

Press Release:

Swiss Assistance for Provincial Support Programme for Province one in Nepal.

The Government of Switzerland has agreed to provide a grant of **9.3** million Swiss Francs (equivalent to around NRs. 1 billion) to the Government of Nepal (GoN) for Provincial Support Programme (PSP), Phase I for the next four years.

A bilateral agreement was signed and exchanged on 17th January, 2020 in Biratnagar between Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal, Joint –Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Her Excellency, Ms. Elisabeth von Capeller, Ambassador of Switzerland for Nepal, on behalf of their respective governments, in the presence of honorable Finance Minister Dr. Yubaraj Khatiwada and honorable Chief Minister Mr. Sherdhan Rai.

The programme is anchored at the Province level and is first of its kind. The programme is expected to set a milestone in the implementation of the Constitution.

The programme will be effective from 1st February 2020. The Province 1 government will contribute NRs. 200 million to the programme.

The Office of the Chief Minister and Council of Ministers (OCMCM) of Province 1 will be the implementing agency. The fund will be disbursed as a conditional grant through the federal government. It aims to enhance the capacity of province 1 government in delivering effective and efficient development services to citizens and encourage collaboration between all spheres of government.

The Government of Nepal has expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the grant assistance to build the capacity of the provincial and local governments as well as its continued support in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

Ministry of Finance and Embassy of Switzerland in Nepal
Biratnagar, Nepal
17 January 2019