Kathmandu, May 3, 2013

The agitating coalition of 33 political parties led by the CPN-Maoist today staged a joint protest in front of the Election Commission (ECN) opposing the upcoming preparation for the second CA election to the Constituent Assembly (CA). They have also demanded that the registration of parties, the voter registration and citizenship distribution process should be brought to a halt immediately. The registration of political parties at the ECN began from April 30, 2013 and altogether 19 parties have already registered so far at the ECN as of the time of the release of this statement.

The sit-in program commenced at around 9:00 am amidst the gathering of party cadres and supporters. Although they blocked the vehicular mobility in Kantipath area till 12 pm, it was generally peaceful and no unpleasant incidences took place in the course of the sit-in.

The 33 parties have come to a decision not to register their parties with the ECN unless the 25-point decree issued by the President to remove the constitutional barriers which led to the Chief Justice-led election government in the country is withdrawn. They have also demanded that the 'highhandedness' of 'handful of political forces' must end and the Chairman of the Interim Election Council (IEC) Khil Raj Regmi must quit opening the space for political dialogues.

The entire event was closely monitored by the officials of NEOC who also interviewed the representatives of the agitating parties about their demands and further activities. NEOC will continue to monitor the pre-election activities across the country, including the ongoing voter registration and citizenship distribution process.

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