

NATIONAL YOUTH MANIFESTO 2008



Declared by:

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

24TH - 26TH December 2008, Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk, Nepal
(2065 Poush 9 -11)

This Conference is financially supported by:



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Conference Organised by:

Association of Political Science Students
राजनीतिशास्त्र विद्यार्थी संघ (APSS)



Dear Reader,

You hold in your hands the 'National Youth Manifesto- 2008', which expresses the opinions of vibrant young people in Nepal on a wide range of issues of writing the new constitution and youth concerns from state-restructure and federalism, to youth/human rights, to the environment, to religion, to education, to employment, to an end to the discrimination in Nepal. This document has been produced by a comprehensive process whereby some 280 grass roots youths and 150 their delegates for a National Youth Conference have worked together in groups to form manifestation of their beliefs and commitments on various topics included below. Before the National Youth Conference was to be taken place five regional level consultative dialogues with grass roots youths had been carried out to develop a resource material for the Conference. These statements have been voted on by all the youth delegates at the **National Youth Conference on "Youth Issues and Federalism in Nepal"**. Thus, these guidelines and direction to a prosperous and democratic Nepal is testament to the enormous potential of Nepalese youths.

The Association of Political Science Students (APSS) is the assembly of young students, which works to economic and social advancement of the country; it believes youths are the major change actor and it involves them in creating critical mass of Nepali youths and students towards sustainable peace, democracy and development by stimulating them in careful deliberation of political, social and development issues, and their possible resolutions by exploring their innovative ideas.

This great job of Nepalese youth came to the reality when GTZ Federalism Support Programme from Federal Foreign Office of Germany financially supported, I with all young people of Nepal would like to extend warm thanks to the German people through Dr. Horst Mathaeus of GTZ Nepal. Many eminent experts on the related fields, senior administrative officers of Government of Nepal, and political leaders of various political parties have joined their hands with Nepali youngsters to commit this work. My special thanks go to Prof. Dr. Bidya Nath Koirala who academically supported to explore youth feelings and potentialities at the Conference. And young Constituent Assembly members, who of them regularly participated the Conference to give their inputs to various group discussions, as regular participant, are a part of my thanks.

We hope that you will cherish what is contained in these pages. It is vital that young people have a voice in influencing decision making and decision makers. Decisions which take into account the opinions of young people will be more relevant to society. Young people hold the key to the future - it is their enthusiasm and optimism that will allow society to evolve and move forward.

Young people are often said to be the "leaders of tomorrow" but this does not mean that they have no role to play in today's world. Youth empowerment today will allow young people to live and strive in the world of tomorrow.



Rajendra Prasain
President
Association of Political Science Students (APSS)
26th December 2008

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Whereas it is expedient to make the roles of and issues concerning the youths clear in order to incorporate the subject and issues of youths in the forthcoming constitution for maintaining the long-lasting peace in the country, to strengthen the national integrity, sovereignty, national independence;

Whereas it is necessary to institutionalize the democratic values and norms and the feeling of mutual brotherhoods by institutionalizing the achievement made from past to present through the historical movement and revolution;

And whereas, recognizing the Nepalese youths as the major factor for establishing a developed country and maintaining a well cultured social system in the country, it is necessary to ensure constitutional guaranty in the new constitution for the incorporation of the subject and issues of youths;

Now therefore, we the youths of Nepal for the purpose of making our role and issues clear do hereby declare as follows:-

Education:-

1. That, we the youths emphasize for the scientific and useful education to meet vital needs. We emphasize that the education should be employment oriented and it should be able to promptly reduce all sort of discriminations, should be able to bridging the generation-gap, should accelerate the patriotic feeling, should be able to prepare the citizens competent to use the means and resources available in the country and should be able to promote the citizens towards international standard. We the youths hereby emphasize on immediate implementation of research-oriented education that may integrate the country in social and cultural unity as per the physical distinctness of the country.

2. That, we the youths, want to establish the education as a meaningful fundamental rights. We believe that education should be for achieving the equal goal in local, provincial or central level in the federal structure of the country. For the purpose, we the youths focus for the national educational policies to be prepared with the participation of all federal provinces and education administration to be conducted by provincial and local governments.

3. That, we the youths hereby demand that common national research center on concerned subject and technical schools should be opened in adequate number with the aim to mobilized to common local means and resources and for this purpose we focus for the cooperation and coordination among the central, provincial and local government.

4. That, we the youths focus for the mother-tongue based upon population to be kept as an optional subject in every school and Nepali and English to be used to teach other subjects. For the purpose of promoting and preserving the culture and national languages of all communities, dialects and culture related universities should be established where the research centers would be set up in each province. Education for up to 10 plus2 class should be made compulsory and free and for up to such class the examination system should be of same system and certificates of same level should be issued.

5. That, we the youths desire to play the role in promoting the educational awareness level of people. We believe in the fact that every new thought should be recognized as positive catalyst for formation and implementation of education policy by discouraging the irregularities and undemocratic system prevailing in the education sector and therefore we want certainty on this.

6. That, we the youths hereby promise that we will be dedicated to eliminate the illiteracy and we further promise that making coordination with each other and providing the expertise service want to make the youths' contribution meaningful.

7. That, we the youths want to emphasize that all other concerned stakeholders should assist us in order to play the role of volunteers for the purpose of resisting the education sector from being politicization.

Employment:-

1. That, we the youths want certainty in youth employment in various employment areas with recognizing the economic bases and public-private investment areas of the country. We want to modernize our traditional professions with making it dignity and certainty.

2. That, we the youths want to cause to secure the potential youths' involvement in the sector of water resources, agriculture and tourism and we hereby make further demand before the state that special facilities and privileges for the youths involved in such sectors be secured.

3. That, we the youths request the concerned stakeholders in the employment sector to end all sorts of discrimination and to create professional dignity and maintain it in the employment sector.

4. That, we the youths believe that the full employment of youths should be guaranteed in order to establish peace in the country, to find out the potentiality of youths and to respect them. We demand for making available the loan without any interest or with soft-interest on the basis of the academic qualification of youths in order to minimize the internal unemployment.

5. That, this conference of youths especially demand the education system should be employment oriented. The state should provide the volunteer allowance for the unemployed youths. State and concerned authorities should provide opportunity to the youth for their volunteer services during the unemployed period.

6. That, we the youths believe that the multi-national business enterprises in the country should make atmosphere for acquiring youth's participation in the production and management areas of such enterprises. We accept the Information Technology as an important factor for the multi-dimensional development of the country. We demand the policies and programmes in such areas to make wide participation of the youths.

7. That, we the youths believe that the employment be regarded as a fundamental constitutional right and the guaranty for providing employment be ensured by the centre to the local level.

8. That, we the youths believe that youth information centre should be formed in the central, provincial and local level and the youth employment council should be in the central level. We the youth demand that the federal government form an inter-provincial employment promotion board comprising of youths for the promotion of employment in whole gamut in order to identify

the common nature and scope of employment and the employment be provided to the youths accordingly.

9. That, we the youths hereby propose to initiate joint-action with various stakeholders in order to promote the employment for the youths by industrialization in the agricultural sector by making the agriculture modernized and technological to forward the agriculture based on the rain-water. We the youths hereby declare our commitment to render assistance to the nation for making the atmosphere conducive to employment by mobilizing the local means and resources for the rapid development of the country.

10. That, we the youths declare that we are committed to transform the inert power of youth into the active and creative from the social and economic point of view.

Health:-

1. That, we the youths believe that every citizen be ensured their fundamental rights to health to be practically implemented from local, provincial and central level, so that the treatment to be timely provided to the citizens. We believe that the country should make provision for compulsory health education to all.

2. That, we the youths hereby demand for the establishment of an well equipped health centre with a doctor at minimum in that centre in local level at every half hour distant be ensured.

3. That, we the youths hereby emphasize for the youth mechanism in every community in order to conduct the programmes related to health issues.

Youth participation:-

1. That, we the youths hereby, accepting as a major partner of development of the country, demand for meaningful participation in policy making and implementation process from local level to federal level of the country. For this purpose we demand the constitutional guarantee in the forthcoming constitution.

2. That, we the youths hereby demand for making provision for the youths' participation in main stream by way of providing them the seats of 40% in the

local bodies, 30% and 40% respectively in provincial legislature and the executive, and 25% and 20% respectively in the federal legislature and executive.

3. That, we the youths hereby demand for establishment of youth-Bench in all level of courts of province and the Supreme Court.

4. That, we the youths hereby specially demand for providing 20% seats of representation at every body and level of political parties.

5. That, we the youths hereby demand for the compulsory representation of youth in each constitutional organs and bodies.

6. That, we the youths hereby declare our collective commitment to include our issues within or outside the Constituent Assembly.

7. That, we the youths hereby state and declare that we are always active to follow and implement the laws, policies, rules, regulations related to forwarding youths to a respected life in the society.

End of discrimination:-

1. That, we the youths hereby demand that the constitutional provision be made in the new state-restructure ensuring the end of all types of discrimination in the form of social, political, economic, cultural, gender-base, religion-based whatsoever are prevalent in the country.

2. That, we the youths hereby put specific demand for the justiced delivery within three months be ensured in the cases related to discriminatory issues.

3. That, we the youths hereby declare to conduct the awareness programmes in village level against the discrimination with the support of other stakeholders.

4. That, we the youths hereby insist that the state should manage the open competition for any responsibility and post for the youths.

Restructure of state:-

1. That, we the youths hereby declare through this conference that the youths will be firmly prepared in the days to come for presenting the outline of state-restructure before the Constituent Assembly by way of setting up of various mechanism in coordination with other stakeholders by means of conducting discussion in the national level.

2. We the youths hereby further declare that we the Nepalese youths will conduct or cause to be conducted the special programmes to cause to address through the forthcoming constitution the issues mentioned in the abovementioned various paragraphs and identifying other issues and to make those issues constitutionally guaranteed.

Conference date: - 9th to 11th Poush, 2065 BS (corresponding to 24th to 26th December 2008 AD, Hotel Himalayan Horizon, Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk, NEPAL

Date of declaration: - Friday the 11th day of the month of Poush of the year 2065 BS (corresponding to 26th December 2008 AD)

Appendix I: Key participants: