

## Pre-Election Monitoring Initiatives

### **Memorandum Submission by the Agitating Parties**

21 April 2013, Sunday, Kathmandu

Altogether 57 political parties who are opposing the current Voter Registration (VR) move spearheaded by the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) submitted a written memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner, Hon. Mr. Nilkantha Upreti. The agitating parties urged the ECN to immediately halt the on-going VR process until a general consensus is made among all political actors. The parties who have shown a strong resentment to the formation of the Chief Justice-led election government de-recognize its status and in the mean time, have demanded an all-party dialogue to arrive at common grounds of understanding to determine the future political direction in the country. In the memorandum, they also cautioned the ECN to refrain from proceeding with the VR initiative campaign or else face the consequences of the probable undesirable incidents.



In his response, the Chief Election Commissioner informed that the VR is an ongoing process since 2010 to enroll all eligible voters in the upcoming elections, thus, urged the agitating parties not to create hurdle but rather cooperate in such an important endeavor.

### **Political Party Registration**

30 April 2013, Tuesday, Kathmandu



With the purpose of holding the new election to the Constituent Assembly (CA), the Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) started registration for political parties from April 30, 2013 in Kathmandu. As per the general practice, the political party registered first remains on the top of the list on the ballot paper and other parties follow the order. For now, UML is the first to register followed by UCPN

(Maoist), Rastriya Prajantra Party Nepal, Nepali Congress, CPN-ML, Terai-Madhesh Democratic Party, Sadhbhawana Party in the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh row. Representatives of various political parties, together with their cadres and supporters were lined up at the ECN office since morning for party registration. Security personnel were mobilized at the ECN premises to avoid possible scuffle in the process of registration.

### **Agitating Parties Stage Demonstration**

Kathmandu, May 3, 2013

The agitating coalition of 33 political parties led by the CPN-Maoist today staged a joint protest in front of the Election Commission (ECN) opposing the upcoming preparation for the second CA elections. They also demanded that the registration of parties, the voter registration and citizenship distribution process should be brought to a halt immediately. The registration of political parties at the ECN began from April 30, 2013 and altogether 19 parties had already registered so far at the ECN as of the time of the release of this statement.

The sit-in program commenced at around 9:00 am amidst the gathering of party cadres and supporters. Although they blocked the vehicular mobility in Kantipath area till 12 pm, it was generally peaceful and no unpleasant incidences took place in the course of the sit-in.



The 33 parties have come to a decision not to register their parties with the ECN unless the 25-point decree issued by the President to remove the constitutional barriers which led to the Chief Justice-led election government in the country is withdrawn. They have also demanded that the 'highhandedness' of 'handful of political forces' must end and the Chairman of the Interim Election Council (IEC) Khil Raj Regmi must quit opening the space for political dialogues.

*These events along with many others were closely monitored by the officials of NEOC who also interviewed the representatives of the agitating parties about their demands and further activities. NEOC will continue to monitor the pre-election activities across the country.*