

Unofficial Translation

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Address by Right Honourable President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari to the Joint Session of both
Houses of the Federal Parliament

Government of Nepal

May 2019

Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Representatives
Right Honourable Chairperson of the National Assembly
Honourable Members of the Federal Parliament,

1. I feel happy to address this Joint Session of both Houses of the Federal Parliament against the happy context of the attainment of stability following the end of transition period and upon laying the significant foundations for the implementation of the Constitution.
2. I pay tribute to all the known and unknown martyrs who made ultimate sacrifice in the process of bringing the nation from a dark era of feudal autocratic rule to the brighter light of federal democratic era governed through the people's representatives. I pay high respect to the pioneers who led the movements of nationalism, national interest and esteem, democracy and livelihood. I recall the contributions made by those leaders in the transformation of Nepali society.
3. In my address to the Joint Session of both Houses of the Parliament last year on 7 Jestha 2075 (21 May 2018), commitment of the Government towards the implementation of the Constitution and its political ideals and direction was presented. A clear national framework with specific goal, objective, strategy and activities of economic, social, cultural development was outlined to achieve the national goal of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. Commitment was made to bring results in facts and figures through effective implementation of the policies and programs. My Government continues to work to fulfill these national responsibilities; it has been producing results and continues to move ahead.
4. Significant achievements have been made during this period. The political achievements secured through sacrifices and long struggles of Nepali people have been successfully institutionalized. They have been further consolidated and enriched. Peace and stability has been maintained by ending all kinds of transition.
5. Democracy is the outcome of over seven-decade long struggles of Nepali people. Federal democratic republic is the system ensured by the Constitution. We are committed to implementing in practice the basic principles of comprehensive democracy by rejecting the supremacy by birth. We are always sensitive to and aware about the ethos of nation, nationalism, and national unity. We will further consolidate our national unity through social justice, equality, social harmony and prosperity.
6. The Government is committed to continuously promoting national interest and esteem. By institutionalizing federal democratic republican order, the Government has been implementing without any deviation the constitutional provisions of multiparty competitive polity, periodic elections, principle of separation of powers, check and balance, independent judiciary, human rights and fundamental freedoms. It will continue to do so. The Government is firmly committed to building comprehensive democracy,

good governance, accountable State, and corruption-free, civilized, cultured and responsible society.

7. My Government has been successful in bringing the entire country together to the implementation of the Constitution. Enactment of important laws to implement the Constitution, creation of federal set-up and mobilization of human resources have been completed in this period. All 16 laws to ensure the fundamental rights have come into effect. A total of 61 legislations have been enacted to prepare the foundation of socio-economic transformation and Constitution implementation. There is no longer a disagreement in the acceptability and ownership of the Constitution.
8. Separatism, disintegrating ideology and politics of violence have come to an end. National unity and integrity has been strengthened. Friendship, not conflict; activism not dissatisfaction; and convergence not divergence have emerged as the fundamental characteristics of Nepali society. Integration into the national political mainstream of all political forces that honour people's mandate by adhering to the constitutional arrangements remains an extraordinary achievement of this period.
9. A happy state has emerged in which all political parties have been integrating and consolidating on the basis of political ideology and principles. An environment of trust, unity and collaboration among the political parties has been created with respect to the national issues. Collaboration and mutual relations among the political parties have been cordial.
10. Confidence has been reinforced on the notion that it is the political parties, leaders of the parties, and the people's representatives that protect and promote national interest and esteem, and identify and address the people's problems. The role of the people's representatives is further strengthened in making policies, leading and monitoring of the development works, and supporting the people in times of happiness and woes.
11. Emphatic representation of Nepal at the bilateral, regional and international forums has enhanced confidence and attraction of Nepal at the international arena. Support and cooperation from our neighbours has increased in our priority areas. Goodwill and support of our friends and development partners have been enhanced in Nepal's development efforts.
12. The State Visit to the People's Republic of China in my capacity as the President of the Republic of Nepal at the invitation of His Excellency the President of China has enhanced multi-dimensional bilateral relations existing between the two countries to a new height. The Government of China is prepared to assist in development efforts promoted by Nepal to fulfill the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'. Agreement on trade and transit protocol and six other crucial Accords have been concluded during the visit.
13. The high level visits and addresses at the level of the Head of the State and Government have enhanced dignity and honour of the nation at the international level. Nepal presented clear views on its Peace Process, Himalayan ecology, sustainable development, women

empowerment and development during the session of Commission on Status of Women, CoP 24 of UNFCCC held in Poland, official visit to the State of Qatar, UN General Assembly, World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland and the visit to Costa Rica. The exchange of high level visits with India and China have further strengthened relations with our neighbours. Significant results have been achieved in the expansion of bilateral and multilateral relations and cooperation from all these visits and participation.

14. Operationalization of the mechanisms, such as Inter-Provincial Council and Inter-Governmental Fiscal Council has developed common views at the Federal, Provincial and Local Levels. Arrangements have been made for balanced fiscal transfer by preparing objective and scientific framework based on the population, geographical area, need of expenditures, revenue-generation capacity, condition of infrastructures, etc. of the Provinces and Local Levels. An updated framework of national statistical profile of all kinds of resources available in the country has been prepared.
15. Encouraging results are seen from the implementation of the economic policies of my Government. Over six percent growth in last two years as well as 7 percent growth this year has laid a foundation for double-digit growth. Increment of 27 percent in national savings has created solid base for capital formation in the country.
16. By the conclusion of agreements for investment in various projects during the Investment Summit held by the Government in March 2019 has sent a message of Nepal being an important investment destination. Holding of Infrastructure Summit and Knowledge Conference has promoted entrepreneurship and collaboration with private sector.
17. Initiative has been taken to make public administration development-friendly. Good initiatives of the past have been continued. Austerity has been maintained by curtailing unnecessary expenses. Dynamism has been injected into the economy.
18. Mechanisms such as Dialogue Council for the Promotion of Trade and Commerce, Policy Research Institute and Project Facilitation and Coordination Committee have been created and activated to ensure coordination between the government and private sector, to formulate policy on the basis of facts and evidences, and to address the obstacles encountered in the implementation of development projects and ensure their timely completion.
19. Confidence has been reinforced that development is possible and it is possible in our own life time. Steamers have come into operation in the rivers of Nepal. Visions of development, such as operationalization of Nepali flag carrier ship in the sea and waterways, rail transportation within the territory of Nepal, shortening of road distance by constructing tunnels in the mountains, diversion of water through tunnel to dry areas, and receiving information through our own satellite have started turning into reality. This has raised our confidence that we can accomplish development.
20. The Government has reached the doorsteps of people in times of their happiness and difficulties. The Government has reached the remote village of Khatyad in Mugu district with helicopter to rescue a woman suffering from labour pain. It has reached Bara and

Parsa with a plan to rebuilding houses for the victims of cyclone. Government has reached Dhaulakot, Darchula with suspension bridges to ease the perilous crossing of Mahakali River. To end the hazardous compulsion of crossing rivers by *tuins*, the government has reached with suspension bridges to rivers and streams.

