



འབྲུག་གི་བཅའ་ཁྲུ་ལྷན་ཚོགས།
ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/NOTIF-01/2018/4485

Dated: 16th February 2018

NOTIFICATION

Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council

Under the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in obedience to the Royal Decree issued on the **15th of February 2018** calling elections to the National Council of the Parliament of Bhutan and in pursuance of Section 191 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, hereby notifies the general public, the Election Schedule of the *Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council* and the details concerning *Demkhongs*, Nomination of Candidates, Electoral Rolls, Polling Stations, Election Officials, Polling Management, Security and other requirements and arrangements as follows:

(A) Elections

1. The National Council Elections shall be contested in each of the 20 Dzongkhags by the Nominees of the respective *Gewogs/Dzongkhag Thromdes* whose nomination is accepted by the concerned Returning Officer.
2. An incumbent National Council Member wishing to contest the elections shall not be required to resign, as per Section 15A and 22A of the National Council Act 2014. However, such aspiring Candidates shall not display, deploy or use any insignia, human resources, property, materials, information or any kind of advantage related in any way to holding of the office.

(B) Election Schedule

3. The Schedule of activities, date and time for the *Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council* shall be as follows:

Sl. No	Event	Day	Date
1	The Royal Decree calling the National Council Elections and setting the process in motion	1	15th of February 2018 (Thursday)
	ECB Notification on the National Council Election Schedule	2	16 th of February 2018 (Friday)
2	Commencement of the Gewog <i>Dhamngoi Zomdu</i> Process in the Gewogs/Dzongkhag Thromdes to select Nominees	10	24 th of February 2018 (Saturday)
3	Last date for filing nomination	33	19 th of March 2018 (Monday)
4	Scrutiny of Nominations of Candidates	34	20 th of March 2018 (Tuesday)
5	Application for Election Campaign Fund by Candidates		
6	Commencement of the Election Campaign		
7	Freezing of the Electoral Roll	35	21 st of March 2018 (Wednesday)
8	Release of the Election Campaign Fund	36	22 nd of March 2018 (Thursday)
9	Last date for withdrawal of Candidature		
10	Last date for receipt of Application for changes related to details from registered Postal Voters by Returning Officer		
11	Returning Officer to initiate sending Postal Ballot to Registered Postal Voters		
12	Operation of Facilitation/ Mobile Booths	57 58 59	12 th , 13 th & 14 th of April 2018 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
13	End of Election Campaign	63	9 a.m. 18 th of April 2018 (Wednesday)
14	Last day for receiving Postal Ballots	64	19 th of April 2018 (Thursday)
15	National Council Poll Day and Counting of Results	65	20th of April 2018 (Friday)
16	Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo	66	21 st of April 2018 (Saturday)
17	Start of Election Petition Period		
18	Issuance of the Certificate of Election	69	24 th of April 2018 (Tuesday)
19	End of Election Petition Period	83	8 th of May 2018 (Tuesday)

(C) Selection of Nominees to file Candidature to Contest the National Council Elections

4. The voter who, attends in person and, secures the highest number of votes at the selection *Dhamngoi Zomdu*, called and conducted as per the *Guidelines for Dhamngoi Zomdu of the Gewog/Dzongkhag Thromde for National Council Elections, 2018* and is declared the Nominee of a *Gewog/Dzongkhag Thromde*, shall file Nomination as Candidate to contest the National Council elections in that Dzongkhag.
5. The aspiring Candidates are specifically being notified that:
 - (i) They must invariably be present at the *Zomdu* at 9 a.m. sharp as per the schedule circulated in respective Dzongkhags by the Dzongkhag Election Authority along with his/her photo measuring 2.3cm x 2.3 cm for use on the EVM; and
 - (ii) The *Zomdu* conducting team shall check whether he/she meets the age and *mitsi* registration requirement; the non-affiliation status with any political party; not failed to lodge Election Returns on time; and/or not have any past record of electoral corruption. These shall be checked against the information maintained and provided by the Election Commission.

