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## Airport workers in Kathmandu get bribe-proof garmet Nepal fights bribery with pocketless pants



The CIAA in Nepal ordered pocketless trousers in airports

KATHMANDU (AFP)

Nepal's anti-corruption authority has come up with a novel solution to rampant bribe-taking at the country's only international airport -- pocketless pants.

The authority said it was issuing the new, bribe-proof garment to all airport officials after uncovering widespread corruption at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport.

"We sent a team to observe the growing complaints about the behavior of airport authorities and workers towards travelers and we discovered that the reports were true," said Ishwori Prasad Paudyal, spokesman for the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA).

"So we decided that airport officials should be given trousers with no pockets. We have directed the ministry of civil aviation to implement our order as soon as possible," he told AFP.

"We believe this will help curb the irregularities."

Paudyal said CIAA investigators had observed theft as well as bribe-taking by airport officials, who would lose their jobs if the situation did not improve.

His comments came a day after Nepal's new Prime Minister Madhav Mumar Nepal expressed fears that corruption was tarnishing the airport's reputation.

Nepal's tourism industry employs around 320,200 people in one of the world's poorest countries.

The landlocked Himalayan nation attracted a record 550,200 foreign visitors in 2008, two years after a peace deal that ended the decade-long Maoist insurgency.

