



AMERICA NEPAL
MEDICAL
FOUNDATION
Advancing Healthcare in Nepal

ANMF Emergency Board Meeting

May 16, 2021, Sunday

Meeting Logistics			
Meeting Date	May 16, 2021	Time	9 PM to 11 PM EST
Chair/Facilitator	Bhupesh Khadka	Prepared by	Sandesh Pandit
Purpose:	Emergency Board Meeting re: Oxygen plants procurement		
Location:	Online-ZOOM		

Participants		
Anil Suwal-P	Jivan Lamichhane-P	Santosh Sapkota-P
Bhupesh Khadka-P	Ganesh Chaudhary-P Sandesh Pandit- P	Subodh Mallik-E
Binod Dhungana-E	Julia Shepardson-P	Sunil Sharma-P
Binod Khadka-P	Kalpana Shrestha-P	Raju Century- E
Bishnu Sapkota-P	Libby Wilson-P	Dixa Dhital- P
Chandra Prakash Chataut-E	Marvin Brustin-E	E - Excused P - Present A – Absent
Dinesh Subedi-P	Shambhu Aryal- E	
Dick Katzman-E	Prakash Thapaliya-P	

Minutes of ANMF Emergency Board Meeting on 5/16/2021

This is a follow up meeting from yesterday and board is expecting two guest speakers

1. Madan Uprety - President, MRN
2. Ashok Oli - General Secretary, MRN

The board members voiced the issues conflicting with bylaws about sending funds to other nonprofit based in the USA.

Around 9:30 EST, the board welcomed the two members.

Dr. Uprety's remarks

Dr Uprety updated that he has secured about 1.2-1.3 million USD so far in Nepal for the proposed oxygen plants procurement project. The partners in Nepal include Jyoti group, Golcha group, Batas group, Jagadamba group, IPAN, Shesh Ghale etc., to name a few. The donors will not control the allocation of the plants.

Negotiation has been going on with Nepal and French governments regarding transportation. There has been communication going on with private groups as well. The worst case scenario is we might have to chip in for the transportation as well. Sooner the procurement is done, better for us. Single party dealing with the purchaser might be better for the delivery chain.

The size of the plane will determine the number of the plants that can be transported but there is the benefit of economy of scale to transport more. Cargo will include the plant as well as a high pressure cylinder filling system as well.

Ashok mentioned his discussion with the vendor from that morning that the vendors were asking for 11 plants but would prefer one signatory person responsible for the entire procurement and this would be a better way rather than breaking it down as two buyers.

Discussion around the payment

The board came up with the following ideas around the payment.

Option 1. ANMF USA pays to the French manufacturer directly. ANMF has worked with these manufacturers and vendors before.

Option 2. ANMF USA will transfer the fund to ANMF Nepal. MRN will collect the funds for all its donors. Manufacturers can expect two sources of funding - one from ANMF/Nepal for 2 plants and one from MRN for the remaining 8-10 plants. ANMF will also be billed for transportation of the two plants

Option 3 - ANMF USA will transfer the funds to ANMF Nepal. MRN will collect the funds for all its donors including ANMF/Nepal and proceed with one consignment. For most board members, this will be the cleanest way of doing the transaction for ANMF/USA, as well as for MRN.

Dr Uprety mentioned he is willing to use his personal money to put 50% down to secure the procurement if needed as long as he is sure about the pledged amount in Nepal as time is really of essence. The new deadline for the payment is now the 18th of this month.

ANMF expressed commitment for two plants at this time.

We might need to proceed with the payment as early as tomorrow. We also need to start working on the MOU as well.

Discussion around the allocation of the plants

Vigorous discussion took place around the above topic. As far as allocation he expects ANMF Nepal, Bhagwan Koirala, Arun Kunwar will be involved in the decision for the allocation. Priority is for the government hospitals in Nepal. This needs more meticulous discussion and input from the Nepal side. ANMF bylaws guide to work strictly with non profit.

Contingency plan

Dr. Uprety is in touch with another German and French company that he might be able to explore if this project fails to materialize.

Takeaway from MRN representatives about the meeting

The general secretary Ashok Oli emailed following as his takeaway from the discussion-

“It was nice seeing everyone last night. While I understand that there is an urgency and emotions to resolve the crisis in Nepal, it is equally important to preserve the reputation that both organizations have built for the last decades. It takes many years to build it and just one mistake to ruin it , so we need to be careful esp. when various parties are involved. It is extremely important that we all communicate as a group and not as an individual to preserve our transparency framework.

I would suggest Bhupesh ji and Madan Upreti Ji to forward all one on one texts and emails to this group. I will review them and start creating a trail of our communications. I would further suggest both of you to avoid using private text messaging and one on one calls to discuss this project. My goal is to protect the integrity of everyone involved in this project/ program, so I will appreciate everyone’s cooperation.

As an action item for me, I will come up with rules of the road for this joint committee which we all will need to follow while working on this program/project. I will forward it to you when ready so that you can review and provide feedback.

We all are on this together, so let's give the best that we can give from all levels.”