

## Report on lobbying visit to National Planning Commission for the budget of fiscal year 2062/63

Dalit NGO Federation (DNF) along with Dalit Development Committee and National Dalit Commission visited the Hon' Vice-Chairperson and other members of National Planning Commission on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The joint delegation team presented a memorandum asking to bring special programmes for the upliftment of Dalit community in the budget of coming fiscal year 2062/63. The following members were present in the meeting.

1. Hon' Dr. Shankar Sharma – Vice-Chairman, National Planning Commission
2. Hon' Dr. Pushpa Shrestha – Member , National Planning Commission
3. Mr. Bhagwati Kumar Kafle – Under Secretary, National Planning Commission
4. Mr. Suk Lal Nepali Badi – Acting President, Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
5. Mr. Gajadhar Sunar – General Secretary, DNF
6. Mr. Tej Sunar – Executive Director, DNF
7. Mr. Bom Bahadur B.K. – Central Member, DNF
8. Mr. Tirtha Burma – Sr. Programme Officer, DNF
9. Ms. Renu Sijapati – Programme Assistant, DNF
10. Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika – Member, National Dalit Commission
11. Mr. Bisheshwor Rajak – Member, National Dalit Commission
12. Mr. Ramesh Sunam – Officer, National Dalit Commission
13. Mr. Dhal Bahadur B.K. – Vice-Chairman, Dalit Development Committee
14. Mr. Sundar B.K. – Executive Director, Dalit Development Committee
15. Mr. Dipak Ghimire – Officer, Dalit Development Committee

Mr. Suk Lal Nepali, Acting President of DNF read out the memorandum and handed over *“Implementation status of 10<sup>th</sup> Plan with regard to Dalit & policy and programmes for Dalits in upcoming budget 2062/63”* to Vice-Chairperson of NPC. An estimated budget for different ministries and line agencies of HMG/N was submitted.

1. Ministry of Education	Nrs. 40,91,00,000
2. Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare	Nrs. 4,06,00,000
3. Ministry of Physical Planning & Works	Nrs. 17,00,00,000
4. Ministry of Agriculture	Nrs. 3,00,00,000
5. Ministry of Finance	Nrs. 4,50,00,000
6. Ministry of Land	-----
7. Ministry of Local Development	Nrs. 3,75,00,000
8. Ministry of Health	Nrs. 4,09,00,000
9. Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies	Nrs. 3,50,00,000
10. Ministry of Information	Nrs. 74,30,000
11. National Dalit Commission	Nrs. 2,20,00,000
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Nrs. 83,76,30,000</b>

Hon' Dr. Sharma on the response to memorandum told that this upcoming budget would mainly focus the four groups; Dalits, Indigenous (excluding Newar, Thakali, Sherpa, as they are highly developed), Women and Poorest of the Poor (which includes the people living in Far & Mid Western Region, as they are below the poverty line). But the people residing in Far & Mid Western Region requests and give priority to physical developments like building of roads and infrastructures rather than social development. Scholarship for Dalit, Females and Indigenous will be highly increased in this coming budget. For the Dalit students alone, the scholarship amounts to Nrs. 47 crores. Answering a question related to health for Dalits, he mentioned that the health projects cannot be run on the basis of caste and class but as per the disease and root cause. But there will be mobile clinic, public toilet, awareness rising programmes launched focusing the Dalit village and communities. For all the ladies, there will be provision of Maternity Allowance of Nrs. 500. Skill developments trainings via CTEVT are being organized and will be continued.

Hon' Dr. Pushpa Shrestha, Member of National Planning Commission informed that the objective of NPC is to eradicate poverty from the nation with mainstreaming Dalits, Disabled, Women, Indigenous and the like. NPC has allocated 3% budget for health, education, etc. according to the population. NPC is committed and is working for the disadvantaged groups.

Mr. Gajadhar Sunar, General Secretary of DNF informed that the only hostel for Dalit child located at Bijeswori of Kathmandu is in pitiable condition. Due to lack of budget and proper management, 150 Dalit students staying there are frequently suffering from the disconnection of the telephone, electricity, water and other such minimum facilities. Therefore, some budget from any of the line ministries of departments of HMG/N should be allocated for the same. The land is sufficient enough to build another hostel for female Dalits as well, but none have shown concern in this regard, as the existing hostel is meant for gents only.

Mr. Tirtha Burma, Senior Programme Officer of DNF stated that the coming budget should focus mainly on the education, health, agriculture, lands (which include distributing lands for landless Dalits). Formation of a Model Dalit Village is also a need of today's date. The upcoming budget should also cover the displaced Dalits and there should be programme and budget enough for Dalit Development Committee to should reach all the 75 districts.

Mr. Dhal Bahadur Bishwakarma, Vice-Chairperson of Dalit Development Committee disclosed that out of the total budget allocated for DDC, 60-65% is being used in administrative cost of DDC itself. So the remaining 35% budget is not sufficient enough for the development of Dalits.

Mr. Biseshwor Rajak, Member of National Dalit Commission also mentioned that they too have the same problem like DDC. Out of the total budget almost 50% is being used in administrative costs.

Ms. Renu Sijapati, Programme Assistant of DNF mentioned that Dalit women are in double discrimination. First being Dalit and secondly being women. The problem of Dalit women is neither raised by Dalits nor by women groups. Different ministries have allocated budget for women but none of them have reached Dalit women. Therefore, in such budgets, certain quota is to be given for Dalit women and there should be proper mechanism to monitor and evaluate whether it has reached them or no.



**Mr. Suk Lal Nepali Badi handing over memorandum to Hon' Dr. Shankar Sharma**

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