21. Significant progress has been achieved in post-earthquake reconstruction this year.
22. Process of creating institutions, exploring of technology and capital, and identification, mobilization and promotion of talents has begun for research, invention and innovation.
23. Nepal has made great strides in the expansion of physical infrastructure and its quality. Over 1,600 kilometers of road has been black-topped in one year. Work of expanding Butwal-Narayangadh section of East-West Highway into four-lanes has begun. Construction of additional 300 bridges will be completed by the end of this fiscal year. In collaboration with India and China, technical studies for construction of railways linking both the neighbouring countries have been completed.
24. Seventy-five percent of the construction works of Gautam Buddha International Airport and 40 percent of that of Pokhara Regional International Airport have been completed. Tribhuvan International Airport is open for 21 hours daily. Night-time flights have commenced from seven domestic airports. Five domestic airports which had remained closed have resumed their services.
25. Over the last one year, per capita electricity consumption has increased by 90 kilowatts per hour. Additional 287 megawatts of electricity will be available by the end of this year. Foundation stone for 900 MW Arun Third Hydro-electric Project has been laid. The length of transmission lines has reached 4,206 KM. The energy trade agreements concluded with India, China and Bangladesh have ensured international market for export of Nepal's electricity. Poor consumers have been integrated into national electricity system by providing them with electricity meters for free.
26. Preliminary works have been completed in order for Nepal to use India's internal waterways networks that have been expanded up to Sahebgunj and Kalughat. Technical feasibility study about operating Nepal's own ships by expanding these networks up to Koshi and Gandaki river systems has been completed. New avenue has opened for expanding Nepal's trade in the world market through the utilization of China's seaports and dry ports.
27. Indigent people have been provided with residential facilities by building 8,000 residence units under People's Residence Programme.
28. Eighty-one percent of the children who were outside the school have been enrolled into schools. At least one technical school has been established in each of 457 Local Levels. As of today, 5,431 Wards have started providing Primary health services. 16 hundred thousand Nepal's have been insured by expanding health insurance programme in 42 districts.

29. The production of major food crops has increased by 10 percent. Irrigation facilities have covered 81 percent of the total irrigable land. Tunnel construction works of Bheri-Babai Diversion Project have been completed before the deadline.
30. Bhairahawa special economic zone has come into operation. Construction works of Garment Processing Center being built in the Simara special economic zone are sure to complete six months before the deadline. Tatopani check post and dry port which remained closed after the earthquake are sure to be operational within this year.
31. Digital Nepal Framework has been prepared with a view to integrating all public services into information technologies. A system has been developed to integrate information related to agriculture, education, health, energy, tourism, financial system, national identity card and social security. Mechanism has been put in place for immediate monitoring of plans and programmes through the use of information technologies.
32. With a goal to widely generating employment opportunities, Employment Service Centers have been established in all Local Levels through the implementation of the Prime Minister Employment Programme. Taking into consideration the interests of Nepali migrant workers, bilateral labour agreements with Malaysia and Japan have been concluded.
33. All Nepali people have been brought under social protection scheme through the implementation of Integrated Social Security Plan. Free health insurance for senior citizens across the country has been started under the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Programme.
34. Nepal is being recognized as an international tourist destination. Tourist arrival has increased by 33 percent. Mountain Cleaning Campaign has been started.
35. National Security Policy has been approved. Security forces have been mobilized while ensuring their high morale.
36. My Government has implemented 'Integrity in Governance Campaign'. Cases on offences related to corruption, trafficking, revenue evasion and leakage, and money laundering have been filed. Those indulged in financial crimes related to gold-smuggling, use of forged bills of Value-Added-Tax and *hundi* have been brought under the ambit of law.
37. Desired outcomes with regard to timely completion of projects, ending corruption, introducing transformative changes to public services, ensuring good governance and increasing capital expenditure have not been achieved owing to traditional work-culture, legal complication and weak mechanism of accountability. The Government will move forward in a planned way to bring in reforms in these areas.
38. Our achievements made this year are encouraging. Foundations of federalism, good governance and prosperity have been laid through implementation of the Government's policies. Enthusiasm has permeated among All Nepali people due to the vision and approach of the Government to move at least one step forward every day.

39. My Government has been successful to make its first year the historic foundation year of prosperity. Thanks are due to all Nepali sisters and brothers, political parties, private sector and other stakeholders who have supported the Government in this effort.
40. Now onwards, the Government will move forward in the journey of prosperity by collaborating with all and speedily making highest-level of achievements. Next year will be the year of expeditious development in Nepal's history. I invite all political parties and stakeholders to support and collaborate in this national campaign.

Honourable Members,

41. On the basis of the achievements made during the foundation year of prosperity, my Government has proposed Policies and Programmes for the fiscal year 2019/20 by placing at the core, the Constitution of Nepal, the Fifteenth Plan, and commitments made to the people. These Policies and Programmes are centred on the realization of the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali'.
42. The 'Policies and Programmes' have prioritized human capacity development, infrastructure building, entrepreneurship and employment generation, creation of national wealth, reduction of disparity and poverty, sustainable development and ecological preservation, peace, harmony, good governance and rule of law.
43. The Government is committed to ensuring that, through the implementation of the Constitution, all Nepali people can realize the benefit of the Federal Democratic Republic.
44. The inter-relationship among Federal, Provincial and Local Levels will be managed on the basis of coordination, mutual cooperation and collaboration. Mechanisms such as Inter-Provincial Council, Province Coordination Council and Inter-Governmental Fiscal Council will be strengthened and made active. By ensuring functional clarity about the concurrent powers as listed in the Constitution, functions of Federal, Provincial and Local Levels will be managed on the basis of cooperative relations. Necessary human resources will be mobilized to operationalize the administrative structures of Federal, Provincial and Local Levels. The Federal Government's fiscal transfer to the Provinces and Local Levels will be made equitable by analyzing their needs and capabilities.
45. Equitable Provincial Development Strategy will be adopted while taking into account the common people's respect and attachment towards the country. Policy will be adopted to run development programmes with special characteristics on the basis of possibilities available at Provincial and Local Levels. Provinces and Local Levels will be encouraged to emulate and learn from each-other's best practices of development and to run development campaigns on the basis of healthy competition. Capacity of Provinces and Local Levels will be enhanced. The coordinating role of District Coordination Committee will be made effective.

