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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC/NOTIF-01/2014/1978

Dated: 3rd of June 2014

NOTIFICATION

Bye-Election for the Post of *Mangmi* in Nagya Gewog under Paro Dzongkhag, 2014

In accordance with Section 577 and 579 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, and Sections 33 and 34 of the Local Government Act, 2009, the Election Commission of Bhutan is pleased to hereby call the Bye-Election for the post of *Mangmi* under Nagya Gewog of Paro Dzongkhag, for the vacancy resulted upon the resignation on health grounds.

The Election Schedule and the details are hereby being notified as follows:

(A) Election Schedule

1. The Schedule shall be as follows:

Date and Time	Remarks
3 rd of June 2014	- Issuance of Notification - Freezing of Electoral Roll
4 th of June 2014	- Commencement of <i>Zomdu</i> process for the post of <i>Mangmi</i>
9 th of June 2014	- Last Date for filing of Nominations of Candidates
10 th of June 2014	- Scrutiny of Nominations of Candidates & Commencement of the Election Campaign
12 th of June 2014	- Last date for withdrawal of Candidatures

28 th of June 2014	- End of Election Campaign
30th of June 2014	- Poll Day and Counting of Results
1 st of July 2014	- Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to the Druk Gyalpo - Start of Election Petition Period - Issuance of the Certificate of Election
10 th of July 2014	- End of Election Petition Period

(B) Polling Hours

2. The polling hours shall be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(C) Demkhong

3. The boundaries of the *Demkhongs* and the names to be used shall be as written in the final Delimitation Order no. **DC/CHAIR/2011/1520 of 28th of February 2011.**

(D) Selection Process of the Candidates

4. A registered voter who fulfills the criteria laid down in Section 178 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate for Election.

5. The Selection process for the candidates contesting the post of *Mangmi* shall be as follows:

5.1 A *Chiwog Zomdu* shall be held by the Dzongkhag Election Authority for the purpose of selecting not more than one candidate from every *Chiwog* of the *Gewog* for the post of *Mangmi*.

5.2 The EVM must be used for the *Zomdu* in selection of the Candidates.

5.3 In the absence of any Registered Voter interested to contest, the meeting shall submit to the Dzongkhag Election Authority a statement to that effect.

6. An eligible Candidate shall, as per the Electoral Laws, be minimum of 25 years and maximum of 65 years (i.e. born on or before 9th of June 1989 and born on or after 9th of June 1949) on the day of filling the nomination.

(E) Electoral Roll

7. The Electoral Roll used for the General Election 2013 shall be used as the base with further revision as per the qualifying date. All those registered in the Final Electoral Roll shall be eligible to vote in the concerned *Demkhong*.

(F) Election Campaign

8. A Candidate shall have up to **18** days for campaigning, which must stop 48 hours before the start of Poll.
9. No Minister, Member of Parliament, official or member of a political party or elected shall campaign directly or indirectly for any Candidate.
10. The other elected Local Government officials i.e. the Gup, *Mangmi*, Dzongkhag *Thromde Thuemi*, *Thrompon* or *Thromde Tshogpa* shall not campaign directly or indirectly for any Candidate and shall only participate as a voter on the Poll day.

Election Campaign Finance

11. A Candidate cannot exceed his/her election campaign expense beyond the ceiling fixed in Section 59 of the Public Election Fund Act 2008 i.e. total of Nu. 50,000/-.

Election Campaign Returns

12. A Candidate must file Election Returns within thirty days of declaration of the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures.

13. A candidate (elected or not elected) who fails to lodge accounts of election expenses within the time and in manner required under Section 179 (d) of the Election Act will be barred from participation in future elections.

Common Gathering for Public Address by All Candidates

14. The Returning Officer, in consultation with respective Election Coordinator and Security Coordinator shall arrange a Common Forum in each *Chiwog* to provide the candidates of the concerned *Demkhong* equal opportunity to address the electorate eliminating the necessity to call for public meetings by each candidate separately and thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions.

(G) Postal Ballots

15. The Postal Voter List shall be based on Postal Voters Registration for General Election 2013.

16. The schedule for the processing of Postal Ballots shall be given below:

Date and Time	Remarks
3 rd of June 2014	- Eligible Postal Voters to initiate application for Postal Ballot to respective Returning Officer
12 th of June 2014	- Last date of receipt of Application for Postal Ballots by Returning Officer - Returning Officer to commence sending Postal Ballots to registered Postal Voters
29 th of June 2014	- Last day/ time for receiving Postal Ballots
30 th of June 2014	- Poll day and Counting of Results

(H) Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC)

17. Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the Polling Stations during the Elections.
18. However, all voters must 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 VPIC, the Citizenship Identity Card will form the basis for taking decision by the Presiding Officer.

