

Election of House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly, 2022

Daily Report

November 17, 2022, Thursday

The silent period for the upcoming House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly's election is starting at midnight today. According to the Election Commission, the candidates for the House of Representatives and the Provincial Assembly members will be allowed to conduct their final campaigning only before 12:00 am tonight. After midnight, political parties, candidates and party officials are not allowed to conduct election campaigning, media cannot disseminate any kind of election campaigning materials. A silent period has been set for 48 hours before election day.

A silent period has been fixed to ensure that elections are conducted in a clean, fair and fear-free environment. The election code of conduct mentions that the parties, their organizations, candidates, associations, etc. will not be allowed to organize political campaigns or meetings during the silent period. Election-related laws enshrine that attempt of influencing voters during a silent period contrary to the code of conduct can result in the cancellation of candidature along with a fine up to NPR.100,000.

Election campaigning should not be done during the silent period. Before silent period starts, the respective election symbols and other materials placed around 300 meters of the polling station shall be removed, and election campaigning through social media including SMS, Facebook, Viber, etc. should not be done. There are provisions including not to post or share messages, information or other materials in favour of or against any party or candidate online, in print or by any other means.

In the press conference held today, the Election Commission stated that all the administrative and security preparations for the election have been completed. The Commission has informed us that the silent period for the election will start from 12 pm on Thursday and campaigning will not be allowed. In a press conference, Chief Election Commissioner, Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya said that during the silent period, nobody will be allowed to ask for votes by any means. Thapaliya further informed that 1 crore 88 lakh 79 thousand 570 voters can vote from 10 thousand 892 polling stations in the election. He said that necessary security arrangements have been made to prevent any anti-election activities such as spoiling the election and capturing booths.

Similarly, Thapaliya said that after the collection of the ballot boxes, the counting of votes will begin and the final result will be submitted to the President by December 8. The commission said

that 7,219 national and international citizens have received permission to observe the upcoming election.

Province 1

According to Sankhuwasabha Representative Bhawin Karki, the district election office has removed a polling officer from his duties for campaigning on social media. Polling Officer Shanti Prasad Dahal assigned to polling station 'A' of Mahendra Jyoti Secondary School located in Dharmadevi Municipality-9 has been removed from his duties by the District Election Office. District Election Officer Rameshwar Niraula said that Dahal was removed from the post on the charge of asking for votes in favour of Bidur Subba Lingthep, candidate of CPN-UML's Provincial Assembly 'B' on social media. During the monitoring, it was found that Maheshwara Shrestha Vajracharya, Deputy Mayor of Khandwari Municipality, sought votes for CPN-UML candidate Rajendra Prasad Gautam and Bhagishwar Gurung in her municipality's Ward-3 on November 16.

According to Panchthar Representative Sahaman Biswakarma, although the Election Commission has prohibited political parties and candidates from placing election materials around 300 meters from the school premises, contrary to the code of conduct of elections, at Balkiran English Boarding School located in Fidim Municipality-1, Flex in favor of the house of representative candidate Bhishmaraj Angdambe and the Provincial Assembly candidate Kamal Prasad Jawegu can still be found.

According to Jhapa Representative Naresh Khati, use of flags, banner, prints against the election code of conduct were spotted in the campaign program conducted the support Agni Kharel, the candidate of the House of Representatives from the CPN UML of Jhapa Constituency No. 1. KP Sharma Oli addressed the election meeting in Mechinagar Municipality-7 Itabhatta on November 16. Further, Bishwa Prakash Sharma, the alliance candidate of Jhapa Constituency No. 1, has been found using flags and banners with engraved election symbols violating the code of conduct in the program held in Mechinagar Municipality-10, Dhulabari on November 16.

According to Solkhumbu Representative Anju Karki, the District Election Office has asked for an explanation from three people on the charge of violating the election code of conduct. Based on the complaint about the violation of the election code of conduct, the committee has asked Asim Rai, chairperson of Thulungdudhkoshi Rural Municipality President, Buddhikiran Rai, Chairperson of Mapyadudhkoshi Rural Municipality President and Mingmachiring Sherpa, chairperson of Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality to submit a written explanations.

According to the office of the Chief Election Officer, the chairperson of Thulungdudhkoshi Rural Municipality and Mapyadudhkoshi Rural Municipality have submitted their explanations. Prakash Kumar Adhikari, Coordinator of the District Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee, said that after the responses of the four people are received, they will be sent to the Commission. Allegedly, the chairpersons of Thulungdudhkoshi and Mapyadudhkoshi rural municipality were found campaigning for votes in their area.

