

CPN-Maoist to gear up for ‘urban revolt’

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The first central committee meeting of the CPN-Maoist after its seventh general convention has decided to expedite preparations for an ‘urban revolt.’

The party has set up local structures accordingly and asked cadres to make preparations for an urban revolt by concentrating on areas near the major cities. The nine-day central committee meeting that ended on Tuesday also agreed to transform the party’s youth wing, the National Volunteers, into a military wing, though it has decided to keep the decision a “secret.”

The general convention of the breakaway Maoist party ended on January 16 by adopting the line of ‘people’s revolt on the foundations of the people’s war.’ Cadres had highlighted the need for the revival of conflict-era structures, including the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) to complete the ‘outstanding revolution’ and transform the country into a ‘people’s republic.’

The central committee has decided that ‘urban revolt’ will be the party’s top priority, a leader told the Post on Tuesday, adding that organisational structure and cadre mobilisation have been planned as per the policy. “In the first phase, we will expose traitors, mafias, smugglers and corrupts. Cadres will concentrate on city areas under this campaign,” the leader said.

Source claimed that the party could even get back to preparing for an armed struggle if the state suppresses the party’s campaigns against ‘political and social malpractices.’ The central committee has kept open the option to return to armed struggle, the leader claimed.

CPN-M has identified key places like Biratnagar, Kathmandu, Pokhara and Nepalgunj as centres and decided to ask cadres to concentrate on areas near these cities for the upcoming protests. The party has asked Secretary Netra Bikram Chand to look into the mobilisation of cadres for the struggle.

Sources claimed that Chand has been asked to head the military preparations for the struggle too, while other leaders, including former PLA commander Kul Prasad KC, Anil Sharma and Dilip Prajapati, would assist in the preparations.

The party has formed five bureaus to mobilise cadres in cities for the nationwide agitation programmes. It has given the eastern command to Khadga Bahadur Bishwokarma, the western command to Indra Mohan Sigdel, mid command to General Secretary Ram Bahadur Thapa, far western command to Dharmendra Banstola and the foreign bureau to Vice Chairman CP Gajurel.

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