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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC/NOTIF-01/2016/426

Date: 7th of September 2016

[English Translation for reference purposes only]

Press Release

The Election Commission of Bhutan would like to inform the general public that subsequent to the Scrutiny of nominations of Candidates on 1st of September 2016 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature on 3rd of September the information related to the Candidates in the elections to *Gewog Tshogde* of 205 *Gewogs*, *SamdrupJongkharThromde* and *ThromdeNgotshab* in 16 *Dzongkhag Thromdes* are as follows:

Contesting Candidates

1. 205 Gewogs

Gup– 606 (27 females and 579 males)

Mangmi– 673 (108 females and 565 males)

Tshogpa– 2,144 (375 females and 1,769 males)

2. 16 Dzongkhag Thromdes

Thromde Ngotshab – 31 (8 females and 23 males)

3. SamdrupJongkhar Thromde

Thrompon– 2 (1 female and 1 male)

Thromde Tshogpa – 7(3 females and 4 males)

Out of the total 3,463 candidates contesting in the ongoing Local Government elections, 473 of them had previously held elective posts in the Local Governments.



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Withdrawal of Candidature

The **10** withdrawals of nomination papers were by the following:

1. 1 Tshogpa candidate in Chhukha Dzongkhag
2. 1 Tshogpa candidate in Dagana Dzongkhag
3. 1 Mangmi candidate in PemaGatshel Dzongkhag
4. 1 Gup and 1 Tshogpa candidate in Punakha Dzongkhag
5. 1 Mangmi and 1 Tshogpa candidate in Sarpang Dzongkhag
6. 1 Gup and 2 Mangmi candidates in WangduePhodrang Dzongkhag

Rejected Candidature

The nomination of **32** (3 females and **29** males) Candidates were rejected. As provided under the Laws, time to rebut was provided till 12 pm of the 3rd of September 2016.

The reasons for the rejection include:

1. Affiliation with a Political Party and nonfulfillment of the durational requirement - cooling period of one year (**16**cases);
2. No Security Clearance Certificate (**1** case);
3. Nonfulfillment of the age criteria (**7** under aged and **3** over aged);
4. No Affidavit (**1** case).
5. No CID of spouse (**1** case);
6. Forged signature (**1** case);
7. Not reflected in the concerned *Demkhong*(**1** case); and
8. Valid Business Contract (**1** case).



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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

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Academic Profile of Contesting Candidates

Besides being functionally literate as required under the Laws, the academic qualifications of the Candidates are found to be as follows:

1. Degree	-	150
2. High School	-	981
3. Primary School	-	697
4. NFE	-	332

No Candidates

No contestants have filed nomination for the post of *Tshogpa* in **40** *Chiwogs* of **17** Dzongkhags and for the post of *Thromde Ngotshabin Gasa*, Monggar and PemaGatshel Dzongkhags and therefore these *Demkhong* will be vacant for the time being.

Women Candidates and Comparison of First and Second LG Elections

The number of women candidates have more than doubled with a total of **522** women candidates contesting in the on-going elections. The details are as follows:

1. Gup – **27**
2. Mangmi– **108**
3. Gewog Tshogpa– **375**
4. Thromde Ngotshab – **8**
5. Thrompon– **1**
6. Thromde Tshogpa –**3** (in SamdrupJongkhar)

In the First Local Government Elections 2011, a total of **236** women had participated as candidates as follows:

1. Gup – **21**
2. Mangmi– **42**



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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



3. Gewog Tshogpa– **162**
4. Thromde Thuemi – **3**
5. Thrompon– **1**
6. Thromde Tshogpa –**7** (including all four Thromdes of SamdrupJongkhar, Gelegphu, Phuentshogling and Thimphu)

As of date, a total of **11** allegations and complaints have been received by the Dzongkhag Election Dispute Settlement Bodies (DEDSB) out of which two have been further appealed to the Central Election Dispute Settlement Body (CEDSB). The status of the disputes being processed and decided as provided under the Laws and are as follows:

- Case # 1. Allegation of misconduct by rival aspiring candidate at *zomdu* in Lhuentse Dzongkhag which was dismissed by the DEDSB. The case is closed as it has not been appealed further;
- Case # 2. Complaint based on dissatisfaction with the *zomdu* results in SamdrupJongkhar Dzongkhag Thromde which was decided by the DEDSB and further appealed to the CEDSB. The CEDSB decided to issue warning to the *zomdu* team for accepting and allowing the single instance of the use of a photocopied document as proof of voter identification. However, the *zomdu* results were not overturned as the difference in the results was more than one vote. The case is now closed with no further appeal and decision is being implemented;
- Case # 3. Allegation of bribery (giving of rice) in Dagana Dzongkhag which was withdrawn by the complainant.
- Case # 4. Complaint based on dissatisfaction with the *zomdu* results in Paro Dzongkhag which is in the appeal period currently;



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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



- Case # 5. Complaint based on dissatisfaction with the *zomdu* results by an aspiring Gup candidate in Dagana Dzongkhag alleging refusal to issue VPIC to his daughter. The case is currently being reviewed by the Dagana DEDSB.
- Case # 6. **Two** separate cases of allegations of bribery, threatening and corrupt activities in Zhemgang Dzongkhag which are currently under process;
- Case # 7. Allegation of a Gup candidate in Sarpang Dzongkhag being married to a non-national. The candidature was withdrawn by the Candidate;
- Case # 8. Allegation of a Gup candidate in Samtse Dzongkhag being married to a non-national. In this case, the candidate submitted that he was married to a non-national previously but is currently married to a national with submission of the Marriage Certificate and CID of spouse. The submission has been accepted and he is a contesting candidate in the on-going elections;
- Case # 9. Allegation of a Gup candidate in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag having been terminated from service. The complainant withdrew the case and no further evidence was provided by the complainant or found by the DEDSB in the official records; and
- Case # 10. Allegation of a Gup candidate in WangduePhodrang Dzongkhag giving false information in acquiring the Affidavit as he has a record of criminal conviction. The case is currently under process.

Released for public information.