Honourable Members,

46. The Fifteenth Plan with the long-term vision for next 25 years will be implemented from Shrawan 2076 B. S. (July 2019). Sectoral programmes will be implemented in alignment with sustainable development goals. The proposed 'Policies and Programmes' make the commitment to attain sustainable development goals and make Nepal a middle income country by 2030 A.D., and achieve the status of a civilized and cultured higher middle income country by 2100 B.S.
47. Building on the trends of encouraging economic growth achieved over the last three years, double-digit economic growth will be attained in next four years. Means and resources will be efficiently utilized in order to achieve broad-based high economic growth. National saving capacity will be enhanced. Government investment will be directed with priority towards the major driving sectors of the economy. Mobilization of private and cooperative investments in these sectors will be encouraged. People's investment will be invited in the bigger projects promoted by the Government.
48. My Government's policy is to prepare a strong foundation of economic growth through timely completion of important infrastructure projects. Long-overdue national pride projects will be completed within the deadline and operationalized accordingly by making special arrangements pertaining to means, resources and mobilization of human resources and monitoring.
49. Gautam Budhha International Airport will be operationalized within 2019 A.D. by completing the remaining construction works. Construction works will be expedited with a view to bring into operation the Pokhara Regional International Airport by 2021 A.D. Construction of Nijgarh International Airport will be commenced soon.
50. Upon completion of the construction of Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project within the next fiscal year, 456 MW of electricity will be connected to the national grid. Budhi Gandaki Hydropower Project will be advanced.
51. The Melamchi Drinking Water Project will be completed within the next fiscal year.
52. The construction work of Bheri-Babai Diversion Project will be completed within two years. While expanding irrigation coverage area, there will be a generation of 46.8 megawatt electricity through this project. The problematic section of Western Main Canal of the Sikta Irrigation Project will be repaired and operationalized as soon as possible. Total work of the project will be completed within four years. Irrigation facility will be made available from the first phase of Rani Jamara Kularia Irrigation Project.
53. Construction of Mid-Hill (Pushpalal) highway, Kathmandu-Nijgarh Fast Track and Postal Highway will be completed within next four years. The Jomsom-Korala section of Kali Gandaki Corridor under the North South Highways will be upgraded to make it operational throughout the year. The opening of track of all sections of Koshi and Karnali corridors will be completed within next year.
54. The construction works of East-West Electric Railway will be started next year.

Honourable Members,

55. My Government will implement transformative policies and programmes to ensure a just socio-economic development by involving all Nepalis towards the attainment of national goals.
56. Employment opportunities will be created in construction, productive industries and service sectors. Additional five hundred thousand jobs will be created next year through the implementation of Prime Minister Employment Programme and the activities of the public and private sectors.
57. In order to reduce investment for enterprise substantially, the registration of enterprises will be made smooth; operation process will be made simple; loan mobilization will be made economical; required infrastructure will be built; land acquisition process will be made faster and simplified; and tax payment cost will be reduced. Dispute settlement process will be reformed.
58. Production cost will be minimized through the management of mediators between producers and consumers, competitive interest rate and transportation cost, adherence to labour law, reduction of production obstacles, and arrangement of required infrastructure.
59. All services required for investors will be made available promptly from this May 15th from a single window.
60. My Government has been working with priority for industrialization. The country will be industrialized through the fulfillment of national needs, import substitution, export promotion, increase in national production and contribution to employment generation. A policy of state-of-the-art technology and best production will be adopted.
61. The construction of industrial zones will be initiated in all seven Provinces in the next fiscal year. Industrial villages will be established and brought into operation in all Local Levels within next four years. Special Economic Zones and Cross-country Economic Zones will be established and expanded for the establishment of export-oriented industries.
62. The government will start commercial production from the iron mine of Dhaubadi of Nawalparasi from next fiscal year. Exploration and implementation will be carried out next year for the excavation of feasible gold mines including petroleum of Dailekh, precious stones and copper of Jajarkot, iron of Parbat and Tanahun and uranium mine of Mustang. Refinery of precious stone will be established. Export of refined precious stones will be promoted.
63. Branding of Nepali products will be undertaken by maintaining special features and quality. Cement will be developed as a major exportable product.
64. Visit Nepal Year campaign will be run in 2020 with a goal of bringing in two million tourists. 'Kathmandu by Night Programme' will be operationalized to promote endogenous culture, tradition, and music of the Kathmandu Valley.

