

CHARTER



BHUTAN KUEN-NYAM PARTY

THE CHARTER OF BHUTAN KUEN-NYAM PARTY (BKP)

PREAMBLE

*Blessed in the form of emanation from the Golden Throne,
Nurtured with wisdom and compassion by the Benevolent Monarchs,
Thus, the sacred gift of Democracy to the people of Bhutan.*

Further, empowered by the sacred Constitution of the Kingdom, we hereby:

*As our moral obligation,
As our social responsibility and
As our rightful duty of concerned citizens,
Pledge to assume and shoulder such noble and sacred duty.*

*To re-define politics in a harmonious and progressive way,
To strengthen institutional democracy in a sustainable manner,
To create a caring society, a vibrant democracy, and a resilient economy. By enabling intelligent
participation in democratic processes.*

*We also solemnly aspire to:
Bring the best out of our peoples, individuals, institutions,
Encourage green development, creativity and innovation,
Enhancing quality of human relationships.
Nurturing social interactions through openness, tolerance, compassion, and a sense of mutual inter-
dependence.*

*Always mindful of shared destiny within and outside the immediate
groups and communities, Gewogs and Dzongkhags
thus allowing individual and collective goodness to blossom.*

*Ensure participatory democracy at all levels of our society,
Accepting and respecting participatory and pluralistic systems,
from individuals to workplaces, to society and nation.*

*Steadfastly, at all times protect and uphold Bhutan
as a sovereign and peaceful nation.*

*May we succeed as Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party
In harnessing the inherent goodness in every citizen in the
Service of the King, Country and the People.*

ARTICLE I

1.1. Name, Title and Commencement

- 1.1.1 The official name of the party shall be Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party and is symbolized by the *Kuen-Nyam Khorlo*. (Refer Annexure 1 for Election Symbol and its description).
- 1.1.2 The official title of the Charter shall be called the Charter of Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party and shall come into force from the day the party receives the certificate of registration from the Election Commission of Bhutan.

ARTICLE II

2.1 Definitions

- 2.1.1 General Assembly - refers to the highest policy making body of the Party.
- 2.1.2 General Secretary – refers to the administrative and financial head of the Party.
- 2.1.3 In-Kind Contribution - refers to contribution of goods or services, or anything of value and not a monetary contribution made by a registered member.
- 2.1.4 *Kuen-Nyam Khorlo* – refers to the Party’s election symbol.
- 2.1.5 National Council – refers to the House of Review as stipulated by Article 11.2 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 2.1.6 National Assembly – refers to a legislative body as enshrined in Article 12 of the Constitution of the Kingdom Bhutan.
- 2.1.7 National Executive Committee – refers to the highest decision making body of the Party.
- 2.1.8 Party President – refers the overall head of Party.
- 2.1.9 Treasurer – refers to the coordinating head of party finance and resources as stipulated in Article 10.1 of the Charter of Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party.
- 2.1.10 *Tsawa-Sum* – refers to the King, Country and the People.

ARTICLE III

3.1 Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party's Allegiance

- 3.1.1 The Party shall be faithful and loyal to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and to those principles of democracy to uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 3.1.2 Within Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party, the nation shall always be above the Party.

ARTICLE IV

4.1 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1 Preserve and protect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 4.1.2 Safeguard the freedom and advance the wellbeing of all Bhutanese through equal representation and democratic governance by exhibiting and sowing the seeds of genuine participatory democracy and nurturing democratic principles within all segments of society.
- 4.1.3 Promote our rich and unique culture and tradition expressing our deepest allegiance to Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 4.1.4 Promote an egalitarian society, free from upper or lower orders, without class distinctions, segregation or ethnic divisions, a cohesive society without prejudices and discrimination and where there is equal opportunity for all citizens.
- 4.1.5 Promote and ensure social order where each person in their capacity as a citizen, a farmer, wage earner, student, pensioner or a salaried worker can influence the laws, policies and programs of the organization and conditions of working life positively.
- 4.1.6 Create enabling conditions for the people to enjoy all civil rights and shoulder their individual and collective responsibilities to their families, communities and the nation.
- 4.1.7 Eradicate poverty and enhance human wellbeing and the quality of life of all Bhutanese people in a just and humane society where those who cannot provide for themselves can live in dignity.

