

With the conclusion of the 87<sup>th</sup> session of the National Assembly, the country will now embark on the formal process towards a democratic constitutional monarchy. In order to encourage early formation of political parties and declaration of interest by candidates, the timeline for elections to the two houses of Parliament must be announced.

The poll date for elections to the National Council will be in December 2007. The poll date for the Primary Round of the National Assembly elections will be in February 2008. The poll date for the General Elections to the National Assembly will be in March 2008.

A successful democracy will ensure that Bhutan's future will be forever secure and that the aspirations of the people will always be fulfilled. We, the citizens of Bhutan must all unite in ensuring the success of these democratization efforts – this is our shared responsibility. Therefore, all Bhutanese who have the desire, qualifications and skills to serve the country through the political process, must come forward today.

It is hereby decreed that the Election Commission of Bhutan shall conduct the elections to the National Council and the National Assembly as per the provisions of the Draft Constitution, Electoral Bills, Rules and Regulations.

Issued on the Fifteenth Day of the Fifth Month of the Female Fire Hog Year corresponding to the Thirtieth Day of the Month of June of the Year 2007.

**HM The Druk Gyalpo**