65. Arrangement will be made for the operation of Tribhuvan International Airport round the clock. This airport will be transformed into a boutique international airport reflecting indigenous tradition and culture. A domestic airport will be built at an appropriate place near the valley.
66. The domestic airports currently under operation will be developed to accommodate the takeoff and landing of large aircrafts. Suitable sections of national highways will be expanded as runways for emergency flight takeoff and landing.
67. Airports will be built at feasible places outside the reach of air service including Chuhandanda of Terhathum. Nighttime flights will be started by building infrastructure in those domestic airports.
68. Emphasis will be laid on the growth of production and productivity through modernization, mechanization, specialization and commercialization of agriculture. The youth will be encouraged towards collective, cooperative and lease farming,
69. A farming system will be developed compatible with soil and weather by fully utilizing all types of lands as per the principle of proper utilization. Production of fruits will be enhanced by cultivating fruits in riverbanks, roadsides of highways and slopes of farmlands. The lands held and left untilled by public authorities including by schools and universities will be brought to utilization.
70. General individuals and groups will be encouraged to cultivate mulberry, cotton, lime, chayote squash and grass, among others, in barren private lands, public open areas and riverbanks.
71. The country will be made self-reliant through rapid growth in production of agriculture and livestock based major food items. High value cash and off-season crops will be produced and exported.
72. Irrigation infrastructures will be prepared to make available irrigation facility in 90 percent of total cultivable land within the forthcoming Fifteenth Plan period with the main motto of 'Enhancement of Irrigated Agriculture Land for Nepal's Prosperity'. Lift irrigation system will be developed including by utilizing solar energy in the cultivable lands closer to rivers in the hilly regions with the slogan of 'High and Low Farmlands, All Become Lush-Green'. Underground irrigation facilities based on solar energy will be made available in the cultivable pocket areas of Terai-Madhes with the participation of Provinces and Local Levels.
73. The construction works of Sunkoshi-Marine Diversion Project will be started in the next fiscal year. By completing the study of Madi-Dang Diversion Project in the next fiscal year, construction will be started in two years. By completing the study of Kali Gandaki-Tinau and Tanor-Chisang Diversion Project, construction will be started based on feasibility. Study of Kankai Multipurpose Reservoir Project will be completed and construction will be undertaken. Narayani Lift Irrigation System will be brought into operation through restoration and upgradation.

74. Embankment construction works will be carried out as a campaign in the banks of rivers including Koshi, Triyuga, Kamala, Narayani and Karnali to preserve human settlements, cultivable lands and other resources and heritages of national importance from destruction. While managing river systems, the lands formed through the change of river course will be utilized in a productive manner.
75. Forests conservation will be carried out and forest resource will be utilized in a sustainable manner through the expansion of multipurpose forests and block forests and scientific forest management. Next fiscal year will be announced as the Plantation Year and saplings of wood, non-wood and fruits will be planted. Green industries and enterprises based on forests including herbs will be promoted and expanded.
76. Fruits cultivation with bio-engineering in upper coastal region, agricultural forests in Bhavar and Inner-Madhes, and forests development programmes with massive afforestation in the Terai will be carried out while managing forests based on river systems and watersheds.
77. Cooperatives sector will be developed as an important pillar of the economy. Cooperatives will be mobilized for development of entrepreneurship and modernization of agriculture. Agricultural production, refining and marketing programmes will be carried out under the leadership of cooperatives.
78. Large ponds will be built at appropriate places of high-hill areas. By utilizing pond water, higher technology based drop-irrigation-system will be carried out.
79. My Government will resolve the outstanding problems related to land management through scientific land reforms. Land will be classified on the basis of capacity and suitability. Utilization of land based solely on land-use plans will be brought into implementation. Lease farming, cooperative farming and collective farming will be encouraged by plotting of land.
80. The construction works of Madan Bhandari Highway that is under construction from Shantinagar of Jhapa to Rupal of Dadeldhura will be expedited so as to develop the valleys of Chure and Inner-Madhes as economic and industrial corridors.
81. The construction and upgradation of roads of strategic importance and those connecting economic centres will be intensified. The expansion of various sections of Kakadvitta-Gaddachauki of East-West Highway will be completed within four years.
82. All roads will be made safer by building road furniture including road safety walls. All roads to be constructed by the Government will be of at least two lanes. The distance and cost of roads will be reduced by using tunnel technology in the existing roads and those which are under-construction. All Local Level centres will be connected by blacktopped roads within four years.
83. The Detailed Project Reports of Birgunj-Kathmandu and Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu railways, connecting Kathmandu to both India and China by railways, will be prepared and construction works will be started within two years.

84. Railway service will be made operational within the next fiscal year at Jayanagar-Bijalpura and from Bathnaha, India to Biratnagar. The construction of railway at Bijalpura-Bardibas segment will be completed.
85. The wish of the Nepali people to sail in a Nepali ship is getting realized soon. Nepal Shipping Office has been established; preparations are underway for putting in place the required policy, legal and other infrastructures for the operationalization of the ship. A Ship carrying Nepali flag will be brought into operation in the waterways and seas.
86. With the initiative of 'Nepal's Water, Nepali's Investment' the ownership of common Nepali people will be ensured through investment in generation of 3500 MW electricity.
87. The ongoing projects will be completed and 1000 MW additional hydropower will be generated next year. Per capita electricity consumption will be increased to 700 KW/hr in the next five years. Access to clean energy for all will be ensured within the next four years. Under the Bright Nepal Initiative, every household will be illuminated by electricity.
88. Construction of transmission lines will be completed before commercial production of the ongoing hydropower projects begin. The construction of 400 KV transmission line will be expedited along the East-West Highway and Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu-Birgunj corridors.
89. For the social protection of Nepali nationals of all age groups, my Government will provide education, health and nutrition to children; skills, entrepreneurship, and employment to the youth; and respect, protection and security to the old.
90. Social security based on contribution will be implemented from the next fiscal year. Contributors will be provided with an identity card having social security number. Under the Social Security scheme, workers and employees will be benefitted from the treatment, health and maternity health protection, protection from accident and disability, dependent family member protection, and senior citizen protection services. The scope of this scheme will be widened step by step.
91. The social security programmes provided by different sectors will be implemented in a coordinated way. The amount of social security allowances will be increased.
92. The five year plan of Digital Nepal Framework will be implemented. All kinds of services and transactions in Government and private sector will be provided through digital channels. Digital transactions will be made secure and reliable through implementation of digital payment and digital signature. This provision will be expanded to the Local Levels.
93. Expansion of broadband internet to all ward offices, health posts and community secondary schools will be completed within next year.
94. All Nepalis will be provided a National Identity card with biometric information and unique identity number within the next four years. All personal details of a citizen will be

included in the National Identity Document to make it a base document for all public service delivery including social security. To ensure that every Nepali has a bank account, 'Let's Open Bank Account' campaign will be intensified. All financial transactions will be made through the banking system.

