

# CHARTER OF DRUK PHUENSUM TSHOGPA

## PREAMBLE

**Inspired** by the noble vision of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck to usher in the institution of Democratic Constitutional Monarchy for the well-being of the Nation for all times;

**Convinced** that the people are the greatest wealth of the country and that it is needed to engage the talents and genius of the peoples, men and women, young and old, in building a united, prosperous and happy Nation;

**Affirming** people's participation as being fundamental to establishing a unique Bhutanese democratic system and the imperative to provide a credible platform to enable and broaden that participation;

**Motivated** by the popular support from all sections of the Bhutanese society to form a political party that will best serve the interests of the Nation and the aspirations of the people;

**Realizing** the magnitude of the responsibilities placed upon the Bhutanese people and the need to ensure a smooth transition from the reassuring gifts of enlightened monarchy to the possibilities of soft politics and decent democracy;

**Recognizing** the need to engage the natural, social, spiritual, cultural, economic, scientific, intellectual, artistic, and human dimensions of the nation to foster a wholesome and sustainable development that fulfils the profound needs of the people.;

**Empowered** by the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan to form a Political Party in the Nation; and

In keeping with the provisions of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, and the Political Parties Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan, We, the members of the DRUK PHUENSUM TSHOGPA, give unto ourselves this Charter enshrining the following provisions and pledge to abide by them:

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## ARTICLE I

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### 1. Title, Commencement and Extent

#### 1.1 This Charter shall:

1.1.1 Be called the Charter of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa;

1.1.2 Extend to the whole of the Kingdom of Bhutan;

1.1.3 Come into force from the day the Party receives its Certificate of Registration from the Election Commission of Bhutan

## **1.2 Definitions**

In this Charter, unless the context otherwise requires;

- “Commission” means the Election Commission of Bhutan;
- “Election Act” means the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008;
- “General Assembly” means the highest policy making body of Druk Phuensum Tshogpa;
- “Executive Committee” is the highest decision making body of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa;
- “President” means the head of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa;
- “Secretary” means the Chief Executive Officer of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa Secretariat;
- “Treasurer” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.8 of this charter;
- “Welfare Secretary” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.9 of this charter;
- “Legal Officer” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.10 of this charter;
- “Internal Auditor” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.11 of this charter;
- “Administrative Officer” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.12 of this document;
- “Liaison Officer” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.13 of this charter;
- “Media and Public Relations Officer” is an office-bearer entrusted with the responsibilities prescribed in article 7.14 of this charter;
- The words importing the masculine gender shall include feminine gender; and
- The words importing the singular number shall include the plural number and vice versa, unless the context otherwise requires.

## **1.3 Ideology, Principles and Objectives of Druk Phuensum Tshogpa**

### **1.3.1 Ideology:**

Establish a true and vibrant Political Party as an instrument for the creation of a united, prosperous and happy country defined by integrity and honour where people have the right to exercise their freedom, leading to the fulfillment of their hopes and aspirations in the Democratic Constitutional Monarchy.

### **1.3.2 Mission:**

To serve the *Tsa Wa Sum* with utmost loyalty and dedication and commit ourselves to building an enlightened society that is united in the pursuit of His Majesty's aspiration for *Gross National Happiness* encompassing economic sustainability, social and cultural harmony and equity, environmental integrity and political justice.

### **1.3.3 Goals and Objectives**

- 1.3.3.1 Strive towards establishing a unique political culture and a true and vibrant democracy based on the gift of a unique Constitution from the King.
- 1.3.3.2 Build a strong and sustainable party that the people can trust and respect for all times through ensuring full representation and participation in terms of region, generations and gender.
- 1.3.3.3 Promote unity, integration, and human rights of the highest standards through equity, social justice, legal, administrative and security safeguards and services for all sections of the society.
- 1.3.3.4 Conserve Bhutan's fragile mountain ecology and as well use renewable natural resources sustainably including hydro power potential for self reliance through revenue generation for improvement of well-being of all Bhutanese.
- 1.3.3.5 Ensure financial and economic sustainability at all times through proper utilization of the available resources.
- 1.3.3.6 Ensure reduction of the gap between the rich and the poor through different regionally balanced developmental activities.
- 1.3.3.7 Preserve and promote Bhutan's rich cultural heritage and value systems as relevant and essential to modern society and recognize and promote the cultural industry.

