

Prachanda-led Government-11: An Open Letter To Pashupati Shumsher JB Rana
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Dear Honorable Pashupati Shumsher:

I would like to draw your attention to the picture I downloaded from the facebook. The picture says, "We don't need any ethnic and religious State but a single united Nepal," If you agree on it you need to sign it up. Probably, we have a few people that will not agree on it.

However, before the immediate unification of your party: Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) with the breakaway party RPP-Nepal, and after the unification with some emphasis, you have been advocating to make Nepal a Hindu State.

Why are you doing so? Whether you want to imposed a Hindu State on the entire populace humiliating the rest of the people as the Shah-Rana rulers did in the past or whether you want to garner a lot of votes promising people to make Nepal a Hindu State?

If you really want to suppress the Nepalese of other faith other than Hindus, go ahead and try to do it, and see what results you will get. You could dream of doing what the despotic Ranas and then Shahs did in the past. They had suppressed the people for 240 years and

stole everything from them keeping the entire population in dire poverty for the enjoyment of a few so-called royals. They had been no more than the criminals.

So, imposing a Hindu State on the entire Nepalese, do you want to commit the same crime, as did the Shah-Rana rulers? Imposing a Hindu State, you will invite violence protests that might cause the death of protestors, loss of the public property, and the loss of the people's social and economic activities during the period of disturbances. Do you really want to be accountable for such disastrous consequences? Certainly, if you would not like to commit such a grave crime, provoke such disturbances in the 21st century, then forget about the Hindu State, and go for an economic development for all the people for which you might be able to collect a large number of votes.

If you like I can tell you what has been the trend of Nepalese voters voting in the past.

In the first direct elections to a parliament held in 1959, voters overwhelmingly voted for the then Nepali Congress (NC) party that led the armed revolution against the autocratic prime ministerial Rana rule but the party did not insure the sovereignty of the people rather transfer the power from the tyrannical Rana prime ministerial rule to the then King Tribuvan who had been nothing but a hostage of the Rana prime ministers. After the election victory and formation of the elected government, the NC leaders forgot the aspirations of the people for institutionalizing the democratic institutions rather they simply thought that they had the power.

After the demise of the authoritarian Panchayat rule and reinstatement of the multi-party democracy in 1990, voters again gave another chance to the NC for leading the country in the general elections held in 1991. The NC leaders unfortunately repeated the same mistakes they committed in 1960. They did not institutionalize the democratic institutions rather went for grabbing everything possible from the State treasury and State assets as did the Ranas during their 104-year rule and the Panchayat, head of which was the king did during the 30 years of its existence.

Again the midterm elections were held in 1994, this time voters gave the majority seats in the parliament to the CPN-UML but not give the absolute majority required for running the administration independently of any other political party. Voters also gave 20 seats to your party in the parliament making your party to play a significant positive role in the administration. However, your party did not use it for the benefits of the people and for the party rather it became the misfortune for the party as it split the party into a number of factions.

In the 1999 general elections, voters again turned to the NC, and gave it the majority votes to run the country hoping the NC leaders must have realized their past mistakes and they would run the country sincerely, as the so-called saint leader Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was to lead the country. However, Girija Prasad Koirala pushed Bhattarai out of power and took the power again in a less than a year. It was a democratic coup.

Then, the elections to the Constituent Assembly-cum-parliament were held in 2008, voters overwhelmingly voted for the Maoists giving a fresh mandate to an entire new party that had not been tested in the past believing they might run the country properly. Maoists failed in using the mandate voters gave, and failed in promulgating a new people's constitution. The voters also gave an opportunity to the Terai political parties. The voters' mandate was for the Maoists and the Terai political parties to work together but they did not comprehend it.

The elections to the Constituent Assembly-cum-parliament were held again in 2013. This time voters again turned back to the NC and CPN-UML making the Maoists a third party but giving a chance to play a significant role in promulgating a new constitution. Voters totally rejected the Terai political leaders as they betrayed the voters. Currently, they have been in life-saving support.

So, dear honorable Pashupati, if you really like to win the voters' hearts and minds surely for receiving the major votes, too you need to watch what the voters want, follow the voters' aspirations for building the nation. I want to remind you making Nepal a Hindu State is not what voters want. They want a peaceful and prosperous Nepal for which political disturbances needed to be absolutely stopped. You need to comprehend that making Nepal a Hindu state would surely trigger political disturbances again.

If you like I can tell you voters are not for a Hindu State but for a prosperous Nepal in which every Nepalese no matter where s/he resides either in Humla or Jumla or Kathmandu or Pokhara or Biratnagar could enjoy the same amenities and fundamental human rights.

If Nepal becomes a Hindu State again, and the people living in different places have different benefits and facilities to enjoy then what makes them different from living in a Hindu State or a non-Hindu State? So, this is not what voters want but fast socio-economic development so that everybody no matter where s/he lives has a share in the economic progress. They have been tired of social evils and economic backwardness. They have been watching how China has been marching ahead to the economic prosperity how Indians have been making economic progress without making the country a Hindu State or a Muslim state.

