

IS NEPALESE POLITICS GOING TOWARDS ANARCHISM? A VIEW ON CA ELECTION POSTPONEMENT

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The following discussion has been raised here in connection with indefinite postponement of Constituent Election that Nepalese people were desperately waiting for concretization of their aspirations. The recent postponement of the CA has further pushed Nepalese luck behind and has brought uncertain political future. Nepali Congress and Maoists have marred the aspirations that Nepalese people gave the mandate to eight party though popular April movement 2006. Since the power was handed over to eight political parties to lead the future of Nepal, it has been experienced that the leading parties are more guided by outer forces i.e. south block or American interest rather than national interest.

Now, the CA election has already been postponed, the question raises here whether the leadership of eight parties are incapable to handle the situation. It is important to be clarified that whether the present leadership of the government needs to resign from its post on the moral ground. The movement of April 2006 established itself a sovereign political force aspired to be established a government which is more responsible and morally guided. But the present leadership rather to respect the people's aspiration, it looks more like stretching the transitional period to stay in the power. For a couple of months, people have to live in terror because of violence in Terai, halts, killings of people in a secular ethnic conflicts and blasts in the capital. Moreover, it is also experienced that a few political groups went against free media just interrupting the information flow. Nepalese civil society which contributed outstanding guidance during the political instability now seems rather to be a passive agent. In the period of regression by King Gyanendra, it had played a key role in the politics extending knowledge to the general public about regression. Going back to the past, civil society and all political institutions criticized and protested the then authoritative government of Nepal led by King Gyanendra on taking over the state power through bloodless coup. Later, the imposition of censor on free press eventually hit the regime as a boomerang. Despite, a few news agencies portrayed the leader the need of the context was eventually disregarded by people. The lesson is to be derived from the past that Nepali people do not want any kind of regression, extremism and undemocratic regimes on the ground of political ideology.

Recapitulating the immediate past of Nepalese politics; the political melodramas, it can be observed in the following way. When the movement against the royal regime accelerated to extremity, it forced the king step down. The leading seven political parties with the help of Maoists took over the power and soon after drafted an interim constitution and formed an interim parliament which scrapped king's political and cultural rights down in a way that reminded Magna Karta in the period of bloodless glorious war in England around 17th century. All political decisions were taken one after another dramatically so fast that people expected many of the nation's problems would be solved and would replace fair politics, new social systems and strong economy. But, the atmosphere turned up more suffocating, uncomfortable and unsystematic. The most expected Constituent Assembly election that has been postponed has opened more ground to antinational elements play with terror, and blurred

indecisive weak regime.

Meanwhile, the movement in the Terai and movement by ethnic groups for self identity and right to equal political participation is a desired emancipation which is of course necessary for more autonomies to function in national integration and democratic practice. What being experienced now is that some unruly elements aspire to dismantle the state into small pieces. They want to push the nation as a very weak condition that would inherit a vulnerability to be a part of India or China. It is a geopolitical context that has always been a threat to Nepal. Early, the seven parties which are supposed to be the majority of Nepalese people's representation seem to be incapable to solve the existing problem. It has in one way lost the moral ground to rule over the country. The major responsibility that seven parties have is to hold the CA election successfully but the desired election has been postponed so often that there is less chance to occur the conducive atmosphere to carry it out again. The ground reality is that the seven parties can't always carry on the situation as political transition. The more CA election is pushed back the more antinational elements could instrument following conflict between **TERAI** and **PAHADE** into destabilization of politics and bring an unwanted threat to national freedom.

Next, the demand of Maoists for proportional electoral representation in CA election does not consider the individuals who are not affiliated to any other political parties. It was not enough reason to Maoists party to abandon the cabinet. It is also a fact that Maoists party is also equally a contributor to bring the political change however, it doesn't mean that anything could happen as they wish under their suits. Many of its 22 demands are rational but are not practically possible to solve immediately. It would be more convenient to address the demands only when the country has a legitimized government through CA election. Since international community wants to see stable legitimized government in Nepal is now disappointed by CA election postponement for an indefinite time. Now it worries on whether new political scenario affects the peace process.

The present government at least should have respected the mass aspiration by taking legal action against perpetrators on repression during the second popular people's movement in which 21 demonstrators had lost their life. At the same time, it was an obligation to the regime to address the people and their relatives who lost their life during the people's war. Remember, at least 13 thousand people lost their life during a decade long war. In this context, those groups who fought for political objectives are war criminals unless they respect the sovereignty of people. It has left an unsolvable question like who, why for whom these many people were killed. Many issues of violating human rights have to be investigated and need to bring forth to the public. In addition, in the war, several people were displaced and disappeared. It should have been solved as soon as the new regime took over the power. Although there has been a commission formed for the purpose, it hasn't worked sufficiently. On the other hand, it was the Maoists party if it really thinks a responsible political party should have put much pressure to the government through the public debate rather to have been so desperate to participate in the government. The way of working Maoists party for last couple of months gave an experience that Maoists party is not any different than the other traditional parties. The issue was slowed down as if the Maoists had no other way than to legitimize themselves in the arena of international communities. Their desperation to participate in the government hardly portrays the Maoists party is more progressive.

Now Maoists party has formally gave up the stake from the government forwarding the demands especially focusing on announcement to republican setup and proportional representation in the CA election which depicts its weak coordination with other political parties and less confidence on people itself. Maoists have though successful to postpone the CA election, but it is unlikely that they would be able to change mass aspiration in their favor. It shows that Maoists still want to play with political transition rather to establish peace and democracy. Meanwhile, the disputes with various publications and obstructions have proved that Maoists have double standard in respect to the press freedom. The question could be raised: Does Maoists party want to be an authoritative power by controlling the people's right to get information? Isn't it an autocratic initiative to attack on free press? Finally, Maoists have to improve themselves to be a stakeholder of mainstream democracy.

All these outcomes in the politico of Nepal raise questions on whether the present government still holds legitimacy. Is this government and leadership failure that there needs to be replaced by a new one? Unless the new parliament session finds an alternative solution, the politics of Nepal would be vulnerable to fall into chaos and anarchism. It is extremely crucial moment that all political parties, civil society and international community have to focus on durable politico in Nepal to avoid further bloodsheds. There would be no other way to legitimize the popular April movement of 2006 and people's mandate than through the fresh election.