Ruling and Opposition Parties Moving away from Constitutional Issues

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After the ninth general convention, ruling UML entered a new structure with new leadership. As UML was giving first priority to constitution-drafting, Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee of the Constituent Assembly moved forward with discussions on issues of constitution-drafting. As there was no agreement on important issues of the constitution, UCPN (M) formed an alliance which created further distance between the ruling coalition and opposition parties. UML, CPN (M), and RPP were embroiled in internal disputes. In the meantime, Constituent Assembly members demanded 50 million for their electoral constituencies.

Oli in UML leadership

As the date for ninth general convention was nearing, there was fierce competition for next leadership within UML. While senior leader Madhav Kumar Nepal and standing committee member KP Sharma Oli had claimed the next leadership, chairperson Jhalanath Khanal expressed his desire to lead the party again. It was his intention to become chairperson again based on consensus instead of competing in the general convention. He expressed his desire to lead for the next five years if there was consensus.[1] It was Khanal's argument that there should be consensus on leadership instead of partisanship under Oli and Nepal factions. However, the possibility of agreement between Nepal and Oli as per Khanal's wish was thin. After that, Khanal did not openly claim leadership but also did not clearly support either Oli or Nepal. Then both leaders claimed that Khanal was in his favour and said publicly as such. Though he did not give any hints of supporting either leader, at the end, he ended up supporting senior leader Nepal's line of thinking.[2] But Oli claimed that Khanal had promised to hand over the power to him several times.[3]

Nepal and Oli faction accelerated its meetings not only with leaders from high levels but also activists. To prove their majority, they held large meetings to do their homework and publically listed the names of district chairpersons and names of officials from class organisations and numbers in their favour. Nepal and Oli faction also published the numbers in their favour from the districts. A day before the start of the general convention, Oli faction held a press conference and claimed that 49 district chairperson out of the 75 districts were in its favour.[4] Oli faction was far ahead in claiming its majority. As there was sharp polarisation in the party, UML could not even

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[1] *Khanal want to lead for next five years*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from
http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13544/

[2] *Khanal supports Nepal*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from
http://www.ebudhabar.com/%E0%A4%96%E0%A4%A8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8B-%E0%A4%B8%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A5-%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%87%E0%A4%AA%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%88/#sthash.CE3M6ECf.dpuf.

[3] *I don't believe Khanal supports Nepal: Oli*. Retrieved August 5, 2014, from
http://ratosurya.com/archives/2525#sthash.WDKWJzee.dpuf

[4] *Oli faction claims 49 district chairpersons' support*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from
http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13585/

nominate the five per cent representatives by the central committee. Khanal stated that the representatives could not be nominated because of the different lines of thinking within the party.[5]

On July 3, UML general convention got underway. In the general convention, UML leadership claimed that constitution-drafting is the first priority and economic revolution the next. Entrance to the general convention, which was held at Bhrikuti Mandap, was restricted to general convention representatives, guests, and journalists, which prompted the party activists and general people to shout slogans against the party outside the venue as the general convention was starting. This also did not send a good message to cadres. The leaders claimed that the venue was selected based on the forecast of rains but the problems arose because the rains did not come. There were political reports and proposals on organisational and party constitutional amendments in the general convention. The political report stressed that constitution would be drafted based on federalism, democracy, and republican state system and the goal of the constitution would be to institutionalise forward-looking democracy.[6] However, the proposal to amend the party constitution got considerable coverage.

The amended constitution increased the number of UML office bearers from eight to 15.[7] In the general convention, chairperson of disciplinary commission, Amrit Kumar Bohora presented a report that stated opportunism, rent-seeking, and sycophancy had developed in the party. Claiming that there was a tendency to be ready to do anything state power, he urged a spirit of sacrifice and commitment and service to the people.[8] The general convention expressed its commitment to draft the constitution within one year and passed a 33-point proposal urging all the parties represented in the Constituent Assembly to remember their commitments and unify accordingly.[9]

After the political report and constitution proposal was passed, Nepal and Oli faction openly competed by forming panels. The voting ballot had three columns for Nepal and Oli factions and independent candidate. Oli was elected chairperson[10] and there was mixed results for other posts.[11] Immediately after the results were published, Nepal congratulated Oli and other officials.[12] Oli while committing to take the party forward by unifying all stated, 'From today's date onwards, there has been end of different lines of thinking, polarisation, and competition within the party and the party has become more united'.[13] After the results for all the posts were confirmed, the central committee held a meeting which formed committees to finalise the political, organisational, the party constitution taking into account the suggestions of the general convention representatives.