(I) Electronic Voting Machines

19. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all the Polling Station.

(J) Indelible Ink

20. Quality indelible ink shall be used during the elections and care must be taken in applying the indelible ink on the *left thumb*.

(K) Polling Stations

21. The Polling Stations shall be as indicated in the Final Electoral Roll for the Bye-Election for the Post of **Mangmi** in Paro Dzongkhag.

(L) Election Officials

Election Coordinators

22. The Dzongdag shall be the Chief Election Coordinator, Dzongrab the Deputy Chief Election Coordinator and the Gewog Administrative Officer as the Assistant Chief Election Coordinator.

National Observers

23. The Election Commission shall appoint a National Observer for observing the Election in the Gewog.

Returning Officers

24. The Election Commission shall appoint the Paro Dzongkhag Electoral Officer as the Returning Officer for the conduct of the Bye-Election.

Presiding and Polling Officers

25. The appointment of Presiding Officers and Polling Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the Returning Officer on or before 27th of June 2014 i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorized.

Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

26. 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.

Assignment of Duty

27. The Election Officials shall not be posted to the Gewog where his/her Gung or *Mitsi* is registered.
28. All Election Officials appointed shall be responsible for carrying out the roles, responsibilities and duties as directed in the Appointment Order issued by the Election Commission on 3rd of June 2014.

(M) Law and Order & Deployment of Forces

29. The Paro *Dzongdag* and the Gewog Administrative Officer shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters to ensure that the jurisdictions under their control are conducive and congenial for the conduct of free and fair election.

30. The Royal Bhutan Police shall be responsible for security as per the Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

(N) Election Code of Conduct

31. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period.

32. 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.

(O) Poll Day - A Public Holiday

33. The Poll Day, 30th of June 2014, shall be declared a Public Holiday in the Nagya *Gewog* of Paro Dzongkhag only. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any registered voter from the *Demkhong* wishing to go to vote in person.

(P) No or Only One Candidate

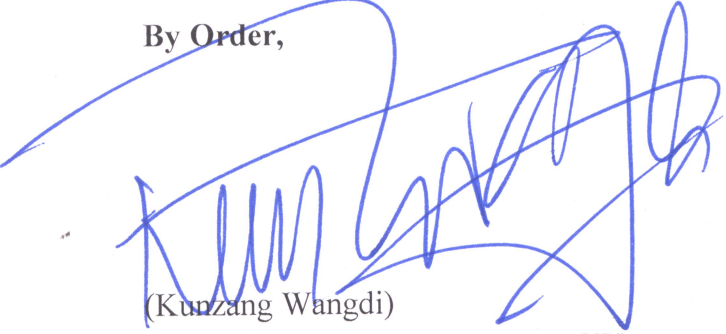
34. If there is no Candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of Candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice.

35. If 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.

Now, thereof, from the day of issue of this Notification, the Election Commission of Bhutan notifies the general public on the Election Schedule of the **Bye-Election for the Post of *Mangmi* in Nagya Gewog under Paro Dzongkhag 2014** and all matters relating to it.

**Issued on the Fifth Day of the Fourth Month of the Wood Male Horse Year 2014
corresponding to 3rd of June 2014.**

By Order,



(Kunzang Wangdi)

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

Copies 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 Officiating Chief Justice, Royal Court of Justice, High Court of Bhutan, Thimphu
4. Hon'ble Speaker, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
5. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
6. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan
7. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty's Secretariat, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
8. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty, Secretariat of Druk Gyal Zhipa, Thimphu
9. Hon'ble Chairperson, Royal Civil Service Commission, 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, Tashichhoedzong, Thimphu
13. All Hon'ble Secretaries to the Royal Government of Bhutan
14. Hon'ble Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu, Bhutan
15. Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Administration, Paro Dzongkhag
16. Drangpon, Royal Court of Justice, Paro Dzongkhag
17. Director General, Department of Local Governance, Thimphu
18. Election Security Coordinator, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu
19. Dzongkhag Electoral Officer, Paro Dzongkhag
20. Gewog Administrative Officer, Nagya Gewog
21. Managing Director, BBSC, Thimphu
22. Managing Director, Kuensel, Thimphu