



## **The Speech delivered by Hon. Chairperson of NHRC, Nepal Anup Raj Sharma on the auspicious occasion of 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commission.**

*Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, the Distinguished Guests, ladies and gentlemen.*

National Human Rights Commission, Nepal entered into its adulthood completing 19 years, and was established as an independent and autonomous body mandated constitutionally to ensure protection, promotion and respect of human rights as well as guaranteeing the effective implementation. The Commission aspires to fulfill its constitutional mandate with its full energetic strength. I wish, this dream will not be deferred. On this occasion, I would like to warmly welcome to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, and distinguished guests coming here accepting our invitation. We have been saddened by the sudden demise of our first Chairperson of NHRC, Nepal and the former Chief Justice Nayan Bahadur Khatri this week. The contribution in the protection and promotion of human rights made by him can never be forgotten.

National Human Rights Commission which represents the voice of the voiceless is also victim oriented organization which has adopted human dignity, justice and equality as its core values. As you all know, NHRC Nepal has been making recommendations to the Nepal Government on the basis of its monitoring of human rights situation, observation and assessment as well as the investigation of the human rights violation cases and on the basis of the legal analysis of the facts received.

Among these human rights violation complaints, in this year, decisions on 716 complaints have been provided with regard to the complaints said to be the rights violation. NHRC Nepal has been providing its recommendations to Nepal Government monitoring, studying and investigation with regard to the issues like violence against women and access to justice, rights of the children, consumers' right, right of the migrant workers, right to environment and development, rights of the senior citizens, human trafficking, right to the persons with disability, caste based discrimination among others.

NHRC, Nepal has published a special report on the issue of the Senior Citizens, 2018 studying 62 Senior Citizens Homes of 48 districts in Nepal with regard to the rights of the senior citizens. NHRC, Nepal has provided recommendations to the Nepal Government for the improvement concluding various activities on the implementation status of the ILO Convention No. 169, National Inquiry program against Chhaupadi (banishment of women from home during menstruation) tradition and the rights of the migrant workers for the protection and promotion of Nepali migrant workers, the MoU process between National Human Rights Commission, Nepal (NHRCN) and National Human Rights Commission, Malaysia (SUAHAKAM) is going to be in its final stage. The similar MoU has been already concluded with Human Rights Commission, Qatar.

The Commission has recommended to the government of Nepal for the protection of the right to live in the clean environment of valley dwellers as a fundamental right monitoring and investigating on this issue as the developmental acts in the Kathmandu valley has polluted the environment so that serious health impacts has seen in the public lives.

The incident of Nirmala Panta of Kanchanpur district, who is supposed to be killed after rape, NHRC, Nepal formed an expert team to find the effectiveness of police investigation and recommended to the

Nepal Government with regard to the police sensitivity and medico - legal process concluding its monitoring and investigation.

NHRC, Nepal has also initiated study and research in this year on the issue of the senior citizens' right to health forming Geriatric expert team. NHRC Nepal has monitored the human rights situations of Nepali citizens living in the border areas, caste based discrimination under rights of the Dalits, rights of the LGBTI, implementation status of the Forth National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), the implementation status of the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. On these issues reports are in the process to be published. NHRC Nepal, in this year too has continued providing training on dispensing justice and human rights to the elected representatives of the Local Governments, especially to the members of the Judicial Committee. This program as well as the programs with regard to the violence against women is continued this year too.

### **The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Distinguished Guests**

The situation of impunity is increasing due to delayed justice to the conflict victims in the cases of human rights violation during conflict era. The situation of complications to get justice, and not addressed the recommendations of the Commission properly is the existed situation. Rule of law, Independence of Judiciary, freedom of the Press and freedom of speech and Human Rights are the significant pillars of democracy. The respect and the protection of these pillars and the institutional development with democratic norms and values can make the rule of law alive. The sustainable peace and development are possible through the protection and promotion of rule of law, good governance, and independence of judiciary, independence and autonomous constitutional bodies, human rights, freedom of speech and opinion, respect of press freedom. How every individual can feel human rights in their household? I think, we all have to think on this.

National human rights Institutions like National Human Rights Commission should be operated in accordance with the norms and values of Universal Human Rights on the basis of the principle of necessity and its rationale. Nepal is one of the member states of United Nations and currently the member of Human Rights Council as well. I would like to recall the commitments made by the Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal government as he expressed addressing the 40<sup>th</sup> high level assembly of the Human Rights Council. He made his commitment of amending the laws related with transitional justice in accordance with the international human rights standards and the directions given by the Supreme Court on this regard. Similarly, his commitment was in favor of the essence and spirit of the comprehensive peace accord as he committed for the comprehensive consultation with the victims for addressing the human rights violation during conflict era as Nepal is a state party to the 7 core human rights conventions and has also incorporated the provisions of the conventions in the Constitution, act, and laws and that are also being even implemented. From the high-level assessment of the commitment made in front of domestic and international arena, the status of the Commission, and the performance appraisal, we can believe that the image of the Commission is brighter in front of international community. The Subcommittee on Accreditation of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions has again reaccredited "A" status after the assessment of the NHRCN. This is achieved because of the continuous efforts made by the Nepal government, civil society, human rights defenders, members, and the personnel of the NHRCN. I would like to thank you all for this and hope for the continuous support and accompany.

## **Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and Distinguished Guests**

We have submitted the amendment bill of the NHRC Act 2012 for its appropriate contemporary improvements drafting the different sections of amendment before three years. The Commission is seriously concerned upon the NHRC Bill the Nepal government has recently endorsed for amendment in the parliament. The NHRCN has immediately corresponded to the government for its reconsideration in this regard. The Bill of NHRCN and the Bill of Media Council have become the issue of national and international concern and worry. By pursuing the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) 1993, adopting the norms and values of human rights, the NHRCN has been established as an independent and autonomous institution in the year of 2000 by the continuous efforts made by the civil society and human rights defenders therefore the obligation to protect is also rest in the state realizing the honour and its importance. I believe, this democratic government which is in the leadership of Rt. Hon. Prime minister will not go back for the implementation of this responsibility and obligation.

The NHRC office building which was ruined during the devastated earthquake of 2015 has not been reconstructed yet. I would like to recall to Rt. Hon. that due to the lack of sufficient space daily activities of the Commission are not being functioned efficiently and I would like to draw your attention in this regard. I believe. The government will draw its attention for the provincial offices of the NHRC.

I am delighted to share you that the NHRC is going to organize an International Conference next year visualizing the rights of the Migrant Workers. I am confident that Nepal government will provide necessary support for the success of this conference. I believe all the concerned agencies of the government of Nepal, civil society, human rights defenders will provide necessary support and collate for the success of this conference.

Finally, I would like to express my faith towards the government of Nepal, its agencies, political parties, professional organizations, human rights defenders and intellectual community that they will contribute for keeping human dignity of all in the higher position in the domestic as well as international arena using own intellect and coordinating to accomplish the increased aspiration of the people for the protection and promotion of human rights in the changed international and national scenario. I would like to thank the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli and all the invitees for providing your precious time despite your busy schedule and would like to thank you all

Thank you  
27 May, 2019  
Lalitpur, Nepal