50 million to Electoral Constituencies

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[5] *5 per cent representatives could not be nominated due to the different lines of thinking in the party: Khanal.* Retrieved August 3, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13915/

[6] Political report presented at the UML ninth general convention.

[7] While formerly, there used to be 1 chairperson, 3 vice-chairpersons, 1 general secretary, 3 secretaries, the new provision provided for 1 chairperson, 5 vice-chairpersons, 1 general secretary, 2 deputy general secretary, 5 secretaries, and 1 senior leader.

[8] *Opportunism grew: UML disciplinary commission.* Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13774/

[9] Proposal passed during the UML ninth general convention held in Kathmandu from July 3 to 17.

[10] Oli received 1059 votes and Nepal received 1003 votes.

[11] Among the 5 vice-chairpersons, 3 are from Nepal faction and 2 from Oli; general secretary was elected from Oli faction and 1 each deputy general secretary from both Nepal and Oli faction. For the post of secretaries, three are from Nepal faction and 2 from Oli faction.

[12] Press release by UML leader Madhav Kumar Nepal on July 17, 2014

[13] In a programme on July 17, 2014 after Oli was elected UML chairperson.

Congress and UML Constituent Assembly members raised demands to be provided NRS 50 million to each electoral constituency through 2015/16 budget. The parties also supported them. Joint meeting of Congress central working committee and parliamentary party passed the proposal for demands to be provided NRS 50 million. Many sectors opposed this demand. There was even a writ filed at the Supreme Court claiming that the Constituent Assembly members did not need NRS 50 million. There was the suspicion that the amount from the national treasury would be spent haphazardly and would adversely affect the work of National Planning Commission.[14] However, the Constituent Assembly members did not back down from their demand. About three dozen Constituent Assembly members from Congress and UML held a press conference demand NRS 50 million and warned of refusing to pass the budget if not provided the amount.

Presenting the 2015/16 budget, finance minister Ram Sharan Mahat expressed his committeemen 'to guarantee NRS 50 million worth of physical infrastructure in each constituency through various units'.[15] Finance minister Mahat had announced NRS 10 million initially for Constituent Assembly member-selected projects in their constituencies that would be implemented through Constituency Development Programme which would be managed through people's participation and additional NRS 0.5 million on top of the NRS 1 million previously provided to the Constituent Assembly for development of electoral constituencies. In addition, the budget also stated that provisions would be made under which allocated budget for physical infrastructure development would be spend through District Development Committees under various headings to be distributed proportionately in every electoral constituency; the projects would be selected by the concerned Constituent Assembly member until election to the District Development Committee; and a guideline for its implementation, supervision, and auditing would be prepared by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development within two months.[16]

Finance minister Mahat increased the allocations under various headings in the face of pressure from the Constituent Assembly members. The total amount under Constituency Development Programme calculated as NRS 10 million per constituency would be NRS 2.4 billion and per Constituent Assembly member NRS 1.5 million would be NRS 900.15 million. He also provided for NRS 45 million to be spent annually by the Constituent Assembly member or his representative.[17] UCPN (M) leaders criticised the increased budget to Constituency Development Programme. UCPN (M) leader Baburam Bhattarai said that it would invite abuse; we had already said it earlier that this programme was not necessary; but they did not listen, which is unfortunate.[18] However, the ruling coalition Constituent Assembly members were not satisfied with NRS 1.5 million; they stuck to their demand of NRS 50 million.

Attempts at Constitution-drafting

Constituent Assembly continued its process of drafting the constitution; specifically UCPN (M) leader Baburam Bhattarai-led Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee became active. It also held discussions with parties outside the Constituent Assembly. It also endorsed the

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[14] *Writ against NRS 50 million to the Constituent Assembly members*. Retrieved August 1, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13967/

[15] Budget speech 2015/16 presented by the finance minister to the parliament on July 13, 2014.

[16] Budget speech 2015/16 presented by the finance minister to the parliament on July 13, 2014.

