



འབྲུག་ཕུན་སུམ་ཚོགས་པ།

**DRUK PHUENSUM TSHOGPA**



*In Pursuit of Gross National Happiness*

**EQUITY AND JUSTICE**

**MANIFESTO**

**2018**

Doing what is right, not what is popular  
Advancing the nation's dignity and happiness

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དུག་འཁྲིད་ཕུན་སུམ་ཚོགས་པའི་མི་ལྟོ།

**Progress with Equity & Justice**  
*A Harmonious and Happy Society*



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# Foreward by the President

**I**t is with great joy and honour that I present Druk Phuensum Tshogpa's Manifesto 2018 to the people of Bhutan. A Manifesto in essence is a declaration of the party to fulfill what it deems are the collective aspirations of the people and the needs of the country. It is a statement of goals, policies, plans and programmes by which the party intends to seek the mandate of the people to serve them.

In other words, a manifesto is a basic instrument by which voters must judge the vision, intent and capacity of a party. Once elected, the Manifesto becomes the mandate of the government. It is a contract that binds the elected government and the people together. It must, therefore, be sincere and deliverable. Our Manifesto 2018 is, among others, based on the commitment of Doing What is Right, Not What is Popular.

In seeking the people's mandate, our overarching aspiration and commitment is to serve, promote and strengthen the three sacred elements of our nationhood, the Tsawa Sum, for all times to come.

1. The King: The Bhutanese people are keenly aware that our collective merit (Soenam) is manifest in the jewel of a wise, compassionate and visionary King. His Majesty the King is the life-force of our nation. His good health is our wellbeing and His joy is our happiness.
2. The People: We are a sovereign nation and sovereign power belongs to our people. Our people enjoy unprecedented peace, harmony and happiness and we seek the mandate to serve to make their future even brighter.
3. The Country: Bhutan is at peace with herself and with all countries. Her sovereignty and independence are secure in the embrace of friends and partners. Our first and most important commitment is to further strengthen the security and sovereignty of our country for all times to come.

Our Manifesto is based on our unique national development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, which in DPT's language encompasses Psychological Well-being and Material Prosperity for every individual, every citizen. The politics of Bhutan must therefore always be about raising the happiness of our people. It must be about creating those conditions that will enable the pursuit of Gross National Happiness. This is exactly what our Manifesto sets out to do.

As we enter the theatre of elections, I and my DPT family pledge to conduct our electoral campaigns, as always, in the most exemplary manner, with the highest of ethics and utmost respects for our voters.

Tashi Delek!  
Pema Gyamtsho, PhD



# Our Allegiance and Commitment

We offer our unwavering allegiance to the sacred institution of monarchy, the life-force of our nation.

We shall be guided by His Majesty the King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, in our pursuit of just, equitable and harmonious society for fulfilling the overarching vision of Gross National Happiness.

We commit ourselves to be the true servants and to strive to fulfill the aspirations and wishes of the people of Bhutan through utmost loyalty, honesty, integrity and perseverance.

## **Dedication**

In the name of His Majesty the King, Druk Phuensum Tshogpa shall strive to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people. May the Guardian Deities of the Palden Drukpa bless us and guide us in all our endeavors to serve our King, Country and People.

## **Gratitude**

Druk Phuensum Tshogpa offers its heartfelt gratitude to all our fellow citizens for the past decade of privilege to serve; firstly, as the first democratically elected government (2008-2013) and secondly as the opposition (2013-2018) after the second democratic elections. The party and its members remain firm and unwavering in our loyalty and allegiance to the Tsa-wa Sum. We humbly offer ourselves as a party that is always prepared to serve.



# Our Vision

A sovereign and prosperous nation of enlightened citizens committed to the pursuit of Gross National Happiness through growth with equity and justice, encompassing economic self reliance, social harmony, environmental integrity and political justice.

# Our Mission

1. To realise the vision of His Majesty the King for a just, equitable and harmonious society and strive to our best to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people of Bhutan.
2. To always strive to ensure that national unity, security, justice, fundamental rights and freedom are never compromised.
3. To abide by the Constitution and uphold the Rule of Law.
4. To persevere to build and strengthen conditions for the happiness of the Bhutanese people.
5. To establish standards and norms for party politics and behaviour by way of example so that parties and individuals choose to follow them or be so inspired, as to give all voters true and comparative choice.
6. To be guided, demonstrably, by the highest management and social ethics and principles so that the party shall be worthy of the loyalty of its own members and the trust and confidence of the people.
7. To recognize and give opportunity to potential leaders to rise to positions of political office irrespective of their social standing or economic status.
8. To serve with the highest transparency, accountability and compassion in keeping with the ideals and purposes enshrined in the Constitution of our country.

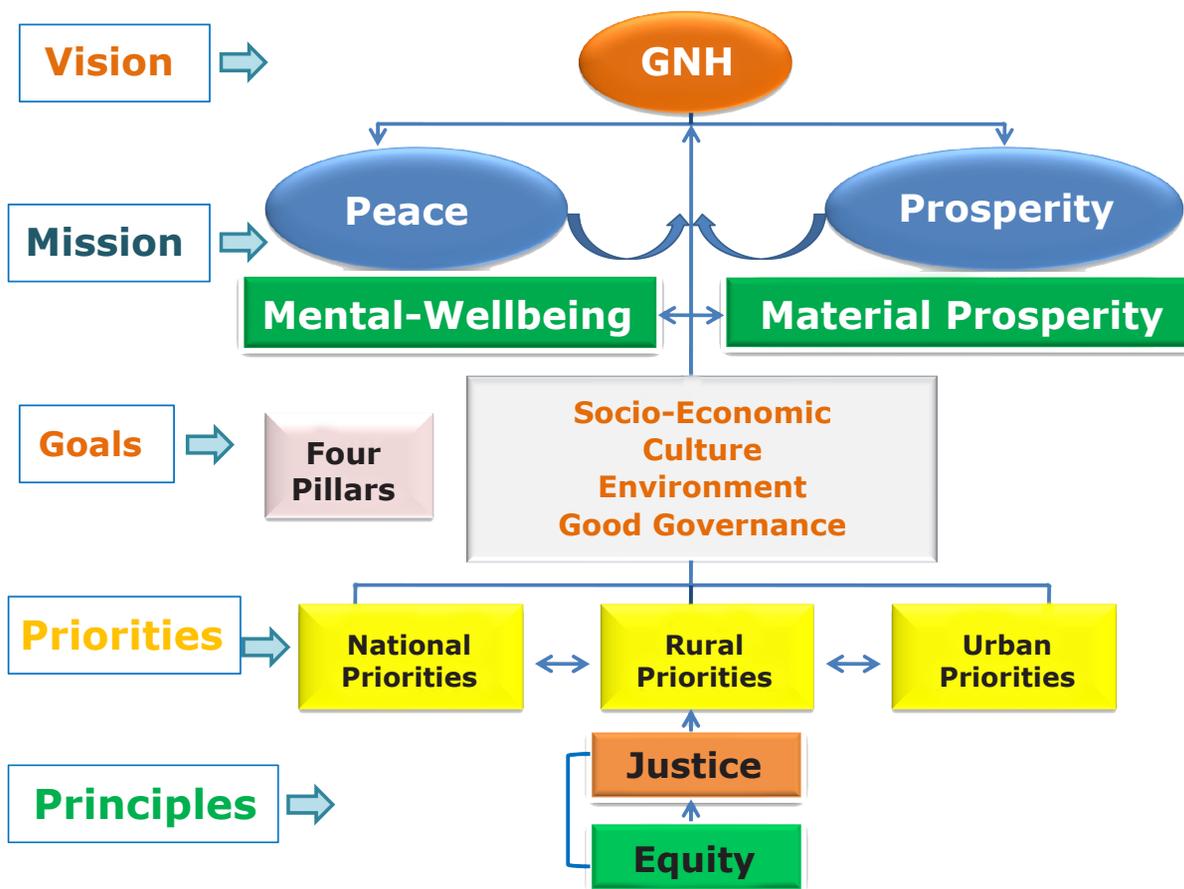


# Introduction to the Manifesto

Our Manifesto is based on our enlightened Monarch’s unique development vision of Gross National Happiness. GNH must ultimately lead to Psychological Well-being and Material Prosperity for every individual, every citizen. This shall be pursued through four pillars, nine domains and seventy-two indicators. In doing so, we will be guided by our ideology and principle of Equity and Justice, at all times.

Our pledges and plans are presented in three parts: National Priorities, Rural Priorities and Urban Priorities. This is done so, not only in keeping with our ideology of equitable and balanced development but also to make reading and understanding of our Manifesto easy for all.

## ARCHITECTURE of MANIFESTO



It is, therefore, DPT’s firm belief and conviction that politics in Bhutan must always be about promoting the happiness of our people. The Governance must be all about continuously striving to create those conditions that will enable the pursuit of Gross National Happiness. This is exactly what our Manifesto sets out to do.