According to Okhaldhunga Representative Saraswati Baniya, the District Election Office has asked Tejendra Khanal, Mayor of Siddicharan Municipality, for an explanation on the charge of violating the code of conduct. According to the district election office, he was asked to submit an explanation after he reportedly participated in the election meeting at his local level against the code of conduct. Election Code of Conduct Monitoring Officer Yagyaraj Upreti said that a complaint was received on November 17 and an explanation was sought on the same day accordingly.

Madhesh Province

According to Rautahat Representative Kopila Timalsina, a clash occurred between the former mayor of Kathariya, Ajay Jaiswal and Prabhu Sah, an independent candidate for house of representative cadre, Rakeh KC, in Kathariya on the night of November 16. Police constable Kul Bahadur Thapa of the local police office, Kathariya, said that it started with a simple dispute and eventually got bigger. Stones, beer bottles, and sticks were used in the clash. He said that as soon as they got the information about the incident, their team reached to the spot and controlled the clash. Thapa informed that five bullets of tear gas had to be fired to control the incident. Police constable Thapa said that although some people suffered minor injuries, they were spared from major damages. He said that one of Rakesh Giri's cadre, Surendra Sah, who was involved in the incident, was arrested and released on November 17.

According to Dhanusha Representative Dipendra Prasad Singh, the District Administration Office, Dhanusha has decided to close the border connected with India from November 17 to November 21 to ensure peaceful completion of the upcoming election. Chief District Officer of Dhanusha, Surendra Paudal said that in order to conduct the elections in a clean, fair and fear-free environment, they have decided to close the border in accordance to local-level election guidelines 2022.

Vehicles other than diplomatic mission vehicles and authorized vehicles running for emergency services such as ambulances, water tankers, fire brigades, telecommunications services, mortuary services, hospital services and electricity services is restricted from operating amid the election.

Bagmati Province

According to Sindhupalchok Representative Natibabu Dhital, the District Election Office provided voter education to the inmates of Chautara jail and others on November 16, 2022. As per the District Election Office Chief, Bikas Rijal voter's education was conducted at the old age home. Head of District Election Office Rijal said that voter education has been provided to avoid decrease the number of invalid votes. There are 55 voters in Chautara Jail, which also holds a temporary polling station, and four voters in the old age home.

According to Rasuwa Representative Hemnath Khatiwada, 14 of the inmates in the prison are going to vote for the proportionate House of Representatives election. Chief of the District Election Office, Sriram Thapa stated that, although the number of prisoners and detainees is large, they are not included in the voter's list. Out of 80 prisoners including 6 women in Rasuwa prison, only 14 will be able to vote this time. There are 54 polling stations in 34 different locations in Rasuwa. Two temporary polling centres have been made in the District Jail and the District Coordination Committee. Thapa said that all the employees assigned to the polling stations have been trained and assigned to the polling stations from November 16. The total number of voters in Rasuwa is 39,459.

According to Dhading Representative Sitaram Adhikari, parties were organized everywhere in the constituencies of Rajendra Pandey and Shalikram Jammakattel. On November 17, an election meeting was held in Siddlake Rural Municipality-7 Pipaltar with meat distribution. Likewise, a feast was also organized in Gajuri Rural Municipality-5, Rai village. According to the code of conduct of elections, it is prohibited to hold election programs in the banquets. Likewise, violating the election code of conduct, Krishna Aryal, Chairperson of National Land Commission has been participating in political programs every day. Netra Poudel, an independent candidate for the provincial assembly, staged a motorcycle rally in Prithvi Highway area on November 17. Contrary to the election code of conduct, more than 50 motorcycles were used in the rally. The rally started from Galchi Rural Municipality-4 and ended in Thakre Rural Municipality. Candidate Paudel also participated in the program.

According to Nuwakot Representative Nawadeep Shrestha, Nepali Congress has been found using more than 160 vehicles with loud horns and big flags, violating the election code of conduct, from Likhu Rural Municipality of Panchkanya, Tadi to Dupcheshwar Rural Municipality. Meanwhile, the District Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee has sent an alert letter to the elected representatives of all 12 local levels including heads/deputy heads in the district. Ramkrishna Pudasaini, Monitoring Officer of the District Election Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee, said that due to the continuous written and verbal complaints that people's representatives sought votes for the party at their local level against the code of conduct, a warning letter was sent to all the local level.

