

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER PRACHANDA

From a Victim of People's War

Dear Prime Minister Prachanda,

I am fairly certain that, this letter will represent the voice of majority of the people and victims of people's war. Since I am not talking of my individual views, I am using here 'we' instead. First of all, though lately, we would like to extend a warm congratulation to the comrade on your historical victory over the central power of the country. Now we are hopeful. We are glad that there is someone in the Singh Darwar (The administrative headquarter of Nepal), who represents the majority of Nepali people. Yes, Nepali people have aspired great socio-economic transformation in your leadership. We have experienced a bitter truth of war in which we have lost almost fourteen thousand lives. But the sweet outcomes of war and invaluable dedication of martyrs are yet to see. Nepali civil war has been a stimulus to a historical transformation and we all wait a safe landing of it and conversion into a long lasting peace. During the last decade, Nepal experienced many ups and downs in politics as well as social structure. One of the happy events is that the feudalistic structure of socio-economy has been demolishing sharply. For all of these, Maoists Communist Party Nepal is to be a big extent responsible force therefore the people have already rewarded your party through constituency election. The verdict of people has made Nepal Communist Party Maoists a single largest party in the constituent assembly therefore, obviously you have right to lead the government.

Since your party raised the issues of republic, federal government, ethnic autonomy, economic boom, good governance, law and order, new bureaucratic system and immediate feeling of change, none of them yet to have experienced however, the recent public notice of financial directives indicate a good sign. Unfortunately, such directives are strictly followed, we still have a doubt. Furthermore, following after your selection as prime minister, it doesn't seem that you will fulfil the people's aspirations. You may have a good reason to say a natural disaster of Koshi flood. Isn't this time to review all the bilateral agreement of rivers and economic treaties with neighbouring countries? Your visit to India near future will also show how you will be able to deal with this potential human generated disaster. In case, if you return back without achievement, it will give a message to general people that you are not any different prime minister than the past prime ministers were. It will also show that you are desperately craving

for power and remain on it on cheap tactics. We were happy that you visited China and shattered the conventional practice of prime ministers who visit India just after being the government head. But your instable version right after coming back shows that you don't want a threat to your premiership on the verge of the influence of foreign power. You must understand that you are the prime minister of Nepal in support of people's ballot a universal legitimate process rather than in support of South Block. It is therefore, if you are really the leader of the nation, you must respect Nepali people first, not worrying of whosoever unhappy but it doesn't mean that you create unfriendly international relations to our neighbours. We want to see Nepal a sovereign and independent country not pseudo semi colonized.

You are well familiar of Nepali bureaucrats who are defamed of tortoise pace in action, sticking on unnecessary administrative process and highly corrupt (check the index of transparency international data). All know the Nepali bureaucracy implements government policy so late and haphazardly that grass root people never experience a good government in the centre. We have either very complicate bureaucratic hierarchies or inefficient staff or corrupt people inside the system. Unless these bureaucratic bodies realize that they have to serve the people impartially not rule over the people as inherited power, we hardly expect quality governance. It is therefore, they should get better salary and facility in terms of competent service for the ordinary people and bring a comfort to their everyday life. You should have enough courage to fire them if they fail to serve people competently. We are sure you will not promote nepotism and listen to any others who are just like flies flying around sweets. Yes, one more point is to take an account, it seems absurd that you still participate in the non productive inaugurating functions or ceremonies as used to do conventional prime ministers of the past who never over came out of cheap formalities.

The biggest challenge you have now to formulate such policies, we know the present government is of coalition however, they should be visionary to lead the country take off from poor state to rapidly developing country. Out of many development models indigenous model is to be identified for Nepal. The indigenous self sustaining development practice is viable and feasible because Nepal has many geopolitical and geographical advantages. In this, local promotions of energy, use of natural resources without degrading local environment, capacity building for local people and self governance through local community could be implemented. Simply an example I would like to say, perhaps, you might have acknowledged of a great contribution of Professor Mohammad Yunus from Bangladesh who invented micro credit

(Grameen Bank) for households especially women in the rural area has greatly changed the economy of Bangladesh within more than a half decade practice. Similarly, Nepal needs a big debate to identify an indigenous approach of development. Hopefully, you will take an account of it during the restructuring the federal setting. Besides, Nepal should take the benefit of globalization process and promote agriculture not only feeding internal people but possibly large populated neighbours. The tourism, and green revolution and sustainable energy sectors could be an immediate strategy.

In context to literacy, Nepal has a big gender gap. Your party amazingly worked out gender equality in the people's army. It was a great combination and contribution of women in people's war where more than half women were warrior of emancipation but it is not reflected in the government. Mostly we know if a woman in the family is well educated it opens the chances of all family to be well educated. Your big responsibility is to make gender equality from grass root level to policy making level. To tell the truth, women in Nepal really need a focus from central policy and they should be enhanced through capacity building and knowledge dissemination. It is extremely essential that they should have an access to the resources and have to be practiced of equity.

We would like to remind you of your sister wings which were very offensive to private boarding schools or private education and health institutions during the climax of people's war. Now it seems that they are silent for the issue they raised for the public sentiments. Either government schools are to be made competent as much as boarding schools or boarding schools are to be discouraged to charge higher fee structure. There should not be different curriculum between them. Hopefully in a few years later there won't be two different citizens divided very qualified and unemployed graduates. This will certainly create agony and frustrations among those who were compelled to study in government schools.

The gap between rich and poor is also incredibly big. Do you know how much rich people enjoy state facility and ratio of paying back? Still seventy percent of people are out of access to state facility such as energy, health and education and communication. Letting the rich people hold resources and run over the bureaucrats for vested interest, it is certain that the dream of New Nepal will be just as a trivial slogan. The next important thing which people expect from your government is to shattering all types of feudal practices. They still exist in various forms. Well, the world is underway to capitalist practice; however, the capital in context to Nepal has not

been transformed or utilized for the ideal productivity. An immediate productivity of the capital in context to Nepal is to generate more and more employment opportunity within the country. People should not crave to go to gulf or East Asia for merely a subsistent salary. The government should create and identify the sectors to private and financial institutions where these institutions can invest with confidence and help government to create more jobs.

This is extremely disgusting for us that all the political parties are seeking powerful ministries in which your party is also not out free. This is the time to promote science and technology. Many Western countries invest a large amount of budget in research and development. At least ten percent of state's annual budget is to be allocated to the field of research. Lets create a forum for well educated people work for own country rather working as second class citizens in other developed nations.

There is of course a big gap between not only rich and poor but urban and rural people. Those who consume more state facility but pays low tax should be identified. There should be a progressive tax according to the individually earned incomes. The country needs well systematized mechanism to collect the tax so that no one can deceive through lapses of economic and financial regulations. Instead of using cash transactions, all individuals and institutions should be encouraged to use financial transactions through the banks. And, the banks should be well networked.

There are many things to be well considered however, we wish you keep your words the transforming the country in short period. Keep in mind that this is the twenty first century and era of democracy. Any totalitarian practice could be irreparable loss for any political force. We wish a good government work for long tenure. All hope Nepal could find a very good constitution and a consolidated national unity. Finally, please work for an atmosphere in which each individual must feel that s/he is working for the soil and will certainly get rewarded for his contribution. Therefore, we hope each individual is responsive to the state and state is people oriented. Perhaps we will see soon a glimpse of **A New Prosperous Nepal**.

Warm regards,

Prabin K. Prajapati

Lund, Sweden

Email: pprajapati@hotmail.com