95. From the centre to the local level, arrangements will be made for general people to have simple and easy access to the services, utilize the information they have, get information on the available public services and get solution for their complaints and problems. The digital system prepared for the monitoring of public services, decision making process and projects of national pride will be made more effective.
96. With the end of syndicate in transport sector, Transport Authority will be established to manage the public transport system. Provision of travel card will be introduced in public transports. The fixed time departure and arrival will be ensured. Operation of mass transport vehicles will be encouraged.
97. With due consideration to clean air and public health, the use of electric vehicles will be encouraged. Government of Nepal, together with participation of the Provinces, Local Levels and private sectors, will bring into operation electric bus services in Kathmandu valley, major cities of all seven Provinces and the surrounding areas. Adequate charging stations will be established to make the use of electric vehicles countrywide.
98. In order to contribute to the improvement of education sector, a separate fund will be established to implement President Education Reform Programme.
99. Nepal will be declared 'Literate Nepal' within the next two years.
100. Madan Bhandari Science and Technology University will be brought into operation within two years as a world class education and research institution specialized in the areas of Education, Science and Technology.
101. All Nepalis will be covered under health insurance within next fiscal year. Basic treatment covered under the health insurance will be provided through all the health centres at the Local Levels.
102. Within the next fiscal year, the provision of at least one doctor will be made at Local Level where medical services have not reached. Primary health service facility will be made available through all Ward Offices at all Local Levels.
103. Primary hospital at Local Level where there are no hospitals, primary health care centres in the Ward Offices at Local Levels where there are no health institutions will be established and operationalized. Basic health care services will be made available 24 hours through telemedicine and distance medical education method in primary hospitals.
104. The compulsion to come to Kathmandu for specialized health service will be ended by providing specialized health service through at least one hospital in every Province. Central health lab will be equipped with modern technology and upgraded as national

diagnostic centre. Within three years, high-tech diagnostic centres will be brought into operation in all seven Provinces.

105. Bir Hospital will be developed as a centre of excellence with all specialized services of international standards. Construction of a modern building for Bir Hospital will be initiated in Duwakot of Bhaktapur next year.
106. In order to uplift the socio-economic development of indigent and excluded women, activities implemented under the President Women Promotion Programme will be reviewed.
107. Balance will be maintained between development and environment. Development activities will be carried forward taking into consideration the future of the earth, protection, promotion and welfare of the living beings and avoiding collusion with the ecosystem.
108. To minimize the adverse effects of climate change due to rise in global temperature, climate adaptation programmes will be implemented up to the Local Level.
109. While protecting and wisely utilizing the wetlands of national and international importance, they would be developed as eco-tourism destinations. A Master Plan would be formulated and implemented for the conservation and development of important lakes.
110. Exploitation of natural resources will be avoided but availability of construction materials required for the infrastructure development will be ensured.
111. The effectiveness of Terai-madhes Prosperity Programme will be increased.
112. 'Sagarmatha Dialogue' will be organized as deemed necessary to hold intellectual discourse on the issues of common interest such as the home grown peace process, mountains, environment, democracy, human rights, world peace, regional cooperation, women empowerment with an aim to promoting national interest and presenting Nepal's foreign policy effectively in the international arena.

Honourable Members,

113. For the overall development process, my Government has adopted the policy of carrying out sectoral programmes contributing to the balanced and interrelated development.
114. Internal debt will be mobilized to improve and strengthen the fiscal infrastructure through reforms in revenue system, skills enhancement in public expenditure and avoiding contraction in private investment. Development assistance will be mobilized through national system in the national priority sectors. Necessary arrangements will be made to receive remittances through formal channels and its investment in productive sectors will be encouraged. All kinds of economic activities will be monetized.
115. Fiscal discipline will be maintained by bringing uniformity through utilization of information technology in the budget allocation, accounting of expenditure and reporting

system in all three levels of Government. Reforms in legal, structural and monitoring will be done for efficient management of Public enterprises for enhancing production and productivity.

116. To fill in the investment gap, private sector, public-private partnership, public-private-cooperatives partnership and foreign investment will be encouraged. Small scattered capitals will be collected to make it investment worthy through mobilization of mechanisms such as collective finance, collective investment and venture capital and expansion of the capital market.
117. Institutions active in enhancing industrial productivity, industrial sector management and entrepreneurship development will be restructured. Institutional good governance will be maintained in industrial sector management.
118. The Government will promote micro, cottage, small and medium industries based on local raw materials. Through the development of entrepreneurial and productivity culture based on value chains, forward and backward linkages will be established between micro, cottage, and small industries and medium and big industries.
119. Access of Nepali produces will be increased in the world market by reviewing the bilateral and multilateral trade agreements, making timely amendments to the agreements related to road, water and railway and also by concluding new agreements.
120. For expanding trade, dry ports will be constructed and operationalized in border areas including at important economic centres. International trade will be facilitated by making operational the dry port with international exhibition facilities, the construction of which has begun this year in Chovar, Kathmandu. Dry port construction works will be completed in Timure, Rasuwa within three years.
121. The utilization of Nepali products will be encouraged. The import of goods and services that are extravagant, luxurious and harmful to health will be discouraged.
122. The arrangements of supply will be made simple, accessible and easy. The monitoring system will be made effective to ensure fair competition in the food and non-food markets. Arrangements will be made to importing petroleum products from next year through the petroleum pipeline of Amlekhgunj-Raksaul-Motihari sector whose construction had begun after the formation of the present Government.

Honourable Members,

123. The organizations prevalent in the agriculture sector will be re-constituted. The programmes in agriculture sector including the Prime Minister Agriculture Modernization Programme will be reviewed after the assessment of their effectiveness. An extensive improvement will be made in the existing funding system in order to enable the genuine farmers to benefit from the funding available to them.

124. The subsistence agriculture system will be converted into commercial agriculture system. Improved seeds, fertilizers and agriculture extension services will be made available to the Farmers in time. Local indigenous knowledge and technology will be protected and promoted. Organic farming will be promoted.
125. Increase in seed replacement rate will be made by developing improved varieties of crops. The genetic and local varieties of crops will be protected. Genetic technology will be developed and expanded to minimize the increasing risk in human health by use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
126. The use of liquefied petroleum gas will be reduced while producing compost fertilizers from bio-slurry by establishing large capacity bio-gas plants in collaboration with farmers, professional groups, forms and cooperative bodies and institutions.
127. The organic materials will be marketed at the national and international level through authentication and brand promotion. Necessary provisions will be made for the regulation and management of the use of pesticides.
128. Programme will be developed to attracting the youths to agriculture by making agriculture techno-friendly, commercialized and transforming it into high result-oriented and dignified occupation. The agriculture-dependent population will be transferred to agriculture industry, tiers of value chains and agriculture service sectors by modernizing agriculture.
129. Screen houses, store houses, seed processing centres, small irrigation mechanisms will be constructed to support the production, processing and storage of agricultural produces. Laboratories will be constructed and consolidated for quality control of agricultural products, soil and other means of production.
130. My Government will take under control all the encroached land into public domain by the next year. All kinds of encroachments of public land will be ended. Strong action will be taken against those indulged in irregularities in land administration by making investigation thereof. The residence of *ex-Kamaiyas*, *ex-Haliyas*, squatters including all landless and marginalized families will be managed.
131. Land administration will be made simple, easy and transparent through the use of information technologies. Survey work of all areas yet to be completed will be accomplished within next two years.
132. National Forests Resource Survey will be completed. Effective management of the President Chure Protection Programme will be made by making its appraisal and evaluation. Pools of water will be constructed in the channels of Chure and Bhavar Region for water re-filling.

