

ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN



Guidelines for Evaluation of the Asset Declaration of the Candidates Contesting Elections, 2013

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Elections, 2013**

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Post Box 2008,
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E-mail : cec@election-bhutan.org.bt

Visit us at : www.election-bhutan.org.bt

Phone : (00975) 2 334 851/2

Fax : (00975) 2 334763

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Guidelines for Evaluation of the Asset Declaration of the Candidates Contesting Elections, 2013

1. Purpose

1.1 These *Guidelines for Evaluation of the Asset Declaration of the Candidates Contesting Elections, 2013* is adopted for evaluation of asset declaration submitted by the Candidates wishing to contest the Elections.

2. Legal Provision

2.1 The Section 6 of the Article 23 of the Constitution and the Section 213 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 require that, in order to provide for an informed choice by the voter, every candidate for an election to the National Assembly, National Council and Local Government must file along-with his/her nomination paper, an affidavit in the prescribed form declaring her/his, spouse's and dependent children's:

2.1.1 Annual Income;

2.1.2 Moveable and immovable assets; and

2.1.3 Liabilities including government dues.

3. Transparency

3.1 A Candidate nominated by a Political Party or Candidate to contest Parliamentary Elections is under the Electoral Laws required to declare the Assets of herself/himself as well as spouse's and dependent children so as to:

3.1.1 Provide voters with the opportunity to make informed decisions;

3.1.2 Ensure that the political leadership comprises persons of integrity and moral standing;

3.1.3 Prevent corruption; and

3.1.4 Foster Public confidence.

Therefore, it is necessary to conduct Scrutiny on the declaration filed by a Candidate to verify whether the declarations are accurate, honest and crosscheck for any discrepancy in comparison to the earlier declarations and records with the Election Commission of Bhutan.

- 3.2 Like the other required documents, the Candidates contesting Parliamentary Elections should get their Asset Declaration attested by the Election Commission while filing nominations as in the Asset Declaration Form before filing nominations to the concerned Returning Officer.
- 3.3 The Department of Election shall carry out the evaluation based on the comparison of the Asset Declaration filed during the preceding elections and/or any record on the Candidate maintained by the Election Commission.
- 3.4 The Department of Election shall, based on its finding, prepare a report on each Candidate making specific recommendation for action that may be taken by a Returning Officer as in the format in the RO Form No.17.

4. Scrutiny of Asset Declarations

- 4.1 The Returning Officer shall, under Sections 199 and 218 of the Election Act, conduct scrutiny of the nomination papers of the contesting candidates on the day immediately following the last date for making nominations.

5. Scrutiny of other Requirements

- 5.1 The Returning Officers are required to carry out the scrutiny of all documents thoroughly.

6. Penalty

- 6.1 Any person or organization found guilty of violation of these Guidelines shall be dealt with in accordance to the Election Act.

7. Power of the Commission to Issue Instructions and Directions

7.1 The Commission may issue instructions and directions:

- 7.1.1 For the clarification of any of the provisions of these Guidelines;
- 7.1.2 For the removal of any difficulty which may arise in relation to the implementation of any such provisions; and
- 7.1.3 In relation to any matter with respect to Asset Declarations, for which these Guidelines make insufficient provision, and clarification is necessary in the opinion of the Commission.

8. Interpretation and Amendment

8.1 The Election Commission shall be the competent authority to interpret the provisions of these Guidelines.

8.2 The Election Commission shall have the power to amend the existing Guidelines by way of addition, variation or repeal, provided that no such amendment shall be made in contravention to the provisions of the Election Act.

Done under the seal of the Election Commission of the Kingdom of Bhutan on this 27th Day of the 2nd Month of the Year 2013 corresponding to the 17th Day of the 1st Month of the Water Female Snake Dragon Year in the Bhutanese Calendar.


Election Commissioner


Election Commissioner


Chief Election Commissioner



Asset Declaration Assessments

Name of Declarant:

Demkhong:

CID/VPIC No:

Dzongkhag:

Sl. No.	Assets Declared in the previous Elections	Assets Declared for the Election contested to	Variation in Assets Declared	Sources of Finance for the Additional Assets/Properties	Recommended Actions (Clear/Objectionable)

**Chief Election Officer
Department of Election**

**Director
Election Commission of Bhutan**