

## Background

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in order to honor the Electronic Voting Machines which being the core component of the electoral process and success towards vibrant democracy instructed the Dzongkhag Election Offices to observe the EVM Day coinciding with the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the third month of the Bhutanese calendar. The day is also celebrated as the Kalachakra (or Zorig) day.

EVM being one of the core components of the democratization process, it was thus felt necessary that the EVMs are being undertaken with great deal of care and preparedness. Thus the idea of observing EVM day came up with the following objectives:

1. Thoroughly clean all the EVM
2. Sort all the malfunction EVM and Surrender to Store, HQ
3. Remove all power pack from the Control units
4. Practical demonstration of EVM
5. Sorting out the Sl. No. of Control and Ballot units
6. Proper storage of EVM

With such initiative, it is expected that the the Dzongkhag Offices has proper record of the EVM with the respective Dzongkhag along with proper check on the EVM functionality.

## Preparations

### Day I and Day II:

The Dzongkhag Election Office, Trashigang in line with the instructions from the Election Commission of Bhutan geared for the EVM Day celebration three days prior to the actual day owing to the huge number of EVM the office has, being one of the largest Dzongkhag in terms of number of Gewogs. Trashigang Dzongkhag Election Office has 315 sets of Electronic Voting Machines.

Sorting of Ballot and Control Unit was then carried out one by one. Functionality of Control units were thoroughly checked and inserted serially in the respective steel trunks after having the power packs removed. Out of 315 Control Units, three were detected to be malfunctioning with display section unable to display the actual content.

Out of 315 Ballot units, only one Ballot Unit was detected to be malfunctioning. The clip of the connecting cable was found broken due to which there was a frequent loose connection.

The day started early at 7:00 AM and ended quite late at 6:30 PM thus sorting out all Control and Ballot units. The sorted EVMs were then listed and put in their respective steel trunk after which they were properly stacked.

Following are some of the moments captured:



*Sorting of EVM serial numbers and checking their functionality*

# Report on EVM Day celebration, Trashigang Dzongkhag



*(EVM Steel trunks being stacked owing to the limited store space.)*



*(Stationary Store)*



## Day III:

Preparations for Lhabsang Thrusel program was carried out in the office owing to the limited space in the store rooms. With support and words of advice from Dasho Dzongdag, Election Office was able to carry out the preparations very smoothly.

Lam Neten was also consulted about the program, thus requesting for Lam Neten's presence for Lhabsang Thrusel program. Lam Neten assured that he will try to make his presence if no other important works come in between. Lam also assured the Election Office to render all necessary help for the program.

With support from Trashigang Rabdey and Dzongkhag Administration the preparations were carried out in the Dzongkhag Election Office.

Following are some of the pictures taken during the preparations:



*Ten sets were displayed wrapped with the ceremonial scarf for the ceremony since it was impossible to display all 315 sets together*

## EVM Day Celebration

The day started with receiving the monks headed by Umzey from the Dratshang. Dratshang Umzey was commanded over by Lam Neten to go as his replacement since Lam had to leave for Lumang for an important work.

Superintendent of Police, Officer In-Charge from RBP and few sector heads also attended the program. Due to a very important program at Sherubtse College, Dasho Dzongdag couldn't attend the morning program despite of being very supportive at all times.

Lhasang Thruesel was carried out in the Office as well as in the store rooms owing to space and number of EVM sets. Morning tea and a simple breakfast were also served for the monks and the guests.

Following are some pictures from the celebration day:





# Report on EVM Day celebration, Trashigang Dzongkhag



## Report on EVM Day celebration, Trashigang Dzongkhag

In the afternoon the Democracy Club members of Trashigang Middle Secondary School along with their two coordinators were invited to the Election Office for EVM demonstration along with hands on practice for the students followed by postal ballot presentation. Dasho Dzongdag also made his presence and interacted with the students.

Students took interest in handling the EVM and came up with few questions.



*(Dasho Dzongdag interacting and showering words of wisdom to the students)*



*(Dzongkhag Electoral Officer giving a brief talk on democracy and election.)*



*(EVM demonstration by Assistant Electoral Officer)*



# Report on EVM Day celebration, Trashigang Dzongkhag



*(Hands on practice of Electronic Voting Machine)*



*(Demonstration of EVM by the students)*



*(Presentation and demonstration on postal ballot procedures.)*



## **Acknowledgement**

The Dzongkhag Election Office is very much thankful to Dasho Dzongdag for the support at all times and particularly this time for approving the budget for EVM Day celebration, without which this event would not be possible. Dasho Dzongdag was very keen in supporting this event knowing the importance of the event.

We also would like to thank Lam Neten and Trashigang Rabdey for all necessary support for the entire duration and thus making this event look like what it is really meant to be.

Equal share of gratitude also goes to the Dzongkhag Support Staffs who were involved directly or indirectly since the start of preparations till bringing the Office back to shape.

Last but not the least, we would also like to thank all our esteemed guests for making their presence in our first ever EVM day.