- 4.1.8 Reduce inequalities, pursuit of people empowerment, rule of law, provision of safety nets and participation in a democratic and pluralistic system respectful of all human rights and individual respect.
- 4.1.9 Guarantee social and political rights, responsibilities and freedoms for all Bhutanese – including adequate food, shelter and health care, good and continuing education from early childhood, meaningful employment and being treated with equal dignity and respect regardless of gender, physical, geographical and cultural differences.
- 4.1.10 Strive towards the conservation and sustainable utilization and management of our natural resources for the benefit of all Bhutanese people for the present and the future generations.
- 4.1.11 Work towards sustaining broad-based and regionally balanced economic development and growth, reinforcing social development through equal opportunities to avoid exclusion and to overcome socially divisive disparities, while respecting diversity as part of the enabling environment for socio-economic development.
- 4.1.12 Promote greater participation of women in the political arena by providing an enabling environment in recognizing their contribution towards nation building.
- 4.1.13 Promote socially responsible private sector development and growth as the main determinant of the country's socio-economic prosperity.
- 4.1.14 Enable a future for the youth in which they can achieve their aspirations and be responsibly involved in defining the country's future and take pride in its past.
- 4.1.15 Continue pursuing a foreign policy of national interest as envisioned by our wise monarchs.
- 4.1.16 Promote and foster greater ties that exist with India.
- 4.1.17 Promote open, transparent and responsive governance at all levels guaranteeing freedom of speech, free media and independent institutions.
- 4.1.18 Set social, cultural, economic and political conditions and enhance systems to treat corruption at source.
- 4.1.19 Promote national unity and progressive socio-economic development to ensure the well being of the nation.

4.2 Party Ideology and Principles

4.2.1 The Party shall stand for the realization of a compassionate and democratic social order and political system based on the universal ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity as enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

4.2.2 The Party is founded on the philosophy of Gross National Happiness encompassing the following principles:

- a) *Tha-Damtse Ley-Jumdre*;
- b) Equality – respect for each individual, people empowerment, human rights and rule of law;
- c) Inclusivity – participatory and inclusive political and governance processes to the advancement of social, cultural and economic growth of the nation; and
- d) Cultural Value – safeguarding and promoting the special and unique Bhutanese way of life and setting.

ARTICLE V

5.1 Membership

5.1.1 Membership shall be broad-based and regionally balanced to include members from all *Dzongkhags*.

5.1.2 Any registered voter of Bhutan shall be accepted as a member irrespective of religion, creed, ethnic background and gender is eligible to be enrolled as a member and can hold official post provided he/she is not a member of any other political party, civil service, armed forces, religious institutions, local governments and the National Council.

5.1.3 Members holding official post in the Party shall take the prescribed pledge before the authorized representative of the Party President and remit the annual membership fee.

5.1.4 Membership registration shall be carried out at the free will of the interested voter in Party Offices both at headquarter and in the *Dzongkhags* by filling in Party Registration Form IA. Thereafter, the person's name shall be entered in the official records of the Party with a copy intimated to the Registrar of Political Parties of the Election Commission of Bhutan.

- 5.1.5 Any registered member may withdraw his/her membership from the party by notifying the party office in writing.
- 5.1.6 Any death, resignation or withdrawal of a member shall be notified to the Election Commission of Bhutan and the general public through print media.
- 5.1.7 A member has to renew his/her membership every year during the period prescribed for the same by remitting the annual membership fee.
- 5.1.8 Membership shall be revoked if the annual membership fee is not paid within 30 days from the date of such request as aforesaid unless the competent authority in the Party extends such a deadline.

