Press Note

28 April, 2021

NHRC urges govt to handle COVID-19 health crisis effectively: a high-level team discusses with the Deputy Prime Minister

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal draws the attention of the government towards the risk of lives of people in the crisis of the rising number of coronavirus cases by the 2nd wave and those being infected may deprived of their right to life as well as health. With regard to this the Commission stresses upon the effective implementation of the actions taken by the government in collaboration with all areas of society to control and prevent the effects of COVID – 19 in this situation. The Commission team consisting of Hon. Member Lily Thapa and Joint Secretary Murari Pd. Kharel discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister of the government of Nepal and the director of Covid-19 Crisis Management Centre (CCMC) Mr. Ishwor Pokharel. On this occasion, the commission has drawn attention of the Government of Nepal, concerned agencies and Covid-19 Crisis Management Centre (CCMC) for the implementation of the following recommendations.

1. To manage and operate holding centres, quarantine facilities, and isolation centres set up at the Nepal-India border points. Manage and operate holding centres, quarantine facilities, and isolation centres in the local bodies too.

2. Health check-up of persons returning home through a long porous border has not been conducted to confirm if they are infected with COVID-19. Therefore, to conduct health screening and COVID-19 tests before putting them in institutional isolation or manage the vehicle including other services to send them to their destination;

3. To maintain the factual records, data of persons coming to Nepal by international flights and international borders;

4. Due to the growing pressure of COVID-19 patients in dedicated hospitals and the gradual rise in the number of patients has forced hospitals to cut down their services. Therefore, provide adequate resources including human resources to the hospitals to ensure that no one is deprived of essential health services; In addition to these designate other hospitals for treatment of COVID patients to make the services easy;

5. Issue circulars to responsible authorities of the provinces, districts and local levels for effective and timely delivery of health services to the citizens, while mobilise social organisations and civil society for voluntary services at the time of health crisis;

6. In recent times, vaccination centres have been pulling huge crowds for anti-coronavirus vaccination. It is likely to worsen the situation due to lack of proper physical distancing. Therefore, increase the number of vaccination centres and control the crowd accordingly;
7. As the injunction imposed by the District Administration Office may affect the persons' rights to get essential health and other services, make efforts for the conducive environment for this;

8. To take necessary precautionary measures and necessary health treatment against the infection among jailbirds and conduct regular health checkup to the prisoners, detainees and the children in conflict with laws;

9. To guarantee effective health checkup following the health protocol and alertness at all the people seeking and returnees from foreign employment for combating the rapidly spreading second wave of the disease.

10. To make necessary efforts for providing relief packages assessing the impact upon the daily livelihoods of the workers/business persons working in the informal sectors;

11. Incidents of crime including domestic violence/violence against women could rise sharply during the period of prohibitory orders, make efforts for the necessary arrangement including the special security management;

12. Manage the public and private hospitals so that health treatment of chronically ill persons, persons with disability, child bearing mothers, pregnant women and the persons who need psycho social counselling including others are not impacted and monitor regularly;

13. To ensure continuity and smooth delivery of regular health services, foods including other consumer goods amid the pandemic controlling the artificial scarcity and black marketing; regularly monitor the markets and depots/stores by the concerned agencies, local bodies in order to control the price hike and for regular supply for consumer goods.

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Under Secretary

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