[17] Acharya, Krishna. *NRS 30 billion for Constituent Assembly members*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/3/30/full-story/392300.html

[18] Acharya, Krishna. *NRS 30 billion for Constituent Assembly members*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://www.ekantipur.com/np/2071/3/30/full-story/392300.html

agreements from the sub-committee of the Constitutional Committee of the previous Constituent Assembly. It also formed a sub-committee to identify issues of disagreement except on the issues of state restructuring.

The main opposition party UCPN (M) formed a constitution suggestion and drafting committee under vice-chairperson Narayankaji Shrestha to clarify its stance on the constitution. Though there was discussion and dialogue on the contentious issues of the constitution, there was no attempt among the senior leaders for consensus, which resulted in the contentious issues remaining the same.

Formation of Front again

At the time when there was no progress on finding consensus on the disputed issues of the constitution in the Constituent Assembly, Congress and UML leaders stated that if there was no consensus, the disputed issues would be resolved through following procedures. UCPN (M) was unsettled by this and formed Sanghiya Ganatantrik Morcha along with Sanghiya Samajwadi Dal and Tarai-focused parties.[19] The Morcha had 16 goals including drafting the constitution of discrimination-free, proportional inclusive, equitable federal democratic republic Nepal through the Constituent Assembly; seeking implementation of Compressive Peace Agreement between the Maoists and the government and the 12-point agreement as well, 22-point agreement between Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Nepal and the government, 8-point agreement between Joint Loktantrik Madhesi Morcha-Nepal and the government, 9-point agreement between Adivasi Janajati Samyukta Sangharsha Samiti and the government; drafting of the constitution with national/ethnic and regional identity and capability and constitution with federalism with identity based on the recommendations of the Committee for State Restructuring and Distribution of State Power and the State Restructuring Commission.[20]

The formation of the Morcha created further polarisation among the political parties, rather than bringing them nearer to consensus. Congress, UML, and other ruling coalition parties on one side and UCPN (M), Sanghiya Samajwadi Dal, and Tarai-focused parties on the other side raised the possibility of further disagreement on the disputed issues of the constitution. The leaders of UCPN (M) and CPN (M) also got closer to each during this time.

Attempts within UCPN (M)

The dispute between the factions of chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal and Baburam Bhattarai continued. Chairperson Dahal faction criticised Bhattarai faction accusing it of violating the 8-point terms of reference. Bhattarai faction formed parallel district committees in Sindhuli, Makawanpur, Baitadi, Parsa, and other districts. The standing committee held several discussions stating there were organisational and principled disputes within UCPN (M). A thought management committee under chairperson Dahal was formed and a three-member committee under Barshaman Pun was also formed to resolve the issues at the district level.[21] Despite attempts to resolve the dispute, UCPN (M) leadership was not successful. Then UCPN (M) shuffled the responsibilities. Yet, Bhattarai

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[19] CPN (M), Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Nepal, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum-Loktantrik, Tarai-Madhes Loktantrik Party, Sadbhawana Party, Sanghiya Samajwadi Party, and Tarai-Madhes Sadbhawana Party were in the Morcha.

[20] Concept paper of Sanghiya Ganatantrik Morcha Nepal of July 10, 2014.

[21] The Dahal-led committee had senior leader Baburam Bhattarai, vice-chairpersons Narayankaji Shrestha and Posta Bahadur Bogati, general secretary Krishna Bahadur Mahara, and secretary Top Bahadur Rayamajhi as members and Pun-led committee had Devendra Paudel and Bishwobhakta Dulal.

faction was not satisfied. In spite of the attempts to resolve dispute in UCPN (M), the disputes simmered.

Discord also in RPP

The dispute centred on who is the party chairperson. After a central committee meeting declared Pashupati Shamsher JBR as party chairperson, another leader Lokendra Bahadur Chand claimed the post. He submitted an application to the Election Commission claiming to be the chairperson. However, the Election Commission refused to provide legitimacy to him, claiming Chand had no evidence of him being chairperson. The dispute grew because the central committee did not recognise Chand and Pashupati Shamsher JBR did not recognise Chand.