According to Kathmandu Representative Bimal Paudel, the Election Commission has said that the preparations for the upcoming election have been completed. In a press conference held on November 17, Chief Election Commissioner Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya informed that all the preparations for the election have been completed. During the press conference, the commissioner revealed that total of 2,412 candidates for the House of Representatives and 3,224 for the Provincial Assembly have registered for the election. Similarly, the Election Commission will deploy mobile teams in different parts of the country to monitor the silent period during the elections. The Election Commission will impose a fine of 25,000 rupees if found campaigning in the silent period. The District Election Office has started distributing election materials like stamp pad ink, swastika seal, lacquer, marker pen with non-flying ink, marker pen, scale, stapler machine, holder and rope to the polling officers posted in the district.

Lumbini Province

According to Dang Representative Jaynarayan Pun, the secretary of the ministry to help Metmani Chaudhary, the urban development minister and Dang area number 1 candidate. After Ramesh Singh and DG Surendraman Shrestha Dang came to Constituency No. 1 Bhaluwang, CPN-UML workers raised slogans, both of them returned to Kathmandu at 1 pm on 30th October. Secretary Singh, who came to Dang with foreign travel approval files and some appointment files, said that he had come to meet the minister as he was going on vacation from November 5. However, CPN-UML worker Jagat Khanal informed that the minister came to the constituencies in the middle of the night with a plan of financial manipulation against the code of conduct and was sent back by the police at night.

According to Banke Representative Lakshmi Tharu, two people were injured when a pressure cooker bomb exploded in Nepalgunj Sub-municipal-10 Bhrikutinagar. According to the District

Police Office, two pressure cooker bombs that were made by the Nepali Army team were defused. In the incident, 27-year-old Dilli DC and 33-year-old Dharmabir Badwal, the district president of CPN Krantikari led by Netravikram Chand Biplav, were injured. Both the injured people are being treated at Nepalgunj Medical. From their room, pamphlets, pamphlets, receipts asking for donations and banners were repaired, according to the District Police Office, Banke.

According to Bardiya Representative Man Bahadur Chaudhary, it has been found that flags with election symbols have been used in public places of (a) Baghaiyatal Rural Municipality and Bansgadhi Municipality of Area No. 1 of Bardiya District. It was found that flags with election symbols were used in public places of Baghaiyatal Rural Municipality and Bansgadhi Municipality of Constituency No. 1 (B). CPN-UML, Rashtriya Swatantra Party, Nepal Unmukti Party, Nepali Congress, Janata Samajwadi Party have been found to be using children against the code of conduct throughout the district. Flags have also been used more than the prescribed number in corner meetings, general meetings and rallies. From auto rickshaws to big vehicles, it has been seen that they are spreading loud propaganda by wearing microphones and speakers.

According to Rupandehi Representative Reema BC, a complaint has been registered in the Chief Election Officer's office, Rupandehi on November 17, demanding that the candidacy of Balkrishna Khan, the candidate for the member of the house of representatives of Rupandehi area No. 3 and Home Minister Balkrishna Khan, should be cancelled due to his involvement in polygamy. Tara Baral, the campaigner of People's Commission Grand Prosecution of Nepal, filed a complaint at the office of the Chief Election Officer, Bhairahawa, demanding legal action against Khan, who is also a candidate of the five-party alliance. Chief Electoral Officer Judge Koirala informed them that they had violated the code of conduct for taking photographs without permission by entering under the guise of coming to file a complaint.

According to Nawalparasi West Representative Narayan Parajuli, one polling officer who was drunk and acted contrary to the conduct on the day of understanding the election materials in the district has been removed from his responsibility and another election officer has been assigned. Chief District Officer Shrawan Kumar Pokharel informed that Prithviraj Choudhary, the polling officer assigned to Sunwal Rural Municipality-11 Bak Vani Secondary School, was taken into custody after he was found to be intoxicated.

According to Kapilvastu Representative Parbati Acharya, the voting materials for the Provincial Assembly and Representative Assembly member elections to be held on November 4 have been sent to the polling stations. According to District Election Officer Rajeev Panthi, a

temporary centre has also been kept in the jail. Keeping in view the security situation of the district, Chief District Officer Dharmendra Kumar Mishra said that 28 polling stations have been classified as highly sensitive, 107 as sensitive and 99 as normal. 44 security mobile patrols will be deployed on election day.