(D) Filing of Nomination Papers

6. The Nomination Papers shall be submitted by a Nominee selected to contest the National Council Elections **on or before 19th of March 2018**.
7. The Nomination Papers must be complete, signed and countersigned as required and include, in the prescribed Forms, the following:
 - 7.1. Nomination Form, with necessary attachments;
 - 7.2. Notice of Nomination;
 - 7.3. Asset Declaration;
 - 7.4. Tax Clearance Certificate;
 - 7.5. Audit Clearance Certificate;

- 7.6. Security Clearance Certificate;
- 7.7. Marriage Certificate & CID copy of spouse, if married;
- 7.8. Copy of Formal University Degree Certificate with Letter of Attestation issued by Election Commission of Bhutan;
- 7.9. Relieving order issued by Head of the Ministry/ Department/Agency (if relevant);
- 7.10. A declaration from a Candidate declaring that he/she is not a member of a Political Party, or has resigned membership at least a year ago in the manner specified in Section 206 (d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008; and
- 7.11. Affidavit including Non-Criminal Conviction Record-Cum-Clearance from the respective Court of Law that he/she has not been accused of felony in a pending case, taken cognisance by a Court of Law.

(E) Scrutiny of Nominations

8. The respective Returning Officers shall undertake the scrutiny of the Nomination Papers filed by the Candidates under intimation to the Election Commission.
9. The scrutiny of Asset Declaration shall be in line with the *Strategy for Evaluation of the Asset Declaration of the Candidates Contesting Elections, 2018* and the *Guidelines for Implementation of Sections 163-174 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 relating to Office of Profit, 2012* issued by the Election Commission. The prior Assessment of the Asset Declarations by the Anti-Corruption Commission and Election Commission shall guide the scrutiny of the Declarations.
10. The screenshot (webpage) displaying the approved status of the Security Clearance and specified for election purposes shall be printed and the copy made available during the submission of nomination papers.

11. Audit Clearance may be obtained as per the online system put in place by the Royal Audit Authority and the printout copy submitted at the time of submission of Nomination Papers.
12. The attestation of the Formal University Degree shall be as per the *Guidelines for Interpretation and Implementation of Sections 176 (d), 177 (d) and 178 (d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 regarding the Academic Qualification Requirement for a Candidate contesting Elections to National Assembly, National Council or the Post of Thrompon, 2017*. The Letter of Attestation by the Election Commission, based on the Qualification Endorsement by the Bhutan Accreditation Council, shall guide the scrutiny of the Degree.

(F) Demkhong

13. The National Council *Demkhongs*, the 20 Dzongkhags, are as follows:

Sl. No.	<i>National Council Demkhong</i>
1.	Bumthang
2.	Chhukha
3.	Dagana
5.	Gasa
6.	Haa
7.	Lhuentse
8.	Monggar
9.	Pema Gatshel
10.	Punakha
11.	Samdrup Jongkhar
12.	Samtse
13.	Sarpang
14.	Thimphu
15.	Trashigang
16.	Trashi Yangtse
17.	Trongsa
18.	Tsirang
19.	Wangdue Phodrang
20.	Zhemgang

(G) Electoral Roll

14. The Qualifying Date shall, in relation to the preparation of the Electoral Roll for the election, be the **1st of January 2018**. Therefore, all those who are not younger than eighteen years of age as on 1st of January 2018 shall be deemed to meet the minimum age requirement to be a Registered Voter.
15. Those born on or before **19th of March 1993** and on or after **19th March 1953** shall be deemed to meet the legal age requirement for Candidates.
16. The Draft Electoral Roll was issued on 15th of February 2018 for public inspection and invite the public to file **Claims and Objections** by **25th of February 2018**.
17. Similarly, those voters whose *Mitsi* has been registered in a *Demkhong* on or before **31st of December 2016** shall be deemed to meet the durational requirement to be a voter or Candidate from that *Demkhong*.
18. The Draft Electoral Roll shall be used for the purposes of polling at the *Dhamngoi Zomdu* to select the *Gewog/Thromde's* nominee to contest the National Council Elections in the concerned Dzongkhag.
19. No changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll **after 20th of March 2018** i.e., thirty days before the date of poll. However, the respective Dzongkhag Election Office shall continue to distribute the Voter Photo Identity Cards (VPICs) to those who were unable to collect it, even up to the Poll Day.
20. The Final Electoral Roll shall be published and provided to the Returning Officers by **23rd of March 2018** and the Candidates will be given their copies, if requested by **23rd of March 2018**.

