

**Speech of MR Prachanda Raj Pradhan – S.E.O. Society of Each Other –
Kathmandu**

During 15th anniversary of ProNepal on 2019 21st September

Copyright by MR Prachanda Raj Pradhan

President of Pro Nepal, distinguished guests. (there will be particular address for important dignitaries or persons present at the program.) Ladies and Gentlemen.

On the auspicious occasion of 15 anniversary of Pro Nepal Congratulation to it's leadership, members, supporters, good wishers and entire coworkers for successful completion of its fifteen years. I wish for more prosperous Pro Nepal in the days to come. SEO society of each other, feel very happy to be a counter part of ProNepal to implement some of the projects in Nepal. Though we live in different parts of the globe with different backgrounds, culture, language and situations, we have been working together for the betterment of the children, women and society in Nepal.

(Nepal at a glance)

Nepal is a small but beautiful and diverse country with mega neighbours - India and China and country of Mount Everest, highest peak of the world. We have eight out of ten highest peaks in the world. Nepal is a land-lock country. We have very beautiful landscapes. We have 126 ethnic group and 104 languages spoken. Official language is Nepali, one of the Indo - Aryan languages, similar to Hindi, the national language of India, as is Spanish to Italian. We have never ever any ethnical conflict or racial disputes as national problem, but had Maoist insurgency for about ten years. Nepal was a kingdom, but now Republic country with federal system.

(Essential steps from monarchy to democracy.)

Nepal had been ruled by different dynasties in history. The country was divided in small kingdoms, which was unified by a Shaha king . Later on Nepal was known as Hindu Kingdom. The Shaha dynasty ruled for 240 years. Nepal was always ruled by kings till county turned in to Republic and never colonise through-out its history.

There was general election as Democratic exercise for the first time in 1959. But in 1960 then King dissolved the Parliament. took over all the executive powers, imposed party-less political system. Political parties activity were banned. It was coup, King had strong control on army, the national army was called Royal Army now its named Nepal Army. Kings rule lasted till 1990.

In 1990 there was People Movement for restoration of Democracy. The system we had adopted was called Constitutional Monarchy, Parliamentary Democracy and Multiparty

System. Like Westminster system in England.

On 1st June 2002 there was Royal massacre in Nepal, where then King, Queen, Crown Prince, Princess along with other royal families were assassinated. It was called that Crown prince had opened fire and he was the main culprit. But majority of people then and now do not believe and think that it was King's own younger brother whom the massacre brought to the throne. This incident was happened when country had been facing Maoist insurgency. So that unexpected and furious massacre had deeply weakened the Monarchy. The 2nd major reason of abolition of Monarchy was the Political action taken by King himself, who imposed direct rule. His that action brought political parties and Maoist rebellions at one place. It is called that India had played vital role to make it possible. Consequently There was peoples movement, in April 2006, which lasted only for 19 days but made the king compel to fulfil the demands of the political parties. Consequently the very first meeting of the Constitutional Assembly declared the country as Federal Democratic REPUBLIC and ended the 240 Years kingship. This very important and vital political turn happened without any bloodshed.

(Political situation)

But we had lost 17000 lives during ten years Maoist insurgency (1996=2006), lots of state's infrastructure were damaged or destroyed. At least 300000 people had fled their homes. Remote villages were unsecured even for ordinary people. Tourists were not safe to travel in most of the parts.

In the first Constitutional Assembly Maoist party secured majority but failed to bring the constitution as they fail to bring consensus on some of the essential issues among the political parties. Then there was elections for the Assembly again which brought the Republic Constitution with federal system. Some regional parties, from southern Tarai region, the region connected with Indian border which has been an open border and do not need any permission and formalities to cross for citizens of both Nepalese and Indian, were disagree with that constitution, according to them their agendas are not accommodated and demands are not fulfilled. Indian establishment was also not happy so India imposed undeclared trade and transit blocked which created market terror and scarcity of daily necessities particularly fuel shortage, which affected peoples life very badly. That blocked extended distances with India and brought China closer in relation.