# **PART I: NATIONAL PRIORITIES**







# Our Timeless Priorities

## 1. National Security and Sovereignty

First and foremost matter of importance and closest to the heart to every Bhutanese is its national security and sovereignty. We are extremely fortunate that under the farsighted leadership of our beloved kings, our sovereignty and security remain stronger than ever before. Our Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Bhutan Police and Royal Body Guard continue to serve His Majesty the King, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Militia with unwavering commitment in safeguarding the nation and the people. We remain ever grateful to our armed forces for their selfless service.

Our first and most important pledge will be to serve His Majesty the King in protecting, strengthening and ensuring the peace, well-being, security and sovereignty of our country for all times to come. In this regard, we will always extend full support to our armed forces.

## 2. National Unity, Peace and Harmony

For a small country, with a small population, national unity, peace and harmony will remain vital for all times to come. Our visionary monarchs have worked hard to ensure these blessings for the people of Bhutan. Druk Phuensum Tshogpa is committed to upholding and strengthening these vital assets for the continued well-being of our country and our people. DPT will remain steadfast in its pledge to enhancing the peace, harmony and unity among all sections of our people.

## 3. Institution of Monarchy

His Majesty the King is the life-force of our nation, the symbol of unity of the Kingdom and the people of Bhutan, the upholder of the Chhoe-sid (the dual system), the Benevolent Benefactor of the people (kidu provider) and as the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Militia, He is the supreme protector of the security and sovereignty of the country. Our well-being, peace, harmony and happiness rest solely on the sacred Institution of Monarchy. Our party will remain unwavering in safeguarding and strengthening the Institution of Monarchy for all times to come.



## 1. Economy : Putting it Back on Track for Economic Self-Reliance by 2025

The DPT's first term in government brought about a tremendous transformation in the economy. We will resume the works carried out in the past to bring about significant changes in the lives of our people. In our economic development pursuit, we will base our rationale and vision for the country on the *Vision 2020 Document*.

The three cardinal principles for a sustainable human society are: to have a large wealth, fair distribution of the wealth among its citizens, and full employment of its working-age population while maintaining macro-economic stability. DPT's efforts in the next five years and beyond will revolve around these cardinal principles.

DPT will:

- i. Achieve national economic self-reliance by 2025.
- ii. Maintain an average economic growth rate of 10% in five years.
- iii. Reduce income poverty rate from 8.2% to 4% within five years.
- iv. Reduce the rich-poor gap and improve Gini coefficient to 0.30.
- v. Ensure full employment and contain unemployment below 2%.
- vi. Reduce interest rates to maximum 10% and enhance access to finance.
- vii. Reduce trade deficits from 81% to 50% of total exports after five years.
- viii. Maintain minimum foreign currency reserve to cover 12 months of essential imports.
- ix. Ensure national revenue meets 100% of recurrent expenditure and 30% of capital expenditure.
- x. Maintain fiscal deficit below 2% on annual budgets.
- xi. Maintain non-hydropower loans at 20% of the total debt.
- xii. Maintain inflation below 5% on essential commodities.
- xiii. Develop new Economic Development Policy within the first six months.
- xiv. Develop new Foreign Direct Investment Policy within the first six months.
- xv. De-monopolize the economy and enhance fair distribution of wealth.

## 2. Harnessing hydropower potential for long-term prosperity

Bhutan's rivers are the white gold that make a huge contribution to our national revenue and socio-economic development. We aspire to revamp the national target of increasing the electricity generation capacity from the present 1,606 MW (5.5% of total potential) to a minimum of 10,000 MW by 2030. Bhutan will take comfort in the tremendous goodwill of India to fulfill this. We will distribute mega hydropower projects evenly for balanced regional development.



We will execute at least three projects and actively pursue the others with the Government of India.

- i. Kholongchu (600 MW)
- ii. Chamkharchhu I (779 MW)
- iii. Sankosh Reservoir (2,560 MW)
- iv. Wangchhu Reservoir (579 MW)
- v. Bunakha (180 MW)
- vi. Amochhu Reservoir (540 MW)
- vii. Kuri-Gongri (2,640 MW)
- viii. Dorji Lung (1,125 MW)
- ix. Gamri (130 MW)
- x. Merag-Amari (473)
- xi. Dhansari (73 MW)

### 3. Electricity for growth and development

We will:

- i. Provide on grid electricity for all.
- ii. Ensure domestic electricity tariff is affordable for all.
- iii. Update the National Transmission Grid Master Plan.
- iv. Ensure the location of mega hydropower projects are nationally even distributed.
- v. Develop and use reservoir-based hydropower to meet the peak electricity demand in India.
- vi. Promote private sector participation in hydro power projects.
- vii. Promote and incentivize the use of electricity to reduce dependency on fossil-based energy.
- viii. Strengthen capacity of stakeholders in the construction and management of power projects.
- ix. Create an Energy Fund to support social, ecological and other renewable energy development programmes.
- x. Provide fair compensation to individuals and communities affected by power projects.
- xi. Strengthen watershed protection and management.



#### 4. **Harnessing alternative sources of renewable energy**

The report on *Renewable Energy Assessment* indicates Bhutan has a potential to produce 12,018 MW of solar, 761 MW of wind and a large quantity of biomass energy. We will work towards realizing the national potential of generating all forms of clean energy while being mindful of their social and ecological impacts.

We will:

- i. Develop a Renewable Energy Master Plan.
- ii. Strengthen energy security of the nation.
- iii. Introduce sustainable incentive mechanisms.
- iv. Promote private sector participation in diversifying renewable energy sources.
- v. Promote energy saving and efficiency measures in housing, appliances, industry and transport sectors.
- vi. Enhance national revenue and employment through sustainable energy projects.
- vii. Incentivize the generation and use of energy from solar, wind and bio sources.
- viii. Enhance credit earning from trading under carbon markets.

#### 5. **Road: The mother of growth and development**

We will:

- i. Resume the construction of the southern East-West Highway.
- ii. Continue and complete the widening of the northern East-West Highway.
- iii. Continue the construction and completion of the Lhamoizingkha-Dagapela Road.
- iv. Undertake the shortening of national highways by constructing alternate route and bypass.
- v. Explore construction of ropeways and cable cars as alternative means of transport.
- vi. Prioritize the construction of the following roads:
  - Shingkhar - Gorgan
  - Kengkhar - Shumar
  - Wama - Khomshar
  - Sergithang - Dovan
  - Tashiyangtshi Dongla - Menji
  - Tashiling - Refel
  - Getena - Dorona



- Samrang – Jomotshangkha
- Sombeykha – Tashichoeling
- Singye – Lhamoizingkha
- Merak – Luari
- Samar – Dophuchen
- Nahi – Chamgang
- Soe – Gunitsawa
- Tseza – Kamichu
- Kuri-Gongri Junction – Sherichu
- Haa – Denchukha
- Demji-Phuentsholing

## 6. Information and communications: connecting for growth and development

We will:

- i. Upgrade and provide 3G/4G internet services throughout the country.
- ii. Do away with the 5% voucher tariff and restore emergency balance usage.
- iii. Provide free WiFi at bus stands, hospitals and parks.
- iv. Provide free BBS television link throughout the country.
- v. Open the third international telecommunications link gateway.
- vi. Establish additional IT parks in different regions.
- vii. Provide fiscal incentives to IT and IT-enabled industries and services.
- viii. Continue to invest in optic fibre lines and enhance public service delivery through full operationalization of Community Information Centers (CICs).
- ix. Facilitate FDIs in ICT-related businesses.
- x. Place special emphasis on promoting and taking advantage of our technically sound and English-speaking youth to build IT/ICT-enabled knowledge based economy.
- xi. Develop favorable policies to attract multinational companies(MNCs) to locate their operations in Bhutan.
- xii. Set up universal tele-connectivity and platforms for convenience and affordability to gain access to ICT.
- xiii. Take all G2C services online including on the mobile applications.
- xiv. Provide fiscal incentives and, where feasible, exemption of TDS, BIT, BST and CD for imports that are not available in Bhutan.
- xv. Promote and incentivize to build Bhutan’s own private in-country cloud services.



- xvi. Equip schools and educational institutes with adequate ICT facilities and Internet connectivity.
- xvii. Promote e-Education and e-Health through provision of adequate ICT facilities in educational institutions, hospitals and BHUs.

## 7. Private Sector: Re-engineering to make it a true engine of growth

We will redouble the efforts to accelerate the growth of the private sector through policy, fiscal, and tax reforms and institutional and infrastructural development. We will transform it to be the robust bedrock of economy and true engine of economic growth and mainstay of employment, through the main mechanism of continuous dialogues with the stakeholders in the sector.

We will:

- i. Demonstrate policy stability and consistency to provide confidence to the private sector.
- ii. Establish a Macroeconomic Advisory Panel to advise the Cabinet on economic affairs.
- iii. Elevate the Private Sector Development Committee to a Private Sector Development Council.
- iv. Improve the macro-economic policy co-ordination mechanism within public sector agencies.
- v. Improve information dissemination and accuracy of the macro-economic data by increasing frequency of GDP data to real time quarterly basis.
- vi. Extend Commercially Important Persons (CIP) status to high tax payers.

