



राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग

National Human Rights Commission

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय, Central Office

हरिहर भवन, पुल्चोक, ललितपुर, Harihar Bhawan, Pulchowk, Lalitpur, Nepal



Press Note

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Basic Human Rights of Quake affected Citizens in jeopardy

The NHRC monitoring has found that the basic human rights of citizens affected from earthquake have been jeopardized. The high level monitoring team led by honorable Govinda Sharma Poudyal has brought this findings to light upon conducting monitoring in the districts worst-hit by the earthquake including Gorkha, Dhading, Nuwakot and Rasuwa.

Monitoring launched in these districts have found that the life of quake victims languishing in the temporary makeshifts is still in miserable and vulnerable condition. A few quake victims in Gorkha district haven't been able to receive the relief amount Rs 15, 000/- pledged by the government for rebuilding houses of the earthquake-hit people. There have been significant errors in data collected by the engineers deployed from the Central Bureau of Statistics. The posts of officials in the local level government body are still lying vacant and there has been no arrangement of secretary in most Village Development Committees (VDCs). Not to mention, the monitoring has found that there is no ample and effective coordination between the National Reconstruction Authority, District Disaster Management Committee and District Development Committee. Moreover, there is a lack of very much needed substantial plan to rehabilitate those quake victims with their data update upon identifying the human settlement full of risk due to the earthquake. Shifting of those identified elsewhere in safe place is still in limbo, as per the monitoring. Mostly, the quake victims without land ownerships have been deprived of such program to rehabilitate them in district level. On top of that, the engineers have not collected the data encompassing all such victims. The engineers are learnt to have been under pressure to record the data with forged claim of loss. Those living separately in nuclear families in practical terms have also been left out while counting the number of families enduring the loss caused by the earthquake. Above all, there is a lack of adequate human resource made available with the National Reconstruction Authority and the victims sheltering in others' land on monthly rent have been asked to vacate the place immediately in Rasuwa district.

Similarly, no impetus is given to data collection even after 14 months of the earthquake. The victims are still languishing in the temporary shelters.

The Commission, therefore, urges the Nepal Government to immediately launch the remaining data collection to ensure human rights of elderly citizens, children, persons with disability and women living in these shelters, to release the relief ensuring their easy access to such relief, to assume or cause to assume the coordination in the reconstruction work to evade the lack of the resource and to commence the specialized data maintenance for those living in the human settlement which are considered absolutely unsafe and to formulate a plan including the arrangement for their rehabilitation and also to make adequate resources available with the local level government offices in order to make the reconstruction work effective and to ensure the enjoyment of basic human rights of the citizens affected from the earthquake.

Bed Bhattarai
Secretary