

# CHARTER



**DRUK CHIRWANG TSHOGPA**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PREAMBLE ..... 3

ARTICLE I ..... 4

TITLE, COMMENCEMENT AND EXTENT ..... 4

ARTICLE II ..... 5

ELECTION SYMBOL OF THE PARTY ..... 5

ARTICLE II ..... 6

VISION ..... 6

ARTICLE IV ..... 7

MISSION ..... 7

ARTICLE V ..... 8

OBJECTIVES ..... 8

ARTICLE VI ..... 11

REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP ..... 11

ARTICLE VII ..... 13

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS ..... 13

ARTICLE VIII ..... 14

THE STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY ..... 14

ARTICLE IX ..... 15

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ..... 15

ARTICLE X ..... 18

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE..... 18

Procedure of the Executive Committee ..... 20

ARTICLE XI ..... 22

THE PARTY SECRETARIAT..... 22

ARTICLE XII..... 27

THE DZONGKHAG COORDINATION OFFICE..... 27

ARTICLE XIII..... 30

THE CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES ..... 30

ARTICLE XIV..... 32

FUND AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT..... 32

ARTICLE XV ..... 34

PARTYS OBLIGATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT ..... 34

ARTICLE XVI..... 35

MERGER AND DISSOLUTION OF THE PARTY ..... 35

ARTICLE XVII ..... 36

AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS ..... 36

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa*, united in common purpose; hereby rededicate ourselves to the Wangchuck Dynasty, under whose wise and visionary leadership the Bhutanese have enjoyed unprecedented peace, progress and prosperity.

Inspired by the noble vision of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck who voluntarily devolved power from the Golden Throne to the people of Bhutan with the introduction of Democratic Constitutional Monarchy and encouraged by the widespread support from all sections of the society to form a Political Party that will best serve the interests of the country and the people, *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* has been formed to serve the Nation with its best efforts.

*Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* shall work towards promoting Unity, Prosperity and Happiness in the Kingdom of Bhutan. We pledge to serve *Tsa Wa Sum* with absolute loyalty and devotion, and bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

We, the members of the *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* give unto ourselves this Charter and pledge ourselves to be dedicated and honest in the conduct of public affairs in a manner worthy of responsibility.

Pledging to abide by the provisions of this Charter, we do establish and adopt this Charter of the *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

**ARTICLE I****TITLE, COMMENCEMENT AND EXTENT**

1. This Charter shall:
  - a) Be called the Charter of *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa*.
  - b) Extend to the whole of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
  - c) Come into force from the day the Party receives its Certificate of Registration from the Election Commission of Bhutan.

**2. NAME OF THE PARTY**

The name of the Party shall be *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* (hereafter referred to as “the Party”).

**ARTICLE II****ELECTION SYMBOL OF THE PARTY**

3. The election symbol of the Party is a Swan, surging skyward from a lotus mount that is sprouting on a body of water with a *Norbu* (Precious Gem) as a backdrop flanked on either side by green leaves.

The Water Body represents people and stability; the Lotus symbolizes purity and harmony; the Swan represents the rising glory of Bhutan with unity, equity and positive transformation; the *Norbu* or the Precious Gem represents *Tsa Wa Sum* or the Triple Gem, vitality with endurance and prosperity; the Green Leaves signifies GNH, spreading of prosperity and happiness; the Sharp Lines of the Wings means definitive, goal oriented, principled, integrity, direction and security of the nation that the Party will work towards. Overall, the election symbol signifies Unity, Prosperity and Happiness for the people and country while, for the Party, it is symbolic of its principles of social democracy.

The Blue and Black colours signify democracy, people, unity, peace, stability, equity and justice. The Pink colour represents democratic socialism on which the ideology of the Party is based. The Green colour symbolizes happiness, prosperity and GNH. The Election Symbol of the Party is attached as Annexure I.

**ARTICLE II****VISION**

4. The vision of the Party is a peaceful and prosperous Kingdom of Bhutan with strengthened sovereignty, transparent and accountable democratic governance, politically united, active citizenry, inclusive and equitable growth, sustainable and people-centric development, economic prosperity, environmental conservation, cultural cohesion, social harmony and with the enabling conditions for the people of Bhutan to pursue Happiness.

