

National Reconstruction Authority issues 28- point manifesto to expedite reconstruction works.

An interaction program between NRA, local representatives and other stakeholders organized on 3rd November 2017 has been concluded issuing 28-point manifesto. They are as following:

Tasks to be performed by NRA:

1. Management of salary and allowance to local level technicians through respective local bodies.
2. Provide data/details of risk prone settlements to the local bodies.
3. Fulfill vacant positions of NRA district secretariats.
4. Award best performing officials and local bodies that are involved in reconstruction.
5. Local bodies shall partner with NRA to fund integrated settlements. The chairperson of local body will facilitate the integrated settlement development program.
6. To revise the Reconstruction Grant Disbursement Procedures to provide grants to those beneficiaries who do not wish to build their house in their current location but inside a Rural Municipality/ Municipality of adjoining district or adjoining Rural Municipality/ Municipality.

Tasks to be performed by banks and financial institutions:

7. Banks should ensure that the cheques received periodically are deposited into beneficiaries' accounts within 2 working days.
8. To request Central Bank of Nepal to establish a focal point to accelerate providing subsidized and interest-free loans based on collateral or group guarantee to the earthquake victims and to make the process efficient as well as address grievances of the victims regarding this by mid July 2018.
9. To request Central Bank of Nepal to provision for the expansion of bank branches in newly formed Rural Municipalities/ Municipalities and make payments to the beneficiaries by transferring their accounts in nearby banks.
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Tasks to be performed by local bodies:

11. Not to obtain fees from the earthquake victims to approve the drawings. To process the approval of drawings by the local engineers and end additional obligations for earthquake victims. Local bodies should complete the approval process within 3 working days if beneficiaries select from the approved designs and within 7 working days if they opt for new designs. Ensure that the National Building Code is followed for earthquake resistance while approving the designs.
12. To develop guidelines/procedures to ease the supply of construction materials such as stones, aggregates and sand available locally for the reconstruction of private houses. The local body shall determine cost estimation of materials required for reconstruction. If construction materials are not available locally, then coordinate with neighboring local bodies to supply necessary items at subsidized rate.
13. To provision for the local body to set up portable saw mill in order to ease wood supply.
14. Selection of construction trainers shall be done by the local bodies while avoiding any duplication. NRA will prepare a directory of trained human resources and distribute it to the local bodies as well as make it public. NRA and DLPIUs shall provide trainers as well as technical human resources necessary for trainings. Prepare a roster of locally trained human resources.
15. In case of houses that were built without obtaining approval for drawings, to check and ensure that the house is earthquake resistant and complete the approval process; and houses that are non-compliant shall be recommended for retrofitting or corrections as suggested by technicians after which the local body shall complete the approval process.

16. NGOs that have tripartite agreement with NRA and line ministries shall implement programs by coordinating with the local bodies. NRA shall take into account recommendations from the local bodies while making agreement with the NGOs. Local bodies shall also monitor the activities of NGOs.
17. Except for those grievances recorded previously in the NRA central database, all the grievances shall now be addressed by local bodies as provisioned by the Grievances Management Procedures.
18. Local bodies should recommend merger of schools with insufficient students before starting the reconstruction of school/s and recommend for reconstruction of those merged school/s to the Ministry of Education CLPIU.
19. Except for the national, provincial and strategic roads, the local bodies shall have the authority to determine the right of way.
20. To provide support in establishing inventory depots of necessary construction materials at the local level, facilitating bulk purchases and managing transportation of materials.
21. It is mandatory for the local bodies to manage office for technical officials deployed at local level as well as facilitate in finding residence.
22. With regards to beneficiaries who have already reconstructed their houses, to provision tranche disbursement for those houses where corrective measures, as suggested by technicians deployed at the local level, have been applied.
23. To expand reconstruction MIS at the local levels.
24. To establish reconstruction focal point at the local levels.

Tasks to be performed by sectoral ministries

25. To revise/amend existing procedures so that the Ministry of Forest and Land Conservation can ensure obstacle-free supply of wood for the reconstruction of earthquake affected individuals/households. In doing so, to ensure obstacle-free transportation of wood owned by the earthquake victim's family in other districts that would be delivered by their relatives.
26. MoUD CLPIU to recommend alternative construction materials.
27. Ministry of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation to provide measures of solutions for areas with water scarcity required for construction.
28. To maintain continuous coordination between NRA and local federations to facilitate NRA in reconstruction, provide recommendations and suggestions, and motivate local bodies.