

Report
On
High Level Interaction o "Public Policies from labour prospective"



1. Background

Finally, after dozens of marathon meetings, despite their disagreement on several agenda, major political parties agreed to formulate the new constitution. With the 16-point agreement of four major political parties on the disputed issues, which had stalled the constitution writing process for eight long years, promulgated the New Constitution with signatures of 90 percent of the Constituent Assembly (CA) II members. In new constituent several issues related to labour have been addressed but still there is a gap, the issue of workers representation in every elective body of the state raised by Trade union has not been incorporated in new constituent. Trade unions are lobbying to include workers rights in constitution. Labour rights are still in a difficult situation due to the lack of stable labor law and social protection schemes still in the table of the government.

The political process of institutionalization of the incomparable historical changes in Nepal is still incomplete and surrounded by a number of obstacles. The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has begun work to enact 138 new laws and amend 315 existing laws to implement the new constitution. Around 110 federal laws, 22 provincial laws and 6 laws related to local bodies will have to be enacted and around 315 existing laws will have to be amended to make them compatible with the new constitution. The Constitution has restructured the Nation into a federal republic. The Constitution has divided the nation into seven states and finalized the march of the Nation towards republicanism from constitutional monarchy and federalism from unitary system. Bicameral parliamentary system has been created with two houses at the Center and unicameral parliamentary system in each state. Nepali Trade unions have their own and different structure. It's need to discuss to revise the structure of Trade unions to make similar to State structure.

In this connection, GEFONT in cooperation with FES is going to organise **High Level Interaction on Public Policies from labour prospective** with the aim of discussing and sharing the need of restructure of Trade union , Analytical discussion present situation of country and labour market issues in Nepal under the changing context

Objectives:

- Discuss and sharing about need of re-structure of Trade unions as of state structure.
- Analytical discussion on public policies from labour prospective

Activities carried out:

High Level Interaction on Public Policies from labour prospective



With the aim of discussing and sharing need of re-structure of Trade unions as changed state structure and analytical discussion on public policies from labour prospective and analytical discussion present situation of country and labour market issues as well, two days **High Level Interaction on Public Policies from labour prospective** organised by GEFONT has been concluded in Nepal Academy Hall kamaladi Kathmandu and Baneswor Banquet on July 20 – 21, 2016. The program was conducted in two parts, first day – Inaugural Session where guest speakers were invited to speak present political situation under the changed context and second day where Trade Union leaders ,labour experts were invited to present political situation of the country and need of re-structure of Trade unions as as changed structure of State and discussion on public policies from labour prospective as well

First day ,20th July 2016

July 20- Chief Guest Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister K.P Oli inaugurated the programme at National Academy Hall.

Speaking in the Programme, PM urged other political parties not to boost conflict in the Parliament and warned not to go against the parliamentary regulations and practices. He was astounded that budget-related bills were suddenly disappeared which were tabled in the Parliament long before the no-trust motion was registered. He added "To be in the government is not my destination but it is only means to achieve the needs of the Citizens; Therefore I am dedicated to do development work rapidly. However some are making conspiracy against my development work. I had have contributed my whole life for the Country & people , so wherever I am, I will do my work honestly."

Addressing the programme , PM further said " Current Government has incorporated GEFONT & JTUCC's recommendations in Government Policy & programme as well as in Budget. " He also praised the GEFONT for playing important role in TU Movement. He Said" During 70 years long history of TU Movement, GEFONT has been playing significant role to move forward the Movement with new perspective and idea. It is big achievement that GEFONT has reached from each workplaces & Factories to ILO, which helped to raise labour related issues effectively."

Delivering the Welcome Speech, GEFONT President & Chief Political Advisor of PM - Cde. Bishnu Rimal briefed about the current political scenario. He said "with the Promulgation of New Constitution, it is supposed to be end of the Political struggle to secure the rights and further goal expected to be Economic Progress; but again we are passing through difficult political circumstances." He added "Though, Current Government has been formed during the very difficult situation but proudly this Government has upheld National Sovereignty. And successfully maintained the relationship with India and China."