## 8. Trade and industry: Pursuing economic diversification and balancing external trade

We will:

- i. Conduct feasibility studies for different types of industries.
- ii. Review and revitalise foreign direct investment regime.
- iii. To scale up export promotion:
  - Intensify the production and marketing of *organic brand* agricultural products and other natural products.
  - Hold more export fairs.
  - Facilitate the establishment of high-end educational, health and wellness services with FDI.
  - Intensify and expand the scale of Business Processing and Outsourcing (BPO) services.
  - Encourage service sector growth through skills enhancement programmes in relevant areas.



## 9. Cottage, Small and Medium Industries

We will:

- i. Frame Cottage, Small and Medium Industry (CSMI) Policy and Action Plan to create an enabling environment for the growth of CSMIs.
- ii. Adopt Financial Inclusion Policy, Regulation on Micro Loan Institutions and designate specialized banking units in all banks to improve access to finance for CSMIs.
- iii. Ensure that Credit Information Bureau (CIB) maintain a comprehensive segregated data on CSMI loans and informal sectors.
- iv. Institute a targeted micro-credit finance schemes and targeted trainings for women and youth in rural areas and urban poor and cooperatives.
- v. Convert REDCL into an Agricultural Bank to provide targeted low interest rate loans at 4% per annum for farming and agro-business.

## 10. Removing the structural impediments and improving the Ease of Doing business

We will:

- i. Examine and improve the relevant labour and immigration laws and rules.
- ii. Ease licensing procedures and introduce turn-around times for regulatory services.
- iii. Streamline the one-window services.
- iv. Accelerate the use of IT to provide services, including transparency in the structure of tax rates, fees and method of levy.
- v. Review the natural resource allocation system for greater efficiency and equity.
- vi. Reform trade laws to foster equity and efficiency in businesses.
- vii. Streamline immigration procedures.
- viii. Review the overall commercial interest rates of the financial institutions to facilitate easy access to credits.

## 11. Building physical infrastructures for equitable growth

We will:

- i. Fast track the establishment of four industrial estates at Jigmeling, Dhamdhum, Bondema, and Motanga.
- ii. Establish at least one appropriately-sized industrial estate in each Dzongkhag for the small and medium sized industries.
- iii. Permit stone quarries to ensure increased supply of stones, but with minimal damage to the environment.



- iv. Accelerate the construction of dry ports to attract foreign investments for economic growth and employment creation.
- v. Explore the feasibility of using the Brahmaputra river port in India as a third-country exports and imports route for Eastern Bhutan.

## 12. Tourism: Reviving high value, low impact tourism

Bhutan needs to revisit its Tourism Policy to sustain it as a reliable source of national revenue. However, it should be done without any compromise on our national security.

We will:

- i. Promote Bhutan as a high-end, all-season, top 10 tourist destination in the world.
- ii. Enact a Tourism Act to promote high value, low impact tourism.
- iii. Accord industry status to the tourism sector.
- iv. Diversify tourism products and services to include adventure and recreation, spiritual and wellness, nature and ecological tourism besides cultural and leisure tourism.
- v. Develop trekking routes and other infrastructures in all Dzongkhags to ensure equitable distribution of benefits.
- vi. Upgrade the Royal Institute of Tourism and Hospitality to a fully-fledged college.
- vii. Open new international and domestic flight routes and increase flight frequency.
- viii. Improve domestic air services and also explore upgrading one domestic airport to international airport.
- ix. Streamline and promote high-end regional tourism.
- x. Institute efficient and effective system to manage the non-tariff paying tourists.
- xi. Support and strengthen Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators, Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan and Guides Association of Bhutan.
- xii. Promote and encourage domestic tourism.
- xiii. Increase the annual International Leisure Tourist arrivals to at least 150,000 and double the foreign exchange earnings.
- xiv. Review and rationalize taxation and incentive policies in tourism sector.
- xv. Engage the private sector to promote Bhutan as a sought-after MICE venue.
- xvi. Streamline immigration and other regulations to facilitate tourism.



- xvii. Open up entry and exit points at Gelephug, Nanglam, Panbang, and SamdrupJongkhar.
- xviii. Review the immigration procedures for tourists to enable a more friendly and accommodating entry and exit system.

### **13. Hotels and Restaurants: Making Guests' Stay Comfortable, Enjoyable and Memorable**

One of the major sectors contributing to economic growth and employment generation is the food and accommodation sector which has not received the kind of support it needs to achieve its full potential. Currently, the sector is plagued by a number of constraints, foremost being the lack of sufficient year-round clients on the one hand and a lack of service standards on the other.

DPT will:

- i. Develop a comprehensive Hotel Services Policy in consultation with all stakeholders.
- ii. Review the regulations on engagement of expatriate employees and the requirement of cooling period.
- iii. Strengthen the capacity of hotel employees.
- iv. Review and streamline electricity tariff and cost of LPG to ensure affordable energy.
- v. Improve coordination between hoteliers and travel agents for improving the hospitality industry.

### **14. Arts and Crafts**

- i. Undertake initiatives to revive and promote thirteen indigenous arts and crafts.
- ii. Support and promote zorig chusum and zorig-based enterprises.
- iii. Streamline and provide policy, financial and fiscal incentives for arts and crafts sector.
- iv. Support and strengthen the Handicrafts Association of Bhutan.
- v. Explore establishment of additional Zorig Chusum Institutes.
- vi. Provide added support for revival and process documentation of dying arts and crafts.
- vii. Relocate Craft Bazaar and provide conducive long-term marketplace in Thimphu and explore similar marketplaces in other towns.



## 15. Mining: Sharing the benefits equitably

We will:

- i. Review the existing mining policy to diversify opportunities, ensure transparency and fairness in allotment and leasing of mines.
- ii. Review the existing mining rules and regulations to enhance production and ensure compliance to environmental standards.
- iii. Encourage value-addition to natural resources that are exported.
- iv. Promote and support the participation and ownership of local communities in the extraction of natural resources.

## 16. Monetary and Financial Sector

The role of the monetary and financial sector in driving the economy is paramount. We will revamp the sector to maximise its contribution to the country's economic growth.

We will:

- i. Work closely with the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) to strengthen the financial system through improved governance and supervision.
- ii. Enhance the services of the financial institutions through greater competition.
- iii. Explore the viability of introducing a new public sector commercial bank.
- iv. Raise the flow of credit to the masses.
- v. Accelerate the financial inclusion process in collaboration with the RMA and raise the number of citizens holding bank accounts.
- vi. Work with the RMA to increase the benefits of the "Priority Sector Lending".
- vii. Encourage and support the use of internet banking by business entities to promote cashless transaction through the provision of fast and reliable Internet services.
- viii. Set up a Foreign Exchange counter at every entry and exit point of major towns and cities.
- ix. Make Bhutan's stock market vibrant.

## 17. Public finance and fiscal policies

DPT will pursue sound fiscal policies for sustainable and equitable economic growth in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution and the Public Finance Act.

We will:

- i. Safeguard the nation's financial stability and match any increase in budget deficit by corresponding increase in public investment with high returns.
- ii. Prioritise public expenditures and concentrate on essential infrastructure and essential items and avoid extravagant expenditures.



- iii. Enhance the financial powers of local governments to ensure efficiency in the implementation of development programmes and service delivery.
- iv. Raise revenues in the most efficient manner without unduly taxing the people and harming the spirit of our entrepreneurs.
- v. Streamline and simplify the existing taxation system and enhance the efficacy of our revenue collection system through greater digitization and IT applications.
- vi. Examine the feasibility of transforming the current indirect taxation system into a Value-Added Tax (VAT) system for efficiency gains.
- vii. Establish one trade office along with the existing revenue office in every Dzongkhag to bring trade-related and revenue services closer to the people.
- viii. Consolidate the public debt in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Public Finance Act to maintain DPT's prudent policy of resorting to external credit only for viable high-return export-oriented investment projects. Thus, we will limit credits for social-development projects to highly concessional ones from international development financial institutions.

## 18. Tax Measures and Fiscal Incentives

We will:

- i. Examine the Personal Income Tax (PIT) rates for equitable income distribution without harming the incentives for work and investment and encouraging tax avoidance.
- ii. Examine the income brackets to give cascading benefit of the increased basic exemption amount to Nu. 300,000/- and remove anomalies and other perverse effects of application.
- iii. Undertake targeted subsidies to poor citizens below the poverty line.
- iv. Provide tax concessions to rural enterprises to generate rural employment and income.
- v. Explore a social security system for elderly fellow Bhutanese to counter problems of an aging society.
- vi. Develop a policy paper for pension schemes in the private sector.
- vii. Review the procurement rules to curb corruption in public procurement.
- viii. Review the import tax levied on the import of vehicles from third countries.
- ix. Review the renewal fee imposed on different categories of business and contract license holders.
- x. Increase the rural life and housing insurance.



