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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



DC/CHAIR/2015/1430

Dated: 15th of July 2015

NOTIFICATION

The Delimitation Commission of Bhutan is pleased to hereby issue the Final Delimitation Order of the Fifteen *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and Eighteen *Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromdes*.

1. The allocation and determination of the *Demkhong* boundaries was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the *Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008* and the *Delimitation of Demkhongs Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.
2. The number of *Demkhongs* for a *Dzongkhag Thromde* is based on the Section 10 of Article 22 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan which provides that:

“A Gewog Tshogde or a Thromde Tshogde shall not have more than ten and fewer than seven elected members.”

and size of Registered Voter population as guided by the Section 7.15 of the *Delimitation Rules and Regulations, 2012* which provides that:

7.15 The Delimitation Commission while determining the size of *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde* may be guided by the following considerations:

7.15.1 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* with Registered Voter population of 5,000 or less shall have six *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogpa Demkhongs*;

7.15.2 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* with population between 5,001 and 7,500 shall have seven *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs*;

7.15.3 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* with Registered Voter population

between 7,501 and 10,000 shall have eight *Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs*; and

7.15.4 *Dzongkhag Thomdes* with Registered Voter population of more than 10,000 shall have nine *Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs*.

3. The largest of the *Dzongkhag Thomdes* in terms of Registered Voter population, is the *Dzongkhag Thomde* of Bumthang which has only 2,265 registered voters and therefore no *Thromde* is found eligible for more than the minimum of six *Demkhongs* (in addition to *Thrompon*) under the Constitution. Therefore, all fifteen *Dzongkhag Thomdes* is delimited to have six *Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde Tshogpas*.
4. The details of the *Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs* and the registered voter population in the respective 15 *Dzongkhag Thomdes* are as presented here below:

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	<i>Number of Dzongkhag Thomde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhong</i>		Registered Voter Population
1	Bumthang	1	Chakhar_Jampa Lhakhang	147
		2	Dekiling_Wangduechhoeling	566
		3	Jakar	289
		4	Chamkhar	723
		5	Gongkhar	233
		6	Gyal Lyon Khar	307
Total				2265
	Dagana	1	Dorona	20
		2	Dzongzho	17
		3	Aetogang	19

2		4	KarshingTsawa	19
		5	Sangazhing	16
		6	Changrina	22
Total				121
3	Gasa	1	Kolikha	0
		2	Desana	0
		3	Lingmithang	0
		4	Doongkarleg	0
		5	Phulakha	23
		6	Drey Chhamsa	0
Total				23
4	Haa	1	Wangtsa Maed	53
		2	Meripuensum	33
		3	Lhayuelkha	115
		4	Bali Maed	28
		5	Namgayling	74
		6	Norbu	57
Total				360
5	Lhuentse	1	Tongkangla	3
		2	Tagzibar	8
		3	Phaling Maed	19
		4	Legpagang	8
		5	Phaling Toed	3
		6	Phuyum	4
Total				45
		1	Trailing	50
		2	Norbuchhoeling	24

6	Monggar	3	Jarung-Khashor	40
		4	Changshingpeg	67
		5	Kidekhar	62
		6	Gyalpoizhing	45
Total				288
7	Paro	1	Baangdey Toed	22
		2	Baangdey Maed	128
		3	Geptoed_Olathang	488
		4	Khangkhu	407
		5	Tajoog	136
		6	Changkha	337
Total				1518
8	Punakha	1	Bjaluna _ Hongtshochen	81
		2	Gyelrigjab	6
		3	Chhoetenchen_Zhingthongbu	12
		4	Chhotentsawa_Pagshingsawa	1
		5	Dongkuchen_Lekithang_Tashigang	6
		6	Changyel_Lingkadumra_Zamdong	270
Total				376
9	Samtse	1	Gangtokha	100
		2	Lhamoiney	132
		3	Norjangsa Maed	129
		4	Norjangsa Toed	128
		5	Tshongdusa	57
		6	Soeltapsa	142
Total				688
		1	Melphel	165

10	Trashigang	2	Mithigdrang	118
		3	Dzong Lam_Khiri	154
		4	Chhenari_Pam Maed	134
		5	Pam Toed	158
		6	Pam Tabteng	114
Total			843	
11	Trashi Yangtse	1	Khabaer	84
		2	Rinchhengang	91
		3	Baychen	130
		4	Lhuendrup Gatshel	79
		5	Jang Chhorten Kora	89
		6	Lho Chhorten Kora	50
Total			523	
12	Trongsa	1	Yuling	45
		2	Lawshong	65
		3	Dangrey	53
		4	Chhoekhorling	65
		5	Bagochen	86
		6	Chhoe Throm	117
Total			431	
13	Tsirang	1	Gangtokha	48
		2	Maenchhana	17
		3	Damphu	18
		4	Dekiling Toed	13
		5	Dekiling Maed	26
		6	Tshochhasa	27
Total			149	

14	Wangdue Phodrang	1	Drupchhu	153
		2	Gangtoedthangkha	124
		3	Bajo	137
		4	Kushing Tsawa	147
		5	Shawa Dhama	78
		6	Bardong	63
Total				702
15	Zhemgang	1	Wangtapa	34
		2	Tingtibi Maed	44
		3	Tingtibi Toed	79
		4	Dzonglam	76
		5	Zangling	102
		6	Pema Yoedling	91
Total				426

5. The names of the approved 18 *Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromdes* with the Registered Voter Population is presented here below:

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	<i>Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromde</i>	Registered Voter Population
1	Bumthang	Chhumig	42
2	Chhukha	Tshimasham	337
3	Dagana	Lhamoi Dzingkha	1021
4	Gasa	Damji	0
5	Haa	Jenkanag	201

6	Lhuentse	Autsho	68
7	Monggar	Yadi	92
8	Punakha	Lobesa	73
9	Samdrup Jongkhar	Samdrupchhoeling	101
10	Samtse	Phuentshogpelri	270
11	Sarpang	Sarpang	695
12	Thimphu	Khasadrupchhu	190
13	Trashigang	Rangjoong	250
14	Trashi Yangtse	Dhosoorn	0
15	Trongsa	Kuenga Rabten	219
16	Tsirang	Mendrelgang	8
17	Wangdue Phodrang	Norbooding	87
18	Zhemgang	Panbang	279

6. The declaration of the *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and *Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromdes* has changed boundaries of 34 *Gewogs* and 56 *Chiwogs* while one *Chiwog*, *Chagzam_Pam Chiwog*, under *Samkhar Gewog* in Trashigang, completely falls under the *Thromde*. The changed boundaries of the affected *Gewogs* and *Chiwogs* of *Samkhar Gewog* (Trashigang Dzongkhag) and the *Hoongrel* and *Wangchang Gewogs* (Paro Dzongkhag) are as presented in the **Annexure A**.

Accordingly, due to the declaration of certain areas of *Hoongrel* and *Wangchang Gewogs* under *Thromde*, significant numbers, in places over 90%, of Registered Voter Population will now be out of the Electoral Roll of these *Gewogs*. As there are still some remaining voters in the affected *Gewog Tshogde Demkhongs* of these two *Gewogs*, there shall be

no change in the status of *Hoongrel* and *Wangchang* as two independent *Gewogs*. With the *Chagzam_Pam Chiwog* of *Samkhar Gewog* falling under the *Dzongkhag Thromde*, there will only be five *Chiwogs* in the *Samkhar Gewog*.

However, as per the Electoral Laws, the incumbent elected office holders in *Gewog Tshogdes* and *Dzongkhag Tshogdus* shall serve till the end of the tenure or dissolution of the respective bodies.

The Election Commission of Bhutan shall, hereafter, but before the initiation of the next Local Government Elections, issue the revised maps of all 205 *Gewogs* and 1043 *Chiwogs* highlighting the effects on the boundaries by the declaration of the *Dzongkhag Thromdes* and consequent to this Final Delimitation Order.

