PRESS RELEASE

Virtual Meeting Conducted between Ministry of Finance (MoF), Development Partners (DPs) and Election Commission, Nepal (ECN)

Discussion held on the prospects of future support to enhance Election Sector

Kathmandu, 25th January, 2021– The Ministry of Finance (MoF), in coordination with Election Commission, Nepal (ECN), conducted a virtual meeting with Local Development Partners to discuss about the possible support for election sector. The meeting being chaired by Finance Secretary, Mr. Sishir Kumar Dhungana, was accompanied by representatives from different DPs who have continuously supported the Election Sector and from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Welcoming the meeting, Joint Secretary, MoF, Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal highlighted on the purpose and agendas of the meeting. This was followed by a presentation from ECN about the needs and requirements of the Election Sector for the upcoming days. During presentation, Joint Secretary, ECN, Mr. Raj Kumar Shrestha briefed on the strategy and present policy of Election Commission.

In the course, other representative from the ECN elaborated about different activities currently being carried by the commission including upcoming general election and the kinds of assistance needed for it. After then, floor was opened for discussions as per the presentation of the ECN. DPs briefly presented their views on the prospects of their support to enhance the Election Sector.

Meanwhile, DPs having engagement in the election sector support, vowed to continue their tradition of supporting elections in Nepal as per their own plan. They told to provide further information about it after the consultations with their headquarters.

Finally, Finance Secretary, Mr. Dhungana concluded the meeting saying "I express my sincere thanks to all the DPs for their support in the election sector. As per the spirit of our democratic norms and values, election is inevitable. Since, election is a fundamental process of democracy; we expect similar kinds of support from all of DPs as in our prior election. Thus, I hope this meeting will be able to create amicable environment between us to come up with an understanding for additional logistic and other required support to the Election Sector in order to conduct safe, fair, impartial and cost effective elections".

Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.

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