

'National independence' top priority in Dahal's proposal

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KATHMANDU: The issue of national independence will get top priority in the Maoist agendas in the days ahead in the wake of growing "Indian interference" in the country. Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal made a political proposal in this regard at the party's politburo meeting on Monday. "The party's strategy will change in the days ahead with the issue of national independence coming into prominence," said Maoist Vice-Chairman Narayankaji Shrestha.

The UCPN (Maoist) had been launching struggle for five main agendas: civilian supremacy, national independence, peace, new constitution and Maoist-led national unity government. Now the issue of national independence has come to the forefront of the Maoist agendas, and the party's move will be the formation of a larger coalition incorporating the leftist, republican and nationalist forces. The party's main slogan will be: "Let's all nationalist and republican forces unite, let's protect the national independence".

The political proposal "An Analytic Proposal on the Current Political Situation" presented by Dahal stressed the need for "national independence" as India has always played a decisive role in forming and toppling of the successive governments in Kathmandu. "The proposal states that a large coalition is the need of the hour to counter the Indian interference in virtually every sector including political and military," said Maoist politburo member Devendra Paudel.

The political proposal also states that the Maoist party should move ahead sincerely for the completion of peace process and constitution writing. "We are for moving ahead committed to completing the peace process and constitution-writing and to stepping up pressure from the people's level to defeat the conspiracy against the peace process and for writing a new constitution from outside the Constituent Assembly," said Shrestha.

The Maoist party will also move ahead while remaining committed to the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army. "We will not let the conspiracy prevail at any cost," Shrestha added.

The Maoist chairman has also concluded that the talks with the ruling coalition did not pay off as the latter wanted the Maoists to be "submissive", dissolve the Maoist army and quit the party's socio-political agenda of change including a forward-looking restructuring of the state.

Maoist leader Top Bahadur Rayamajhi, Krishna Bahadur Mahara and Netra Bikram Chand had commented on Dahal's proposal on Sunday. The politburo meeting will continue Monday. The Maoist chairman's proposal will have to be endorsed by the central committee.