## 19. Renewable Natural Resources: The Engine of Self-Reliance and Rural Prosperity

We will:

- i. Target 100% food self-reliance through doubling the national budget allocation to RNR.
- ii. Double the rural household income and reduce income poverty to less than 4%.
- iii. Address human-wildlife conflicts through proper crop and livestock protection and wildlife and habitat management and compensation schemes.
- iv. Review and implement a national master plan for sustainable use of forest and biodiversity resources including timber and non-timber products, and develop forest based small and cottage enterprises.
- v. Review and implement RNR Service Delivery master plan empowering local government with RNR experts, technology and facilities to enhance efficient RNR service delivery to farmers.
- vi. Invest in irrigation schemes and bring all land suitable for irrigation under cultivation.
- vii. Explore ways to facilitate consolidation of land-holding conducive to commercial farming.
- viii. Promote domestic production to substitute imports, particularly agricultural products such as rice, vegetable and fruits.
- ix. Provide land terracing or gradient improvement support to enable application of agricultural machineries.
- x. Facilitate value-addition of farm produces and provide robust marketing support with sustainability plans.
- xi. Assess the relevance of land use dichotomy between rice and other agricultural crops.
- xii. Examine the viability of a *minimum support price* for agricultural products.
- xiii. Improve and expand the farmers' co-operatives to sustain production and marketing.



## 20. Education: Building Our Future

It education succeeds, no nation will fail; education failing no nation will succeed. Education is the greatest source of empowerment and the highest coefficient of social equalizer. The Constitution mandates the state to provide free education to all children upto the tenth standard and ensure that technical and professional education is made generally available and that higher education is equally accessible to all children on the basis of merit. 71.4% of Bhutanese are literate. Easing access to education, enhancement of literacy and improving the quality of education, in the formal, nono-formal as well as technical realms, will receive priority.. We will be ambitious, prudent and steadfast in achieving these goals.

### i. School Education

We will:

- a) Strive and fulfill the national primary enrolment rate of 100% by 2020.
- b) Increase the national literacy rate to 80% from the current 71.4% by 2023.
- c) Provide hot lunch to all children in all rural schools.
- d) Maintain schools in rural communities at least upto class VI.
- e) Review and improve central school policy to make education more equitable and sustainable.
- f) Establish Extended Classrooms and Early Child Care and Development centres in every Chiwog as deemed necessary.
- g) Make teaching the profession of choice by enhancing service conditions and strengthening professional development programmes.
- h) Provide adequate teaching assistants and non-teaching staff to all schools.
- i) Allocate separate budget for Teaching-Learning materials.
- j) Maintain PD Programmes to a minimum of 80 hours for every teacher and open exchange programmes abroad.
- k) Provide assistance to private schools in setting up libraries and PD programmes.
- l) Increase the stipend for boarding students from Nu. 1,000 to Nu. 1,500.
- m) Allow one-time disqualified students from class X & XII to repeat as regular students.
- n) Provide incentives to top performing schools.
- o) Improve the quality and relevance of school curricula focusing on English, Dzongkha, Science and Math to decongest the curriculum and by promoting self-learning.
- p) Strengthen Bhutanese identity through incorporation of our traditional and cultural values in both curricular and co-curricular programmes.



- q) Strengthen and promote life-skills education through provision of cultural, spiritual, music health and physical instructors and counselors.
- r) Encourage establishment of private schools through provision of tax holiday for ten years and other incentives.
- s) We will enhance the existing allowances for teachers.
- t) The holistic education model of Green Schools will be revamped and strengthened.

## ii. Tertiary Education

- a) Increase the transition rate from higher secondary to tertiary education to 50%.
- b) Upgrade and equip at least three selected schools to colleges in regionally equitable manner.
- c) Improve and enhance boarding facilities in all colleges and institutes.
- d) Increase the stipend from Nu. 1,500 to 2,500 per month.
- e) Increase the stipend for all ex-country scholarship programmes.
- f) Enhance the annual budget allocation to Bhutanese Students' Associations abroad.
- g) Improve and continue the present B.Ed. programs in the two teaching training colleges.
- h) Review the Tertiary Education Policy and regulations of the Royal University of Bhutan to create enabling conditions for establishment of more private colleges.
- i) Diversify the academic programmes in colleges in keeping with the emerging needs of our economy and changing global workforce demands.
- j) Encourage establishment of private colleges and institutes through provision of tax holidays for ten years and other incentives.
- k) Streamline and provide easy access to student loans.

## 21. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

Skilled workers are the true builders of the nation. Investing in TVET is critically important for increasing our own pool of technical professionals and skilled workforce. Economic self-reliance begins with self-reliance in skilled workforce. TVET creates employment opportunities, improves livelihood, alleviates poverty, enhances economic productivity and ensures sustainable development. However, we are faced with a paradox of high unemployment and import of large number of foreign workers numbering over 50,000 at any point in time. We must make TVET a mainstream career choice for youth and society at large and earnestly work for self-reliance in the skilled workforce.



We will:

- i. Double the remuneration packages of the skilled workforce certified by MoLHR.
- ii. Train and create an additional pool of 15,000 skilled workforce in the next five years.
- iii. Enact a Technical and Vocational Education and Training Act.
- iv. Review TVET Blueprint to improve accessibility, quality and relevance of TVET and upgrade it to international standards.
- v. Upgrade all existing Technical Training Institutes to Technical Colleges in a phased manner.
- vi. Upgrade the Royal Institute of Tourism and Hospitality to a fully-fledged technical college.
- vii. Establish at least one additional Technical Training Institute.
- viii. Diversify the TVET courses in keeping with the changing skills requirements of our economy.
- ix. Improve the working conditions and environment of skilled workforce.

## **22. Health: Healthy society for productive and happy citizens**

The blessings of good health are a pre-condition for a happy life. Healthy citizens make a healthy society. The DPT will strive to expand and improve the health sector incorporating the best of the modern and traditional health practices and promote research and capacity for prompt and effective service as a matter of priority.

We will:

- i. Review and adopt a national health policy to ensure sustainability of free basic health care services in both modern and traditional medicines for all times to come.
- ii. Enact a Health Act.
- iii. Accord high priority to increasing the pool of doctors and specialists in all areas of medical care.
- iv. Upgrade the Faculty of Nursing to college and increase the pool of nurses.
- v. Improve diagnostic services with modern diagnostic facilities in all hospitals.
- vi. Define the role and function of National Referral Hospital and Teaching Hospitals.
- vii. Establish a National Dental Hospital.
- viii. Establish a Cancer Hospital and set up cancer screening mechanism for prevention and early diagnosis.



- ix. Ensure that all medical care programmes and divisions are headed by professionals with suitable qualification and skills background.
- x. Enhance the following allowances for specialist, doctors and health workers:
  - Non-practicing allowance
  - Specialist allowance
  - Hazard allowance
  - Overtime or on-call payment
- xi. Improve the working conditions of medical professionals and provide on-campus accommodation for essential medical staff.
- xii. Establish institutional and professional linkages with reputed hospitals in the region and abroad.
- xiii. Explore avenues for retired doctors and specialists to continue their practice.
- xiv. Establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Bhutan to produce essential drugs.
- xv. Streamline the procurement system in the health sector particularly medical supplies.
- xvi. Provide three specialist doctors in bigger district hospitals including a gynecologist.
- xvii. Introduce half-yearly basic medical check-up camps for all rural citizens.
- xviii. Establish geriatric care programme and geriatric care centres wherever necessary.
- xix. Step up Information Education and Communication (IEC) on NCDs and substance abuse and prevention programmes.

### **23. Improving domestic and international air connectivity**

For a landlocked country like Bhutan, air services are a critical service to address the challenges posed by geography and other constraints. The DPT will strive to expand and improve domestic and international air connectivity to serve critical needs including travel, communication, and international relations.

We will:

- i. Improve the facilities for passenger safety, convenience and security at the three domestic airports.
- ii. Study the feasibility to open new routes in consultation with relevant agencies. The proposed new routes include Hong Kong, Mumbai, Bangalore, the Maldives, Colombo and Myanmar.
- iii. Explore construction of additional domestic airports.



## 24. Public Transport: Promoting green transportation

Transport is the life-line of the economy. To address the growing challenges created by increasing number of vehicles and build a green, sustainable and healthy transport system is in keeping with the overarching development goal of Gross National Happiness,

We will:

- i. Provide appropriate parking areas for trucks and taxis in all Dzongkhags and commercial towns.
- ii. Study and resolve the problems facing cabbies and truckers in consultation with Bhutan Taxi Association and Bhutan Truckers' Association.
- iii. Review the carrying capacity of medium and heavy vehicles and including mileage rates.
- iv. Encourage electric and non-fossil fuel powered vehicles.
- v. Promote and incentivize import of green buses and taxis.
- vi. Replace government vehicles with eco-friendly vehicles in phases.
- vii. Explore introduction of cableways and water transport.
- viii. Improve public transport system to reduce traffic congestion and environmental damage.
- ix. Make city roads more pedestrian and bicycle-friendly.

## 25. National Housing

Housing is a basic human necessity and it is the duty of the state to ensure that every citizen has a decent housing.

