

Implementing new constitution challenging, says Nepal's finance minister

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Kathmandu: Implementing Nepal's new constitution will be a challenging task, Finance Minister and Nepali Congress leader Ram Sharan Mahat has said.

Addressing an event in Pokhara on Monday, Mahat said the newly-promulgated constitution was the "most progressive, excellent and inclusive in Asia", The Himalayan Times on Tuesday quoted him as saying.

Nepal on September 20 adopted the new constitution, the first full-fledged one in the Himalayan nation after it became a democratic republic in 2008.

A federal and secular Nepal will have seven provinces, each with its own legislature, according to the new constitution. It was endorsed by over 90 percent in the Constituent Assembly.

Mahat admitted that there were challenges in distributing economic and social rights among the seven provinces.

Stating that a financially feeble country would have a hard time managing expenses for seven states, national unity was a must to settle disputes and difficulties in the federal model.

He requested the Madhes-based parties and others opposed to the new constitution to discuss their differences.

"It is natural to have some dissatisfaction. No country in the world has made a constitution with 100 percent people's participation. And we can amend the statute to address the discontent," Mahat added.

- PTI