

Stringent monitoring of local funds necessary: Leaders

Rampant corruption, degrading services

Leaders of the three main political parties today despaired over the rampant misuse of budget at the local level, which they said was telling adversely on service delivery and development activities. Speaking at an interaction with national leaders on 'Local Service Delivery in the Current Situation and Role of Youth' organized by the Association of Political Science Students (APSS), UCPN Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal said all the representatives of political parties at the local level seemed to be united in misusing funds even though they maintained fierce ideological differences on all other issues.



(From left – Dr. Hikmat Bista from LGAF, Mr. Som Lal Subedi, Secretary at Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sushil Ghimire, Secretary at Ministry of Local Development, Mr. Arjun Narsingh KC, Central Member of Nepali Congress party, Honourable Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda, Chairman of UCPN (Maoist), Mr. Rajendra Prasain, President of the APSS, Mr. Bharat Mohan Adhikari, Leader of CPN (UML), Mr. Shankar Prasad Pande, Secretary at Ministry of Education)

“The representatives of parties at the all party committee formed at the local level to mobilise the local budget and resources, seem to have found consensus on ways to misuse funds, however they fight fiercely over crucial agendas like peace and development,” Dahal said.

Dahal underscored the role of youth in mitigating corruption at the local level.

He further emphasized the need to bring youth oriented programmes so as to bring back Nepali youth who have gone abroad.

Nepali Congress leader Arjun Narsingh KC underlined strengthening legal provisions and rigorous monitoring of funds to check corruption at the local level.

KC said election of local bodies would help mitigate corruption. He also expressed anxiety over the fact that local funds had failed to reach the needy people as the trend of capturing funds was on the rise.

Saying that democracy will not survive if it cannot maintain relations with the people, CPN-UML leader Bharat Mohan Adhikary underscored the importance of prompt service delivery. Stating that

impunity, statelessness, and absence of local government had bogged down service delivery, Adhikary stressed the need for local elections and a strict monitoring mechanism.

Administration expert Hikmat Bishta said it is now up to the youth to make the country better because leaders with the old mindset cannot adapt in a competitive world. He further suggested a decentralized democratic local government to enhance service delivery.

Secretary at Ministry for Local Development said the service delivery situation is not that bleak as it has been made out. However, he said that due to unprecedented autonomy of local bodies, monitoring from the centre has been difficult. He further blamed the non-cooperation of political parties.

Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Som Lal Subedi, noted that increasing impunity, failure to localize services, and populist approach in service delivery had led to failure at the centre to provide guardianship, which in turn, had affected service delivery.

Education Secretary Shankar Pandey said the trend of neglecting important issues on the pretext of transition had affected service in many sectors.

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