(H) Election Campaign

21. A Candidate may proceed with his/her Election Campaign upon the acceptance of his/her candidature by the concerned Returning Officer.
22. A Candidate shall conduct his/her campaign only as per the **Election Campaign Schedule** approved by the concerned Returning Officer and copy endorsed to the concerned Observer.

Common Forum for Public Address by All Candidates

23. The Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, in consultation with the respective Election Coordinator and Security Coordinator shall arrange a Common Forum in each *Gewog/Dzongkhag Thromde* to provide the contesting Candidates equal opportunity to address the electorate while reducing the necessity to call for public meetings in the *Gewog* or *Dzongkhag Thromde* by each Candidate separately and thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions.
24. The Common Forum shall be organised as per the *Guidelines for the Conduct of the Common Forum for Election Campaign, 2018*.

Any other public meetings, door-to-door campaigns or rallies

25. Any other public meetings, door-to-door campaigns or rallies shall be subject to the provisions of the law, code of conduct and as per the campaign schedule and use of vehicles as approved by the Returning Officer.
26. A door-to-door campaign may be conducted only between **6 a.m.** and **6 p.m.**

Abnormal Financial Transaction

27. All Banks or financial institutions shall report to the Election Commission any abnormal transaction of money, including in the account of a Candidate contesting the Elections.

Conduct of Representatives or Supporters

28. A Candidate shall bear responsibility for the conduct of his/her representatives or supporters.

No Freebies

29. A Candidate contesting the National Council Elections and all concerned shall neither serve meals or refreshments, nor pay the general public or voters for attendance of election campaigns or produce and distribute T-shirts and caps etc.

Past Attributes or Past Achievements

30. A Candidate, Government or Non-Governmental authority, Organisation or any individual shall not screen any audiovisual products or documentary clips or display/distribute any written or pictorial materials which attributes or depicts the past achievements of a particular aspiring Candidate whilst in Government or public service or otherwise, including the portrayal of a Candidate in any audiovisual product.

Religious Events

31. Religious events will be prohibited, in particular those involving the candidates and/or their representatives and supporters.
32. Religious Personalities shall neither vote in the elections nor participate, directly or indirectly, or give grounds to reasonably construe support, opposition or dislike of any Candidate contesting the elections.

Religious Organisations & Civil Society Organisations

33. Religious Organisations and Civil Society Organisations shall not participate, directly or indirectly, or give grounds to reasonably construe support, opposition or dislike of any Candidate contesting the elections.

Civil servants

34. Civil servants shall cast their votes either in person at the designated Polling Stations or by Postal Ballot but shall not participate or attend any campaign events or meetings except for those civil servants on election duty required to observe or monitor such events.

Midhey Gothrips

35. The *Midhey Gothrips* shall not participate, directly or indirectly, or give grounds to reasonably construe support, opposition or dislike of any Candidate contesting the elections.

No Travels or Official Tours by A Minister or Member of Parliament

36. No travels or official tours shall be undertaken by a Minister or Member of Parliament to any *Demkhong* other than the place of ordinary residence during the National Council Election Period except to cast votes on the Poll Days if he/she decides not to avail the Postal Ballot facility. If such travel to a constituency becomes unavoidable, he/she shall seek permission and first report to the concerned Returning Officer.
37. No Candidate shall use the title, designation, rank, *kabney/rachu*, *pata/geyntag*, or any other sign, insignia or symbol of an office held earlier, on person, car or any personal effects as may be used during the campaign period by the Candidate, representatives or supporters.
38. The Office of the Returning Officer and venue of the election events shall be, as far as possible, at locations that do not require the wearing of the *kabney/rachu* and *pata/geyntag*.