**ARTICLE IV****MISSION**

5. Inspired by our unique development philosophy of Gross National Happiness and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Party's mission is to serve *Tsa Wa Sum* with absolute loyalty and dedication in promoting Unity, Prosperity and Happiness.

**ARTICLE V****OBJECTIVES**

6. Bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
7. Safeguard the independence, sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
8. Build a strong and responsive Party with broad based membership and balanced participation from all sections of the society representing different regions, generation and gender;
9. Establish and advance transparent and accountable governance with active citizenry;
10. Promote inclusive growth with people centric development approach;
11. Endeavour to develop and execute policies that will address the socio- economic gap between regions, Dzongkhags and people;
12. Minimize inequalities of income, concentration of wealth, and promote equitable distribution of public facilities among individuals and people living in different regions of the country;
13. Promote vibrant democracy with strong, independent media and civil society;
14. Promote enabling conditions for people to pursue happiness by ensuring that all have access to basic necessities such as clean water, food, shelter, accessible healthcare and education, safeguarding the rights and freedom of our people, addressing varied social issues and disabled-friendly policies;
15. Ensure a good quality of life for the people of Bhutan by addressing the root causes of growing social issues (rape, domestic violence, murder, robbery, divorce, alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide, orphans, destitution and homelessness) with policy interventions, targeted programmes and care for those in need;
16. Address the needs of the rural population through infrastructure development programmes, better connectivity, rural employment, enhancement of economic opportunities and targeted interventions for alleviating poverty and addressing human wildlife conflict (HWC) by

- promoting and supporting research into effective HWC solutions;
17. Create more gender sensitive vocational training programmes and targeted interventions to address higher employment amongst youth and to prevent mismatch of jobs and skills.
  18. Create and provide gainful employment opportunities for the youth;
  19. Promote greater participation of women in all spheres with gender responsive policies;
  20. Promote economic growth and self-reliance while ensuring equity, balanced regional development, and the sustainable use of natural resources;
  21. Encourage and foster private sector development through fair market competition and prevent commercial monopolies;
  22. Foster professionalism at the workplace, and the efficient and responsive delivery of public services by every government organization;
  23. Encourage excellence in civil service delivery with implementation of systematic performance appraisals and efficient management systems;
  24. Promote social justice, cultural harmony and equality to all our people, regardless of ethnicity, religion, region, gender, social origin, disabilities or language;
  25. Strive to create conditions that will enable the sustainable development of a good and compassionate society with universal human values;
  26. Protect and conserve our pristine environment and pursue renewable natural resources projects that promise sustainability;
  27. Preserve and promote our rich traditional, cultural, religious and spiritual heritage as the essential basis of our national identity;
  28. Expand and improve education services with emphasis on standards, quality and accessibility, values and skills for full development of the human personality;
  29. Improve the delivery of health services with an emphasis on quality of service and preventive measures;

30. Institute a food safety programme with an emphasis on reduction of the importation of pesticide-laden vegetables and subsidies to encourage more organic farming;
31. Promote friendly relations and goodwill with the international community on the basis of peace, cooperation and the sovereign equality of states; foster respect for international law and treaty obligations, and encourage settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in order to promote international peace and security;
32. To play a responsible and constructive role in regional and global affairs; and in particular to further strengthen the close and collaborative relationship and economic cooperation with India; and
33. To conduct ourselves strictly in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Political Parties in all Party affairs.