Strife within CPN (M)

There was struggle between two lines of thought in CPN (M). The dispute arose after chairperson Mohan Vaidya and secretary Netra Bikram Chand tabled separate reports in the central committee. Chairperson Vaidya had proposed the next steps based on people's revolt while secretary Chand proposed next steps based on people's war.[22] in addition, Vaidya discounted people's war immediately, proposed cooperation with UCPN (M) for a roundtable meeting and street protests to draft the constitution, but Chand proposed keeping the way open for a people's war as necessary by forming parallel government as there was no possibility of liberation in the status quo without force.[23] After failure to resolve the dispute, CPN (M) called an extended meeting, which decided to hold general convention next year. This also failed to resolve the dispute in CPN (M).

Criticism of Government Policies and Programmes

Opposition parties and some Constituent Assembly members from the ruling coalition criticised the government policies and programmes tabled at the parliament. UCPN (M) leader Baburam Bhattarai commented that the policies and programmes looked like a mule cross between different animals and the past policies and programmes of Congress and UML were a little worse than this.[24] Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party leader Brijesh Kumar Gupta accused the budget of being against the Madhes, Dalit, and Janajati.[25] Parliamentary leader of ruling UML claimed that this is the best policies and programmes in the last 20 years.[26] In addition to the opposition Constituent Assembly members, some Constituent Assembly members from ruling Congress also criticised the policies and programmes. the policies and programmes do not meet the expectations of the people. Perhaps such would have the case if a single party was in power. However, Congress-UML coalition should have brought better policies and programmes, but that did not happen,[27] criticised Congress

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[22] *Strife within CPN (M)*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13628/

[23] *Strife within CPN (M)*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13628/

[24] *Government policy looks like a mule cross between different animals: Bhattarai*. Retrieved July 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13530/

[25] *the policies and programmes copy/paste of the past: Gupta*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13534/

[26] *The policies and programmes best since 51/52, welfare- and socialism-oriented*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13529/

[27] *Ruling party members provide approval with criticism.* Retrieved August 4, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13522/

Constituent Assembly member Gopal Man Shrestha. Despite criticism from some of the ruling coalition Constituent Assembly members and the opposition, the policies and programmes of the government were passed.[28]

Parties on the Visit of Indian Foreign Minister

After Sushma Sworaj was confirmed to visit Nepal to take part in foreign minister-level joint meeting, Nepali political parties appeared for and against the visit. Ruling coalition started preparation for discussion on the Nepal-India relations during the visit of Sworaj while the main opposition UCPN (M) protested that the Indian proposal on power in against Nepal's interests. 'water resources should be used in Nepal's interests. The present proposal is not in Nepal's interests', UCPN (M) leader Hitraj Pandey said.[29] During the meeting, both countries agreed to study and review various bilateral treaties including the 1950 treaty between the two countries and amend where necessary.[30] The CPN (M)-led Front opposed this move. The Front published a protest programme to oppose the foreign minister-level agreement to take forward the Pancheshwor Project, perceived to be an unequal treat, and facilitating and encouraging Upper Karnali and Arun-3 projects.[31] The Front requested the government not to sign any treaty and agreements during the visit of Indian prime minister Narendra Modi scheduled for August 3. The Front demanded that while signing treaty and agreements national consensus should be sought in view of the current transitional stage.[32]

The next meeting of Agriculture and Water Resources Committee directed the government to trade electricity with India. Though there were discussions for and against the agreements on power production and trade to be signed during the visit of Indian prime minister Narendra Modi, major parties agreed to sign agreements in Nepal's interests. They formed a taskforce to achieve this.

Contempt Bill in the Parliament

The controversial Contempt of Court Bill 2071 was registered in the parliament secretariat. The nine instance for contempt of court included any activity obstructing the judicial work of the court or preventing implementation of any court decision or order; unduly influencing the work, action and decision of any sub-judice cases; hurting the faith of the people in the court; spreading rumours on the work and activities of the court among the people or publishing false or misleading details or expressing false news; undertaking any disrespectful activities against the sitting judge oneself or though others such as abuse, dishonour, physical violation or any other activity.[33]

The press criticised the bill saying it could control the press. The central committee of the Federation of Nepalese Journalists decided to demand that the government to take the process forward by ensuring freedom of express and the press by holding discussions with the Federation and other stakeholders on the bill as it restrict the freedom of expression.[34] The Federation also

