

Presentation for Lilongwe International Mayors Forum

BICC, Lilongwe, 16 -18 May 2018

-Kalanidhi Devkota, Executive Secretary, MuAN

I'm pleased to attend such an important forum of Mayors on behalf of Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), which is the umbrella organisation of entire municipalities of Nepal, along with a Mayor of an emerging town, Madi Municipality, and a Director of Vital Registration Department of Nepal.

I've been thinking what I can share with this august gathering because I do not have much things to say about SDGs which we you haven't discussed out here since last two days. I've therefore decided to share with you rather something which is very useful to localise SDGs in the country like Nepal.

I would like to ask you two questions now to the all Mayors, representatives of development partners, donors and participants:

1. How many of you have constitutional provision of local government in your country?
2. How many of you have more than 20% elected women officials at the local level?

Now, let me share with you the achievements we have made in the recent times about with regards to constitutional provisions of local government and political representation of women at all three tiers of government.

- As you may know we have promulgated a constitution introducing the federal structure of governance in the country.
- After a very rigorous exercise, we have succeeded to secure 22 absolute and 15 concurrent powers and responsibilities to the local governments.
- This is still a unique provision for local governments in the federal system of governance across the world.
- Similarly, due to the inclusive policy of the constitution, 40 % of elected representatives at the local governments are women.
- In addition, the aboriginal or indigenous and marginalised community and too have secured seats in the all three tiers of parliaments now.
- All this provisions has been possible due to the willingness and commitments of the political parties.

- Especially, the exclusive rights of local governments in the constitution has been possible due to decade-long advocacy and lobbying of my organisation namely, Municipal Association of Nepal.

Nepal has witnessed several challenges one after the others in the short span of time in the recent past.

- The devastating earth quakes in 2015 which claimed almost 10,000 people and loss of properties and infrastructures followed by the blockade from India resulting the scarcity of food, cooking gas and even medicine supply.
- We however tackled all such challenges and are rising gradually. Promulgation of constitution was possible despite without wide agreement among politicians perhaps due to such difficult time when people united for the country.
- We are currently in the process of implementing the constitution, and as part of that we successfully completed federal, provincial and local elections in the country.
- Now we are in the process of making laws for all three levels of government. MuAN is supporting to municipalities in this process.
- Nepal is one of the countries which has committed to achieve the SDGs goals/targets and new urban agenda for which we are working hard to localize goals and targets. Following strategies have been employed to do so:
 - We've translated the SDGs and targets in Nepali language to aware and sensitise Mayors and local government officials.
 - We're making elected Mayors a champion of SDGs by orientating and giving them exposure to various forums and visits.
 - We've initiated TOTs for local planning so that we develop trainers to reach out to many municipalities to incorporate SDGs and target into their periodic planning.
 - We're also orienting them to align the local plane of actions to the goals and SDGs and targets to monitor and track the progress.

Lastly, we are happy to further share in detail the process and strategies adopted to secure our inclusive policy of the new constitution, particularly the constitutional provisions of local government to African, Latin American or any other continent's cities. We believe all of you will feel proud to if you obtain and exercise similar provisions in your cities. Thank you!