**ARTICLE VI****REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP**

34. Membership of the Party shall be open to all Registered Voters who support the principles and objectives of the Party and who is not a religious personality or a member of any other political Party, civil service, armed forces, local governments and National Council.
35. The membership shall be approved by the Party's Dzongkhag Offices and a Membership Card shall be issued to the member by the Party's Secretariat.
36. To become a member, one will need to fill up Membership Application Form. Upon approval for admission, the person shall pay applicable Member Registration and Annual Membership Fees, from which time on the person shall become a member of the Party.
37. Registration fee shall be Nu.50 and annual membership fee shall be Nu.50 for each member. However, the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, revise the registration and membership fees. Annual membership fees, except in the case of a new member, shall be payable in the first month of each year.
38. Membership of the Party may be refused, revoked, or suspended by the Party on any of the following grounds:
  - a) Actively supporting a person standing against the Party's candidate;
  - b) Assuming membership of another Political Party;
  - c) Expressing disagreement with the Party policy or ideology or objectives as set out in this Charter;
  - d) Failing to pay applicable membership dues; or
  - e) Failing to comply with prevailing laws and regulations relating to political parties and elections, which shall result in automatic and immediate forfeiture of their membership of the Party.
39. Any person whose membership is refused, revoked or suspended may appeal in writing to the Party. The Party shall take reasonable steps to ascertain the full facts of the case and its

decision shall be final and binding. A person whose membership has been refused or revoked may not apply for membership again until one year has passed.

40. In any dispute between members or groups of members, efforts shall first be made to resolve the matter at the most local practical level. If the dispute remains unresolved, it may be referred to the President of the Party for arbitration, whose decision shall be final and binding.
41. Any member may withdraw his/her membership from the Party by notifying the local Party office in writing. The membership will cease after the lapse of one year from the date of acceptance of the application of resignation or removal from the membership of a political Party and such resignation or removal shall be immediately notified by the Party office in the print media with a copy and submitted to the Election Commission.

**ARTICLE VII****RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS**

42. A member shall owe his/her loyalty to the *Tsa Wa Sum*.
43. A member shall commit himself/herself to the cause of an independent, secular and democratic Bhutan.
44. A member shall accept and conform to the Party's Charter, programmes, principles and policies.
45. A member shall have the right to vote and be eligible for Party positions.
46. A member shall adhere to the Party Charter and other rules framed thereunder.
47. A member shall bear true allegiance to the Party's aims and objectives and work towards fulfilling them.
48. A member shall work to promote the Party principles at all times.
49. A member shall have the right to participate in Party meetings and conferences by expressing views and suggesting actions.

**ARTICLE VIII****THE STRUCTURE OF THE PARTY**

50. The principal organs of the *Druk Chirwang Tshogpa* shall be:
  - a) General Assembly;
  - b) Executive Committee;
  - c) Dzongkhag Coordination Offices; and
  - d) Constituency Committees.
51. The Party shall establish subsidiary organs as maybe found necessary in accordance with the Charter.
52. The Party shall have a President who shall be the Head of the Party.
53. The highest decision-making body of the Party shall be the Executive Committee.
54. A registered member of the Party shall be eligible to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in the General Assembly.
55. The Party shall have its Head Office in Thimphu and its Dzongkhag Offices in every Dzongkhag.
56. The Dzongkhag Coordination Offices shall coordinate all Party activities in the Dzongkhag, including Constituencies and *Gewogs*.
57. The Dzongkhag Committee shall be composed of Party representatives and registered members from the constituencies.
58. The Party shall, in addition to its President, have office-bearers as per the provisions of this Charter.

**ARTICLE IX****THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

59. There shall be a General Assembly, which shall be open to all Registered Members of Political Party, including:
- a) President;
  - b) Vice President;
  - c) Representatives of the Constituencies;
  - d) General Secretary;
  - e) Treasurer;
  - f) Internal Auditor
60. The General Assembly shall convene annually or as decided by the Executive Committee.
61. The President shall preside over the General Assembly. In his/her absence, the Vice President shall preside over the sessions. In absence of both the President and Vice President, the members shall decide on an interim Chair to preside over the General Assembly meeting.
62. The General Assembly may discuss any questions or matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided in the Charter.
63. The General Assembly session must be attended by two thirds of the Executive Committee members, Dzongkhag Coordinators and the Coordinators from the Constituencies.
64. All General Assembly meetings and their agenda shall be announced reasonably well in advance, or by disseminating direct information to the members.
65. The General Assembly shall elect the leader or nominee of the Party as the candidate for the post of the Prime Minister who shall recommend candidates for appointment as Cabinet Ministers.
66. The resolutions of the General Assembly shall be adopted before the end of the session of the General Assembly.