Sudurpaschim Province

According to INSEC Bajura representative Padam Bahadur Singh, after the training organized by the district election office for the representative and provincial assembly election, the election officer, assistant polling officer and other staff have reached all the polling stations in the district along with the election materials. Awasthi, the head of the district election office, also said that 993 employees have been mobilized in 112 polling stations of 70 polling centres in the district. Chief District Officer Prakash Chandra Adhikari said that adequate security arrangements have been made for the security of the polling station and for voters to vote in a safe and fearless environment.

According to Darchula Representative Narendra Singh Karki, Chief Electoral Officer Khemraj Bhatt said that the staff assigned for the state and House of Representatives elections have reached all the polling stations in the district along with the election materials. Chief Electoral Officer Bhatta said that the staff and security personnel who have been deployed in polling stations far from the headquarters since November 15 have also reached the respective polling stations. After reaching the polling station, in the first phase, all-party meetings, preparing bonds, building booths, and arranging proper security will be done in order to conduct the election in a clean and fear-free environment. According to the District Election Office, there are 112 polling centres, 141 polling stations and two temporary polling stations in this district with 89 thousand 154 voters. Voting for Himalayan local level Byas Rural Municipality-1 Changgaru and Tinker of the district will be held at the headquarters Khalanga. The Chief District Officer, Gilgraj Upadhyay, said that the polling station was set up in Khalanga due to the cold weather.

According to INSEC Kailali Representative Mainamoti Chaudhary, 629 polling officers and 629 assistant polling officers have been assigned to 5,021 polling stations in the 237 polling centres and 629 polling stations for the upcoming November 20. Eight temporary polling stations have been arranged for 4,500 temporary voters to vote proportionally for members of the House of Representatives for employees working in the election, Nepal Police, Armed Police, Nepali Army and prisoners serving prison terms and 40 polling officers and assistant polling officers for that purpose. Information Officer Chaudhary also said that more staff have been assigned.

According to INSEC Bajhang representative Satyaraj Bahadur Singh, the District Election Security Committee has said that preparations for the entire election-focused security system have been completed. Chief District Officer Baburam Aryal said that necessary security arrangements have been made for the upcoming House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly elections to be held in a clean, free, fair and fear-free environment. Chief District Officer Aryal said that since the security personnel have reached the polling centre for the security of the candidates, the security of voters, the security of the staff working in the election and the security of the election materials, an environment has been created for the voters to use their voting rights confidently. According to Chief District Officer Aryal, a provincial-level security meeting was held in Bagthala located in Ward No. 8 of Vitthadchirural municipality on November 16, with the aim of preparing a strategy to make the election clean, fair and fear-free, and deploying security personnel accordingly.

According to Dadeldhura district representative Bhupendra Bista, the Election Commission has asked the head and deputy head of Parashuram municipality for an explanation. On October 30, the commission asked Municipal Mayor Bharat Badair Joshi and Deputy Mayor Bimala Kumari Bohora for asking for votes for candidates close to them against the election code of conduct. Chief Electoral Officer Balkrishna Wagle said that since complaints have been received in the commission with materials that appear to be participating in the program and asking for votes from parties and candidates in various wards under the municipality, contrary to the code of conduct of the municipality, they have been asked to submit a written explanation so that the letter is received by the election commission within 24 hours of receiving the letter by any means. done

According to Baitadi representative Nari Badu, the Sudurpaschim Province Command Post led by Chief Secretary Narayan Prasad Duwadi Sharma has been monitoring the peace and security of the district. Chief District Officer Suresh Panthi said that the team monitored the election-targeted security situation, election preparation, security deployment, etc. According to him, the team has also taken information about the preparations made by the district security committee to conduct the election in a clean, fair, fearless and peaceful manner and has instructed them to arrange all the security arrangements.

According to INSEC Kanchanpur representative Lily Kunwar, the Election Commission has asked the Chairperson of Bedkot Municipality Ward No. 5 Chitradev Bhatt for an explanation for violating the code of conduct. Chief Electoral Officer Dhurva Kumar Shah said that Bhatta was asked for an explanation after a complaint was received on November 14 that he had participated in campaigning and election gatherings against the code of conduct in Bedkot municipality.

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

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