

Nepal Supreme Court removes deputy PM over citizenship

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The Daily Morning Voice Online Desk: Nepal's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that Deputy Prime Minister Rabi Lamichhane had stood for election with invalid citizenship papers, annulling his status as a lawmaker and effectively removing him from office, Reuters reports. Lamichhane became deputy prime minister for home affairs – heading the ministry that oversees identity cards – in a seven-party alliance that took power last month.

In its ruling on Friday, a five-member constitutional bench of the top court said the 48-year-old had contested November elections on an invalid citizenship certificate after abandoning his US citizenship. “He loses his ministerial position and there will be a by-election in his constituency,” Lamichhane’s lawyer Sunil Pokhrel. The departure of the minister was unlikely to affect the future of the ruling alliance, political analyst Krishna Khanal said.

Lamichhane, who hosted a popular television show before entering politics, could not be immediately reached for comment. Pokhrel said Lamichhane will now seek to get a regular citizenship card and contest the by-election from the same constituency in south Nepal.