67. The President and Vice President shall be elected by the General Assembly from among the registered members of the Party through secret ballot. They shall hold office for a term of five years and shall be eligible for re-election.
68. Representatives of the Constituencies shall be elected by the Constituency Committee members from among registered members of the Constituencies through secret ballot.
69. The President, Vice President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall relinquish office on being voted out by a resolution supported by two-thirds majority at the General Assembly. The motion for the resolution must be signed by at least one-third of the members of the General Assembly.
70. The General Secretary of the Party shall serve as the Member Secretary to the General Assembly.
71. The maximum age of the President shall be 65 years at the time of nomination.

#### **DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

72. A member shall have the right to propose items for discussions to the General Assembly, which may be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee in advance:
73. A motion shall be adopted by a simple majority vote and in case of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
74. A resolution put to vote may be decided by show of hands unless or through use of secret ballot.
75. Amendment to the Party's Charter can be made only with prior approval of the Election Commission of Bhutan as per Section 144 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
76. The powers and functions of the General Assembly are to:
  - a) Elect the President, Vice-President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Party;
  - b) Elect a new President in case of death, resignation or retirement while in office;
  - c) Elect five representatives of the Constituencies to the Executive Committee;
  - d) Determine Party priorities and develop the Party's political strategy;

- e) Approve the annual budget for the Party;
- f) Consider the report of the Executive Committee covering the work of the Party since the previous Party's General Assembly;
- g) Approve the Manifesto of the Party;
- h) Review audited accounts and financial report from the Executive Committee
- i) Consider policy motions duly submitted for its consideration; and
- j) Decide on any other measures to be taken to further aims of the Party.

**ARTICLE X****THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

77. The Executive Committee of the Party is the highest decision making body and has the power to formulate and amend rules and regulations and policies of the Party.
78. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the following members:
- a) President;
  - b) Vice President;
  - c) Members of the Party with Cabinet Portfolios;
  - d) Five representatives of constituencies elected by the General Assembly;
  - e) Treasurer; and
  - f) General Secretary as Member Secretary.
79. **The President shall:**
- a) Chair the General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings;
  - b) In matter of decision that ends in a tie, the Presidents vote shall be decisive and binding.
80. **The Vice President shall:**
- a) The Vice President shall preside over Executive Committee meetings in the absence of the President.
  - b) Shall assume the role of the President in his or her absence from Office.

**The election process for the Executive Committee Members**

81. All members to the Executive Committee shall be elected by secret ballot as per section 157 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
82. Elected members of the Party who have 'Cabinet Portfolios' shall be the members of the

Executive Committee.

83. The Party shall hold election for Executive Committee once every five years or upon request by two-thirds of the Party members.

### **Structure, Power and Functions of the Executive Committee**

84. An Executive Committee member may also be an office-bearer or such office-bearer may also be elected from the registered Party members.
85. A member shall have the right to move a motion to the Executive Committee meetings.
86. A member of the Executive Committee shall serve office in an honorary capacity, except in cases where the member is also an office-bearer of the Party.
87. The Executive Committee may replace a member or elect a new one only if there is a vacancy and report to the next General Assembly.
88. The Executive Committee shall appoint Advisors or Sub-Committees for specific tasks, as it deems necessary, and shall specify the extent to which its powers are delegated to the Committees. Members to such Committees may be chosen from general members of the Party.
89. The Executive Committee shall have full powers to direct and supervise the work of the Party Secretariat in accordance with the rules and policies laid down by the General Assembly and the objectives of the Party.
90. The President shall assume such powers of the Executive Committee when it is not in session, provided that his or her decisions on these matters are put before the next session of the Executive Committee for endorsement.
91. The Executive Committee may establish branch offices of the Party Secretariat in the country for such purposes as it shall deem necessary, and determine the staffing strength and posts within those branch offices.
92. The Executive Committee shall have power to sign and execute such deeds, documents and other instruments for the purposes of the Party as shall be specified in a resolution passed by the General Assembly.
93. The duties of the Executive Committee shall inter alia be:

