

Big III's final NA lists likely today

Top three parties — the CPN-UML, the Nepali Congress and the CPN-MC — are likely to finalise their candidates for the National Assembly tomorrow.

A meeting of the UML's Standing Committee that went on for more than seven hours finalised its candidates from provinces 5, 6 and 7. UML Secretary Yogesh Bhattarai said the party would select its candidates from provinces 1, 2, 3 and 4 tomorrow.

According to a press release issued by the UML, the party selected Kamala Oli (woman category) of Kailali, Indu Kadariya (woman) of Kanchanpur, Sher Bahadur Kunwar (open category) of Achham and Chakra Prasad Snehi (Dalit) of Dadeldhura as its candidates for the NA election from Province 7. The UML selected Kavita Bogati (woman) of Humla, Nanda Sharma (woman) of Surkhet, Narapati Lohar (Dalit) of Kalikot, Bhairab Sundar Shrestha (open) of Jajarkot and Thagendra Puri (open) of Rukum West from Province 6.

From Province 5, the party selected Ram Lakhani Harijan (Dalit) of West Nawalparasi, Khim Lal Bhattarai (open) of Rupandehi, Meena Budha (woman) of Rolpa and Komal Oli (woman) of Dang.

The Nepali Congress, meanwhile, finalised only four candidates from Province 7 for the National Assembly election today.

Top leaders of the NC selected Badri Prasad Pandey, Tara Devi Bhatta, Chhatra Raj Joshi and Sheri Ram Parki from Province 7, according to Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's Senior Media Expert Govinda Pariyar.

Pariyar said NC leaders would finalise names of other candidates after holding a meeting with the Federal Socialist Forum-Nepal and Rastriya Janata Party-Nepal tomorrow.

Top leaders of the CPN-MC — Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, Narayan Kaji Shrestha and Ram Bahadur Thapa — met here today and decided to finalise 14 candidates out of 72 names recommended by the lower committees.

Ram Bahadur Thapa, Dinesh Sharma, Lilamani Pokharel and Narayan Sharma are among 72 candidates proposed for NA election by the lower committees.

According to a press release issued by Dahal's Private Secretariat, the meeting was also attended by the chiefs of CPN-MC's provincial chapters. Provincial chiefs recommended three names for one NA seat, according to the release. Party sources said some leaders also recommended their spouses. Raj Kumar Sharma, who heads the party's Rukum Coordination Committee, recommended his wife Pratibha KC for NA; CPN-MC's Surkhet in-charge also recommended his wife, Lalita Regmi, for an NA seat. A source added that another politburo member of the CPN-MC had recommended his wife Sabitri Kafle as candidate for NA election. A total of 56 members will be elected to the National Assembly and three members will be nominated by the president on recommendation of the government.

One Dalit and one member from minority community or a differently-abled candidate will be elected from each province. Candidates will have to file their nominations on Wednesday.

Big III's final NA lists likely today

The CPN-UML will file 29 candidates and CPN-MC 14.

Source: The Himalayan Times, 23rd January 2018