133. Private and cooperative sectors will be encouraged to establish and develop the nursery of fruit plants. At least 30 percent of fruit plants will be produced in the nursery operated by the Government.
134. Special Sanitation Campaign will be launched to make the Mountains garbage-free. The level of air and sound pollution in cities will be substantially controlled. The concept of green development will be taken into consideration to minimize the effect of climate change.
135. Quality, trustworthiness and effectiveness of services relating to weather will be increased through the expansion and connection of radar, automatic water and weather measurement instruments and information systems.

Honourable Members,

136. The roads that are under-construction in the important places of religious and touristic significance such as Devaghat, Chatara and Ramayan Circuit will be constructed with priority. Sub-ways and fly-overs will be constructed in major cities for the traffic management of urban areas.
137. Online location check of public vehicles will be carried out by using GPS technology. Construction works of multi-storey bus park will be started in the major cities of the country to effectively manage public vehicles.
138. The arrangement for fitness test of the vehicle on a periodic basis will be made compulsory by establishing vehicle fitness test centre in all the Provincial headquarters.
139. Arrangement of resting places will be made at certain distances of national highways and fast-track roads. The road sides will be paved and the roads of Kathmandu valley will be made dust-free by washing the vehicles with automatic technology in entry points of Kathmandu valley and large construction sites. Clean City Campaign will be launched in collaboration with private sector for environment protection, greenery promotion and maintenance of urban beauty.
140. All the residents of risk-prone settlements will be provided with houses with modern facilities in safe places in two years. Arrangement of safe, efficient and environment-friendly housing facilities will be made for the people of extremely indigent, endangered, poor and marginalized groups.
141. Construction works of necessary infrastructure will be started in viable places in the next fiscal year to develop mega cities and smart cities. Within the next fiscal year, a comprehensive project report of development of new cities will be prepared through land consolidation in order to manage the settlement of Kathmandu valley.

142. A Conference Centre having a capacity of three thousand people will be constructed in Kathmandu valley within this year. A Multi-purpose Conference Center with a capacity of five thousand people will be constructed within the next three years. Preliminary construction works of conference centres with a capacity of two thousand people will be completed in all Province headquarters.
143. Construction works of Federal Parliament House, State Guest House, Ministers' residences, residences and liaison offices of the Provincial Chiefs and Chief Ministers will be commenced in Kathmandu valley within three years.

Honourable Members,

144. Basic drinking water facilities which are now accessible to 88 percent of population will be enhanced to 92 percent in the next fiscal year and to 100 percent in four years. Arsenic-free safe drinking water will be made available in Terai districts by completing the ongoing drinking water projects.
145. The export of drinking water will be promoted.
146. Watershed areas will be conserved; and uncontrolled exploitation of ground water will be curbed to address the problems of drying of surface water sources due to factors including the climate change.
147. Institutional restructuring of the regulating and service providing agencies will be carried out in order to make drinking water distribution system and drainage management effective.

Honourable Members,

148. National Knowledge Park will be established to promote industry and business based on information technology and to generate employment.
149. The Construction of Data Recovery Center in Hetauda of Makawanpur has been completed and it has come into operation this year. Additional Data Centre and Internet Exchange Centre will be established in other viable places. The policy of infrastructure co-utilization will be taken into account to minimize duplicity in investment in telecommunications.
150. Cyber security system with national information technology emergency support group will be brought into operation in order to identify cyber security risk, minimize the risk arising from it and make arrangements for emergency cyber security.
151. A regulatory authority will be established with legal and institutional arrangements so as to make the mass communication sector dignified and professional.

152. Postal service will be made autonomous, competitive and professional through its restructuring. Security printing press will be established in the country in next two years to ensure secured printing of passports, banknotes, stickers, postal stamps, land ownership certificates and documents of public importance.
153. Cine-tourism will be promoted by launching 'Nepal for Filming Programme'. Arrangements will be made to provide all services to the foreigners who come to Nepal for movie filming through one window mechanism. Necessary measures will be taken to draw foreigners' attraction for filming in Nepal.

Honourable Members,

154. Programs will be launched for the development of tourism sites, building of tourism infrastructure and upgradation of tourism services. The Unification Trail will be built as attractive tourist destination by preserving historical citadels, forts and routes used in connection with the integration of Nepal.
155. The topographical diversity of the country will be utilized for tourism promotion. Potential tourism sites of Mahabharata range that are close to Terai-Madhes will be developed as Hill Station for holiday vacation. Attractive programs will be conducted for the diversification of tourism.
156. Quality of service will be enhanced in collaboration with the private sector to invite high-end tourists and to lengthen their stay in Nepal. Additional air service agreements will be concluded with tourist source countries. Agreement and Understanding will be concluded with the neighbouring countries for the new air entry routes and the subsequent use of new routes.

Honourable Members,

157. The reconstruction of *Dharahara* (Kathmandu's Historical Tower) initiated this year will be completed in two years. Majority works of the reconstruction will be completed within two years by preserving the archaeological heritages. Historical monuments including those listed in the world heritage list and having historical, religious, archaeological and cultural significance will be preserved.
158. The remaining public structures damaged by the earthquake will be reconstructed in next two years. Damaged drinking water and road projects will be completed within next fiscal year.
159. The remaining reconstruction work of the damaged private houses will be completed in next fiscal year with priority. Grants will be provided by identifying the actual beneficiaries who missed out.