- a) Formulate and amend, policies, programmes, rules and regulations of the Party for the implementation of the Charter and proper administration and discipline of the Party;
- b) Take major decisions related to the Party;
- c) Direct and supervise the organization, staffing and finances of the Party;
- d) Finalize the agenda for the General Assembly;
- e) Recommend the annual budget for the Party;
- f) Initiate and implement political campaigns and action;
- g) Receive and review regular reports on the Party's finances from the Treasurer;
- h) Review the Party's policies regularly;
- i) Direct, control and review the functioning of the Dzongkhag Coordinators and Constituency Committees;
- j) Monitor compliance by the Party and Party candidates nominated to stand for National Assembly elections, of all laws and regulations covering Political Parties and elections;
- k) Propose to the General Assembly such resolutions and declarations as may be deemed necessary to further the objectives and interests of the Party;
- l) Present to the General Assembly a report on its work since the previous General Assembly, along with a financial statement and audited accounts;
- m) Promote the aims and objectives of the Charter and to take any action it deems necessary for such purpose; and
- n) Elect candidates to stand the National Assembly elections.

#### **Procedure of the Executive Committee**

94. The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly or as and when called by the General Secretary with prior approval of the President.
95. The Executive Committee shall also meet once before the General Assembly to prepare the

agenda for the Session and once after the General Assembly to discuss the implementation of the resolutions.

96. The Executive Committee shall maintain written minutes of its meetings held in accordance with this Charter.
97. The Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the President. In the event President is absent, the Vice President shall chair the meeting.
98. The General Secretary shall be the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee and shall record all the minutes of the meetings.
99. Two third of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum to hold any Executive Committee meeting.
100. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken with a simple majority.

**ARTICLE XI****THE PARTY SECRETARIAT**

101. A Party Secretariat shall be established to conduct the day-to-day functions of the Party.
102. The following shall be the office-bearers of the Party:
- a) General Secretary;
  - b) Treasurer;
  - c) Accountant;
  - d) Policy and Planning Analyst;
  - e) Legal Officer;
  - f) Internal Auditor;
  - g) Administrative Officer;
  - h) Registration Officer;
  - i) Spokesperson; and
  - j) Office-bearers in Dzongkhags and *Gewogs* as defined in Article XII and XIII.
103. **The General Secretary shall:**
- a) Act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Party Secretariat and be responsible for activities undertaken in the best interest of the Party;
  - b) Be responsible for the management and administrative affairs of the Party including recruitment of the office bearers to be subsequently endorsed by Executive Committee;
  - c) Be the Member Secretary for all the Executive Committee meetings and General Assembly sessions;
  - d) Ensure implementation of decisions passed by the General Assembly and Executive

Committee;

- e) Represent the Party in all functions and events where the Party is required to be represented in the absence of the President;
- f) Ensure that all requirements are met with regard to filing of Party registrations, submission of annual accounts, and recording minutes of Executive Committee meetings;
- g) Collect and submit agendas to the Executive Committee for General Assembly;
- h) Summon the General Assembly and meetings of the Executive Committee;
- i) Conduct the correspondence of the Party under the directions of the Executive Committee;
- j) Maintain an up-to-date register of Party members;
- k) Keep all members fully informed of all-important activities of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- l) Record minutes of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings;
- m) Manage all affairs of the Party Secretariat, including the performance and conduct of Party Secretariat officials in accordance with the Charter and Party Service Manual;
- n) Direct and supervise the work of such branch offices of the Party as maybe established by the Executive Committee.

**104. The Treasurer shall:**

- a) Maintain the Books of Accounts in line with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).
- b) Maintain the annual account of the Party in accordance with the provision laid down in Chapter 8, Article 152 of the Election Act;

- c) Be responsible for keeping detailed records of everything received, disbursed and filing of annual accounts and election returns to the Election Commission;
- d) Maintain all accounts and finances of the Party;
- e) Be the disbursing officer of the Party;
- f) Be the signing authority of the Party on all withdrawal as joint signatory with the General Secretary;
- g) Maintain accounting and reporting format as per the requirement of the election rules;
- h) Facilitate clear and transparent accounting practice in the Party;
- i) Submit quarterly budget report to the Executive Committee meetings;
- j) Prepare budget requirement for the Party for the financial year;
- k) Certify the annual accounts of the Party for publication in its annual reports;
- l) Collect registration fees, membership fees and voluntary contributions; and
- m) Ensure sound and prudent financial management for the Party.