5.2 Registration

- 5.2.1 The Party's annual membership fee for an individual is agreed and fixed at Nu. 500/- and one-time registration fee is Nu. 100/-.
- 5.2.2 Any future changes in the amount payable by membership fees must be by resolution of the General Assembly meeting.
- 5.2.3 Official receipts shall be issued by the Party Treasurer or his/her designated representative for all the proceeds.

5.3 Party Source of Funds

- 5.3.1 In compliance with Chapter 8, Section 158 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, the Party's income shall strictly be derived from i) registration fees, ii) membership and membership renewal fees and iii) permissible voluntary contribution from registered members.
- 5.3.2 All voluntary contributions exceeding Nu. 5,000/- from registered members must be accepted in bank cheque. Similarly, all party expenditure must be made in bank cheque except expenditure not exceeding Nu. 5,000/- which may be made in cash. Monetary valuations shall be accorded towards all in-kind contributions made by registered members subject to the ceiling prescribed by the Election Commission of Bhutan.
- 5.3.3 All Party funds collected at the *Dzongkhags* shall be remitted to the party account maintained with the designated bank in Thimphu.

5.4 Party Accounts

- 5.4.1 All expenditures made by the Party and the candidates shall be in keeping with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
- 5.4.2 A joint signature account constituting the General Secretary and Treasurer shall be maintained with the designated bank.
- 5.4.3 Party accounts shall be updated on a quarterly basis by instituting an appropriate follow-up mechanism to ensure timely liquidation of advances to avoid accumulation.
- 5.4.4 Full accounting disclosure shall be maintained both within the Party and to the public in terms of transparency and accountability.
- 5.4.5 The Party accounts at the *Dzongkhags* shall be audited every year by statutory auditors appointed by the immediate higher committee.
- 5.4.6 The Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan shall audit the Party accounts annually as per the provisions of the Electoral Laws.

ARTICLE VI

6.1 Pledge

Registered members of Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party hold public service as a sacred and noble duty and as such offer the following commitment dedicated in body, speech and mind:

- 6.1.1 I accept the aims and objectives of the Party and genuinely commit myself to work diligently for the fulfillment of Party aims and objectives and shall abide by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Charter of Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party.
- 6.1.2 I hereby pledge that I shall give priority to the interests of the people and shall keep away from personal vices and social evils.
- 6.1.3 I shall work selflessly putting the interest of the Party over my individual self-interest in pursuit of a caring society, a vibrant democracy and a resilient economy.
- 6.1.4 I shall conduct myself with dignity, integrity, discipline, morality, humility and without fear or favour.

6.1.5 I commit to contribute towards building a strong united Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party to create a just and equal society through achieving excellence by all, so that every citizen, regardless of region, creed, sex, language or religion can enjoy a full and happy life.

ARTICLE VII

7.1 Records

7.1.1 The Party shall have the following records to be maintained by the National Executive Committee:

- a) Party Charter;
- b) Register of Members;
- c) Accounts of the Constituency; and
- d) Minutes of the meetings.

7.1.2 The Dzongkhag Coordination Office(s) shall maintain the following records:

- a) Party Charter;
- b) Updated accounts;
- c) Minute of the meetings; and
- d) Personal file on each Constituency Candidate.

ARTICLE VIII

8.1 Party Structure and Composition

The structure of the Party constitutes the following:

8.1.1 General Assembly – open to all members including *Dzongkhag* Coordinators, *Gewog* Coordinators, Constituency Representatives, members from the Party Secretariat and Party Advisors. A minimum quorum of two third members constituting of National Executive Committee, *Dzongkhag* and *Gewog* Coordinators shall attend the General Assembly.

8.1.2 National Executive Committee – constitutes Cabinet Ministers (if a Party in Parliament), Elected Representatives to the National Assembly (if a Party in Parliament), members elected

by the General Assembly, a maximum of two elected representatives from the *Dzongkhag* Coordination Office(s), and other members elected by the General Assembly.