You have been publicly recommending or supporting Nepal to be a Hindu State. Probably, you know you cannot make Nepal a Hindu State but still you have been campaigning for it probably for winning more votes in the future elections. Again if you are dreaming of making your party a large one garnering a large number of votes then you need to work accordingly rather than working on making Nepal a Hindu State.

You know the party broken away from your party has won hardly 5% votes strongly going for a Hindu State. Your party received less votes than the breakaway party. Even the 5% votes RPP-Nepal received in the elections held in 2013 were not for a Hindu State but for the nationalistic slogans it had put forward. So, don't dream of making the recently united party RPP a large one campaigning for a Hindu State.

Recommending Nepal to be a Hindu State as did Kamal Thapa of RPP-Nepal disappeared in your RPP, you have impressed the people as if you are following Thapa holding his tail. You have been a very matured politician in the past but recently going for a Hindu State you have retracted from your political maturity.

For sure, you cannot make Nepal a Hindu State again but advocating for a Hindu State you have been simply alienating the Nepalese that have been sincerely for the economic prosperity with the political stability because going back to a political dispute over the Hindu State you are provoking the political unrest again.

Your party and you have alienated the people that want "a single united Nepal not an ethnic and religious Nepal." Then, from whom you anticipate votes, probably a few votes from the Hindu fundamentalists? That will not be enough for your party to be really a strong party in the parliament. You need the votes of the majority of the voters that are not in favor of a Hindu State. So, think about it and do your political business accordingly if you really want to make your party a big one. If you correctly approach the voters they might make you a

big party, as they might think to give your party a chance to lead the country for making it socio-economically better off.

You probably know that the current Nepalese are not of the 19th nor even of the 20th century but of the 21st century, nobody could trick them to vote for any religious state or any ethnic state but for a single united Nepal in other words a nationalist party.

Campaigning for a Hindu State, you are alienating the Buddhists and the people of other faith in Nepal. A number of Buddhists are almost equal to the number of Hindus in Nepal because both Hindus and Buddhists worship the same god in different names. You also are downgrading the country where Lord Buddha was born for which the whole nation is proud of.

You know Nepal had never been a Hindu State before King Mahendra imposed a Hindu State in 1962 alienating the people of other faith. He became the incarnation of Lord Vishnu. However, he was not what he declared he was. He would not sell his palace to the government, collect the money and then continue to live in the same palace if he had a bit of the divine spirit. No deity will do so. He was a thug in the real meaning of the word.

So, dear Pashupati, do you really want to follow the same thug, and at the same time ask the voters for voting your party and you? That might not be a good option for you if you really want to win elections. We have still a few people that had benefited from the repressive Shah-Rana rulers anticipating the dead monarchy to return, as did the people of same category in 1950s. I was the witness of some people anticipating the return of the Rana rule even in the late 1950s. So, it was not a surprise some people dreaming of what would never happen again. Probably, you might be one of them having a daydream. Be realistic, and take the realistic approach, then voters might return your party and you to power for institutionalizing the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal but not a Hindu State.

I also want to draw your attention to the probability of voters voting for the nationalist political parties. We have seen the undeclared blockade imposed on Nepal for more than five months in 2015 without a success, as Nepalese in general stood against the foreign interference in the country. This is the people's aspiration all political parties need to comprehend; however currently, none of the political parties has realized it otherwise the CPN-UML would not obstruct the proceedings of the parliament, and would not bring so many people in the west to the streets to protest against the amendment to the Constitution; and the ruling political parties would not register the amendment to the Constitution not meeting the demands of the dissenting the political parties, and against the will of the opposition CPN-UML party.

If the CPN-UML leaders have a little bit of political vision, none of them would go for blocking the parliamentary proceedings, will call for a protest movement, and will publicly say that they would need to fight against India in cooperation with other neighboring countries. Rather they would let the parliament work, and push the government to hold elections as soon as possible, as any political party opting for the freedom from the foreign intrusion in Nepal would have a high chance of overwhelmingly winning the elections assuming that Nepalese willing to stand against the foreign meddling in the Nepalese business would vote for such a party. So, CPN-UML could emerge as a strong party after the elections.

CPN-UML leaders don't need to cooperate with any other neighboring countries to fight against the foreign intrusion; the strength of Nepalese is sufficient as the defeat of the blockade has shown, our beloved Southern compatriots have claimed to impose but in reality our neighbor friend rather a brother has done for them. So, why don't CPN-UML

leaders go for elections rather than obstruct the parliament, and lead the protest movement in the west when they have a good chance to win the elections, as the current government has been clearly for favoring to please the neighbor rather than running the country independently following the people's aspiration for it?

So far, India has been trying to do everything possible to stop Nepal tilting to northern neighbor after the abortive attempt India made on the previous government to bend to its desire pushed the then Prime minister KP Oli to open up everything to the northern neighbor. That has been a disaster the Indian establishment realized but Prime Minister Oli took it lightly and did not show his political maturity to keep his position even when he had so much of the public support.

Even now, the Oli's political-wisdom eyes have not opened up, as he has been spending his energy on the unproductive political activities such as obstructing the parliamentary proceedings, and on taking the people to the streets for protesting against the amendment to the Constitution rather than pushing the government to hold elections in which Mr. Oli has a better chance to win the majority as the nationalist party.

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