- 1.3.3.8 Expand and improve education and health services with emphasis on standards, quality and accessibility through special support programmes without allowing privatization to undermine such services.
- 1.3.3.9 Provide infrastructure such as road network, as an engine of economic growth and social cohesion, to promote village connectivity and better delivery of services and enhancement of economic opportunities in rural areas.
- 1.3.3.10 Maintain the current policy of small, compact and efficient government keeping with His Majesty's wisdom and minimize paper work, simplify decision making process, make government more transparent and accountable, remain open to public criticism and suggestions, and raise morale and capacity of civil servants for an efficient delivery of services.
- 1.3.3.11 Address the needs of the rural population through acceleration of communication infrastructure development programmes, income supplementation and rural employment.
- 1.3.3.12 Promote greater participation and role of women in political arena by creating a conducive environment while recognizing the value of their contribution in socio-economic sphere.
- 1.3.3.13 Promote private sector growth as the main determinant of the nation's economic health while ensuring that it is socially responsible. This will entail that government will not hinder but facilitate; public and private partnership with mutual trust, further liberalization of licensing detrimental to environment/natural resources/culture and value system.
- 1.3.3.14 Recognize educated youth as the asset of society, create and provide gainful employment opportunities.
- 1.3.3.15 Address the growing crimes (rape, domestic violence, murder, and robbery), divorce rates, alcoholism, substance abuse and suicide.
- 1.3.3.16 Strengthen family and community values and networks through socially appropriate and sustainable ways to ensure care for the aged, destitute and those in need.
- 1.3.3.17 Further promote foreign relations and national interests and participate more actively with world bodies as pursued in line with the farsighted vision of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

1.3.3.18 Further promote and strengthen the excellent relations that exist with India.

1.3.3.19 Combat corruption in all spheres of national activities, ensure right to information and uphold the freedom of press.

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## ARTICLE II

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### **2. Party's Allegiance & Commitment**

2.1 Druk Phuensum Tshogpa shall:

2.1.1 Bear true faith and allegiance to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;

2.1.2 Uphold the sovereignty, national security, unity and integrity of the Kingdom;

2.1.3 Be broad-based and shall include cross-national membership with members from all the Dzongkhags;

2.1.4 Commit itself to the advancement of democracy and social, cultural, political and economic growth of Bhutan;

2.1.5 Advance the economic growth of the nation through innovation, merit and hard work and liberalization of the national economy;

2.1.6 Protect the environment and strive to enhance renewable energy and decrease dependency on imported fossil fuels;

2.1.7 Empower women and youth and tap the potential of vast human resources through targeted and quality measures of secondary and tertiary education;

2.1.8 Not restrict the membership on the grounds of region, gender, language, religion, or other status;

2.1.9 Hold intra-party elections of the office-bearers;

2.1.10 Resort to fund raising strictly in accordance with the electoral laws;

2.1.11 Not misuse the Party funds; and

2.1.12 Abide by the provisions of the Election Act, Public Election Fund Act, National Referendum Act and all Rules and Regulations made there under.

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## **ARTICLE III**

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### **3. Registration and Membership**

- 3.1 Membership to Druk Phuensum Tshogpa is open to any Registered Voter who is not a member of any other political party, civil service, armed forces, local governments or National Council.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Upon the acceptance of membership, notice in writing shall be given to him, with a request to pay the amount of his first subscription to the Treasurer within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of issue of Notice.
- 3.4 The membership shall be revoked if the subscription is not paid within 15 days, from the date of such request as aforesaid, unless such deadline is extended by the competent authority in the Party.
- 3.5 A member of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa may withdraw his membership from the Party by notifying the Dzongkhag party office in writing.
- 3.6 Druk Phuensum Tshogpa shall immediately notify the Commission on the death, resignation or withdrawal of membership.
- 3.7 The Party shall neither solicit nor accept candidates for any elective posts from a member who is disqualified under 176, 180 and 181 of the Election Act.

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## **ARTICLE IV**

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### **4. Rights and Obligations of Members**

- 4.1 A member shall owe his loyalty to the "Tsa-Wa-Sum" – the King, Country and the People of Bhutan.
- 4.2 A member shall commit himself to the cause of an independent, secular and democratic Bhutan.
- 4.3 A member shall accept and conform to the Party's Charter, programmes, principles and policies.
- 4.4 A member shall have the right to participate in party meetings and conferences by expressing views and suggesting actions;
- 4.5 A member shall have the right to vote and be eligible for party positions;
- 4.6 A member shall work to promote the party principles at all times;