8.1.3 *Dzongkhag* Coordination Offices – comprising 20 *Dzongkhag* Coordinators, 205 *Gewog* Coordinators, 47 Constituency Coordinators and Advisors.

8.2 Descriptions and Functions of Bodies

General Assembly

8.2.1 The General Assembly is the highest policy making body to provide stewardship, authority and direction.

8.2.2 The General Assembly shall convene at least once a year or as decided by the National Executive Committee.

8.2.3 The Party President shall preside over all sessions of the General Assembly meeting and in his absence, the Vice President shall preside over all sessions. In the absence of both, the house shall nominate and elect an interim Chairperson to preside over the General Assembly meeting.

8.2.4 The General Assembly in consultation with the National Executive Committee shall approve and amend the Party Charter subject to endorsement of the Election Commission of Bhutan.

8.2.5 The General Assembly shall approve the Party manifesto.

8.2.6 The General Assembly shall direct the National Executive Committee to submit the annual report of the Party.

8.2.7 The General Assembly shall discuss national, regional and *Dzongkhag* issues and concerns.

8.2.8 The General Assembly shall provide oversight on Party administration and finances, and any other related matters.

8.2.9 The General Assembly shall move a vote of no confidence against the Presidency.

8.2.10 The General Assembly shall review activities, progress and performance of the National Executive Committee and the *Dzongkhag* Coordination Offices.

8.2.11 The General Assembly shall institute technical committees including but not limited to the following:

- a) Research and Development Committee;
- b) Women and Youth Committee;
- c) Strategic Campaign Management Committee;
- d) Public Relations Committee;
- e) General Administration and Finance Committee;
- f) Membership Committee;
- g) Media Relations Committee;
- h) Logistics and Support Committee; and
- i) Party Trustee Committee.

National Executive Committee

8.2.12 All members to the National Executive Committee shall be elected through secret ballot keeping in mind the principles of democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

8.2.13 Registered party members shall elect the National Executive Committee members.

8.2.14 The National Executive Committee shall be constituted by a minimum of 15 and not more than 21 members elected for a period of five years or as deemed necessary by two third members of the Party.

8.2.15 All elected members holding Cabinet Portfolios shall, if the Party in Parliament, be members of the National Executive Committee.

8.2.16 The National Executive Committee shall be the ultimate and highest decision making body of the Party and shall be headed by the Party President.

8.2.17 The National Executive Committee shall convene at least once in every three months. If demanded by two third members, it shall convene within a month of such a notice.

8.2.18 Two third of the National Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to hold any National Executive Committee meeting.

- 8.2.19 All decisions made at the National Executive Committee meetings shall be taken by simple majority.
- 8.2.20 The Party General Secretary shall be the member secretary of the National Executive Committee and shall prepare and record minutes of all meetings.
- 8.2.21 The National Executive Committee shall implement policy recommendations taken by the General Assembly and shall also coordinate Party activities.
- 8.2.22 The National Executive Committee shall validate and propose amendments of the Party Charter.
- 8.2.23 The appointment of the government cabinet portfolios to the elected members of the National Assembly of Bhutan shall be in accordance with Article 17 Section 3 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 8.2.24 The nomination of constituency candidates for election to the National Assembly shall be decided by the National Executive Committee through secret ballot in the manner prescribed by provisions of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and other related electoral laws.
- 8.2.25 The nomination shall be based on his/her popularity in the constituency, competency level, commitment and track record.
- 8.2.26 The National Executive Committee shall nominate only one candidate per constituency for election in the National Assembly.
- 8.2.27 The Party President shall preside over all sessions of the National Executive Committee meetings. In his absence, the Vice President shall preside over all sessions. In the absence of both, the house shall nominate and elect an interim Chairperson.

Party Office

- 8.2.28 The Party shall establish offices in all the twenty *Dzongkhags* with the headquarter office based in Thimphu bearing the following address;

J. D House (Near DHL Courier Services) Changangkha,
Thimphu.

Tel: 975-02-324949/17119900

Email: kuenyam@bkp.bt Website:

www.bkp.bt

8.2.29 The *Dzongkhag* Coordination Offices shall be represented by the following:

- a) One advisor;
- b) One member representative from each *Gewog*;
- c) One member representative from each *Thromde*; and
- d) Constituency representatives

8.2.30 The *Dzongkhag* Coordination Office(s) shall be established and supported with financial assistance from the Party head office. The *Dzongkhag* Coordination Office(s) shall function through a *Dzongkhag* Executive Committee comprising of *Dzongkhag* Coordinator, *Dzongkhag* Treasurer and Constituency Representative.

8.2.31 The *Dzongkhag* Executive Committee members shall be elected by the *Dzongkhag* Coordination Offices through simple majority vote.

8.2.32 *Gewog* and *Thromde* representatives shall be nominated by the concerned *Gewog/Thromde* registered members with a written endorsement of at least 10 members from that *Gewog/Thromde*.

8.2.33 *Dzongkhag* Executive Committees shall prepare and conduct meetings, and submit minutes/documents to the Party head office.

8.2.34 The *Dzongkhag* Executive Committee shall spearhead registration of party members and submit membership updates to the Party head office.

ARTICLE IX

9.1 Office Bearers

9.1.1 The following shall be Office Bearers within the Party:

- a) President;
- b) Vice President;
- c) General Secretary;

- d) Treasurer;
- e) Internal Auditor;
- f) Accountant;
- g) Party Lawyer;
- h) Office Bearers in the *Dzongkhags*; and
- i) Office Secretary.

ARTICLE X

10.1 Powers and Duties of Office Bearers

10.1.1 Party President

- a) The Party President shall have the responsibility for the growth and development of the Party.
- b) The Party President shall have the right to call meetings of the National Executive Committee.
- c) All duties, powers and responsibilities of the Party President shall, in his absence, automatically devolve upon the Vice-President.

10.1.2 Vice President

- a) The Vice President shall assist the Party President and undertake the responsibilities delegated to him/her by the Party President.

10.1.3 General Secretary

- a) Look after the general administration of the Party under the supervision of the Party President.
- b) Coordinate all meetings including General Assembly meetings.
- c) Conduct correspondences under the directions of the Party President and maintain a register of members.
- d) Inform all members on all-important activities of the Party.

10.1.4 Treasurer

- a) The Treasurer shall manage the income, expenditure and accounting of the Party under the supervision of the General Secretary.
- b) The Treasurer shall ensure that books and records of accounts are properly maintained and preserved.
- c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for drawing up the financial statements and accounts of the Party and present in party meetings and at the General Assembly meetings.
- d) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the funds of the Party and shall issue receipts for all payments made to and by the Party.
- e) The Treasurer shall open a bank account in the name of Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party and shall deposit therein all monies received by him/her on behalf of the Party.
- f) All cheques and other financial instruments shall be duly signed by the Treasurer and counter signed by the General Secretary as designated signatories.

10.1.5 Internal Auditor

The Internal Auditor shall, through a systematic and disciplined approach, conduct audits and reviews to:

- a) Provide the Party President with independent and objective assurance, independent from line management, on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Party's governance, risk management, control and accountability processes.
- b) Assist management to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Party's operations in implementing its mandate and achieving organizational objectives in an ethical manner together with proper utilization of resources.
- c) Ensure adherence to management policies and directives in order to achieve efficiently and economically the Party's objectives.
- d) Safeguard assets of the Party and ensure propriety of Party expenditure and adequate control of public funds.

- e) Secure the relevance, reliability and integrity of information and ensuring as far as possible the completeness and accuracy of records.
- f) Ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

10.1.6 Accountant

- a) The accountant shall perform his/her technical duties and responsibilities under the supervision of the Treasurer and the General Secretary.

