

CPA TALK 1

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Nepal's peace process is unique and it was a new exercise. The Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) was signed and subsequently the two elections of the Constituent Assembly (CA) took place resulting into the promulgation of the new constitution.

Although the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) had communicated with the political parties, especially Nepali Congress and UML, about the desire for peace and CA election, they are reluctant to accept the proposal initially which resulted in delayed peace process. But soon after King Gyanendra took over power, dismissed political parties and also putting some of the leaders behind bars, Girija Prasad Koirala and UML accepted the peace proposal which ultimately paved a new political environment to fight against king's dictatorial regime resulting for 12-point agreement and the CPA.

Many leaders inside the party opined that the decision to sign the peace process was against the principle of Maoism. But, Marxism teaches to understand the reality and take necessary steps. After analyzing the domestic and international situation, the party decided to come for a peace process to safeguard the sanctity of the movement. The Maoist party had absolute command and faith over its cadres, and the decision to end war was wholeheartedly supported. Moreover, king's decision to suspend the parliament played a huge role in the decision.

The political achievements are historic and will have a huge impact for foreseeable future. All political forces need to work together for achieving the common goal and create conducive environment for future course. The two commissions, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons, have started their work. The commissions are in regular dialogue with international agencies and domestic forces to work together on the given mandates.

The government has been working hard to address the demands of the Madhesh-based parties and discussing with other political forces for amendments. But this is a complicated issue as two-third majority is needed to amend the constitution. Even the Madhesh-based parties are not united and the hardliners are obstructing the amendment. UML is not ready to realign provincial borders, and Madheshi Morcha has not accepted Maoist (Centre) and Nepali Congress proposal. This is difficult but the issue should be addressed and ultimately go for the elections.

The foreign policy of Nepal is based on the principle of non-aligned and we should be vigilant in protecting sovereignty and freedom, and maintain good relations with neighbors. Nepal is working vigorously in easing relations with India and China.

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