48 hour no campaign period

39. Election Campaign must stop 48 hours before the hour fixed for commencement of Poll.

Election Campaign Finance

40. The total amount of **Nu. 150,000/-** shall be provided as public campaign funds by the State as fixed by the Election Commission as per Section 58 of the Public Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008.
41. A Candidate shall be allowed to spend only the amount provided by the State for his/her Election Campaign.

Election Campaign Returns

42. A Candidate must submit weekly accounts of the campaign expenses to the National or Micro Observer for his/her scrutiny and file Election Returns within thirty days of declaration of the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures,

regardless of being elected or not, failing which a person may be disqualified as a Member holding elective office or Candidate in future elections.

Public Debate

43. A public debate between the Candidates shall be arranged by the concerned Dzongkhag Election Offices and the BBS Television for the Candidates contesting National Council Elections in that Dzongkhag.
44. The debate shall be conducted as per the *Guidelines for Conduct of Public Debates during Parliamentary Elections, 2018*.
45. In particular, the speaking sequence shall be set by draw of lots by the Candidates. Three questions shall be asked by the moderator including one based on the introduction by the Candidate and two questions on subject matter at the dzongkhag and national levels with the two questions to be by draw of lots from the Question Bank put in place by the Election Commission.

(I) Postal Ballots

46. The schedule for the Postal Ballot process shall be as given in the Election Schedule and detailed in the *Strategy for Conduct of the Third Parliamentary Elections: National Council Elections 2018*.
47. The Postal Ballot System shall include the conventional Postal Ballot method; Postal Ballot Facilitation Booth; or Mobile Facilitation Booth as opted for at the time of registration as postal voters.
48. Eligible postal voters wishing to exercise their franchise through the Postal Ballot must register as a postal voter with the Election Commission **latest by the 8th of March 2018**.
49. The Postal Voters, who have opted for the conventional method of the Postal Voting i.e. receiving the Postal Package from the Returning Officer at his/her Postal Address and returning the marked Postal Ballot directly to the Returning Officer, shall intimate to the Returning Officer any change in Postal Address or if he/she wishes not to use the Postal Ballot and instead to vote in person at the

Polling Station on Poll Day. Such application for change in details of postal voter must reach the Returning Officer **latest by 22nd of March 2018**.

50. The Postal Voters, who have opted to vote at the Postal Ballot Facilitation Booth, shall turn up at the Booth of Choice on **12th, 13th or 14th of April 2018** or as may be specifically intimated by the Election Authorities.
51. The Postal Voters, at the Postal Ballot Facilitation Booth shall bring his/her VPIC as proof of identification and CID as supporting document in case of challenge to identity.
52. Mobile Facilitation Booths shall be provided as special service for those with special needs or large number of Postal Voters in one place such as schools, projects etc.
53. A person who applied for Postal Ballot, be it by any option, cannot vote in person as his/her name will be included in the Postal Voters' List and struck off from the Voters' List sent to the Polling Station by the Returning Officer.

(J) Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC)

54. The VPIC issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the *Dhamngoi Zomdu*, Postal Ballot Facilitation Booth and the Polling Stations during the Elections.
55. All voters must also carry with them the Citizenship Identity Card issued by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs. In the event of any dispute related to the identity, the Citizenship Identity Card shall form the basis for taking decision by the Presiding Officer.

(K) Polling Hours

56. The polling hours on the Poll Day shall be from **9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** However, those voters already in the queue at 5 p.m. shall be allowed to vote with the last voter present at that time in the queue being given token No. 1.

(L) Electronic Voting Machines

57. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all *Demkhongs*.