**105. The Accountant**

- a) Maintain and manage all accounts and finances of the Party;
- b) Maintain accounting and reporting format as per the requirement of the election rules;
- c) Issue receipts and maintains account for membership fees, registrations fees and voluntary contributions received by the Party.
- d) Compile detailed account of income and expenditure of Dzongkhags and Party Secretariat.

**106. The Policy and Planning Analyst shall:**

- a) Research, collate and analyze information for planning; and

- b) Provide policy recommendations to the Party.

107. **The Legal Officer shall:**

- a) Provide legal advice to the Party;
- b) Ensure that Party activities are in conformity with the national laws, rules and regulations;
- c) Represent the Party in the court of law in case of litigations;
- d) Be responsible for setting up an alternative dispute resolution process (Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration); and
- e) Be responsible for the drafting of Party's rules and regulations.

108. **The Internal Auditor shall:**

- a) Audit Party books of accounts on a periodic basis;
- b) Liaise with the Royal Audit Authority and Election Commission of Bhutan for auditing purposes;
- c) Set up an efficient internal system to avoid lapses as a preventive measure; and
- d) Be responsible to check legalities of all election receipts and expenses.

109. **The Administrative Officer shall:**

- a) Administer the ethics and code of conduct for the Party members;
- b) Prevent corrupt practices and educate members on how to avoid such practices;
- c) Oversee the implementation of Party's rules and regulations;
- d) Assist the legal officer to formulate rules on membership registration;
- e) Maintain a database on the membership of the Party;
- f) Carry out analysis and reconciliation of membership with the Dzongkhag Party Office including their details on demographics;

- g) Maintain membership data for the Party use; and
- h) Liaise with the Election Commission of Bhutan on compliance of the Electoral Laws.

110. **The Registration Officer:**

- a) Maintain membership records upon verifying against the voter photo identity card (VPIC) and E-Roll; and
- b) Submit updated list of members to Election Commission of Bhutan.

111. **The Spokesperson shall:**

- a) Be responsible for providing information to the media and the public regarding the Party and its activities;
- b) Review media reports on a daily basis to provide feedback to the Party;
- c) Carry out all functions related to audio-visual activities including campaign advertising; songs; pamphlets; brochures; translations; video clips;
- d) Ensure that wrong and detrimental information are not disseminated to the public;
- e) Take appropriate corrective measures in case of false publications and inappropriate media coverage; and
- f) Ensure copyrights on the election symbol and other Party publications.

**ARTICLE XII****THE DZONGKHAG COORDINATION OFFICE**

112. The Party shall maintain a Dzongkhag Coordination Office in each Dzongkhag to coordinate the functions and responsibilities of the constituencies in the Dzongkhags.
113. The Dzongkhag Coordination Office shall be headed by a Dzongkhag Coordinator who shall be elected by the Constituency Committee members of that Dzongkhag from among registered members of the Party in that Dzongkhag through secret ballot.
114. The highest decision making body of the Dzongkhag office shall consists of the following:
- a) The Dzongkhag Office-bearers;
  - b) At least one representative from each *Gewog*;
  - c) One representative from the *Thromde*;
  - d) The elected Members of Parliament from that Dzongkhag who are registered with the Party. However, the Dzongkhag Offices shall function through a Dzongkhag Committee.
115. Election of the Dzongkhag Executive Committee members shall be done by the Dzongkhag office on the principle of simple majority vote.
116. The Dzongkhag Committee shall consist of the following:
- a) Dzongkhag Coordinator;
  - b) Dzongkhag Treasurer;
  - c) Members of the Party elected to the National Assembly from the Dzongkhag; and
  - d) One representative from each Constituency of that Dzongkhag.
117. The Dzongkhag Committee shall function on the same lines as that of the Executive Committee including the election and nomination process. While it is the highest decision making body at the Dzongkhag level, their decisions are subjected to further review and approval by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.