- 4.7 A member shall adhere to the Party Charter and other rules framed thereunder; and
- 4.8 A member shall bear true allegiance to the Party's aims and objectives and work towards fulfilling them.
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## **ARTICLE V**

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### **5. The Structure of the Party**

- 5.1 The principal organs of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa shall be:
- 5.1.1 General Assembly (GA – open to all members)
  - 5.1.2 Executive Committee (EC – cabinet members, elected Party representatives to the National Assembly, elected members from Dzongkhag offices (two maximum), and members elected by GA)
  - 5.1.3 Dzongkhag Offices
- 5.2 The Party shall establish subsidiary organs as may be found necessary in accordance with the Charter.
- 5.3 A registered member of the party shall be eligible to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs.
- 5.4 The Party shall have a President who shall be the head of the Party.
- 5.5 The highest decision-making body of the Party shall be an Executive Committee.
- 5.6 The Party shall have its Head Office in Thimphu and its Dzongkhag offices in every dzongkhag and in constituency, where found necessary.
- 5.7 The Dzongkhag Committees shall coordinate all party activities in the dzongkhag, including constituencies and geogs.
- 5.8 The Dzongkhag Committee shall be composed of party representatives and registered members from the constituencies.
- 5.9 The Party shall, in addition to its President, have office-bearers as per the provisions of this Charter.

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## ARTICLE VI

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### **6 Composition and Protocol of the General Assembly**

- 6.1 The General Assembly shall be the highest policy making body providing authority, control, and direction for the Party.
- 6.2 The General Assembly shall convene once a year or as decided by the Executive Committee.
- 6.3 The President shall preside over all sessions of the General Assembly. In his absence, the Vice President shall preside over the sessions. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the member shall decide on an interim Chairman to preside over the General Assembly session.
- 6.4 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. The General Assembly shall be open to all the members.
- 6.5 A General Assembly session must be attended by two thirds of the Executive Committee members, dzongkhag coordinators and the coordinators from constituencies.
- 6.6 All General Assembly session meetings and their agenda shall be announced reasonably in advance, or by sending direct invitation to the members.

### **The decision-making process of the General Assembly**

- 6.7 A member shall have the right to move motions to the General Assembly which may be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee in advance to the General Assembly session to be added to its agenda;
- 6.8 A motion shall be adopted by a simple majority vote and in case of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- 6.9 A member shall have only one vote
- 6.10 A resolution put to vote may be decided by show of hands unless two-thirds of General Assembly members demand use of secret ballot.
- 6.11 Amendment to Party's Charter and Manifesto can be made only by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.
- 6.12 The powers and functions of the General Assembly (GA) are to:
  - 6.12.1 Suggest amendment of the Charter to the Election Commission of Bhutan;



6.12.2 Approve the Manifesto of the Party; and

6.12.3 Direct the Executive Committee to submit an annual report along with its budget proposal.

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## ARTICLE VII

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### **7 Executive Committee**

7.1 The Executive Committee shall be an apex body with authority to:

7.1.1 Submit recommendations on policy related issues;

7.1.2 Implement policy-decisions taken by the General Assembly;

7.1.3 Coordinate the Secretariat activities; and

7.1.4 Make appropriate decisions of the Party.

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

7.2 An Executive Committee member may also be an office-bearer or such office-bearer may also be elected from the registered party members.

7.3 A member shall have the right to move a motion to the Executive Committee meetings.

7.4 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.

7.5 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.

7.6 The Executive Committee shall appoint advisors or sub-committees to deal with specific matters including, but not limited, to the following;

7.6.1 Trustee Committee;

7.6.2 Policy and Strategy Bureau;

7.6.3 Candidate Election Committee;

7.6.4 Programme Planning and Monitoring; and

7.6.5 Publications and Promotions.

7.7 The Executive Committee shall:

7.7.1 Validate and propose changes to the By-laws;

- 7.7.2 Prepare the General Assembly meeting agenda and submit annual reports to the General Assembly;
- 7.7.3 Receive, review and provide feedback on the report on activities of the Party;
- 7.7.4 Take measures for strengthening and furthering the goals and programmes of the Party;
- 7.7.5 Assign government portfolios-to the members elected to the National Assembly of Bhutan; and
- 7.7.6 Approve budgets and acceptance of the Statement of Accounts.

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

- 7.8 The Executive Committee shall meet once every quarter or as and when called by the Secretary with prior approval of the President.
- 7.9 The Executive Committee shall maintain written minutes of its meetings held in accordance with this Charter.
- 7.10 The Executive Committee meetings shall be chaired by the President. In the event President is absent, the Vice President shall chair the meeting.
- 7.11 The Secretary shall be the member secretary of the Executive Committee and shall record all the minutes of the meetings.
- 7.12 Two third of the Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum to hold any Executive Committee meeting.
- 7.13 All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken with a simple majority.