Cde. Bishnu Rimal appreciated the Current Government for incorporating labor issues in the Government policy & programme and Budget. And he expressed hope for effective implementation as well. He also informed that during the two days Council meeting, major

discussion will be held to change GEFONT current structures according to the federal states structures.

Speaking in the programme, JTUCC President Khilanath Dahal said "Though different Trade Unions in Nepal have different ideology, but are united for common labour issues and have common understanding." He suggested political parties for dialogue & consensus on national issues. He thanked Current Government for addressing the Demands of TUs. However, he also remind that major demands like formation of Labour Commission, 10% representation in States elected bodies etc are not addressed.

During the Closing remarks, Cde. Mukunda Neupane – Chief of GEFONT Congress Delegates Council expressed serious concerned that Nepal has been passing through political transition since 65 years and urged all Trade Unions to pressure the Political Parties to end the political transition. He also suggested the all Delegates of Meeting to discuss and adopt the appropriate future plan according to the changing context.

Speaking in the Programme, CONEP President, Biswa Nath Pyakurel said "Workers have been playing important role during the Political revolution in Nepal and we are against the political instability.

Second Day, 21st July, 2016

During the second day meeting at Baneshwor Banquet, GEFONT Secretary General Cde. Bishnu Lamsal presented proposed Future work plan prepared Proposed Future Work Plan presented by GS includes

- Amendment of GEFONT Statute to restructure Union according to 7 Federal States Structure
- Mobilize States Committees
- Women focus program to secure 33% women representation in leadership & women membership increment by 5%
- GEFONT - Youth Focus Program
- where there is worker- Program to secure migrants workers rights
- Conduct Organizing Academy
- Pressure & Lobby to implement labour issues addressed by Government policy and program
- Supply in Kabhre, School in Nuwakot & Community Building in Sindhupalchowk



Speaking in the Program, FES Nepal Director said " Workers Voice will be listening, only if workers are strongly organised & intervene in policy level. Therefore workers should be alert to have workers representative in decision making bodies ". He further added "New Constitution has guaranteed many rights but unless it is effectively implemented, citizens will not be benefited. So Trade Union should also take initiatives to pressure for effective implementation of Constitution." Highlighting in Politics and public policies Director Dahal said, Politics without any public policy content reduces leadership role to only risk management and renders them weak in addressing human condition of Nepali workers and peasant . In Nepal issue of future struggle between capital and labour will be on commodification versus de-commodification of National security, rule of law ,health, education nature and culture. Concluding his remarks ,he said, the popular sovereignty and political will for restructuring of capital would require fundamental reexamination of relationship between the Nepali state ,economy and workers. Labour think tanks and trade unions of Nepal should often engage in the evaluation of public policies, educate their member about them .Future workers need updated knowledge about changing labour market ,relation skills, job training, management and leadership ability.

During the programme, Cde. Bishnu Rimal briefed about the political situation and achievement made by the Current Government. He suggested all delegates that in difficult current political situation, we Trade Union should think on our role and discuss how to proceed forward in changing context. Cde. Bishnu Rimal also urged all Delegates to discuss & suggest on proposed major issues. i.e TU Contemporary Issues, Intervention needed by Unions to implement Government policy, program and Budget, Transformation of GEFONT Structure according to Federal States Structure and Special Campaign.



During the Programme, Delegates discussed on proposed plan & presented their comments & recommendations. And the Meeting adopted 8 points resolutions.

In the closing remarks, GEFONT National Congress Delegates Council Chief Cde. Mukunda Neupane requested all participants to spread the adopted resolutions in their workplaces and make the organization updated. He said "Unity is strength, so all Workers should be united to raise their voice and Tus should also continuously alert the political parties. "

200 GEFONT National Congress Delegates Council members attended the programme.

Outcome

- Discuss and sharing about need of re-structure of Trade unions as of state structure.
- Discuss and share on public policies from labour prospective
- Discuss and share the present political situation and labour market situation in changed context