(M) Indelible Ink

58. Quality indelible ink shall be used during the elections and care must be taken in applying the indelible ink as a line running from top of the nail to the bottom of the first joint of the **Right Thumb**.

(N) Polling Stations

59. The Polls for the *Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council* shall be conducted in a total of **866 Polling Stations**, the details of which are indicated in the Electoral Roll for the *Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council*.

60. After the close of Polls, the Polling Stations shall become the Counting Centres where the EVM Results shall be counted immediately, as per the set procedure, and relayed to the Returning Officers and the National Counting Centre through the SMS Election Information Relay System developed specifically for this purpose.

(O) Election Result Counting, Consolidation and Declaration

61. The Postal Ballots shall be counted only by the concerned Returning Officers who shall consolidate it with the EVM results received from the Counting Centres and verify the information received through the **SMS Relay System** against the **hard copy**, following the standard procedures and in the required Forms.

62. Candidates or their representatives can witness and observe all stages of the polling and counting procedures but shall not make public statements on estimates and guesses before the official declaration of the results.

63. A permitted Media agency or journalist may witness and observe the counting procedures but shall ensure that they comply with the procedural requirements of the Returning Officer and not obstruct or interfere with the process or make public statements or online posts on estimated poll results before the official announcement and declaration of the results.

(P) Election Officials

Chief Election Coordinators

64. The *Dzongdags* shall be appointed as the Chief Election Coordinators; Dzongrabs/ Dungpas as the Deputy Chief Election Coordinators; Executive Secretary and the Gewog Administrative Officers as the Assistant Chief Election Coordinators in the respective Dzongkhag, *Dzongkhag Thromde* and Gewog for the purposes of the conduct of the National Council Elections 2018.
65. The Election Coordinators shall be responsible for carrying out the roles, responsibilities and duties as provided in the Electoral Laws and in accordance with the Appointment Order issued by the Election Commission on **16th of February 2018**.

National Observers and Micro Observers

66. The Election Commission shall appoint twenty National Observers and twenty-seven Micro Observers vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Observers, to observe the Elections.
67. An Observer shall, besides submission of required reports, report any infraction requiring immediate action to the Election Commission instantly through SMS or any other means of communication.

Returning Officers

68. The Election Commission shall appoint twenty Returning Officers and twenty-seven Assistant Returning Officers for the Elections.
69. Each Returning Officer is vested with full authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Returning Officers.

Presiding Officers

70. The appointment of Presiding Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer on or after **17th of April 2018** i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.
71. Presiding Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Presiding Officers.

Polling Officers

72. The appointment of Polling Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer on or after **17th of April 2018** i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.
73. Polling Officers are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Polling Officers.

Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

74. The Presiding Officers shall serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant authorized as such in the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer.
75. Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants are vested with the authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants.

Assignment of Duty Stations

76. The Observers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants shall not be posted to the Gewog where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered.

Authorisation to Record Election Related Events

77. The general public are hereby notified that the Officials appointed on election duty are being officially authorized to photograph, videograph and/or record any

election-related event or activity which may be used as evidence in the election dispute settlement system.

(Q) Law and Order & Deployment of Forces

78. The *Dzongdags* of all twenty *Dzongkhags*, the Gewog Administrative Officers in the 205 *Gewogs* and Executive Secretary of the four *Dzongkhag Thromdes* shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters in the *Dzongkhags*, *Gewogs* and *Thromdes* respectively for the election period.
79. The *Dzongdags*, Gewog Administrative Officers and Executive Secretary shall be responsible in ensuring that their respective jurisdictions are conducive and congenial for the conduct of free and fair *Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council*.
80. The Royal Bhutan Police and the Royal Bhutan Army shall deploy security as per the *Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan*.
81. The Royal Bhutan Police and the Royal Bhutan Army shall ensure appropriate coverage and deploy adequate number of men and officers so that there is no possibility of any security threat and incidences affecting the electoral process in their respective jurisdictions.
82. The Election Security Focal Officers of the concerned *Dzongkhag* shall work in close coordination and cooperation with the election officers as a team towards conducting the elections smoothly.