In the first parliamentary election, held in accordance to new constitution, two communist parties Marxist Leninist and Maoist secured nearly two third majority in the Parliament. Both parties had pre - poll announcement of their unification so they contested election jointly. They were also able to win six out of seven provinces in the county. It seems there was communist wave. So in this way Nepal turned Monarchy to Federal Republic and the Communist party is in power through election.

(economic situation of Nepal after the first election)

The ruling Communist party have controlled in both legislature and executive and it is

called that they are trying to impose the directive judiciary. The slogan of this government is HAPPY NEPAL, PROSPEROUS NEPALI.

21 Percent people are still below the poverty line. Every day 2000 youngsters leave country for labor work. Remittance has been contributing national economy (30% GDP), but simultaneously it has been creating various family and social problems. Most of the wives whose husband has gone for foreign employ do not work, as they regularly get remittance from their spouse, they move to city for schools for their children . And one of the increasing problem is as the wives of foreign workers are mostly young and has to separate with their spouse for a quite a long period which lead them to adulterous relationship and in worst cases when the husband come back from abroad with many dreams they neither find their wives nor the money he had wired. Nepal is receiving an average two dead bodies of migrant workers every day. The problem of migration is also increasing. High skilled and trained manpower are leaving country to developed countries as they do get more facilities and luxurious life. Many middle levels families students go abroad for further studies, mainly in Australia,(36000 only in Australia last year) USA, UK, Europe and so on, most of them do not come back. They do also take capital from the country as they need to be settled down in abroad. And semi-skilled youngsters are flying to gulf countries, Malaysia, Korea as labor, there are also huge numbers of youth every year go to India as seasonal workers. It is estimated that in few years to come there will be only aged people remains in the country as young population will be out of the country either for study or for work. So Nepal seems to be country of aged people because younger generations will not be there if this situation will not change. So we are thinking to launch a program for aged people, establishing old age homes. Old age homes are not in common practice in Nepal.

The trade deficit of the country is also huge. According to the source in last year Nepal imported worth 12 billion USD and exported less than a billion. The trade deficit of the country was 12 billion USD. Nepal expense huge amount an import of petroleum products, steel, iron and machinery equipment. Though Nepal is still considered as agriculture country Nepal expense big amount importing agricultural products. The national economy is based on agriculture as more than 65 percent of the population rely on agriculture but the contribution of the agricultural sector to the GDP is less than 30percent.

Nepal has considerable scope for exploiting its potential in hydropower, with an estimated 42,000 MW of commercially feasible capacity but till to date able to produce less than 1000 MW, more interestingly it is said that Nepal has capacity to produce 83000 MW hydropower theoretically. Last year we imported electricity from India worth 200 million dollars where as we exported just one million dollar.. Nepal is second rich country in the world on hydro resources after Brazil. But load shading was common problem in the country till few years back.

One other potential area of Nepal economy is tourism. We have one million tourists in last year and in 2020 targeted to receive two millions as government announced the year 2020 is Nepal visit year. Hope 2020 will get success. I would like to extend our

invitation to all of you to visit Nepal at your convenience in the year 2020.

The state of the reconstruction after earthquake.

In the year 2015 we had terrible earthquake. Which destroyed thousands of Houses, took nearly 9000 lives, damaged and demolished a lot of cultural heritages like temples, monuments and old palaces and affected infrastructure. The damage caused by earthquake is estimated to be at about 10 billion USD. It also set back economic developments. It was estimated that The earthquake had affected around 3000 families in the beginning but when data was collected it reached more than 4500 families. After earthquake Nepal had organized a meeting of international communities and development partners in Kathmandu and appeal for support to reconstruct. Donors pledged financial assistance around 4.1 billion where as 3.6 billion actually transferred. The immediate rescue work and temporary rehabilitation support by national and international communities were very admirable. ProNepal had also participated in that noble work. Still people are in temporary shelters, particularly in the areas where the epicenter of the earthquake. Not all, some renovation and reconstruction works are still on progress. Some temples are under construction with the support of foreign aid and many damaged and destroyed buildings sites still remain to be renovated. For example Balmandir has not been renovated yet and the building work of DHARAHARA an icon tower of Kathmandu city, which was almost destroyed has not been started yet.