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[28] The government policies and programmers were passed by the parliament on July 2, 2014.
[29] Press release by UCPN (M) on July 20, 2014
[30] *Study team in treaty-agreements fiasco*. Retrieved August 4, 2014, from
http://www.nagariknews.com/feature-article/story/21920/21920.html
[31] Press note released by 33-party Morcha on July 27, 2014.
[32] Memorandum submitted by the 33-party Front to prime minister Sushil Koirala on July 31, 2014.
[33] Contempt of Court Bill, 2071
[34] Press release by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists on July 14, 2014.

warned if the bill was carried forward ignoring its demands that it would organise strong protests in cooperation with other stakeholders of freedom of expression.[35] The Federation met the Law Minister Narahari Acharya and requested him to take the bill forward after holding discussions with all the stakeholders.[36] Law minister Narahari Acharya responded positively by willing to hold public discussion as per the parliamentary regulations.[37]

Constituent Assembly member from Nepal Workers Peasants Party Dilli Prasad Kafle registered a protest note stating the bill would restrict press freedom.[38] He argued that this bill would create distrust between the court and people, increase arbitrariness of judges, create arrogance among the officials of the court. Civil society, legal professionals, human rights activists also protested against this bill. They argued that the bill would affect press freedom and the rights of citizens. After the bill was opposed in all quarters, Constituent Assembly chairperson Subash Chandra Nemwang stated that he would gather public opinion on the bill.[39]

Conclusion

After KP Sharma Oli was elected UML chairperson, it created a wave outside the party as well. Though UML passed commitment proposal on constitution-drafting, his election was seen more as focused on government leadership and bringing complication to the constitution-drafting. There was no progress on the thematic issues of the constitution. Instead of holding discussion among the parties on constitution-drafting among parties in the Constituent Assembly and reaching consensus, major opposition-led Morcha created polarisation and complexity to constitution-drafting. Ill-timed disputes among the parties showed lack of political culture and mismanagement in the name of people. The government showed its undemocratic character by tabling the contempt of court bill with the power of curbing press freedom.

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[35] Press release by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists on July 14, 2014.
[36] Press release by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists on July 15, 2014.
[37] Press release by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists on July 15, 2014.
[38] *Protest note registered against the contempt bill in the parliament*. Retrieved August 2, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/14877/
[39] Budhathoki, Bishnu. *The contempt bill looks like this*. Retrieved August 1, 2014, from http://setopati.com/raajneeti/13420/

Major Political Developments

July 1:

- Meeting of Congress parliamentary party. Criticism of government on its policies and programmes not reflecting the Congess leadership .

July 2:

- UML holds press conference. Announcement of preparation for its ninth general convention ready.
- Meeting of CPN (M) central committee. Discussion on the political reports of chairperson Mohan Vaidya and secretary Netra Bikram Chand.
- Parliament passes the government's policies and programmes.

July 3:

- Ninth general convention of UML begins in the capital. Leaders claim that they would start economic revolution after drafting the constitution. Clashes of the party cadres for not being allowed to enter the convention venue.

July 4:

- Joint meeting of Congress central committee and parliamentary party. proposal passed on the demand for NRS 50 million to each constituency.
- Meeting of UCPN (M) central committee. Criticism of Baburam Bhattarai faction for violating the 8-point terms of reference.
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party leader Lokendra Bahadur Chand applies to the Election Commission claiming he is its chairperson.

July 5:

- Proposal tabled at the UML general convention for amendments of its constitution. Proposal to increase the number of office bearers from present eight to 15.

July 6:

- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee. Discussion on the principled and organisational differences in the party.

July 7:

- Meeting of Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee. Discussion with 12 smaller parties not represented in the Constituent Assembly.

July 8:

- UML general convention passes the political report.

July 9:

- UML general convention passes the proposal on its constitution amendment. Its office bearers will have eight members and central committee will have 159 members.
- The Supreme Court dismisses the writ filled by Constituent Assembly members Janardan Sharma, Sitadevei Yadav, and Amaresh Kumar Singh alleging irregularities during the Constituent Assembly elections.
- Writ filed in the Supreme Court demanding halt to providing of NRS 50 million to each electoral constituency.

July 10:

- Election process begins for election of new chairperson in UML. KP Sharma Oli and Madhav Kumar Nepal register their candidacy.
- Samyukta Morcha formed by UCPN (M), Sanghiya Samajwadi, and Tarai-Madhes-centred parties.