We will:

- i. Encourage and facilitate home ownership through introduction of special home loan schemes.
- ii. Increase the stock of affordable housing through the NHDC, the NPPF and the private sector through lowering the cost of capital and other support schemes.
- iii. Develop and carry out a comprehensive national housing plan for the low and middle-income groups in urban areas.
- iv. Explore the possibility of extending the term of housing loans to 30 years to reduce the rental rates of private houses.
- v. Resettle all informal settlements with proper housing and other basic facilities and avoid growth of slums.
- vi. Make timber, sand and stone accessible to all at affordable prices.



## 26. Promotion and preservation of tradition and culture

Culture is the soul of a society. Famed for its uniqueness, our culture has been the envy of the world. Culture is a cardinal element of our GNH goal. Modernisation and emergence of new technologies and mass media are posing a challenge to our rich and hallowed culture and heritage that has come down to us from generations of our ancestors. Culture and tradition give to our country its uniqueness and identity. It is, therefore, vital that our rich and beautiful Bhutanese culture is protected and promoted while accommodating the positive changes that are necessary.

We will:

- i. Support construction of new cultural and spiritual properties wherever necessary.
- ii. Undertake restoration and reconstruction of our national monuments.
- iii. Support and promote *zorig chusum* and *zorig-based* enterprises.
- iv. Promote and strengthen our rich spiritual tradition.
- ii. Establish a performing arts and film institute in the country to promote and preserve Bhutan's rich tradition and culture through visual and performing arts.
- iii. Invest in cultural industry to promote our local arts and crafts, culture and way of life. We will boost the music industry, handicrafts, traditional medicine, and meditation centres.
- iv. Promote a vibrant film industry and fund documentaries on Bhutan's history, culture and tradition.
- v. Encourage and provide attractive platforms for local documentary filmmakers to produce high quality documentaries that will be both broadcast within and abroad.
- vi. Make renewed efforts in preserving oral literature by documenting in print and audio-visual formats.

## 27. Youth and Employment: Ensuring Productive Employment for All

Our youth are the greatest wealth of our nation. We are a young nation with 48% of the population below the age of 24 years and 50% below 27 years. 68% are in productive age. However, with 13.3% of youth unemployment and 23.3% urban youth unemployment, the nation is faced with a record high unemployment. Around 63,000 fresh seekers are expected to enter employment market in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan. Therefore, we need to accord the highest priority to youth employment and strive to ensure productive employment for all. Given our rich experience and proven record in this matter, we are fully confident in fulfilling the objective. The key to generating enough jobs remains in boosting the economic growth. The private sector shall be the mainstay of employment.



DPT will:

- i. Create a minimum of 120,000 jobs and ensure employment for all.
- ii. Pursue the policy of regular employment and decent jobs for all.
- iii. Revise Economic Development Policy to chart a clear path for boosting economic growth and creating enough jobs.
- iv. Frame a comprehensive Human Resource Development Policy.
- v. Review the Labour and Employment Act and National Employment Policy.
- vi. Start at least three mega hydropower projects.
- vii. Accelerate establishment of four industrial estates.
- viii. Establish additional IT Parks in a regionally balanced manner.
- ix. Establish one agricultural bank and one public commercial bank.
- x. Revise Tourism Policy and enact a Tourism Act to promote tourism as a major sector of employment.
- xi. Prioritize development of IT master plan for employment generation.
- xii. Revise FDI Policy to attract investment and create large employment particularly in ICT, tourism, hospitality, agro, creative and green industries.
- xiii. Explore membership in various international and regional labour and employment bodies.
- xiv. Establish networking programmes with global and regional youth forums to encourage active participation of our youth in these forums.
- xv. Provide special focus to accelerate the growth of Cottage, Small and Medium Industry (CSMI).
- xvi. Provide financial, fiscal and tax incentives to private sector for employment of youth.
- xvii. Support mechanization and automation of construction industry and accord support and institute special incentives and privileges for employment of youth.
- xviii. Improve working conditions in private sector through introducing conducive policies and regulations for both employers and employees.
- xix. Promote easy access to finance for youth including access to loans without collateral.
- xx. Frame policies to encourage and support youth to take up agriculture and agro-business.



- xxi. Support both short and long skills and employability enhancement programmes for reducing the mismatch between jobs and skills through a flexible system of lifelong learning.
- xxii. Encourage and incentivize private and NGO sectors to create and implement their own employment training programs.
- xxiii. Invest and promote sports and games as viable long-term career options.
- xxiv. Formalize domestic help service and support to professionalize the services.
- xxv. Provide entrepreneurship, life skills and leadership trainings to youth.
- xxvi. Develop internship programmes for students in tertiary education and technical colleges.
- xxvii. Promote and expand overseas employment in high quality jobs like teaching, nursing , etc., with proper policy and regulations.
- xxviii. Waive or reduce security deposits required for studies and jobs abroad like Australia, Japan, Canada, etc.
- xxix. Create 120,000 decent jobs largely in the following economic sectors:
  - IT and IT enabled industries
  - Tourism sector
  - Hospitality and hotel industry
  - Hydropower industry
  - Construction industry
  - Banking, financial and private audit services
  - Commercial farming, forestry and agro-industry business
  - Public corporate sector
  - Micro Small and Medium Enterprises
  - Mining, manufacturing and production industries
  - Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition (MICE) industry
  - Aviation and air service industry
  - Sports, physical fitness and games industry
  - Entertainment, recreation and movie industry
  - Private schools, colleges, institutes and health services
  - Non-Government Organizations
  - Media, design and publication industry
  - Legal firms and consultancy services
  - All other formal and informal sectors combined
  - Public services as a whole



- xxx. Pursue, in consultation with RCSC, regularization of the services of the current contract employees such as teachers, matrons, wardens, lab assistants, special sports instructors, assistant research officers, ECCD care givers, NFE instructors, gedrungs, etc.

## 28. Good Governance

Governance cuts across all pillars of Gross National Happiness. Good governance, therefore, is not only necessary for the provision of public service and fulfillment of short-term goals. Since governance impacts the whole society for good or bad reasons, it is vital that governance is seen as an instrument of positive action to achieve positive, long-term goals. Further, since the government has the necessary wherewithal to make a difference, it is important that governance is seen as a standard-setter for both the public and private sectors to engage in activities that are aligned with the long-term goals of the country and the aspirations of the people. It has to be sensitive to the vital need to secure and strengthen the peace, sovereignty, security and well-being of the people through the various instruments available to it.

### i. Civil Service

We will:

- a) Respect and ensure the independence, integrity and apolitical status of the civil service, as a constitutional institution.
- b) Raise the pay and allowances of civil servants two times in five years to keep pace with inflation and rising cost of living, and ensure that the lower group receives a higher raise.
- c) Revise and ensure uniform mileage entitlement to all civil servants irrespective of their grades and positions.
- d) Respect and promote family unity and integrity and encourage transfer of civil servant spouses together.
- e) Review the vehicle quota system for civil service to spread benefits to other positions and increase the maximum value of import exemption from Nu. 800,000 to Nu. 1,200,000.
- f) In close consultation with the RCSC, we will:
  - Enhance professional excellence of every civil servant through transparent, fair and merit based promotion and regular training programmes.
  - Enhance the job security, salary, allowances and post retirement benefits of NWF, GSP and ESP.
  - Review and recommend the continuation of 'study leave' for qualification upgradating of civil servants.



- Pursue the policy of regular employment and explore regularization of the services of contract employees such as teachers, matrons, wardens, lab assistants, special sports instructors, Assistant Research Officers, ECCD & NFE instructors, gedrungs and others on consolidated pay, etc.
  - g) Continue with the recruitment of class XII graduates for BEd programmes.
  - h) Establish Day Care Centre and crèches in every Ministry and Government organizations to enable working parents to function without interruption.
  - i) Review the Civil Service Act and rules for reforming and promotion of Excellence in Civil Service.
  - j) Review the Individual Work Plan and Super Structure System.
  - k) Increase 'paternity leave' from 10 days to 15 days.
  - l) Increase 'bereavement leave' from 21 days to 30 days.
  - m) Strengthen the existing performance appraisal and management system.
  - n) Provide dedicated duty vehicles to all executive level officers.
- ii. **Constitutional Checks and Balance**
- We will:
- a) Respect and ensure the independence and integrity of constitutional bodies.
  - b) Provide adequate human and financial resources to enable them to effectively discharge their constitutional mandates.
  - c) Ensure that only persons of the highest integrity of character, merit and competence are appointed to head such bodies.
- iii. **Legal Protection and Aid**
- We will:
- a) Support Judiciary and Office of Attorney General in promoting dispensation of fair, transparent and expeditious justice and ensure that all people receive equal protection and treatment by law.
  - b) Ensure equal access to legal support and protection for the poor who are financially disadvantaged. We will provide pro bono legal support to those who cannot afford legal counsel or jabmi.
  - c) Support the vital role of the informal dispute settlement mechanisms at the Gewog and community levels as well as the traditional arbitration and adjudication bodies.



- d) Establish Ombudsman Office to promote greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of public offices and speedy redress of public complaints and grievances.
- e) Explore establishment of administrative tribunals as deemed necessary for speedy dispensation of petty civil and administrative cases.