(R) Election Dispute Settlement System

83. The quasi-judicial role of the Election Commission during the Election Period shall be fulfilled through the election dispute settlement system which includes three levels of decision-making and appeal:
 - 83.1. *Dzongkhag* Dispute Settlement Body;
 - 83.2. Central Dispute Settlement Body; and
 - 83.3. Full Election Commission.

84. Election Disputes may be filed with a Returning Officer, Observer, Chief Election Coordinator or the Chief Election Commissioner but must contain all details as in **Election Dispute Settlement Form No. 1**
85. The adjudication of Election disputes shall be guided generally by the principles and provisions of the Laws of the land and in particular by the Electoral Laws, Election Dispute Settlement Rules and Regulations and the Election Dispute Settlement Manual.
86. All concerned are reminded that, as notified to the public vide Notification No. ECB/NOTIF-1/2011/825 dated 16th of December 2011, a complaint related to an election shall be dealt only by an Election Dispute Settlement Body or the Election Commission.

(S) Petition

87. An appeal against a decision of the Election Commission or an issue related to the Poll Day or EVM may be lodged to the High Court of the Kingdom of Bhutan on or before the last date for filing of an election petition.

(T) International Observers & Media

88. The Policy and Planning Division of the Election Commission shall coordinate and liaison all matters that concern the International Observers, National and International Media permitted to observe the Elections as provided in the *National and International Observers Guidelines, Media Coverage of Elections Rules and Regulations* and the *Social Media Rules*.
89. The Media Arbitrator appointed for the *Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council* shall be vested with the authority and be responsible for fulfilling the roles and responsibilities as provided in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and the Appointment Order.
90. Social Media Monitors shall be appointed in the Dzongkhags to assist the Media Arbitrator.

(U) Election Control Rooms

91. Control Rooms shall be established in the Office of the Returning Officers and at the Election Commission Headquarters to effectively supervise, direct, monitor and backstop the conduct of elections.
92. The Control Rooms shall be set up and function in the manner detailed in the *Manual for Control Rooms*.
93. All concerned officials shall be provided with a copy of the Election Diary which shall also contain the contact details of Officials on election duty to facilitate effective communications during the elections.

(V) Election Code of Conduct

94. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force from **15th of February 2018** until the completion of the Election Period i.e. until the declaration of the results on **21st of April 2018**.
95. All election officers, Candidates and voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.
96. All electoral stakeholders may use the social media for election or campaign purposes but shall ensure to abide by the Electoral Laws, Election Code of Conduct and specifically adhere to the requirements under the Social Media Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2018.

(W) Poll Day - A Public Holiday

97. The **Poll Day, 20th of April 2018**, shall be declared a **National Holiday** in the 20 Dzongkhags.
98. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any voter wishing to go to vote in person.
99. No one shall carry any sort of audio/photo/video recording device in and around a Polling Station or carry any sort of weapons or arms which can be used to cause bodily harm on Poll Day except those authorised to do so.

100. A permitted media agency or journalist shall be allowed into a Polling Station but not have access to the voting compartment when a voter is inside it and be escorted out of the Polling Station after a few minutes.

(X) Demkhong with No or Only One Candidate

101. In a *Demkhong* where there is no Candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of Candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice by the Election Commission.

102. In a *Demkhong* where there is only one Candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of Candidates announced herein, an uncontested election, in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, will be conducted in that *Demkhong*.

(Y) Other Reference

103. Election Officials shall, besides the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Handbooks, Orders and Notifications, also refer to the “*Strategy for the Conduct of the Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council*” for additional information and guidance in the conduct of the Elections.

Now, thereof, from the day of issue of this Notification, the Election Commission of Bhutan notifies the general public on all matters relating to the *Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: National Council*.

Issued on the 1st Day of the 1st Month of the Earth Male Dog Year corresponding to 16th of February 2018

(Chogyal Dago Rigdzin)

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