July 11:

- Election to the new leadership in the ninth general convention of UML.
- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee. Formation of a committee under chairperson Pushpa Kamal Dahal to manage thoughts in the party.
- About three dozen Constituent Assembly members belonging to Congress and UML hold a press conference. Warn of not letting the budget pass if NRS 50 million is not allocated to each constituency.

July 12:

- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee. A three-member dispute resolution committee under Barshaman Pun to resolve disputes seen in the districts.
- Extended meeting of CPN (M) central committee. Decision to hold a general convention next year.

July 13:

- Vote counting after the election during the ninth general convention of UML.
- Finance minister Ram Sharan Mahat presents a budget of NRS 618 billion.

July 15:

- KP Sharma Oli elected as chairperson of UML. Commits to move forward by including everyone. Nepal congratulates Oli.

July 17:

- Ninth general convention of UML ends with passing of 33-point proposal.

July 18:

- The Election Commission refuses to recognise Lokendra Bahadur Chand as the chairperson of Rastriya Prajatantra Party.
- Meeting of UML central committee. Separate committees formed study the received suggestions on the political report and amendment proposals on the organisation and constitution.

July 19:

- Meeting of UML parliamentary party. Criticises Congress for trying to run the government on its own.

July 20:

- Meeting of UML parliamentary party decides not to let the budget pass if NRS 50 million is not allocated to each constituency.
- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee protests that the Indian proposals is not in the interest of Nepal.
- CPN (M) urges the government not to sign any unequal treaty and agreements.

July 21:

- Meeting of Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee. Endorses the 11 agreements of the Dispute Resolution Sub-committee of the previous Constituent Assembly.
- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee. Distribution of responsibilities.

July 22:

- Prime Minister Sushil Koirala returns after treatment in the US. The prime minister commits to nominate 26 Constituent Assembly members immediately.
- UML parliamentary leader KP Sharma Oli leaves for Singapore to seek health treatment.

July 24:

- Meeting of legislature-parliament. Constituent Assembly members criticise the government for not informing them of power agreements with India.
- 33 parties including CPN (M) publish protest programmes against the power agreement to be signed with India.
- UCPN (M) forms Constitution Suggestions and Draft Committee under Narayankaji Shrestha to clarify its stance on the constitution.

July 25:

- Meeting of Council of Ministers at the residence of the prime minister at Baluwatar. Focus on the agenda to be discussed during the visit of Indian foreign minister Sushma Sworaj.
- Indian foreign minister Sushma Sworaj in the capital on a 3-day official visit.

July 26:

- Indian foreign minister Sushma Sworaj intensifies political meetings. 26-point agreement between Nepal and India.

July 27:

- Indian foreign minister Sushma Sworaj terms her Nepal visit productive.
- Meeting of Agriculture and Water Resources Committee of the legislature-parliament directs the government not to sign electricity trade agreement with India for the time being.
- Contempt of court bill tabled in the parliament.

July 28:

- Meeting of senior leaders from Congress, UML, and UCPN (M). Decision to raise the issues of national interest during the visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

July 29:

- Meeting of Congress, UML, and UCPN (M). Agreement in principle to sign PTA during the visit of Indian prime minister.
- UML chairperson KP Sharma Oli returns after treatment in Singapore. State the president should be endorsed from the parliament.
- Meeting of Congress parliamentary party suggests the government to move forward bearing in the mind national interests during Modi's Nepal visit.

July 30:

- Meeting of International Committee of legislature-parliament. Foreign minister Mahendra Pandey states preparation for power trade agreement based on consensus.
- Meeting of Constitutional-Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee. A sub-committee formed to identity of the issues of contention except on the issues of state restructuring.
- Meeting of UML office bearers stresses on the power trade agreement between Nepal and India without its sole rights.

July 31:

- All-party meeting in the residence of the prime minister at Baluwatar. Leaders suggest that the 2-day visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi should be in the interest of both countries.
- Meeting of UCPN (M) standing committee and power/energy department. Stress on separate agreement on energy production and energy trade.
- A taskforce of Congress, UML, and UCPN (M) prepares a guideline on the power trade agreement to be signed during the visit of Indian prime minister.