



# राष्ट्रिय अपाङ्ग महासंघ-नेपाल

## NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE DISABLED-NEPAL (NFDN)

Member: Disabled Peoples' International (DPI) / Asia Pacific Disability Forum (APDF)  
(Towards Inclusive, Barrier Free and Rights Based Society for the Persons with Disabilities)



Ref.:

### Press Release

The National Federation of the Disabled Nepal (NFDN) is the umbrella organization representing all persons with disabilities. The Federation is registered under the Organization Registration Act (1977) with the District Administration Office in Kathmandu in 1993 and is affiliated with the Social Welfare Council. It is also registered with the Inland Revenue Office and operates with a tax clearance certificate after regular tax filings. The Federation receives annual grants from the Government of Nepal and financial and technical assistance from international non-governmental organizations to run various projects, as approved by the Government of Nepal.

The Federation is recognized by the Government of Nepal as a consultative organization that provides advice on policy and planning issues related to disability. The government retains the authority to regulate the Federation. However, the Federation continues to fulfill its legal and administrative responsibilities according to its statute and remains committed to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities with integrity. This press release is issued to clarify certain issues that have arisen from false, misleading, and defamatory complaints and propaganda against the Federation and its office-bearers by individuals driven by bias. The Federation is committed to fully cooperating with any impartial and independent investigation by government agencies and seeks to clear any misunderstandings among the public that may have arisen due to these false allegations.

#### **1. Concerning the Legitimacy of the Position:**

During the Federation's Executive Committee election in November 2022, Mr. Sugam Bhattarai, while filing his candidacy for the position of General Secretary, expressed that he would resign from the position of Treasurer of the Nepal Association of the Blind (NAB) if necessary. Accordingly, he competed for and was elected to the position of General Secretary, following the Federation's statute. The complainant's claim that Mr. Bhattarai cannot simultaneously serve as General Secretary of the Federation and Treasurer of NAB is unfounded. The position of Treasurer at NAB is not an executive role but rather a responsibility



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for financial management, with no daily operational duties. Therefore, Mr. Bhattarai's role as Treasurer at NAB does not interfere with his duties as General Secretary of the Federation.

Regarding the candidacy of Mr. Khomraj Sharma for the President of Gandaki Province, there were no objections to his candidacy, indicating its compliance with the statute. Additionally, Mr. Sharma has already resigned from his position as Senior Vice President of NAB, rendering any claim about this issue baseless.

### a. Regarding the Receipt of Regular Remuneration from Project Funds:

The Federation is aware that, as a social organization, office-bearers and members of its Executive Committee are not entitled to regular salaries. Contrary to the complainant's allegations, the Federation's Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, and other office-bearers and members have not received any salary or remuneration from the Federation. All activities funded by development partners or the Government of Nepal have a pre-defined budget and are executed as per the agreements. Expenses such as travel, communication, snacks, and meals incurred by designated individuals while implementing projects are budgeted by the partner organizations. All financial expenses are audited by chartered accountants recognized by the development partners and the Government of Nepal.

The Federation challenges the complainant to provide evidence for these false and misleading accusations, which reject principles of governance and transparency.

### b. Regarding Nepotism in Appointments:

The Federation enhances its financial transparency, governance, and institutional effectiveness through systematic audits. The policies and regulations have been amended following Nepal's government procurement regulations and international partner standards. Contrary to the complainant's allegations, no unilateral decision was made by the Chairperson and the General Secretary to certify policies.



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Service providers and consultants are listed officially following the decision of the Federal Executive Committee meetings on December 23-24, 2022. The Federation selects employees for projects based on professional competence through open competition under the direct supervision of partner organizations. No family members or relatives of any office-bearers, including the Chairperson or General Secretary, have been appointed.

### c. Regarding Allegations of Commission for Salary Increases:

The Federation clarifies that salary levels for its employees are determined as per its Human Resource Development and Management Regulation 2080 (2023) and are approved by partner organizations after necessary tax deductions. The allegation that the Chairperson took a commission from employees is ridiculous and regrettable. The Federation challenges the complainant to provide evidence of these claims; otherwise, legal action may be pursued.

### d. Regarding Alleged Misuse of Airfare by Chairperson and Family Members:

The Federation is a non-profit organization and does not have the financial resources for arbitrary expenses. Airfare for monitoring or facilitating programs in different regions of the country is provided by partner organizations, adhering to institutional standards. Contrary to the complainant's malicious allegations, there is no evidence that the Federation paid for the personal air travel of the Chairperson's children. Such baseless accusations aim to damage the reputation of innocent individuals and are legally punishable.

### e. Regarding Alleged Hiring of Personal Vehicle by the Chairperson:

The vehicle mentioned by the complainant is not registered under the name of Chairperson Devi Datt Acharya. Service providers, not the Chairperson, rent vehicles for Federation activities. The allegation is unfounded and misleading.

### f. Regarding Allegations of Fraudulent Documents and Misappropriation of Project Funds:

The Federation follows stringent financial auditing processes, and its projects are regularly monitored by the Social Welfare Council and partner organizations. The claim of financial irregularities in various projects is entirely false. All



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financial transactions comply with established standards, and no additional expenses have been incurred contrary to project guidelines.

### g. Regarding Procurement Procedures Not Following Legal Guidelines:

The Federation conducts all its procurement activities following the Public Procurement Act of Nepal. Outstanding payments and procurement matters related to the previous Executive Committee are handled accordingly, with no room for any irregularities.

### h. Regarding the Allegation that Dissenting Employees Were Dismissed:

Employees are appointed on an annual contract basis according to the Federation's Human Resource Development and Management Regulations. Employees who refuse to comply with organizational decisions are subject to disciplinary action following recommendations from the Disciplinary Commission.

### i. Regarding Allegations That the Website Documents Were Blocked:

The Federation's website, [www.nfdn.org.np](http://www.nfdn.org.np), is regularly maintained and accessible to stakeholders, providing crucial information and resources on disability. The claim that documents were blocked is false and misleading.

This press release aims to clarify these false allegations and encourages all stakeholders to assess these issues rationally and appropriately. Further information related to the ongoing investigation by the concerned government bodies will be shared in due course.

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Ramesh Pokharel

Spokesperson

National Federation of the Disabled Nepal

Date: September 13, 2024