



The Charter for Bhutan Democracy Dialogue



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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

Publisher: Election Commission of Bhutan
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Date of Publication: November 2014

Printed at: Tshangpa Dung Dok Lhek Dhen Zay Cha
Printing Press

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The Charter for Bhutan Democracy Dialogue

The Bhutan Democracy Dialogue (BDD), an Initiative conceptualized in 2014 jointly by all the registered Political Parties of Bhutan is a forum for facilitating, nurturing and strengthening of democracy in Bhutan. It shall function under the guidance of a Steering Committee (SC) comprising of two representatives each from Registered Political Parties and the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB).

Vision

Bhutan with a mature democratic culture and vibrant democracy.

Mission

Promote vibrant democracy in keeping with the will of the people wherein political parties engage in dialogue, cooperation and partnership as “Bhutanese First”.

Objectives

1. Support and promote vibrant democracy in the country;
2. Build human and institutional capacity of the political parties to strengthen and nurture the Bhutanese democracy; and
3. Support and promote engagement, cooperation and partnership between political parties and related/relevant stakeholders.

Legal Framework

4. BDD shall function as per the provisions of the Laws; and
5. The SC shall be responsible for all rules and regulations to meet the objectives of the BDD.

Steering Committee

6. The composition of the SC shall comprise of two members from each Political Party and two members from ECB viz.:
 - a) President/Vice President or his/her nominee of each Political Party;
 - b) General Secretary of each Political Party;
 - c) The Registrar of Political Parties as the representative of ECB; and
 - d) Fund Manager, Public Election Fund Division of ECB as the Member-Secretary.

Functioning

7. The SC shall meet quarterly to propose, review and approve work plan, budget and activities of BDD and additional meetings may be held if deemed necessary.
8. The Chair and Member-Secretary of the SC shall be responsible to prepare/submit budget and work plan to the SC for approval.

Decision-making & Meetings

9. The SC shall be headed by a Chair, who shall be elected bi-annually by the members of the SC.
10. The quorum of the SC meeting shall be two-third of its members.
11. Decision making shall be based on consensus, failing which the Chair shall put the matter to vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have an additional vote.

Financial Management and Reporting

12. All funds for the activities of the BDD shall be routed through ECB.
13. Member-Secretary of BDD shall be responsible for all aspects of finance and accounts including submission of periodic financial reports to the SC and related partners.

Activities

14. The activities of the BDD shall be outlined in the Annual Work Plan prepared in synchrony with the RGOB Financial Year and may include:
 - a) Conduct of Seminars/Workshop/Conferences;
 - b) Celebration of the International Democracy Day/Constitution Day/National Day etc.;
 - c) Institutional development of Parties;
 - d) Capacity building of Party Functionaries and Members; and
 - e) Identification and support activities to promote and strengthen democracy, a culture of dialogue and cooperation amongst the parties and related/relevant stakeholders.

Review and amendment

15. The SC shall review the Charter from time to time. Any amendment shall be made by two-third majority of the SC members.

We, the undersigned, append our Signatures on this 14th Day of November 2014 corresponding to the 23rd Day of the 9th Month of the Wood Male Horse Year in the Bhutanese Calendar as Founding Signatories:

People's Democratic Party (PDP)

Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT)

Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party (BKP)

Druk Chirwang Tshogpa (DCT)

Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT)

Election Commission of Bhutan