

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD WEATHERILL DL



I have great pleasure in introducing this Commentary on the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990, because I feel sure that it will make a valuable contribution to the development of constitutional law and practice throughout the country.

The restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1990, after 40 years of experimentation with constitutionalism, was a defining moment in the history of the nation, and the promulgation of the new Constitution before the end of that year did much to consolidate that democracy and the rule of law. Whilst the passage along the democratic path that was laid in 1990 has not always been smooth, the fact that institutions and norms established then have survived and taken root is a testament to the spirit of the Nepali people.

The coming years will throw up more challenges than the ones that have been overcome since 1990. Meeting those challenges in the future, as in the past, will not always be easy, but they must be met, and faced, with the same courage and determination which has characterised Nepal's recent constitutional history. Governments will need to combine leadership with flexibility; political parties will need to show courage and maturity, and, above all, individual citizens will need to have patience and faith in democratic processes. Having witnessed the strength of character of the Nepali people for myself during my most recent visit in September 1997, I feel confident that no challenge to democracy will prove too great for the nation as a whole to overcome.

The analysis provided in this timely Commentary will be a useful tool for helping to meet those challenges. Its grasp of the context in which the Constitution operates, and its insights into that operation, will be invaluable to anybody wishing to understand the issues involved in any Constitutional question. I hope that it will quickly establish itself as a standard reference work for parliamentarians, for judges and for anybody with an interest in constitutional practice in Nepal.

*Bernard Weatherill*

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