, police arrested Nepali Congress cadre Karan Mahara on the night of May 12 on charges of distributing money to voters during the electoral silence period of local level election. According to DSP Chakra Shahi of the District Police Office, Mahara was arrested from Rajghat along with Rs. According to Ganesh Bahadur Aire, UML's chairperson candidate in Krishnapur Municipality, Mahara was informed that he was distributing money to voters during the night by violating the silence period. Nepali Congress Krishnapur Municipality Chairperson Bishnu Khadka accused the opposition of plotting to discredit the party and its cadres even though the party had not distributed money to the voters.

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*For Human Rights and Social Justice*

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