

► **Unification Of UCPN (M) With Baidya Still Remote**

KATHMANDU, May 14 [2014]: Even though the UCPN(Maoist) and its breakaway faction CPN-Maoist have both been making overtures for party unification since the past few weeks, there is no immediate possibility of unification, party insiders and analysts say.

The major hurdles that remain in the path of unification, according to them, include differing views over the CA, their respective political lines and the new party's immediate course ahead.

While the UCPN (Maoist) has a policy of promulgating the new statute through the newly-elected CA, the CPN-Maoist, which boycotted the CA poll held on November 19, 2013, has remained averse to the idea. CPN-Maoist has instead demanded the promulgation of the new statute through an all-party convention.

Also, the two parties differ sharply over whether to go for a socialist revolution or a "people's revolution" to achieve their political goal.



The UCPN (Maoist) at its seventh general assembly passed the political line of launching a socialist revolution while fulfilling the remaining tasks of a capitalist revolution. But the CPN-Maoist, while arguing that the people's revolution itself is yet to be completed, has stressed the need to continue with the people's movement.

Unification is possible only when both parties share similar political ideology. But since they have renounced the path of

people's revolution through the Hetauda convention, there is no immediate possibility of unification,' said CPN-Maoist Secretary Dev Gurung.

Gurung said the UCPN (Maoist) first needs to quit the CA if there is to be unification with his party, since there is no possibility of drafting a progressive constitution from the current CA.

Echoing Gurung, UCPN (Maoist) Spokesperson Dina Nath Sharma admitted that unification between the two parties is still distant. 'Unification is not possible overnight. Though we have announced we are to expedite the unification process, we are yet to hold discussions on the specific agenda for unification,' he told Republica.

Earlier, the CPN-Maoist had floated a six-point condition to the UCPN (Maoist) for party unification. These points included adopting Marxism, Leninism and Maoism as guiding principles of the party, accepting new democratic revolution as the political line, rejecting parliamentarianism and reviewing the party's history to correct the mistakes and weaknesses of the past.

The CPN-Maoist has also demanded that the UCPN (Maoist) be ready to accept the role of force to bring about social revolution and change and to mobilize the party organization in the spirit of democratic centralism.

While the CPN-Maoist has termed these conditions their "bottomline" for party unification, the UCPN (Maoist) is not ready to meet all the demands. It is not necessary to fulfill all their conditions. We may also have our own conditions when talks are held for unification,' Sharma said.

While the national conclave of the UCPN (Maoist) that concluded last week in Biratnagar adopted a policy of seeking close ties with the breakaway faction of the party, the CPN-Maoist had floated the six-point condition for unity last week, apparently under pressure from party leaders and cadres. 'Though some objective grounds have been created for the unification of the two parties, there has not been a political environment to facilitate the process,' argued CPN-Maoist politburo member Khadga Bishwakarma.

The objective grounds are ready, according to Bishwakarma, as both parties are now reduced in size and their political agenda are gradually falling onto the backburner. Among other things, both the general public and the revolutionary forces have not taken the party split in a positive light.

Analysts see unification between the two parties as likely at least for now. 'Though both the parties could change their political lines, the UCPN (Maoist) is not in a position to abandon the CA as demanded by the CPN-Maoist. This, I think, will stand as the main hindrance to their unification,' argued political analyst Mumaram Khanal.

Khanal said even if there is unification between the two parties, Dr Baburam Bhattarai and his faithful from the UCPN (Maoist) and the Netra Bikram Chanda faction of the CPN-Maoist will stay away from the process.

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