### **Election process for the Executive Committee (EC) Members**

- 7.14 All members to the Executive Committee shall be elected in keeping with the democratic principles enshrined in the Constitution and Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 7.15 Elected members of the Party who have ‘Cabinet Portfolios’ shall be the member of the Executive Committee.
- 7.16 The Secretariat of the Party shall be represented in the Executive Committee by Secretary, Treasurer and Internal Auditor and such staff as may be found necessary from time to time.
- 7.17 The Executive Committee members shall be elected by the registered party members from the Coordinators of the Dzongkhag Offices. However, a

Member of Cabinet, Member of the Parliament, representatives of the Secretariat will be ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

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

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## ARTICLE VIII

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### **8 Secretariat**

- 8.1 The following shall be the office-bearers of the Party:
- 8.1.1 President
  - 8.1.2 Vice President
  - 8.1.3 Secretary
  - 8.1.4 Treasurer
  - 8.1.5 Accountant
  - 8.1.6 Legal Officer
  - 8.1.7 Internal Auditor
  - 8.1.8 Administrative officer
  - 8.1.9 Registration Officer
  - 8.1.10 Media and Public Relations Officer
  - 8.1.11 Welfare Secretary
  - 8.1.12 Office-bearers in dzongkhags and gewogs as defined in Article 9.2 of this charter.
- 8.2 The President shall:
- 8.2.1 Chair the General Assembly and the Executive Committee meetings; and
  - 8.2.2 In matter of decision that ends in a tie, the President's vote shall be decisive and binding.
- 8.3 The Vice President shall:
- 8.3.1 Perform all duties of the President in whenever he is absent, and shall be appointed from the Party's office-bearers; and
  - 8.3.2 There shall be no dedicated official for this particular position.
- 8.4 The Secretary shall:

- 8.4.1 Act as the Chief Executive Office of the Party Secretariat and be responsible for activities undertaken in the best interest of the Party;
  - 8.4.2 Be responsible for the management and administrative affairs of the Party including recruitment of the office bearers to be subsequently endorsed by Executive Committee;
  - 8.4.3 Be the Member Secretary for all the Executive Committee meetings and General Assembly sessions;
  - 8.4.4 Ensure implementation of decisions passed by the General Assembly and Executive Committee;
  - 8.4.5 Represent the Party in all functions and events where the Party is required to be represented in the absence of the President; and
  - 8.4.6 Ensure that all requirements are met with regard to filing of Party registrations, submission of annual accounts, and recording minutes of Executive Committee meetings.
- 8.5 The Party Treasurer shall:
- 8.5.1 Maintain the annual account of the Party in accordance with the provision laid down in Chapter 8, Article 149 and 150 of the Election Bill;
  - 8.5.2 Be responsible for keeping detailed records of everything received, disbursed and filing of annual accounts and election returns to the Election Commission;
  - 8.5.3 Maintain all accounts and finances of the Party;
  - 8.5.4 Be the disbursing officer of the Party;
  - 8.5.5 Be the signing authority of the Party on all withdrawal as joint signatory with the Secretary;
  - 8.5.6 Maintain accounting and reporting format as per the requirement of the election rules and the rules and regulations of the Royal Audit Authority;
  - 8.5.7 Facilitate clear and transparent accounting practice in the Party;
  - 8.5.8 Submit quarterly budget report to the Executive Committee meetings;
  - 8.5.9 Prepare budget requirement for the Party for the financial year;

- 8.5.10 Certify the annual accounts of the Party for publication in its annual reports;
- 8.5.11 Collect membership fees and membership contributions; and
- 8.5.12 Ensure sound and prudent financial management for the Party.
- 8.6 The Welfare Secretary shall:
  - 8.6.1 Look after the general welfare of the Party members; and
  - 8.6.2 Determine the compensation and social security of the Party members.
- 8.7 The Legal Officer shall:
  - 8.7.1 Provide legal advice to the Party;
  - 8.7.2 Ensure that Party activities are in conformity with the national laws, rules and regulations;
  - 8.7.3 Represent the Party in the court of law in case of litigations;
  - 8.7.4 Be responsible for setting up an alternative dispute resolution process (Mediation, Conciliation and Arbitration); and
  - 8.7.5 Be responsible for the drafting of Party's rules and regulations.
- 8.8 The Internal Auditor shall:
  - 8.8.1 Audit Party books of accounts on a periodic basis;
  - 8.8.2 Liaise with the Royal Audit Authority and Election Commission of Bhutan for auditing purposes;
  - 8.8.3 Set up a robust internal system to avoid lapses as a preventive measure; and
  - 8.8.4 Be responsible to check legalities of all election receipts and expenses.
- 8.9 The Administrative Officer shall:
  - 8.9.1 Administer the ethics code of conduct for the Party members;
  - 8.9.2 Prevent corrupt practices and educate members on how to avoid such practices;
  - 8.9.3 Liaise with the Anti-Corruption Commission on corruption issues; and
  - 8.9.4 Oversee the implementation of Party's rules and regulations, including members' entitlement to gifts and contributions.

8.10 The Liaison Officer shall:

- 8.10.1 Assist the legal officer to formulate rules on membership registration;
- 8.10.2 Maintain a data base on the membership of the Party;
- 8.10.3 Assist the Legal Officer to formulate rules on the election of members to the Executive Committee;
- 8.10.4 Prepare report and submit intra-party election results to the Election Commission;
- 8.10.5 Carry out analysis and reconciliation of membership with the Dzongkhag party office including their details on demographics;
- 8.10.6 Study, analyze and advise the Party on the delimitation rules and demarcation as and when they are updated by the Commission;
- 8.10.7 Maintain membership data for the Party use;
- 8.10.8 Establish electoral list/roles for the Party; and
- 8.10.9 Liaise with the Election Commission Office on compliance with their rules and regulations of the Election Commission of Bhutan.

8.11 Media and Public Relations Officer shall:

- 8.11.1 Be responsible for providing information to the media and the public regarding the Party and its activities;
- 8.11.2 Study the media reports on a daily basis to provide feedback to the Party;
- 8.11.3 To carry out all functions related to audio-visual activities including:
  - 8.11.3.1 Campaign advertising;
  - 8.11.3.2 Songs;
  - 8.11.3.3 Pamphlets;
  - 8.11.3.4 Brochures;
  - 8.11.3.5 Translations; and
  - 8.11.3.6 Video clips;

- 8.11.4 Ensure that wrong and detrimental information are not disseminated to the public;
- 8.11.5 Take appropriate corrective measures in case of false publications and inappropriate media coverage; and
- 8.11.6 Ensure copyrights on the logo and other Party publications.
- 8.12 The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary and such staff as the Party may require. The Secretary shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- 8.13 In the performance of their duties the Secretary and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Party. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their positions as officials responsible only to the Party.
- 8.14 The non-elected staff shall be appointed by the Secretary under regulations established by the General Assembly.

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## **ARTICLE IX**

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### **9 Party's Fund and Management**

- 9.1 The Party shall raise funds in conformity with the Constitution and the Electoral Laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 9.2 The primary source of funding for the Party shall be:
  - 9.2.1 Registration Fees and Membership Fees;
  - 9.2.2 Funds sanctioned by the Election Commission of Bhutan; and
  - 9.2.3 Voluntary contributions from registered members.
- 9.3 The Registration Fee is fixed at Nu. 100/- or as prescribed by the Party from time to time in accordance to the Election Fund Act payable in one installment which shall be a one time payment made by a person intending to be a member of the Party.
- 9.4 This Membership Fee shall be fixed at Nu. 200/- or as prescribed by the Party from time to time in accordance to the Election Fund Act.
- 9.5 The Party shall accept voluntary financial or in-kind contributions made by any of its registered members provided the value of such contributions does not exceed the ceiling prescribed by the Election Commission from time to time.

- 9.6 The Party shall not receive donations and contributions from sources deemed illegal by the Election Commission of Bhutan.
- 9.7 Fund management and maintenance of accounts of the Party shall be as per the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
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## **ARTICLE X**

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### **10 Dzongkhag Offices**

- 10.1 The Party shall maintain an office in every dzongkhag.
- 10.2 The highest decision making body of the Dzongkhag office shall consists of the following:
- 10.2.1 The Dzongkhag office-bearers;
  - 10.2.2 At least one representative from each geog;
  - 10.2.3 One representative from the Thromde; and
  - 10.2.4 The elected Members of Parliament from that district who are registered with the Party.
- 10.3 However, the Dzongkhag Offices shall function through a Dzongkhag Executive Committee
- 10.4 Election of the Dzongkhag Executive Committee members shall be done by the Dzongkhag office on the principle of simple majority vote.
- 10.5 Geog and thromde representatives shall be nominated from each geog and thromde with written endorsement of at least 15 members from that geog/thromde constituency or two- thirds of the registered members of that geog/thromde, whichever is lesser.
- 10.6 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall consist of the following:
- 10.6.1 Dzongkhag Coordinator;
  - 10.6.2 Dzongkhag Treasurer;
  - 10.6.3 Members of Parliament from the Dzongkhag; and
  - 10.6.4 One representative from each parliament constituency of that dzongkhag.
- 10.7 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall function on the same lines as that of the Executive Committee including the election and nomination process.



- 10.8 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall conduct their meetings as and when required and it shall be chaired by the Dzongkhag Coordinator.
- 10.9 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall maintain all accounts and records as mandated by the Party rules and regulations.
- 10.10 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall maintain minutes of their meetings and decisions and forward the same to the Party headquarters on a quarterly basis, or whenever asked for by the head office.
- 10.11 The Dzongkhag Executive Committee shall carry out the registration of the members from their dzongkhags in consultation with the Liaison Officer.
- 10.12 The Dzongkhag Offices shall collect and manage their own funds as per the provisions of the Election Commission rules and Party rules.
- 10.13 The Dzongkhag Offices shall be supported by the Party with resources and budget.

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## **ARTICLE XI**

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### **11 Party's Obligations**

- 11.1 The Party shall communicate to the Election Commission any changes in the structure of its office, office-bearers, address, or any other changes without delay.
- 11.2 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.
- 11.3 The Party shall submit to the Commission the results of intra-party election, with details of the total number of votes cast and the number of votes secured by each contestant for all of its party office-bearers, and a copy of the Party's notifications declaring the results of the election.
- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 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:
  - 11.5.1 Annual income and expenses;

- 11.5.2 Sources of its funds;
  - 11.5.3 Assets and liabilities; and
  - 11.5.4 Campaign accounts after an election.
- 11.6 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 Section 287-304 of the Election Act.
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## **ARTICLE XII**

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### **12 Conduct of the Party**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 Without limiting sub-section 14.1, the Party shall take stringent action on the following activities:
- 12.2.1 Gambling of any kind, whether for stakes or not, substance or drug abuse and any illegal practices shall be forbidden on the Party's premises;
  - 12.2.2 The funds of the Party shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in court; and
  - 12.2.3 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.
- 12.3 The Party shall not hold any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Party or its office-bearers, committee or members, unless with the prior approval of the relevant authorities.
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## **ARTICLE XIII**

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### **13 Nomination of Candidates to contest in the National Assembly elections**

- 13.1 The nomination of candidates for election to the National Assembly shall be decided through secret ballot by the Executive Committee, which shall take into consideration, among other things, the popular support the candidate enjoys from the people of his constituency.

13.2 The Party shall not nominate more than one candidate per constituency for election to the National Assembly.

13.3 A candidate so nominated shall be required to fulfill all the criteria laid down by the Election Commission of Bhutan.

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## **ARTICLE XIV**

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### **14 Dispute Resolution**

14.1 All dispute pertaining to the Party and its members shall be resolved as per the dispute resolution process adopted by the Party.

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## **ARTICLE XV**

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### **15 Dissolution of the Party**

15.1 The Party shall stand dissolved by a declaration of the Supreme Court as per Section 145 of the Election Act.

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## **ARTICLE XVI**

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### **16 Penalty**

16.1 A member who persistently violates the provisions of this Charter shall be subject to appropriate punitive action, including expulsion from the Party.

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## **ARTICLE XVII**

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### **17 Power of the Party to Issue Instructions and Directions**

17.1 In relation to any matter with respect to the conduct of the Party for which the provisions of the Charter are insufficient, and if clarification is necessary in the opinion of the Party, it may issue instructions and directions on the following matters:

17.1.1 For clarification on any of the provisions of the Party's Charter; and

17.1.2 For the removal of difficulties likely to arise in relation to the implementation of the Party's Charter and its provisions.

17.2 To maintain Party discipline and to make rules and regulations governing the appointment, duties and discipline of the members.

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## ARTICLE XVIII

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### **18 Authority of Interpretation and Amendment**

- 18.1 The Executive Committee of the Party shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the Charter.
- 18.2 The Executive Committee shall propose to the Annual General Assembly such amendments to the Charter as may be deemed desirable and such resolutions and declarations as in its view may be necessitated by political circumstances.

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