#### iv. **Legislating for Rule of Law**

Rule of law is a fundamental principle of democracy. Adherence to the rule of law ensure justice and well-being to all sections of the people regardless of economic status, social background, gender or other factors, ultimately helping promote the nation vision of GNH.,

We will:

- a) Implement the recommendations of the National Law Review Taskforce for amendment and enactment of laws.
- b) Enact new laws in keeping with the changing needs of the society.
- c) Specifically, table the following legislations on priority basis:
  - Social Protection Bill
  - Tourism Bill
  - Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) bill
  - Health Bill
  - De-Monopolization Bill
  - Review the Labour and Employment Act
  - Public Procurement Bill
  - Public Service Delivery Bill
  - Impeachment Bill
  - Statute of Limitation Bill
  - Statistical Bill

#### v. **Rooting out Corruption**

Corruption is the bane of any society as it creates inequality by helping the corrupt gain advantage unfairly. Corruption corrodes and destabilizes the society and eats into the vitals of the nation. It is, therefore, imperative that corruption is prevented from happening and rooted out as an important factor in creating the well-being and good image of the country. To this end, we will:

- a) Strive to make Bhutan one of the leading countries of *Good Governance* worthy of the name of GNH Country.





- d) Expand and strengthen the meteorological and hydromet infrastructure and services.
- e) Ensure prompt assessment of natural calamity damages and rapid delivery of relief through prompt submission His Majesty the King for Kidu.
- f) Extend all necessary support and assistance to Bhutan Red Cross Society in discharging their social responsibilities.

## 29. Social Inclusion, Cohesion and Harmony

We will create a separate empowered agency with expanded mandate for gender, youth and social development to address varied social issues and socio-economic challenges faced by women, youth and minority groups such as senior citizens, the disabled, LGBT community, HIV/AIDs victims and others.

### i. Women and Children

- a) We will ensure implementation various national and international legislations for protection of rights and empowerment of women and children.
- b) promote greater participation of women in all spheres of life with gender responsive and family-friendly policies to support development and advancement of women by addressing the economic, social and cultural barriers.
- c) We will address high divorce rates and social issues by initiating and rendering services related to marriage counseling and parenting education.
- d) We will initiate vocational programmes that will enhance and diversify the income-generating power of women through cooperatives, micro-financing projects and easier access to higher education.
- e) We will initiate and support domestic helper service.

### ii. Supporting Senior Citizens

- a) Formulate the National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) to ensure their well-being. We will create conditions for them to live life with purpose, dignity and peace.
- b) Formulate and implement inclusive policies that will address the needs of the physically challenged, orphans, homeless and elderly citizens without care givers.

### iii. Supporting Retired Monks and Nuns

- a) Improve the living conditions the welfare for old and retired monks.
- b) Institute social security measures like retirement benefits and old-age insurance schemes for the monk and nun community.



- c) Improve access to health care facilities and recreational facilities for monks and nuns.

#### **iv. Supporting the Differently-Abled People**

- a) We will initiate the formulation of an Act to ensure that differently-abled persons can live decent and productive lives.
- b) We will ensure that all public infrastructures such as access ways, toilets, parking facilities and seating plans are user friendly.

#### **v. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**

- a) We will assist the CSOs to garner adequate funds from various sources for their social activities.
- b) We will review the CSO Act to create an enabling environment for CSOs/NGOs.

#### **vi. Addressing Social Issues**

- a) Institute parenting education and awareness on drugs, alcohol and social problems.
- b) Invest in mental health programmes and expand psychiatric counseling and help centres in all dzongkhags to curb high suicides rates.
- c) Support establishment of rehabilitation centers, drop-in-centres, train professional counselors, and enhance counseling and advocacy programmes in the country.
- d) Review legal frameworks to ensure that drug addicts and juveniles have access to proper rehab facilities and easy integration into the mainstream society.
- e) Establish more libraries, internet, games and sports and other recreational services.
- f) Introduce scholarships for disadvantaged youth.

### **30. Environment : Our Green Vision**

We will continue the green legacy of our enlightened monarchs through renewed efforts in the protection and conservation of our environmental assets. The country's natural resources belong to its citizens and we will ensure that all enjoy the bounty of our natural resources. We also commit ourselves to minimize the loss and fragmentation of our precious wildlife habitat and prevent the destruction of the indigenous culture by requiring legitimate impact studies before initiating development projects.

We will:

- i. Ensure 60% forest cover for all times to come.
- ii. Ensure that Bhutan stays carbon-neutral for all times.
- iii. Continue our relentless fight against global warming and climate change.



- iv. Endeavour to attract more Clean Mechanism Development (CDM) projects in the energy sector particularly hydropower.
- v. Enforce international environmental treaties and renew our efforts toward environmental conservation through reduction in emission and zero net deforestation.
- vi. Make local people the stewards of the forest and natural environment near and around their communities through sustainable community forestry management systems.
- vii. Ensure sustainable wildlife management in the parks, sanctuaries and nature trails, among others, to eliminate human-wildlife conflict.
- viii. Enhance the institutional capacity, human resource capabilities and upgrade technology in fighting forest fires.
- ix. Strengthen the waste management systems in all towns by introducing or incentivizing entrepreneurs engaged in recycling and composting programmes, and establishing proper waste treatment plants.
- x. Encourage energy efficiency measures in all commercial and public buildings and promote energy saving technology and boost investment in clean energy through various fiscal and tax incentives.
- xi. Strengthen environmental conservation by initiating green tourism products and ensure that the benefits of eco-tourism cascade to the community level.

### **31. Foreign relations: Holding our place in the world**

Our foreign policy will always be guided by our enlightened Monarchs. Building and sustaining healthy and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the world will be in the interest of our country.

We will:

- i. Accord the highest priority to strengthening our security, sovereignty, and independence.
- ii. Remain committed to maintaining and furthering the excellent relations with the people and the Government of India; carry forward the exemplary and mutually beneficial cooperation that is the hallmark of our relations and deepen our economic ties.
- iii. Remain committed to working with all nations and organizations to promote the wellbeing of all mankind, world peace, and progress.
- iv. Continue to attach the highest importance to bilateral and multilateral relations and play an active role in promoting regional and international understanding and cooperation.
- v. Continue to value and appreciate the immense contribution of our donor communities toward the development of our country and further strengthen our relations with them and seek their continued goodwill and support.
- vi. Promote the image and profile of our country and advance goodwill and friendship with other countries and organizations.



- vii. Pursue membership and become signatory to all relevant international and regional conventions on the basis of an understanding of their ramifications.
- viii. Remain faithful to Bhutan's neutrality and principled position in international arena.
- ix. Continue to employ GNH as a powerful, safe and effective vehicle for promotion of foreign policy and will promote the philosophy as a development paradigm for a more sustainable, equitable, peaceful and happier world.
- x. Mobilize the resources for the 12th five-year plan from existing as well as new donors.
- xi. Explore markets for our goods and services by developing trade relations within and outside the region.

## **PART II : RURAL PRIORITIES**







62.2% of our people reside in rural areas. Given this bigger section of our people living in rural areas, it is imperative to initiate appropriate activities and programmes to ensure the basic minimum services on the basis of equity and justice. We will revamp our past policy of *Seven Minimum Programmes* for pursuit of rural development. The following will be DPT's commitment to our people living in the rural areas.

### **1. Road : Connecting remote settlements**

We will:

- i. Construct new farm roads to all Chiwogs and major villages.
- ii. Explore black-topping of roads to all Chiwogs and major settlements.
- iii. Continue and complete black-topping of roads to all Gewog centres.
- iv. Rehabilitate and improve the existing farm roads by providing WBM/GSB surfacing with proper drainage.
- v. Provide adequate budget to Community User Groups for maintenance of farm roads.

### **2. Electricity: Lighting the last house**

We will:

- i. Provide on-grid electricity to all households and solar energy to those non-viable pocket households.
- ii. Review and streamline electricity tariff system to ensure cheap and affordable electricity for all.
- iii. Upgrade single-phase to three-phase power supply in rural areas.
- iv. Provide 30% electricity charges concessions to rural industries.

### **3. Telecommunications and Television: Ensuring right to information for all**

We will:

- i. Provide 3G/4G connectivity throughout the country.
- ii. Do away with the 5% voucher tariff and restore emergency usage balance.
- iii. Provide BBS TV link to all communities throughout the country.
- iv. Expand the national fiber connectivity to Gewogs.
- v. Greatly enhance and ease public service delivery through optimal operationalization of Community Information Centres (CICs).
- vi. Provide free WiFi at bus stands, hospitals and parks.



#### **4. Water : Safe and sufficient water for all**

We will:

- i. Ensure provision of safe and sufficient water for every household.
- ii. Work to provide alternative long-term solutions to those settlements without viable water sources.
- iii. Institute Water User Groups for management and maintenance of water supply schemes.
- iv. Implement strict water source protection and management.
- v. Scale-up rainwater-harvesting and other appropriate technologies for enhancing water supply.

#### **5. Agriculture: From Subsistence to Prosperity**

We will:

- i. Double rural household income in five years.
- ii. Halve income poverty from 8.2% to less than 4%.
- iii. Provide attractive incentives to increase agricultural productivity, income and regional competitiveness.
- iv. Provide concessions on the prices of all kinds of RNR implements and farm inputs to make them easily accessible and affordable.
- v. Provide low-interest rate loans to farmers and youth for commercial farming.
- vi. Address the human-wild life conflicts through proper crop and livestock protection and wildlife and habitat management and compensation schemes.
- vii. Invest in irrigation schemes and bring all land suitable for irrigation under cultivation, and provide generous support for provision of irrigation water.
- viii. Modernize farming through mechanization and increase productivity, lessen farm drudgery and make farming attractive to our farmers and youth.
- ix. Actively promote farm mechanization through sale of farm machineries and equipment at concessional and affordable rates.
- x. Support and promote land development and management.
- xi. Review and streamline farm shops and facilitate in marketing of farm produce.
- xii. We will explore export markets and support marketing of agriculture and cash crops.



- xiii. Establish rural market places with facilities to support input supplies, cold storage and refrigerated trucks to link producer and consumers to be owned by youth and community groups.
- xiv. Encourage the construction of smart green houses and provide technical assistance for its construction.
- xv. Construct power tiller tracks wherever required.
- xvi. Promote kitchen gardening in every household and provide necessary assistance.
- xvii. Provide easy access to fencing poles and construction materials for farm structures on payment of royalties.

## 6. Forest and Environment: From protection to sustainable utilization

We will:

- i. Decentralize forest management and make dzongkhags and local communities stewards of their own resource reducing implementation by central agencies leading to reduction in costs and administration.
- ii. Strengthen community forest system and accord ownership and responsibility for environmental protection, harvesting and conservation.
- iii. Promote sustainable utilization of timber and non-timber forest products to reduce import of timber substitute products, reduce the import of furniture, etc.
- iv. Simplify procedures for easy access to timber, non-timber forest products, sand and stone, and other forest related products by wood based industries and general citizens.
- v. Invest and promote wood based industries including:
  - Strengthening wood processing units with high tech and efficient wood processing technologies both in cooperatives and private sector with fiscal incentives for the up-gradation of processing technologies and saw-mills.
  - Investing in wood based energy production especially biofuels to be used for cooking, to generate electricity as well as drive machineries including cars (reduce gasoline imports).
  - Investing in procuring technology to produce high quality construction timber products and support establishment of highly efficient wood-based industries such as Glulam to process timber and non-timber products for sale in country and export to high end markets.
  - Investing in recruiting youth and training them in skills to construct houses and other products using these high-quality construction timber products and export them and their skills with timber products.



- Improving forest management practices through promotion of community and private ownership and management of forest resources.
- Identifying and supporting access to high value timber and non-timber products and facilitating marketing by forming self-help groups, for generating income and employment.
- vi. Review the existing Bhutan National Human Wildlife Conflicts Management Strategy developed in 2008 and identify best practices for protection of lives, properties (crops, livestock, houses).
- vii. Secure and invest funds and technologies to scale up Human Wildlife Management strategies to reduce losses through innovative crop, livestock, human and property protection techniques; wildlife and habitat management and; effective compensation schemes.

## **7. Education: Building Our Future From Grassroots**

We will:

- i. Provide hot lunch to all children in rural schools.
- ii. Maintain schools in rural communities at least up to class VI.
- iii. Establish ECCD and Extended Classrooms wherever deemed necessary.
- iv. Review and improve central school policy to make them more equitable and sustainable.
- v. Provide a minimum of two teachers with one teacher assistant to every community school.
- vi. Ensure that every teacher has decent housing and enjoy good living environment.
- vii. Provide separate toilet facilities for boys and girls with free hygienic sanitary napkins and proper disposal facilities for girls.
- viii. Provide 3G/4G services to all schools and institutions with and facilitate teaching-learning through ICT.
- ix. Provide a computer lab and at least one printer and photocopier to every school.
- x. Provide transportation to rural schools where children have to walk more than one hour.
- xi. Strengthen non-formal and continuing education with better curriculum and pedagogy in both Dzongkha and English.

## **8. Health: A Healthy Rural Bhutan**

We will:

- i. Provide at least one female Health Assistant to all BHUs.
- ii. Construct additional BHUs in larger gewogs with more population.
- iii. Provide traditional medical health services in all BHUs.



- iv. Upgrade BHUs and district hospitals wherever necessary.
- v. Provide 3 specialist doctors in bigger district hospitals including a gynecologist.
- vi. Improve diagnostic services by equipping with X-Ray, ultrasound, laboratory facilities and other necessary medical equipment & supplies in all district hospitals.
- vii. Provide a doctor in BHU-II with larger population.
- viii. Establish at least 5-bed in-patient facilities in every BHU-II with special provision for maternity care.
- ix. Introduce half-yearly basic medical check-up camps for all rural citizens.
- x. Provide mobile health services wherever required.
- xi. Establish additional community eye hospitals.
- xii. Provide a utility van in every BHU- II.
- xiii. Provide a hearse van to every district hospital.

#### 9. **Housing: Roof Over Head For All**

We will:

- i. Provide easy access to adequate quantities of timber, stone, sand and special class timbers at affordable rates in rural areas.
- ii. Review the existing rural timber policy to make it more convenient and practical for rural households.
- iii. Support poor farmers with CGI sheet, labour payment support and other support for construction of houses.
- iv. Simplify the approval process for house construction in rural areas.

#### 10. **Gewog Economic Hubs: Realm of Economic Opportunity for Rural Economy**

We will:

- i. Initiate Gewog Economic Plans through which we will identify core economic activities for each Gewog.
- ii. Establish at least one economic hub in every Gewog in potential and strategic locations as market hubs for local economy including business incubation centres.

#### 11. **Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment**

We will:

- i. Generate substantial jobs in rural based RNR Enterprises such as agri-business, livestock, wood based enterprise, tourism, small and cottage industries.



- ii. Encourage and support Youth Enterprise as a driving force to industrialize and modernize agriculture and support Youth Groups to own small and cottage industries and businesses.
- iii. Introduce start-up grants to promote youth enterprises in rural areas.
- iv. Provide easy access to finance through introduction of low interest rate loans for youth for farming and youth enterprise.
- v. Review rural land valuation for loan mortgages and lendings.
- vi. Provide trainings, workshops and other capacity building courses for rural youth.
- vii. Simplify and make licensing procedures easier for youth in rural areas.
- viii. Provide 3G/4G telecommunications connectivity in rural areas to enable the youth to stay tuned and connected to product market and access to public service delivery.

## 12. Culture and Spiritualism: Foundation of Community Vitality and Peace

We will:

- i. Foster and promote caring, cooperative and harmonious communities and integrity of extended family structure.
- ii. Support construction of new cultural and spiritual properties wherever necessary.
- iii. Support and promote *zorig chusum* and *zorig-based* enterprises.
- iv. Promote and strengthen our rich spiritual tradition.
- v. Support restoration and conservation of community cultural and religious monuments and properties, both tangible and intangible.
- vi. Preserve and promote age-old local festivals and traditions through provision of necessary aid to local governments and artistes.
- vii. Support and promote *zorig chusum* and *zorig-based* enterprises.
- viii. Support all forms of monastic education.
- ix. Support establishment of retreat and recreation centres for senior citizens.
- x. Support establishment of cultural and recreational centres for youth as deemed necessary.

## 13. Citizens in Development: Empowering for Accountability and Sustain Future

We will:

- i. Provide basic awareness training on development planning, budgeting and monitoring system and fiscal matters to citizens.



- ii. Create opportunities for citizens for participatory decision-making in resource allocation and planning.
- iii. Enhance public service delivery through full opG2C services.

#### **14. Local Governments: Empowering for Efficiency and Progress**

We will:

- i. Enhance the capacity of local government leaders on development planning, budgeting, tendering and monitoring and evaluation procedures and systems.
- ii. Deepen decentralization by providing more financial and human resource autonomy. We will substantially increase resource allocation to Local Governments in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan.
- iii. Provide the Gewog Development Grant up to Nu.7 million per year.
- iv. Provide an engineer and an accountant each to gewogs.
- iv. Introduce vehicle quota for local government leaders.

# **PART III: URBAN PRIORITIES**







37.80% of our people reside in urban areas. Given this huge and ever increasing number of our people migrating to and living in urban centres, it is imperative to appropriately prepare our urban settlements. We will make our cities and towns safe, peaceful and happy, worthy of the name of GNH Country. Thimphu city will be transformed and promoted to make it worthy of the status of the nation's capital city. The following will be DPT's priority commitments for our people in the urban centres.

## 1. Establishment of New Thromdes

We will:

- i. Formulate and adopt a National Urbanization Policy for identification, planning and establishment of Dzongkhag and Yenlag Thromdes.
- ii. Establish at least six Dzongkhag Thromdes and Yenlag Thromdes wherever feasible.
- iii. Continue to plan and develop all Dzongkhag and Yenlag Throms with enhanced financial and human resource allocations and technical support.
- iv. Continue with existing rural benefits to communities falling within urban areas till urban amenities are provided.

## 2. Water: Safe, affordable and sufficient for 24/7

Urbanites are faced with drinking water shortages including the capital city Thimphu. To ensure 24/7 hours of safe, affordable and sufficient water to all residential and commercial establishments:

We will:

- i. Frame a National Urban Water Policy and specific Thromde Water Supply Plan for all Dzongkhag and Yenlag Thromdes for long term water security in urban areas.
- ii. Augment water supply and institute a fair distribution of water.
- iii. Augment existing water sources by identifying new water sources, drawing from rivers and streams and rain water harvesting technologies.
- iv. Adopt proper protection and management of water sources and water supply system.
- v. Allocate adequate resources to undertake construction of new and expedite completion of ongoing water reservoirs, tanks and supply facilities.

## 3. Road Network

Urban areas need proper planning with efficient road networks. Traffic congestion at peak hours is already a nuisance in some Thromdes and the problem will only compound in future if timely right measures are not initiated.

We will:

- i. Improve existing road condition and system to make them more traffic and pedestrian friendly.



- ii. Open new alternative routes within and around the cities and towns.
- iii. Construct pedestrian overpass and underpass in strategic locations to ease traffic congestion, reduce emission, and protect pedestrian.
- iv. Install pedestrian crossing sensors and timers.
- v. Construct additional bridges to ease vehicular and human traffic congestion.
- vi. Construct foot paths in all urban areas, which will also be disabled friendly.

#### 4. Public Transport and Parkings

Urban transportation assumes a vital importance for efficient mobility of passengers and freight in large urban agglomerations. Our cities, particularly Thimphu and Phuentsholing, are already facing acute challenges in this regard.

We will:

- i. Develop and implement Urban Transport Plan for the four existing Dzongkhag Thromdes.
- ii. Introduce feasible alternatives for urban transport including electric trams and cable cars.
- iii. Build a cable car transport system running over Wangchu from Khasadrapchu to Changtagang with stops at strategic locations with adequate parking lots and other facilities.
- iv. Intensify the public transport system of the capital city by increasing the bus fleet and their frequency, including for school children.
- v. Identify and develop new public parking lots and expedite the construction of the ongoing multi-storied parking lots to ease to parking problems.
- vi. Provide designated parking areas for taxis and trucks.
- vii. Safeguard the business of local taxis through appropriate policy and regulation.
- viii. Allow time period for taxis to ply based on road worthiness certificates.
- ix. Review the age limit and qualification requirements of taxi drivers.
- x. Provide priority seating for disabled, pregnant, and senior citizens in public transport including privileges and discounts for senior citizens and the disabled.
- xi. Encourage electric based transport system through zero tax and subsidies.

#### 5. Sanitation and Sewerage

Our sewerage system functions mostly based on the gravity system and covers mainly the core city. The unserved areas mostly rely on private septic tanks and soakpits. With the increasing population and buildings, their carrying capacity is already exceeding and has become a major challenge.



We will:

- i. Invest financial and technical resources to develop better sewer systems.
- ii. Connect all urban areas to sewer systems and introduce the state of the art technology to process sewer discharges in both humanely and environmentally friendly manner.
- iii. Construct adequate public toilet facilities in all the throms.
- iv. Convert the currently open treatment pond in Babesa into a closed treatment plant.

## 6. Drainage System

Our urban cities need adequate drains to cope with the increasing population, houses, and changing weather condition especially precipitation.

We will:

- i. Improve the existing storm drains to increase their capacities and will institute provision for future increments wherever new drains are built.
- ii. Explore drain water treatment system to prevent direct flow of drain water into river system.

## 7. Waste Management

Most urbanites in Bhutan are challenged by indiscriminate disposal of wastes, non-segregation of wastes at source, and poor technologies for management of solid wastes.

We will:

- i. Develop a national integrated waste management strategy for both urban and rural areas.
- ii. Provide facilities, awareness, and requirements for all citizens to segregate wastes at source.
- iii. Provide adequate number of waste collection trucks will be provided for urban and peri-urban areas.
- iv. Support collaboration between local businesses and foreign partners to build modern solid and biological waste management plants that has economical and environmental benefits such as generating energy, biofuel, recycled materials, etc.
- v. Institute a waste collection system before office hours directly from the bins placed near every house.

## 8. Housing

It is a must that every citizen has a decent roof over his or her head. Housing has become very expensive and hardly affordable in urban areas. This is pushing low-income groups not only to the fringes of towns and illegal squatters with



poor amenities but also to fringes of our society. Our party understands their plight.

We will:

- i. Increase the stock of affordable housing in all the urban centres through the NHDC, the NPPF and the private sector, with the lease of land, and lowering the cost of capital.
- ii. Construct houses for the low and middle-income groups. We will ensure that these groups have access to decent and secure homes.
- iii. Explore resettlement of all informal settlements in designated areas with proper housing and other basic facilities and avoid growth of slums.

## 9. Urban Safety and Security

Compounded by multiple factors such as unemployment, poverty, drugs and alcohol, urban safety and security has become a matter of major concern in our cities and towns. We will make urban centres 24/7 safe and secure.

We will:

- i. Ensure full employment of youth and eliminate/reduce urban poverty.
- ii. Enhance security facilities including CC TV cameras.
- iii. Deploy adequate law enforcement officers with modern facilities including intelligence to protect urbanites.
- iv. Enhance the existing emergency services health, fire, and police through a common line of 113.

## 10. Urban recreational amenities and parks

Urbanites need adequate space and facilities to recreate and rejuvenate as well as spend quality time with family and friends. It will be vital to adopt a resident friendly approach to urban recreation with strong security:

We will:

- i. Provide adequate recreational areas for urbanites through parks, sports facilities, entertainment, etc.
- ii. Build recreation facilities such as amusement parks in and around the cities and towns.
- iii. Keep the urban parks free and open to all for longer duration.
- iv. Review the regulation on bar and entertainment industry.



## 11. Urban cultural and spiritual centres

We will:

- i. Establish more retreat and spiritual centres for urbanites.
- ii. Establish more cultural, recreational and health clubs and sports facilities for youth.
- iii. Establish senior citizen clubs for networking and recreation.

## 12. Education: Our Future

We will:

- i. Provide all schools and institutions with 3G/4G services and facilitate teaching-learning through ICT.
- ii. Increase the fleet of school buses for easy, comfortable and safe mobility of children.

## 13. Health

With increasing human and vehicular population and resultant waste problem and air pollution, urban health has become a matter of increasing concerns. In Thimphu, JDWNRH serve as national referral hospital as well as district hospital besides army hospital in Lungtenphu and an indigenous hospital in Kawajangsa.

We will:

- i. Construct a City Hospital in Thimphu to ease burden on JDWNRH.
- ii. Upgrade the capacity of Phuentsholing hospital.
- iii. Institute stringent measures for adapting and mitigating air pollution.

## 14. Women and Children

We will:

- i. Establish additional Day Care Centers and crèches for working women especially single mothers.
- ii. Make rehabilitation centers into educational centers.
- iii. Establish recreation centers such as games, reading, audio-visual for senior citizens.
- iv. Institute parenting education and awareness on drugs, alcohol and social problems.

## 15. Youth and employment

Urban youth unemployment stands at 23.3% (LFS 2016) and therefore, is one of the biggest challenges facing our nation today. This is consequently the cause of numerous social problems such as crime, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. and needs to be addressed with the highest of urgency.



We will:

- i. Launch targeted youth employment programmes in urban areas to ensure that they are productively and gainfully employed within minimum time.
- ii. Provide special incentives to employment agents and civil society organizations actively engaged in youth employment, counseling and providing other support services.
- iii. Institute special incentives to parents and relatives with unemployed children.

## **16. Urban environment**

We will:

- i. Plant of fruit bearing and shady trees.
- ii. Protect wetlands and riparian areas.
- iii. Protect of flood plains.
- iv. Continue to raise awareness about keeping urban areas clean and safe.



# Conclusion

**D**ruk Phuensum Tshogpa takes this opportunity to offer its heartfelt gratitude to the people of Bhutan for the historic honour of serving them over the past decade. We have done the best that we could both as the Government and Opposition.

Our aspiration is to continue to serve our nation and the people. We have highlighted in our Manifesto 2018 that we not only know and understand the hopes and aspirations of the people but we also have the conviction, experience and capability to deliver and fulfill them and take the nation forward. We have presented our priority policies, plans and programmes in three succinct parts: national, rural and urban priorities.

We have made pledges and have established, during our two terms, how parties that are elected must be and can be held accountable for each of the pledges they make. Bearing this in mind, we have been responsible in making desirable and realistic commitments. Under the wise guidance of His Majesty the King, the protection of our Guardian Deities, and the collective merit of our people, we are confident that we will succeed in our endeavours.

We hope the pages of this manifesto have received your kind perusal and that our thoughts and strategies to fulfill your aspirations would have helped you to make your choices.

Kadrinche, la!