



Election Commission Updates the Diplomatic Community in Nepal on the Upcoming By-Elections

The Election Commission, Nepal organised an information-sharing meeting with the diplomatic community present in Nepal on the upcoming by-elections, scheduled for **30 November 2019**. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs extended an invitation to the representatives from various Embassies, Mission Heads and Development Partners, including the United Nations and other international organisations in Nepal to share updates on the by-elections. The meeting also included representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the event, the Honourable Chief Election Commissioner Dinesh Kumar Thapaliya informed the attendees that **454,114 voters** are registered to vote to elect representatives in **52 vacant seats** at **537 polling centres** within **247 polling locations** in **37 districts** in the by-elections. He asserted,

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The Election Commission expects the continued support and cooperation from all the people and entities from the local, provincial and federal level, and also from the diplomatic missions and international community, as in the past.”





The Honourable Chief Election Commissioner shared the main features of the Election Commission's Third Strategic Plan (2019 – 2024) with its vision of strengthening democracy and good governance through free, fair, credible, impartial and cost-effective elections and also expected continued support from the international community.

The event proved to be very valuable in sharing the recent work of the Election Commission in the context of the upcoming by-elections. The foreign dignitaries were informed that the necessary arrangements have been carried out based on the Election Commission Act and other related guidelines. They were also informed that the by-election incorporates the learnings and recommendations from the various review reports as well as from the reports of the domestic and international election observers.

The Commission's keen preparation on organising trainings on Electoral Dispute Resolution, distributing additional voter identity cards, conducting voter education to ensure valid votes, and the security arrangements was also highlighted. Moreover, in their address, Honourable Election Commissioner Narendra Dahal as well as Honourable Election Commissioner Ishwori Prasad Paudyal echoed the Honourable Chief Election Commissioner in welcoming feedback from the international community to improve future elections. The Secretary of the Election Commission Dev Kumari Guragain also emphasized that the Commission is committed to its responsibility of ensuring free, fair, participatory and credible elections in her address.

The European Union Ambassador, Her Excellency Veronica Cody, congratulating the Commission, stated that the good work of the Commission will support an informed voting process in the upcoming by-elections. She lauded the setting up of district by-election monitoring committees which will include the representatives of the concerned political parties of the districts under the coordination of the Chief Returning Officer, as well as the efforts to enhance the outreach of the voter education programme. The dignitaries present appreciated the information-sharing meeting and extended their best wishes of success for the by-election process.

A press release of the event was issued on the same day and is available here: www.bit.do/ecn-diplomatic-pr

Watch the video



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