Honourable Members,

160. All school-age children will be enrolled in the school in next two years by giving continuity to the student enrollment campaign initiated in the last calendar year. Targeted groups will be provided with scholarships, day snacks and student-friendly curriculum to ensure the completion of secondary level education by all children who were enrolled in the primary level.
161. Emphasis will be laid on the production of educational materials and their distribution along with the provision of regular training to the community school teachers to ensure the attainment of quality education to the students. Distance learning system will also be adopted in learning and teaching.
162. Necessary infrastructure will be developed for the establishment of Learned Yogmaya Ayurvedic University.
163. Technical schools will be run in all Local Levels in next two years under the programme 'Extension of Technical and Vocational Education, Basis for the Building of Prosperous Nepal'. Science laboratory construction will be started at all community secondary schools.
164. Steps will be taken to establish the Madan Bhandari Technology University as per the prior-announced policy of the Government.
165. Skilled manpower that caters to the needs of the country will be developed by providing technical, vocational and life skills education. Scholarships will be provided for studies within the country and abroad to produce skilled manpower required for shipping, rail transportation, tunnel technology, mineral exploration, and storage-type hydroelectric projects.
166. Skilled manpower will be developed by incorporating subjects that promote and preserve Nepal's endogenous arts, culture and knowledge in technical education.
167. Investment will be increased in science, technology and research for the development of good, creative and analytically skilled manpower.
168. Adjustment and integration of schools and educational institutions will be made through mapping based on demographic composition and geographic condition.
169. Educational standard enhancement program will be conducted by implementing 2076-2085 B.S (2019-2028 A.D.) as public-school consolidation decade.
170. Students will be provided with internship opportunities in public and private organizations and institutions. Graduate students will be mobilized throughout the

country by providing fellowship under ‘Let us Know our Soil, Let us Build our Country’ campaign.

171. Sanitary pad will be made available free of cost to the girl students studying in all community schools throughout the country.
172. Creative activities will be conducted regularly for the identification, mobilization and promotion of talents of the youth. Information on the inventions made by Nepali nationals will be shared and their knowledge disseminated by holding science and technology expos, exhibitions and festivals at national and international levels. Youth scientists’ conference will be held next year.

Honourable Members,

173. Arrangement will be made to provide for specialized services including Ayurveda, panchakarma (five-fold detoxification treatment method), Yunani medicine, yoga and naturopathy.
174. The concept of healthy citizen, healthy society, healthy life and for that healthy production and healthy consumption will be implemented. In every Ward, Civic Arogya (health) program will be conducted.
175. My Government will launch free health checkup for the swift diagnosis of diseases such as cervical and breast cancer increasingly found among women and implement vaccination programme against cervical cancer. Special programme will be launched to prevent sickle-cell anemia which remains a health issue in West Terai. Effective steps will be taken for the prevention and control of disease that spreads through mosquito-bite.

Honourable Members,

176. Facilities including start-up capital will be extended to the youth entrepreneurs for the operation of businesses. Youth will be attracted to employment opportunities within the country by providing technical, vocational and skill-oriented training.
177. Labour inspection and labour audit related arrangements will be made effective through the provision of regulatory authority. Workers safety and interests will be ensured by enforcing occupational safety and health-related standards. Arrangements will be made for the payment of minimum wage of the workers through banking channels.
178. Labour agreements will be concluded with additional countries to manage foreign employment. Foreign employment will be made dignified and secured.

179. Practice of signing Labour agreement with the destination countries will be expanded while guaranteeing the payment of costs by the employers themselves for occupational health and safety, insurance, reasonable remuneration, services and facilities to the Nepali workers who go for foreign employment.

Honourable Members,

180. My Government will no longer tolerate violence against women. Rehabilitation centers will be expanded for rescue, relief, psycho-social counselling and legal remedy of women victims of violence. The practice of air rescue of pregnant women and new mothers facing life-threatening situation in remote area will be continued.
181. Informative social awareness programmes will be launched to eliminate such malpractices and ill-customs as dowry, Tilak (monetary offerings in marriage), child marriage, untouchability, *chaupadi* (degrading treatment to women during menstruation).
182. My government will protect and look after helpless and destitute, unattended, infected and homeless children, and provide employment opportunities by making them capable citizens. Life of children will be made safe by eliminating all kinds of violence. Government organizations working in the field of children will be reviewed and restructured. Children's homes will be reformed all over the country.
183. Senior citizen club and service centre will be run in every local level by facilitating the inter-generational transfer of knowledge, skill and experience inherent in the senior citizens. Arrangements will be made to ensure that none of the helpless, incapacitated, persons with disabilities live on the street.
184. Capacity building and employment programs will be launched for the persons with disabilities. Appropriate playground and facilities will be arranged for the health and recreation of persons with disabilities. Their morale will be lifted. Education and training arrangements will be made to make them skilled and capable.
185. National and international community and non-governmental organizations will be mobilized in a transparent and systematic manner while making them accountable and dignified.

Honourable Members,

186. Through the extension of fiscal services, additional 50 thousand youths will be made self-employed within next one year and additional three hundred thousand within next five years.
187. My Government will implement the 'Youth Mobilization Year' next year to mobilize the youth for promotion of federal democratic republic, leadership development, motivation and socio-economic development. For the development and mobilization of youth,

human resource dedicated to national welfare, the role of National Cadet Core will be expanded to the Local Level.

188. For the economic and social empowerment of youth, entrepreneurship development and technical and vocational training will be provided. Public, private and non-governmental sectors, civil society and Nepal Scout will be mobilized for humanitarian services, disaster management and national development activities.
189. The ongoing construction of the International cricket stadium in Mulpani, Kathmandu will be operationalized within next two years. The Government will encourage the private initiative to construct playgrounds including the cricket ground. Cricket Academy will be established for the development of cricket. For the construction of international standard national sports complex, detailed project report will be prepared in the next fiscal year. The construction, development and expansion of stadium with modern facilities in all Provinces and Sports Villages for sports having long-term importance at the Local Level will be speeded up.
190. Necessary infrastructure construction will be completed, and the Thirteenth South Asian Sports Competition will be organized by 2019.