There is National Reconstruction Authority to take care the earthquake victims and help them to renovate and build their earthquake damaged or demolished shelters. There is grant the government provide amounting NPR 300000. (its about 2500 euros). Which disperse in 3 installation. In the beginning NPR 50000. To start then NPR 150000. During the work in progress and remaining NPR 50000. After the completion. This grant is inadequate to construct a house so either they have to lose this grant or most take loan if they are not financially viable, which means they have to pay back with the interest and ultimately push them in to loan and poverty.

According to the National Reconstruction Authority as of the end of last fiscal year 424977 houses have collected third installment of the grant which means that many houses are built and 214314 houses are under construction. This together number is 83 percent of the number of the houses entered into grants agreements signed between earthquake victims and the Authority. Government had set the reconstruction deadline by 2020..

On behalf of earthquake effected people I would like to express sincere thanks and gratitude to ProNepal for meaningful in-time support for earthquake victims. We were able to engage on distribution of food, daily necessary goods, medicines, other materials and metal roofs to victims for immediate relief. Pro Nepal's support at that time was really valuable, lots of thanks and sincere gratitude for that urgent and important support.

(collaboration)

Now let me briefly talk about our collaboration. The main areas we have been getting support from ProNepal are Drinking water, School buildings, skill trainings for women and scholarship for school children.

The first and for most successful project was Sanga Drinking water project. It has been benefiting about 300 household and distributing drinkable water with filter treatment. The quality of water is better than the water available in the local market, sold as mineral water. Due to growing population in this area there are shortage of water so demand has been increased. We had proposed deep boring water project, to fulfil their demand, which was approved in two phases, the first phase project is under construction. We hope this project will complete soon.

The Tipchowk Drinking Water Project, just completed few months back which facilitates more than hundred household women from carrying water from two, three kilometers walking up downhill way and save their couple of hours every day. It provided relief to them.

Jamune drinking water project supplies drinking water to hundreds of students in a secondary school in Jamune, along with drinking water for villagers through public water taps.

The support of Pro Nepal in the area of drinking water is very important because the drinking water is one of the most common problem in Nepal. In Kathmandu capital city of the country, where I live there is water supply once in five to seven days and hardly we get about 5000 liters water at once. To understand the water scarcity situation the country, Kathmandu itself is an example.

The earthquake I mentioned also damaged around 9000 schools building throughout the country. Most of them required new buildings. We were able to build one school building of Bhumimata Secondary School in Tipchowk by the support of ProNepal.

I would like to take this opportunity to recall the Presidents of Bolzano province visit to us. Mr. Durnwalder then President of Bolzano visited our office and project sites in the year 2011 and the Governor Mr. Kompatscher visited last year in Nepal and we were privileged to show them some of project sites as well. We felt great honor by their visits. We were empowered and inspired by this kind of visits. Many many thanks and sincere gratitude's for your visits and hope to receive you in future as well.

We want our lives matter. We want to know we have had some impact on the society. We want to contribute to the society for the betterment of their quality of life, particularly to the children and women. So we are for each other, the Society for Each Other. We want to make a good work. It could happen only through commitment, contribution and collaboration. Together we can do this. We want solution rather than explanation.

Before I conclude, on behalf of SEO and me myself I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Prayer for his regular visits in Nepal, almost every year he visits, which provide us opportunities to share our problems, talk about new projects, review and evaluate projects and more than that to strengthen our mutual relation. I request him to keep it up. He has better ideas about the situation of Nepal as he always observes Nepal very keenly through realistic approach. Thank you.

At last dear distinguished guests and honorable participants I am sorry if I have not spoken or highlighted some of the issues and subjects you are expecting or interesting to hear. But please feel free to ask me if you have any queries as I am available on the floor till the end of the program, though I couldn't guarantee but definitely try my best to answer your queries. May you enjoy your presence here, may you remember with pleasure the time you spent with us. It is our great privilege to have this opportunity to share ideas, knowledge and experiences with you which will aid each of us understanding more and better. We feel honor to be here. So we would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to our sponsors by whose support our presence here made possible. Thank you, namaste and Dhanyabad.