118. The Dzongkhag Committee shall conduct their meetings as and when required and it shall be chaired by the Dzongkhag Coordinator.
119. The Dzongkhag Committee shall maintain all accounts and records as mandated by the Party rules and regulations.
120. The Dzongkhag Committee shall maintain minutes of their meetings and decisions and forward the same to the Party Secretariat on a quarterly basis, or whenever asked for by the Secretariat.
121. The Dzongkhag Committee shall carry out the registration of the members from their Dzongkhags.
122. The Dzongkhag Offices shall collect and manage their own funds as per the Electoral Laws.
123. The Dzongkhag Offices shall be supported by the Party with resources and budget.
124. The Dzongkhag Coordinator shall inter alia:
  - a) Be responsible for the organization and finances of the Constituencies;
  - b) Determine Party priorities and propose the annual budget for the Constituencies in consultation with the Constituency Committees;
  - c) Coordinate campaigns in the Constituencies during the campaign period as notified;
  - d) Register new members to the Party and collect registration and membership fees and receive voluntary contributions on behalf of the Party for which the Party shall make appropriate rules;
  - e) Promote awareness and understanding of the plans, policies, programmes and principles of the Party;
  - f) Propose prospective candidates from the constituencies to the Executive Committee for election to the National Assembly;
  - g) Submit annual reports on the works of the Dzongkhag Coordination Office and the Constituency Committees to the Executive Committee; and

- h) The term of office of the Dzongkhag Coordinator shall be five years and shall be eligible for re-election.
- i) The Dzongkhag Coordinator shall relinquish office on being voted out by a resolution supported by two-thirds majority of the members of the Constituency Committees in the Dzongkhag. The motion for the resolution must be signed by at least one-third of the members of the Constituency Committees.
- j) A bank account shall be maintained for the funds of the Dzongkhag Coordination Office and the Constituency Committees and an annual financial statement shall be submitted to the Executive Committee.

**ARTICLE XIII****THE CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES**

125. Each Constituency shall have a Constituency Committee comprising:
- a) Up to three representatives from each *Gewog* within the Constituency elected by the Party members registered in the *Gewog*; and
  - b) Up to two representatives of the *Thromde* within the Constituency.
126. The Executive Committee based on voter population and spatial nature of settlements in the Constituency shall determine the number of *Gewog* and *Thromde* representatives in each Constituency.
127. *Gewog* representatives shall be elected by the registered members of the Party in the respective *Gewogs* from among registered members of the *Gewog* through secret ballot.
128. *Thromde* representatives shall be elected by the registered members of the Party in the *Thromde* from among registered members of the Party through secret ballot.
129. Constituency Committee members shall serve for a period of three years. Its members shall be eligible for re-election, and any casual vacancy amongst members of the Committee shall remain unfilled.
130. Constituency Committee members shall be voted out of office by a two-thirds majority of the registered members of the Party in the Constituency. The motion for the resolution must be signed by at least one-third of the members of the Party in the Constituency.
131. The Constituency Committees shall be responsible to the Executive Committee and shall abide by all its decisions.
132. The Constituency Committee shall be responsible for implementing the Party's policies, plans and programmes within the Constituency. In particular, the Committee shall:
- a) Promote awareness and understanding of the plans, policies, programmes and principles of the Party;
  - b) Register new members to the Party and collect registration and membership fees and

receive voluntary contributions on behalf of the Party for which the Party shall make appropriate rules;

- c) Submit proposals to promote the aims and objectives of the Party through the Dzongkhag Coordinator.
- d) Propose prospective candidates for their constituencies to the Executive Committee through the Dzongkhag Coordinator;
- e) Initiate and carry out campaigns during the campaign period as notified;
- f) Submit annual reports on its work along with a financial statement of its accounts to the Executive Committee through the Dzongkhag Coordinator.

