

To: Louise, Kaare, Meera, Gaylord, Chela, Paula, Nicky, Edwina, Jenny, Laurie, Anne, Tracy, Mary Ann, Hemant, Dorothy, Susanne, Sashank, Penny & Lee, Cindy, Marji, Sarita, Janaki, Riva
From: Rita
Date: 31 August, 2011
Subject: Sampanna Campaign Update – August, 2011

Nepal Now:



A Cultural Day During the Campaign!

I spoke too early regarding not having “bandhs” or strike the past month, because the whole month was interspersed with strike days¹ for all sorts of reasons, but throughout the country there were days long closures, which affected significantly our campaign especially the district peace rallies. Inflation further soared with the hike in kerosene and diesel prices and the beginning of the festival seasons. The women activists had little cultural, religious or traditional celebrations, as they stuck to the campaign working around the clock. The Signature campaign for citizenship rights among other things held a meeting at the Women’s Commission, went rallying at the demonstration venue, and invited the elders and key known activists at home. We also travelled to 3

¹ On 12 August the families/kins/community of a student Rozi Maharjan who was murdered by design by her ex-boy friend brought Lalitpur district in the valley to a stand still – and all of us walked to the office in a very volatile and a charged environment.

districts and conducted cluster workshops with the activists from over 60 districts to brief, strategize and prepare for a countrywide peace rally. A 12 hour-long hunger strike began 18 August until 29 August. District peace rallies began on 22 August starting from Ilam in the Eastern hills, and Dadeldhara in the Far Western hills. Over 100 district level participants came from far and near, they represented 23 districts, and 13 organizations of who many were associated with broader networks. With the announcement of the new Prime Minister, and the announcement of the further three months extension of the constituent assembly, we decided to bring a closure to the 4.5 months long “women’s collective campaign for the constituent assembly & peace”.



An Open Assembly, After the Peace Rallies From the West & East Nepal Converged in Kathmandu!

Moving the Campaign:

This month two pledges of \$ 1500 each came from Lynne Brennen from Toronto, and Marjan Sax in Amsterdam. We also now have Riva Thapa who many of you know as my daughter and others as an active fund-raiser for Tewa, step in as a durga thus completing the **Nava Durgas** of nine goddesses! We have seven durgas located in the global north and the other two, **Riva durga** and **Janaki durga** are based in Nepal.

This month Meera and Rita met for a financial situation update and planning. This meeting was enlightening because after almost 3.5 months of work Meera could share the financial situation of the TLBDP. We now know that after clearing off all the backlog of approximately 60 lacs to the contractors, the Sampanna Campaign has approximately \$ 100,000 in cash and pledges. At the request made by Meera & Rita, the contractors affirmed that they could finish the entire infrastructures and remaining landscaping within the middle of 2012. An estimated budget for the completion of

this work is \$ 300,000. We tentatively have \$ 100,000 in cash and pledges, we hope to raise another \$100,000 by that time from within Nepal, and for \$100,000 we are appealing to the durgas based in the global north. However we need support from all of you! The logic of completing this work a year earlier has significant cost implications – one, yes we must ensure the money is there but on the other side this will also help us save at least 25% of the building costs thus completing this work earlier is to our advantage. I also had an energizing skype meeting with Louise durga, and at her suggestion have written an appeal letter to the durgas based in the global north.

The fund-raising aspects of this current need, both internationally and locally is challenging. But we have embarked on a journey and I personally feel that we will have to face the emerging challenges as well as make the most of every opportunity we can find

Update on Building/s:



The Blue Flags Flutter “Philanthropy for Equitable justice & Peace” Along Side the Rental Block.

Finally, Tewa also installed flags in its compound for messages as well as visibility! During this month, I had an opportunity to influence the Ministry of Peace & Reconstruction (MoPR), and other supporting donor agencies to use the facilities to the extent possible, available with women’s organizations rather than big hotels, for workshops and meetings. They have agreed I feel this was a breakthrough and will go a long way as Tewa begins to make better use of its infrastructures with the completion of its dormitory. Work with the dormitory building is going well and it is expected the casting for the second and the final floor for the dormitory, will take

place at the end of September 2011. As said earlier we are now aiming to finish most of the building work with the remaining landscaping before the middle of 2012.



Columns for the Dormitory Second Floor!

Financial Aspects of Sampanna:

Finally all accounts are now updated for the TLBDP! Thanks to Meera and responsible Tewa colleagues. She is now a joint signatory in all TLBDP accounts. Meera updates us that she has paid all the backlog invoices amounting to over \$80,000 dollars to the contractors. We have another \$100,000 in cash and pledges. We need to raise at least another \$ 200,000 to ensure that we can finish just the remaining building work also with the remaining landscaping. We hope to raise \$100,000 from within Nepal, and have made a plea to our **global north based durgas** to help us in raising the \$100,000 we badly need by the middle of 2012.

However as you can imagine, we need a lot more money as per our SC goals for all the other things like furnishings and furbishing, generator, solar systems, lift, and all the many other things to ensure we can run this place effectively and efficiently.

Conclusions:

What a month this has been! Meeting with women from all over the country and working together for peace and for ensuring that we get a women-friendly constitution on time so that Nepal can be stable and move for the progress of its people. Many of the women who came, visited Tewa and they have been so inspired, to mobilize local resources, support women's work and activism, and work collectively. I invite you yourselves to visit Tewa if you can, during March 2012 or March 2013. But please help us NOW to meet our immediate needs, and the long-term goals for the TLBDP!