Honourable Members,

191. Self-confidence will be generated by eliminating the psyche of poverty. The absolute poverty will be eradicated through implementation of fundamental rights by providing education, health, food, employment to all citizens. Now onwards, no one in Nepal will remain hungry, no one will die of hunger.
192. The Government has taken promotion of governance integrity and good governance as topmost priority. System of integrity will be adopted in all sectors. My Government has stood strongly against the attitude towards unlawful exploitation of the State property and will continue to do so. Instructions have been given to all public office bearers to commit themselves to public service delivery with the mantra, 'I will not commit an act of corruption, I will not let corruption take place and I express my commitment to work honestly for the country and the people'. No stone will be left unturned to stop corruption and bring people indulged in corruption to justice.
193. The Fourth Five-year Strategic Plan of Judiciary will be implemented while giving continuity to legal reforms for making administration of justice simple, efficient and effective. Access of the general public to justice will be enhanced. Free legal aid will be provided to women victims of violence, single women, persons with disabilities, *dalits*, children and senior citizens. Remaining works of transitional justice will be completed by amending relevant laws and appointing officials.
194. Election system will be made impartial and fair. Functions related to by-election will be completed.

195. National security will be strengthened by implementing National Security Policy. National Defence University will be established to carry out study and research on national security and defence matters.
196. Now onwards, violence will have no place in the country. My Government will take strong stance against violent activities of all sorts for the protection of citizen's lives and public property. All those involved in any kind of criminal activities, engaging in activities contrary to Constitution and law, disrupting law and order and disturbing social harmony will be brought to justice. A crime investigation and prosecution system based on facts and scientific evidence will be developed. The capacity of the human resources involved in investigation and prosecution will be enhanced.
197. Surveillance, investigation and enquiry will be strengthened to ensure that any individual involved in irregularity, unauthorized use, misuse and exploitation of public property and any other criminal activities is not exempt from punishment.
198. My Government is determined to maintaining law and order and controlling crime through coordinated mobilization of administrative and security agencies. National security system will be further strengthened by making all security agencies strong, competent and accountable. National Investigation Department will be developed as a professional intelligence institution.
199. All relevant mechanisms will be mobilized in disaster preparedness, search, rescue, and rehabilitation. Rehabilitation of those who have not been able to rehabilitate for a long time will be intensified. The unnatural loss of lives in the absence of minimum services at the times of disasters including glacial lake floods, cold wave, floods and landslides, inundation and fire will be brought to an end.
200. To protect from the risk of earthquake, an earthquake pre-information system will be connected and made operational in every 15 kilometers distance including at the places in which security agencies are located.
201. Healthy, civilized and safe society will be established by launching programmes for prevention of and control against narcotic drugs. Stern action will be taken against those who indulge in production, trafficking, trade and abuse of drugs and lure children into drug addiction.
202. Technology friendly measures will be adopted to enhance security arrangements of prisons. Construction and improvement of the existing infrastructures will be carried out. Arrangements will be made to get the labour and skill of prisoners and detainees utilized in productive and development works.
203. Laws, organization and human resources will be made governance and development friendly. A system for evaluating the service of the officials providing public service will

be developed based on national indicators. Public service citizen charter will be prepared, and service delivery will be carried out on its basis from next year.

204. Result based work performance system will be adopted in public service. The performance contract will be done with high ranking officials and the terms of contract will be taken as the basis for performance evaluation. The situation of officials obtaining full marks despite the low performance of the organization will be ended.
205. Strong action will be taken against officials delaying in fulfilling their responsibilities, not doing the assigned work, lacking discipline and getting involved in irregularities and corruption. A system of awarding good performers and punishing the non-performer and those indulging in illegal works will be put in place. Civil servants will be motivated by reviewing terms and conditions including fringe benefits.
206. The working culture of dedication to work, timely completion of work with service-orientation, result orientation, and taking responsibility will be instilled in civil servants. New vitality will be given to the public service by developing knowledge, skills and professional dignity in civil servants and public service delivery will be conducted with renewed pace. Services will be provided by all officials including civil servants, teachers and health workers through commencing the works on stipulated time.
207. System for online monitoring of annual plans of action on policies, programmes and budget of all three levels will be integrated. Existing programmes and projects will be revised, restructured or terminated after the analysis of their necessity, effectiveness and impact. Timely reforms will be made to public procurement legislation.
208. Special provision will be made to avoid hinderances and obstacles to development activities. Capital expenditure will be increased by improving selection procedure of development projects, procurement procedure, and contract management. Working in all three shifts will be encouraged in development projects. The officials and contractors not completing the development projects in specified time, quality and cost will be brought under the ambit of law.
209. In order to build a healthy and dynamic economy as well as maintain fiscal stability and good governance, strategic plan of action on prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing will be implemented.

Honourable Members,

210. Nepal's foreign policy will be based on national interest, mutual benefit and respect, international commitments and obligations, and justice. National dignity will be enhanced at the international stage while maintaining freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national security. Nepal's relations with neighbours, development partners, labour destination countries and other friendly countries will be further consolidated in line with national interests.

211. Economic diplomacy will be conducted with a view to promoting export, investment and tourism, and facilitating access to technologies.
212. High-level visits will be utilized in such a way that they contribute to the promotion of Nepal's national interests.
213. Emphasis will be laid towards making the regional forums, of which Nepal is a member, more effective. Nepal's participation and role in the United Nations, UN Human Rights Council and Peace Building Commission will be made more effective.
214. Nepal's home-grown Peace Process is unique and exemplary in the world. Experiences of this Peace Process will be shared at the international level.

Honourable Members,

215. My Government has proposed the Policies and Programmes for the year 2019/20 with a conviction to materialize the national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali' while building on the achievements made during the foundation year of prosperity as well as expeditiously developing all economic, social and cultural sectors.
216. By the successful implementation of these policies and programmes, national unity, national interest and esteem will be strengthened, federalism will be institutionalized, high economic growth rate will be attained, effective and quality service will be delivered and citizens will be dignified and protected. In the regional and international forum, Nepal will gradually be established as an emerging socialism-oriented country with prosperity and justice.
217. I am confident that all sectors will render contribution to the effective implementation of these policies and programmes.
218. To conclude, I express gratitude to the political parties, private and cooperative sectors who have contributed for the development of the country, and express thanks to the government employees, workers, civil society, intellectuals, media and all the fellow compatriots who have played important role from their respective fields. I also express thanks to all friendly countries, development partners, international organizations and non-resident Nepalis who have rendered cooperation in the development efforts of Nepal.

Thank you.