**ARTICLE XIV****FUND AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

133. The Party shall raise funds in conformity with the Constitution and the Electoral Laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
134. The three sources of income for the Party shall be:
- a) Registration Fees;
  - b) Membership Fees; and
  - c) Voluntary contributions.
135. Public Campaign Financing provided by the Election Commission of Bhutan during National Assembly Elections shall be used for financing election campaigns.
136. The overall financial management of the Party shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
137. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the funds of the Party, and shall maintain a proper set of books covering all financial transactions of the Party.
138. At the end of each financial year the Party's accounts are to be audited by the Royal Audit Authority as per the provision of Section 123 of the Public Election Fund Act.
139. The General Assembly shall agree on a budget for each financial year and observe the restraints imposed by the budget, and take any action that may be necessary to contain excess of expenditure or manage any shortfall in income.
140. All cheques and other financial instruments shall be duly signed by the General Secretary or Treasurer and one of two other signatories authorized by the Executive Committee.
141. All financial transactions above Nu. 5,000/- shall be made through cheques as per Public Election Fund Rules and Regulations.
142. The Treasurer shall be responsible for drawing up the Financial Statement and Accounts for presentation to the Executive Committee.

143. The Executive Committee shall appoint an Internal Auditor to audit the financial transactions of the Party.
144. The Party shall not receive donations and contributions from sources other than those specified in section 133.
145. The Party shall administer its finances and maintain the Books of Accounts in line with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

**ARTICLE XV****PARTYS OBLIGATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT**

146. The Party shall communicate to the Election Commission any changes in the structure of its office, office-bearers, address, or any other changes.
147. The Party shall make an application to the Election Commission in the Political Parties Form No.2A for changing the name of the Party or Political Parties Form No. 2B for changing any provision in its Charter.
148. The Party shall submit to the Election Commission other particulars, such as the name list of its members and all that are warranted by the commission from time to time.
149. The Party shall, in such form as prescribed under the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan submit to the Commission a consolidated statement of annual accounts of the political Party audited by the Royal Audit Authority containing:
- a) Annual income and expenses;
  - b) Sources of its funds;
  - c) Assets and liabilities; and
  - d) Campaign accounts after an election.
150. The Party and its members shall, in order to maintain a healthy electoral system and to ensure that the election campaigns are carried out in a lawful, peaceful and orderly manner for a free and fair election, abide by the Election Code of Conduct prescribed in the Election Act.
151. The Party shall always strive to conduct itself in conformity with the various provisions stipulated in the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder.
152. The Party shall not engage in any strikes or demonstrations that are not permissible under the existing laws of the land or that are of a disruptive and harmful nature to the *Tsa Wa Sum*.

**ARTICLE XVI****MERGER AND DISSOLUTION OF THE PARTY**

153. The Party may merge with another Political Party or be dissolved if a proposal to that effect is passed by a three-fourths majority of its members present and voting at a General Assembly, after obtaining prior approval from the Election Commission of Bhutan.
154. Any proposal to dissolve the Party must incorporate proposals for the disposal of the assets and records of the Party.
155. The Party shall stand dissolved by a declaration of the Supreme Court as per Section 146 of the Election Act.

**ARTICLE XVII**

**AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

156. Amendment to Party's Charter can be made only with prior approval of the Election Commission of Bhutan.
157. 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.



The election symbol of the Party is a Swan, surging skyward from a lotus mount that is sprouting on a body of water with a Norbu (Precious Gem) as a backdrop flanked on either side by green leaves. The Water Body represents people and stability; the Lotus symbolizes purity and harmony; the Swan represents the rising glory of Bhutan with unity, equity and positive transformation; the Norbu or the Precious Gem represents Tsa Wa Sum or the Triple Gem, vitality with endurance and prosperity; the Green Leaves signifies GNH, spreading of prosperity and happiness; the Sharp Lines of the Wings means definitive, goal oriented, principled, integrity, direction and security of the nation that the Party will work towards. Overall, the election symbol signifies Unity, Prosperity and Happiness for the people and country while, for the Party, it is symbolic of its principles of social democracy. The Blue and Black color signify democracy, people, unity, peace, stability, equity and justice. The Pink color represents democratic socialism on which the ideology of the Party is based. The Green color symbolizes happiness, prosperity and GNH.