10.1.7 Party Lawyer

- a) The Party Lawyer shall provide legal advice to the Party.
- b) The Party Lawyer shall spearhead drafting of Party rules and regulations.
- c) The Party Lawyer shall represent on any litigation made against the Party and its members upon the recommendation of the National Executive Committee.

10.1.8 Office Secretary

- a) The Office Secretary shall be responsible for proper filing, communication, correspondences and presenting the office in a respectful and dignified manner.

ARTICLE XI

11.1 Party Code of Conduct and Discipline

11.1.1 Party members shall uphold ethical values and refrain from all kinds of vices.

11.1.2 In case a party member is charged with serious violation of party discipline, the National Executive Committee in consultations with the General Assembly shall take appropriate disciplinary action including suspension.

11.1.3 The Party shall temporarily suspend incase an elected national assembly member faces official criminal charges in the court of law.

11.1.4 It shall be the duty of the National Executive Committee and the General Assembly if at any time it shall be of the opinion that the interests of the Party so require, to consider the question of the suspension or expulsion of any member at a special committee meeting convened for that purpose. If at such meeting, after considering the explanation offered, two-thirds of the members of the General Assembly and voting for his/her suspension, demotion

or expulsion, he/she shall thereupon be suspended for such period as the committee commissioned may specify or cease to be a member as the case may be.

11.1.5 In addition, party candidates shall abide by the Election Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates as stipulated in Chapter XVI of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008.

ARTICLE XII

12.1 Appeal

12.1.1 A member shall have the right to appeal to the National Executive Committee on any disciplinary action(s).

12.1.2 A special committee constituted under the instruction of the Party President shall deliberate disciplinary action involving a National Executive Committee member.

ARTICLE XIII

13.1 Party's Obligation

13.1.1 The Party shall abide and honor the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, National Referendum Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and all other related electoral laws, rules and regulations.

ARTICLE XIV

14.1 Merger / Dissolution of the Party

14.1.1 Any decision regarding a voluntary merger of the Party with another party has to be taken by the National Executive Committee convened specifically for the purpose, by two third majority of the members present.

14.1.2 The Party shall remain dissolved by declaration of the Supreme Court as empowered by Chapter 8, Section 146 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

ARTICLE XV

15.1 Amendment and Authority of Interpretation

15.1.1 The right to amend the Charter of *Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party* shall be vested with the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the National Executive Committee with prior approval of the Election Commission of Bhutan.

15.1.2 The National Executive Committee shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the Charter of *Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party*.

15.1.3 The Party shall communicate to the Election Commission of Bhutan any amendments made in the Party Charter using the Political Parties Form 2B

Signatures of the Founding Members

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Annexure 1. Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party's Election Symbol



The yellow circle symbolizes our rich and unique culture that values allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The green circle signifies sustainable management and utilization of our natural resources for green economic development for the benefit of all Bhutanese people.

The brown circle symbolizes our efforts to sustain broad-based and regionally balanced economic development and growth, reinforcing social development through equal opportunities to avoid exclusion and overcome socially divisive disparities, while respecting diversity as part of the enabling environment for socio-economic development.

The red circle signifies our united conviction towards equitable social development as an important factor for the eradication of poverty and enhancing human wellbeing and the quality of life of all Bhutanese people. It further represents our compassionate responsibility for reducing inequalities, pursuit of people empowerment, rule of law, provision of safety nets, and participation in a democratic and pluralistic system respectful of all human rights and individual respect.

Finally, the blue center circle symbolizes good governance that will be critical for the health of the socio-economy, the environment and our unique culture.

The white color in the background symbolizes Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party's purity of heart and mind in the service of *Tsawa-Sum*.

All five circles are interdependent in nature and will interact in coordinated spheres as represented by the outer five rings with the center circle maintaining close harmony in the overall pursuit of Gross National Happiness.