7. It may be noted that therefore the elections for 15 *Thrompons* and *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Tshogpas* as well as the *Dzongkhag Thromde Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thuemi* and *Dzongkhag Yenlag Dzongkhag Thromde Thuemi* of the respective *Dzongkhag Tshogdu* shall be conducted along-with the elections in the other *Dzongkhag Thromdes*.
8. It may be informed that since only one *Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromde* have been declared by Parliament in each of the 18 *Dzongkhags*; the nomination process will follow the procedures adopted for the nomination of the *Tshogpa* Candidates in *Chiwogs*.
9. *Dzongkhag Thromde* of *Gasa* will have elections for posts of *Thrompon*, *Dzongkhag Thromde Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thuemi* and *Dzongkhag Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa* though there is only 23 Registered Voters in *Phulakha Demkhong*.

10. There will be no elections for the *Dzongkhag Tshogdu Yenlag Thromde Thuemis* in *Damji* and *Dhosoom* as there are no Registered Voters in them.
11. There will be no *Thromdes* Elections for *Pema Gatshel* and *Yenlag Thromde* for *Paro Dzongkhag* as these are they are yet to be declared by Parliament.
12. In order to prevent any disputes regarding the boundaries of *Demkhong* in future, these were drawn in relation to the geographical features with the precise GPS coordinates as shown in the Maps in **Annexure B**.
13. The Delimitation Commission of Bhutan hereby urges all concerned authorities, media and the members of public to own the responsibility to apply and popularize the names of places as spelt out in the Final Delimitation Order in their records, correspondences, orders, public information notices and sign boards at their earliest.
14. Public Hearings on the Draft Delimitation Plan issued on 2nd of July 2015 was carried out by the Delimitation Commission Members in each of the 15 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* to provide adequate opportunity for the public, *Gups* and *Tshogpas* of affected *Gewogs* and *Chiwogs* to understand, discuss and express their views before the issuance of the Final Delimitation Order.
15. The public were also invited to give their feedback on the Draft Delimitation Plan directly by mail or email.
16. All the views and comments received from the public were deliberated upon by the Delimitation Commission in its 26th Session held on 13th of July 2015 during which the Commission effected changes including merging the two *Demkhongs* of *Dzonglam Tag* and *Dzonglam Wog* and creating one additional *Demkhong* in *Tingtibi*, *Zhemgang Dzongkhag* and realignment of *Demkhong* boundaries in *Bumthang* and *Lhuentse*

Dzongkhags along with changes in the names of places giving due regard to the historical significance and the public's views and submissions.

17. Participants at the public hearings of Haa and Paro Dzongkhags presented their reservations to the declared boundaries of the respective *Thromdes* and few observations in other *Thromde* boundaries were noted. However, the Delimitation Commission found these issues to be beyond its mandate and could only advise them to pursue through the proper channel of such decision making.

Issued on the Twenty Ninth Day of the Fifth Month of the Female Sheep Year corresponding to 15th of July 2015.

By Order,

Dasho Kunzang Wangdi
Chief Election Commissioner

CHAIRPERSON

Copy to:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, Kingdom of Bhutan
2. Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan, Royal Court of Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Thimphu

3. Hon'ble Speaker, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
4. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
5. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
6. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty's Secretariat, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
7. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty, Secretariat of Druk Gyal Zhipa, Thimphu
8. Hon'ble Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
9. Hon'ble Commandant, Royal Body Guards, Dechencholing, Thimphu, Bhutan
10. Hon'ble Chairperson, Anti Corruption Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan
11. Hon'ble Auditor General, Royal Audit Authority, Thimphu, Bhutan
12. Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary, Royal Government of Bhutan, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
13. All Hon'ble Secretaries to the Royal Government of Bhutan
14. Hon'ble Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu, Bhutan
15. Hon'ble President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Thimphu, Bhutan
16. Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Administration, 20 Dzongkhags
17. Drangpon, Royal Court of Justice, 20 Dzongkhags
18. Dzongkhag Electoral Officers, 20 Dzongkhags
19. All Dungpas, Dungkhag Administration
20. Gups, 20 Dzongkhags
21. Managing Director, BBSC, Thimphu.

22. Managing Director, Kuensel Corporation, Thimphu.

23. Web- Administrator, Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu for
publication on ECB website