

## CPA TALK 4

**Madhav Kumar Nepal**

*Former Prime Minister and Leader, CPN (UML)*

Nepal has achieved a lot in the last decade but the whole process should not have taken this long. One of the reasons for the protracted process was due to the leadership of Maoist Center. But a decent job was accomplished which can still be an example for the world.

Maoists artificially increased the number of combatants from 6-7 thousands to 30-35 thousand which later came down to 19 thousand. Some of the vest combatants from that 19 thousand were kept outside the cantonments to use as political tool which became useful in the first CA elections.

Different strategies were opted to bring the Maoists to the peace process. First, the path of violence was unending and would not achieve their dreams, and that only peaceful means could fulfil their dreams of a prosperous Nepal. And the second was requesting them to stop terrorizing people.

The palace, Nepali Congress and UML were the major powers during the time. King Gyanendra and Prachanda met in Dhor Patan. It was said that the Maoists pledged to support the King and then King would appoint Prachanda as the prime minister. However, things changed quickly after King Gyanendra took power. This because the perfect opportunity to overthrow the king bring Maoists to the peace process.

Narayan Kaji Shrestha drafted an agreement but the party was not happy with that and so we drafted our own and gave a copy to Prachanda and another to Girija Prasad. Girija Prasad wasn't happy with the draft so he asked Krishna Sitaula to draft one. This was how the CPA was prepared. There was no involvement of India. The first meeting with Prachanda was in Noida and later somewhere around Appollo hospital. We then came to Nepal and started talking to five of the seven parties of the peace agreement.

All these effort were done to bring a warring parties to the peace process. However, during negotiations, UML's role was minimized. The talks between the government and the Maoists failed the first two times due to the demands for the formation constitutional assembly.

It was not possible to signed 12-points agreement inside Nepal as all the major political leaders were under heavy scrutiny under government security forces.

*[For further information regarding the book, contact Nepal Transition to Peace Institute \(NTTP-I\) or send an email to contact @nttpinstitute.org.np.](mailto:@nttpinstitute.org.np)*