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# ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

*(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)*



ECB/NOTIF-01/2013/608

Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2013

## NOTIFICATION

### **Bye-Election to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag**

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in obedience to the Royal Decree of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo Issued on **7<sup>th</sup> of October 2013** Calling the Bye-Election to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* under Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag and in pursuance to Sections 577 and 579 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, notifies the Election Schedule for the *Bye-Election* and the details concerning the Nomination of Candidates, Electoral Roll, EVMs, Polling Stations, Polling Officials, Polling Management, Security and other arrangements as follows:

#### **(A) Election Schedule**

1. The Schedule of Dates and time for the *Bye-Election* to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* shall be as follows:

**Table 1: Election Schedule**

Sl. No.	Event	Date
1	Issue of Royal Decree Calling the Bye-Election	<b>Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2013</b>
2	ECB Notification on the Bye- Election Schedule	<b>Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2013</b>
3	Eligible Postal Voters to initiate application for the Postal Ballot to the Returning Officer	
4	Last date for Filing of Nominations by Candidates	<b>Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2013</b>
5	Scrutiny of Nominations of Candidates	<b>Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2013</b>
6	Start of Application for Election Campaign Fund by Candidates	
7	Commencement of the Election Campaign	
8	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature	<b>Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2013</b>
9	Returning Officer to start sending Postal Ballot	
10	Last date/ time for receipt of Application for Postal Ballots by Returning Officer	<b>9 a.m. Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>
11	End of Election Campaign	
12	Last day/ time for receiving Postal Ballots	<b>5 p.m. Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>

13	<b>Poll Day Counting of Results</b>	<b>Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>
14	Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo	<b>Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>
15	Start of Election Petition Period	
16	Issuance of the Certificate of Election	<b>Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>
17	Completion of Election Petition Period	<b>Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2013</b>

**(B) Filing of Nomination Papers by Candidates**

2. The Nomination Papers shall be submitted by a Candidate nominated to contest the Bye-Election with the last date for filing nominations on **Sunday, the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2013**.
  
3. The Nomination Papers must be complete, signed and countersigned as required and include the following prescribed Forms:
  - 3.1. **Returning Officer Form No. 5A:** Nomination Paper for Candidate Contesting National Assembly Bye-Election with the necessary attachments;
  - 3.2. **Returning Officer Form No. 6:** Notice of Endorsement of Nomination of the Candidate for Bye-Election to Nanong\_Shumar National Assembly Demkhong;
  - 3.3. **Returning Officer Form No. 7 - General (G10) Affidavit of Candidate (Election):** Affidavit from a Royal Court of Justice including Non-Criminal Conviction Record-Cum-Clearance from the respective Court of Law that he/she has not been accused of felony in a pending case, taken cognisance by a Court of Law and charges framed;
  - 3.4. Asset Declaration Form No. 3;
  - 3.5. Tax Clearance Certificate;
  - 3.6. Audit Clearance Certificate;
  - 3.7. Security Clearance (for Elections);
  - 3.8. Marriage Certificate, if married;
  - 3.9. Letter of Attestation from the Royal University of Bhutan, endorsing the Formal University Degree Certificate; and
  - 3.10. Relieving order issued by Head of the Ministry/ Department/Agency (if relevant).
  
4. The Drangpon of the Dzongkhag Court of Justice, signing the Affidavit, shall also be responsible to check from the Court records that the aspiring Candidate has not been convicted and received a sentence of imprisonment or does not have a pending criminal case registered against him/her in any Court of Law as required under the Electoral Laws.

5. A Candidate eligible to contest this Bye-Election shall have to be a registered Member of the Ruling or Opposition Party before the Election Period of the Bye-Election as provided under Section 209(b) of the Election Act 2008 i.e. before **Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013.**

**(C) Scrutiny of Nominations**

6. The Returning Officer shall undertake the scrutiny of the Nomination Papers filed by the Candidates under intimation to the Election Commission.
7. The cross-checking of Asset Declarations shall be in line with the *Strategy for Evaluation of the Asset Declaration of the Candidates Contesting Elections, 2012* and the *Guidelines for Implementation of Sections 163-174 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 relating to Office of Profit, 2012* issued by the Election Commission.
8. The screenshot (webpage) displaying the approved status of the Security Clearance, specified for election purposes, can be printed out and filed to the Returning Officer at the time of submission of Nomination Papers.
9. Audit Clearance may be obtained as per the system put in place by the Royal Audit Authority and the print-out copy submitted at the time of submission of Nomination Papers.
10. The attestation of the Formal University Degree shall be as per the *Guidelines for Interpretation and Implementation of Sections 176 (d), 177 (d) and 178 (d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 regarding the Academic Qualification Requirement for a Candidate contesting Elections to National Assembly, National Council or the Post of Thrompon, 2012.*

However, Candidate whose Nomination had been duly accepted by the Returning Officer for the First Parliamentary Elections need not produce it unless specifically instructed by an election authority.

**(D) Last Date for Withdrawal of Candidature**

11. The last date for withdrawal of candidature shall be **5 p.m. on Wednesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2013** as per Section 225 of the *Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.*

**(E) Demkhong**

12. The details of the *Demkhong* in which the Bye-Election is called is as follows:

**Table 2: Details of *Demkhong* and Returning Officer**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Dzongkhag</b>	<b>National Assembly <i>Demkhong</i></b>	<b><i>Gewogs/ Thromde</i></b>	<b>Details of the Returning Officer</b>
1	Pema GatsHEL	Nanong_ Shumar	Nanong	Sonam Bumtap <i>Mobile No.:</i> 17908817 <i>Email Address:</i> nanongshumar@gmail.com
			Shumar	
			Zobel	
			<i>Dzongkhag Thromde</i>	

**(F) Electoral Roll**

13. The Qualifying Date shall, in relation to the Electoral Roll for the *Bye-Election* to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong*, be the **1<sup>st</sup> of October 2013**. Therefore, any person who attains the age of eighteen years on **1<sup>st</sup> of October 2013** shall be deemed to meet the minimum age requirement as a Voter under the Electoral Laws.
14. A Registered Voter who is born **after 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1948** and **before 30<sup>th</sup> of September 1988** shall be deemed to meet the minimum and maximum age requirement for nomination as a Candidate for this Bye-Election.
15. Similarly, those voters whose *Mitsi* had been registered in the *Demkhong* on or before **30<sup>th</sup> of September 2012** shall be deemed to meet the durational requirement to be a Voter or Candidate.
16. No changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll for the *Bye-Election* to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* after **Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2013**, thirty days before the date of Poll. However, the Dzongkhag Election Office, Pema GatsHEL shall continue to distribute the Voter Photo Identity Cards (VPIC) to those who were unable to collect it earlier even up to the Poll Day.
17. The Final Electoral Roll shall be published and provided to the Returning Officer by **Tuesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2013** and the Candidates will be given their copies on **Thursday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2013**.

**(G) Election Code of Conduct**

18. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force from **Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2013** until the completion of the Election Period i.e. till the declaration of the Bye-Election Results on **Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2013**.
19. All election officers, Candidates and voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

20. All electoral stakeholders may use the social media for election or campaign purposes but shall ensure to abide generally by the Electoral Laws, Election Code of Conduct and specifically adhere to the requirements under the *Social Media Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.

**(H) Election Campaign**

21. A Candidate may proceed with the Election Campaign upon the receipt of the acceptance of his/her candidature by the Returning Officer.
22. A Candidate shall conduct the campaign as per the Election Campaign Schedule approved by the Returning Officer and copy endorsed to the Observer.
23. The election campaign shall be conducted strictly as per the Electoral Laws and in particular the election campaign shall be conducted only by the representatives authorized by the Returning Officer including the respective Party Coordinator for each *Chiwog, Gewog, Demkhong* and *Dzongkhag* besides the accepted Candidates as per Section 7.7 of the *Political Party Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.
24. All those under the laws not eligible to campaign for or against a Candidate or a Party in an election, including all elected position holders in the Local Government, shall ensure that they do not engage directly or indirectly in the election campaigns.

***Common Forum for Public Address by Candidates***

25. The Returning Officer, in consultation with the Chief Election Coordinator and Security Coordinator shall arrange Common Forum in the *Gewogs and Dzongkhag Thromde*, to provide the contesting Candidates equal opportunity to address the electorate while reducing the necessity to call for public meetings in the *Gewog* or *Dzongkhag Thromde* by each Candidate separately thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions.
26. The Common Forum shall be organised as per the *Guidelines for the Conduct of the Common Forum for Election Campaign, 2013*.

***Any other public meetings, door-to-door campaigns or rallies***

27. Any additional public meeting, door-to-door campaign or rallies shall be subject to the provisions of the law, Code of Conduct and as per the campaign schedule and use of vehicles as approved by the Returning Officer.
28. A door-to-door election campaign shall not be conducted **after 8 p.m.** and **before 7 a.m.**

***Abnormal Financial Transaction***

29. All Banks or financial institutions shall be responsible to report to the Election Commission any abnormal transaction of money, including in the account of a Candidate contesting the Election.

***No Freebies***

30. A Candidate, Party and all concerned shall neither serve meals or refreshments, nor pay, gift or reward the general public or voters for attendance of election campaigns or produce, wear and distribute T-shirts and caps.

***Past Attributes or Past Achievements***

31. A Candidate, Government or Non-Governmental authority, Organisation or any individual shall not screen any audiovisual products or documentary clips or display/distribute any written or pictorial materials which attribute or depict the past achievements of a particular aspiring Candidate whilst in Government or public service or otherwise, including the portrayal of a Candidate in any audiovisual product.

***No Travels or Official Tours by a Member of Parliament***

32. No travels or official tours shall be undertaken by any Member of Parliament or Party official to the *Demkhong* during Election Period except for a purpose that cannot wait under the Laws but only with prior approval of the Returning Officer.

***Party Functionaries***

33. A Party Worker of a registered Political Party designated to carry out election campaign duties must be called at all times “*Leyjepa*” or “*Jabchorpa*” **not** “*Tshogpa*” in Dzongkha as notified by the Election Commission of Bhutan vide its Notification No.: ECB/CEC-Notif/2013/4069 dated 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2013.

In the case of this Bye-Election, each Party shall have not more than a total of 20 local “*Leyjepa*” or “*Jabchorpa*” engaged in the election campaign which may include upto:

- (1) One for the *Dzongkhag*;
  - (2) One for the *Demkhong*;
  - (3) One each for the 3 *Gewogs* of Nanong, Shumar and Zobel; and
  - (4) One each in the total 15 *Chiwogs* (5 in each *Gewog*).
34. A Party, Candidate or authorised Representative during the Bye-Election shall carry out all election Campaign activities only upon obtaining Permit from the Returning Officer.

35. A Party Worker or supporters appointed by a Candidate or a Party to carry our Election Campaign activity must bear in person two identity cards; one issued by his/her Party and the other by the Returning Officer.
36. Any unauthorised person carrying out election campaign activities must be reported to an election officer or election security on duty to be prosecuted for violation of Electoral Laws.

***Conduct of Representatives or Supporters***

37. A Candidate shall be liable for all acts of commission and omission of their election representatives and *Leyjepa/Jabchorpa* which may include any interference in the conduct of lawful electoral works and/or disturbing peace and order undermining free and fair election.

***No Usage of Title, Sign, Insignia or Symbol***

38. No person shall use the title, designation, rank, *kabney*, *pata*, or any other sign, insignia or symbol of an office held earlier, on person, car or any personal effects as may be used during the campaign period by the Candidate, representatives or supporters.
39. The Office of the Returning Officer and venue of the election events shall be, as far as possible, at locations that do not require the wearing of the *kabney* and *pata*.

***Prohibition on Election Campaign 48 hours Before Poll***

40. Election Campaign must stop 48 hours before the hour fixed for commencement of Poll.

***Election Campaign Finance***

41. A Candidate shall, upon acceptance of his/her nomination by the Returning Officer, be eligible to receive Election Campaign Fund at the rate of Nu.130,000/- as per the revision of the Election Campaign Fund by the Election Commission, notified to the public vide Notification No. EB/PEFD/08/2012/394 dated 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2012.
42. A Candidate shall not exceed the election campaign expenditure ceiling of Nu. 260,000/-, fixed by the Election Commission and notified to the public i.e. Nu.130,000/- provided as public campaign funds by the State and up to Nu.130,000/- from the Party's Funds as raised through the permitted sources of income.
43. A Candidate shall ensure that no funds received directly or indirectly from sources other than the ones permitted and spend funds for admissible electoral purposes and within the approved ceilings.

### ***Election Campaign Returns***

44. A Candidate must submit weekly accounts of the campaign expenses to the National Observer for his/her scrutiny and file Election Returns within thirty days of declaration of the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures, regardless of being elected or not, failing which the name of a person may be disqualified as a Member holding elective office or Candidate in future elections.

### ***Public Debate***

45. A Public Debate between the Candidates shall be conducted and arranged in the *Demkhong* by the Dzongkhag Election Office and the BBSCL as per the *Guidelines for Conduct of Public Debates during Parliamentary Elections, 2012*.

### ***Election Advertising***

46. Election advertising, to be financed by the State, shall be done as set out in the *Strategy for the Implementation of the Election Advertising Regulations 2012*.

## **(I) Remaining Above Politics and Apolitical**

### ***Religious or Government Events in the Demkhong***

47. No religious or government events involving public gathering shall be organised or conducted during the Bye-Election Period in the *Demkhong*.
48. Religious events such as the wrathful practices and rituals such as *tordog*, *torphang* etc. will be prohibited in particular by the Political Parties or Candidates and/or their representatives and supporters.
49. Religious Personalities shall neither vote in the elections nor participate directly or indirectly in the Bye-Election.

### ***Religious Organisations & Civil Society Organisations***

50. Religious Organisations and Civil Society Organisations shall not participate, directly or indirectly in the Bye-Election.

### ***Civil Servants***

51. A Civil Servant, his/her spouse and dependents shall cast their votes either in person at the designated Polling Stations or by Postal Ballot.
52. A Civil Servant shall not be allowed to participate or attend any campaign events or meetings except to carry out duties of an election officer appointed under the Electoral Laws.



***Midhey Gothrips***

53. An Elected Local Government functionary shall not participate directly or indirectly except to cast his /her ballot in the Bye-Election.

**(J) Postal Ballots**

54. The Schedule for the Postal Ballot process are as given in the Election Schedule in **Table 1** above.

55. A Registered Postal Voter wishing to vote by post must apply for Postal Ballot to the Returning Officer with full details **such that the Application for Postal Ballot is received by the Returning Officer on or before Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2013.**

56. The Application may be hand delivered, sent by post or scanned and emailed to the Returning Officer but faxed copies shall not be entertained. The email address of the Returning Officer is as provided in **Table 2** above.

57. A person who applied for Postal Ballot cannot vote in person as his/her name will be included in the Postal Voters' List and struck off from the Voters' List sent to the Polling Station by the Returning Officer.

**(K) Polling Stations**

58. The Polls for the *Bye-Election to Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* shall be conducted in a total of **17** Polling Stations, the details of which are indicated in the Final Electoral Roll.

**(L) Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC)**

59. Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the polling stations during the Elections.

60. All voters must also carry with them the Citizenship Identity Card (CID) issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs as a supporting document in the event of any dispute related to the VPIC.

**(M) Poll Day**

61. The Poll Day, **Saturday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2013** for the *Bye-Election to Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* shall be declared a Holiday in the concerned *Demkhong*.

62. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all Polling Stations.

63. Quality indelible ink shall be applied on the **Left Thumb**.

64. The Polling Hours shall be from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** However, those voters already in the queue at 5 p.m. shall be allowed to vote with the last voter present at that time in the queue being given **Token No. 1.**
65. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any voter wishing to go to vote in person.
66. No one shall carry any sort of audio/photo/video recording device in and around a Polling Station on Poll Day except those authorised to do so.
67. No one shall carry any arms or weapons which can be used to cause bodily harm on Poll Day except by those who are authorised under the Electoral Laws for security duty.
68. A permitted media agency or journalist shall be allowed into a Polling Station but not have access to the voting compartment when a voter is inside it and be escorted out of the Polling Station after a few minutes.

**(N) Election Result Counting, Consolidation and Declaration**

69. After the close of Polls, the Polling Stations shall become the Counting Centres where the EVM Results shall be counted immediately, as per the set procedure, and relayed to the Returning Officer and the National Counting Centre in Headquarters.
70. The Voter Turn-Out Report, to be submitted by the Presiding Officers to the Returning Officer and by the Returning Officer to the National Results Centre shall be at Mid-Day for the voter turn-out from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and the Poll-End Voter Turn-Out Report for the cumulative total voter turn-out from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in the prescribed Forms.
71. The Postal Ballots shall be counted by the Returning Officer who shall consolidate it with the EVM results received from the Counting Centres and after verification submit it to the National Results Centre in the required Forms.
72. Candidates or their representatives can witness and observe all stages of the polling and counting procedures but shall not make public statements on estimates and guesses before the Results of Election are officially declared.

**(O) Election Officials**

***Chief Election Coordinator***

73. The Dzongdag shall be appointed as the Chief Election Coordinator; Dzongrab as the Deputy Chief Election Coordinator; and the concerned Gewog

Administrative Officers as the respective Assistant Chief Election Coordinators for the conduct of the Bye-Election.

74. The Election Coordinators shall be responsible for carrying out the roles, responsibilities and duties as provided in the Electoral Laws and in accordance with the Appointment Order issued by the Election Commission on **Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2013**.
75. The Chief Election Coordinator shall be responsible to submit a comprehensive Report on the Elections, as provided in the *Handbook for Election Coordinators 2013*, in the concerned Dzongkhag within ten days of the declaration of the Results i.e. by **Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2013**.

#### ***National Observer***

76. The Election Commission shall appoint a National Observer in the *Demkhong*, vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Observers, to observe the Election.
77. An Observer shall, besides submission of required reports, report any infraction requiring immediate action to the Election Commission instantly through SMS and other social media platforms.
78. The Policy and Planning Division of the Election Commission shall consolidate the Reports submitted by the Observer for review and decision by the Commission on a weekly basis and as and when an immediate decision is required.

#### ***Returning Officer***

79. The Election Commission shall appoint, for the Bye-Election, a Returning Officer in the *Demkhong*, vested with full authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Returning Officer.

#### ***Presiding and Polling Officers***

80. The appointment of Presiding and Polling Officers for the Bye-Election be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the Returning Officer on or after **Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2013** i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.
81. Presiding and Polling Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Presiding Officers and the Handbook for Polling Officers, respectively.

***Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants***

82. The Presiding Officers shall serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant, as authorized in the Appointment Orders issued by the Returning Officer and vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants.

***Media Arbitrator***

83. The Media Arbitrator appointed for the *Bye-Election to Nanong Shumar Demkhong* shall be vested with the authority and be responsible for fulfilling the roles and responsibilities as provided in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and the Appointment Order.
84. The Election Commission shall appoint a Social Media Monitor as part of the Media Arbitrator's Team.

***Legal Officer***

85. A Legal Officer shall assist the Central Dispute Settlement Body, and the Dzongkhag Legal Officer of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag shall assist Dzongkhag Dispute Settlement Body for the Elections.

***Accounts Officers***

86. Dzongkhag Administration shall identify and appoint Accounts Officer(s) to be responsible for managing and keeping the accounts for all expenditures related to the Bye-Election, except for the Public Election Campaign Fund which shall be handled directly by the Public Election Fund Division of the Election Commission.
87. The finance and expenditure records and accounts shall be maintained in line with the *Guidelines for the Maintenance of Financial Records and Accounts for an Election in the Kingdom of Bhutan 2013*.

***Assignment of Duty Stations***

88. The Observer, Returning Officer, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants shall not be posted to the Gewog where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered.

***Authorisation to Record Election Related Events***

89. The general public are hereby notified that the Officials appointed on election duty are being officially authorized to photograph, videograph and/or record any election-related event or activity which may be used as evidence in the Election Dispute Settlement System.

- (P) Election Control Rooms**
90. Control Rooms shall be established in the Office of the Returning Officer and at the Election Commission Headquarters and function in the manner detailed in the *Manual for Manual for Election Control Room Parliamentary Election, 2013*.
- (Q) Replacement Candidate**
91. In case of cancellation or death of Candidate, the replacement Candidate may be nominated or polls in that *Demkhong* postponed in accordance with Sections 233 to 237 of the Election Act, 2008.
- (R) Uncontested Election**
92. An uncontested Election shall be conducted as provided under Sections 575 and 576 of the *Election Act 2008* if there is only one contesting Candidate.
- (S) Law and Order & Deployment of Forces**
93. The Chief Election Coordinator and the Assistant Chief Election Coordinator in the *Gewogs* shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters in the *Dzongkhag* and *Gewogs* respectively for the election period.
94. The Chief Election Coordinator and the Assistant Chief Election Coordinator shall be responsible in ensuring that their respective jurisdictions are conducive and congenial for the conduct of free and fair Election.
95. The Royal Bhutan Police shall deploy security as per the *Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012*.
96. Election Security personnel shall be fully empowered and authorized, under Section 38 of the Election Act, to detain any individual or group on sufficient grounds to suspect that he/she/group is a threat to peace and harmony and free and fair election are likely to be undermined.
- (T) Election Dispute Settlement System**
97. The Central Election Dispute Settlement Body (CEDSB) and the Dzongkhag Election Dispute Settlement Body (DEDSB) shall be appointed for the Bye-Election for adjudication of election disputes in accordance with the Electoral Laws, the *Election Dispute Settlement Rules and Regulations 2012* and the *Election Dispute Settlement Manual 2013*.
98. Election Disputes may be filed with a Returning Officer, Observer, Chief Election Coordinator or the Chief Election Commissioner but must contain all details as in *Election Complaint Form 1*.

99. All concerned are reminded that, as notified to the public vide Notification No. ECB/NOTIF-1/2011/825 dated 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2011, a complaint related to an election shall be dealt only by an Election Dispute Settlement Body or the Election Commission.

**(U) International Observers & Media Relations**

100. The Policy and Planning Division of the Election Commission shall coordinate and liaison all matters that concern the International Observers, National and International Media permitted to observe the Bye-Election as provided in the *National and International Observers Guidelines 2012*, *Media Coverage of Elections Rules and Regulations 2012* and the *Social Media Rules 2012*.

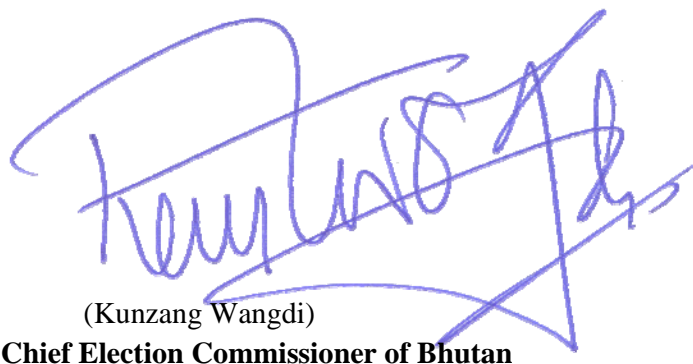
**(V) Other Reference**

101. Election Officials shall, besides the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Handbooks, Orders and Notifications, also refer to the *Strategy for the Conduct of the Bye-Election in Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag* for additional information and guidance in the conduct of the Elections.

Now, thereof, from the day of issue of this Notification, the Election Commission of Bhutan notifies the general public on all matters relating to the Bye-Election to *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag.

**Issued on the Eighth Day of the Ninth Month of the Water Female Snake Year corresponding to the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.**

**By Order**



(Kunzang Wangdi)  
**Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan**

**Copy to:**

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, Kingdom of Bhutan
2. Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan, Royal Court of Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Thimphu
3. Hon'ble Officiating Chief Justice, Royal Court of Justice, High Court of Bhutan, Thimphu
4. Hon'ble Speaker, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
5. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
6. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
7. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty's Secretariat, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
8. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty, Secretariat of Druk Gyal Zhipa, Thimphu
9. Hon'ble Chief Operation Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, Thimphu
10. Hon'ble Commandant, Royal Body Guards, Dechhenchhoeling, Thimphu, Bhutan
11. Hon'ble Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu
12. Hon'ble Chairperson, Anti-Corruption Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan
13. Hon'ble Chairperson, Royal Civil Service Commission, Thimphu
14. Hon'ble Auditor General, Royal Audit Authority, Thimphu, Bhutan
15. Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary, Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu
16. All Hon'ble Secretaries to the Royal Government of Bhutan
17. Chief Election Coordinator, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag, Pema Gatshel, Bhutan.
18. Election Security Coordinator, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu
19. Director, Bureau for Law and Order, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, Thimphu, Bhutan
20. Returning Officer, *Nanong-Shumar Demkhong*, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag
21. National Observer, *Nanong-Shumar Demkhong*, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag
22. Dzongkhag Electoral Officers, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag
23. Assistant Chief Election Coordinators, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag