



# ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/NOTIF-01/2013/3032

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2013


## PRESS RELEASE

**Subject: Declaration of the Results of the National Council Elections 2013**

The Election Commission of Bhutan is pleased to inform the people of Bhutan that the Polls for the National Council Elections 2013 for the Second Parliamentary Elections conducted in the twenty *Demkhongs* of Bumthang, Chhukha, Dagana, Gasa, Haa, Lhuentse, Monggar, Paro, Pema Gatshel, Punakha, Samdrup Jongkhar, Samtse, Sarpang, Thimphu, Trashigang, Trashi Yangtse, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang, and Zhemgang were successfully conducted yesterday, the **23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2013**.


The Election Commission is happy to report that a total of **67** Candidates contested in the National Council Elections, out of which a total of **20** were elected in the Polls. With the release of the Notification, this morning, declaring the Election Results, the 20 Dzongkhags of the country now have elected their representative in the *National Council* of Second Parliament of the Bhutan.

They are:

Sl. No.	Name	CID/VPIC	Dzongkhag	Photo
1	Nima	10103000508	<b>Bumthang</b>	

2	Pema Tenzin	11410006470	<b>Chhukha</b>	
3	Sonam Dorji	10305001620	<b>Dagana</b>	
4	Sangay Khandu	10402000085	<b>Gasa</b>	
5	Tshering Dorji	10501000467	<b>Haa</b>	
6	Tempa Dorji	10602000012	<b>Lhuentse</b>	
7	Sonam Wangchuk	10710001978	<b>Monggar</b>	
8	Kaka Tshering	10811001791	<b>Paro</b>	
9	Jigme Rinzin	10905002564	<b>Pema Gatshel</b>	
10	Rinzin Dorji	11009001202	<b>Punakha</b>	

11	Jigme Wangchuk	11104002493	<b>Samdrup Jongkhar</b>	
12	Sangay Khandu	11216000365	<b>Samtse</b>	
13	Dhan Bdr. Monger	11303001900	<b>Sarpang</b>	
14	Nima Gyeltshen	11402000256	<b>Thimphu</b>	
15	Sonam Kinga	11513002276	<b>Trashigang</b>	
16	Tashi Phuntsho	11607002667	<b>Trashi Yangtse</b>	
17	Tharchen	11703001857	<b>Trongsa</b>	
18	Kamal Bahadur Gurung	11806001593	<b>Tsirang</b>	
19	Tashi Dorji	11913000025	<b>Wangdue Phodrang</b>	

20	Pema Dakpa	12001001711	<b>Zhemgang</b>	
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Out of **379,819** registered voters in the 20 Dzongkhags **171,544** voters exercised their franchise. 147,577 of them cast their votes in person on the Electronic Voting Machines in the 850 Polling Stations and 23967 voters through the Postal Ballots.

The Voter Turnout percentage is **45.16 %**.

We would also like to inform the general public that instead of the total of 380,099 registered voters in the 20 Dzongkhags as reported earlier, the final registered voters for the National Council Elections 2013, as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, is **379,819** of which 192,799 are female and 187,020 male. The difference of 270 is due to Religious Personalities being removed from the Electoral Roll.

The Common Forum for campaign by all Candidates in each *Demkhong* (rather than calling of community meetings by individual Candidates), as piloted during the *Local Government Elections*, was also implemented successfully during this election. While election dispute settlement system bodies were instituted in all the 20 Dzongkhags, we had only a single election dispute lodged in Zhemgang Dzongkhag which was appealed right up to the Commission level and action taken thereof was the imposition of fine to two couples who hosted a *Zhingdup* without prior permission from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 and issued a warning to Ugyen Chopel, a Candidate of Phangkhar *Gewog* for his introductory tour without formal permission as required.

**9,174** Postal Ballots applications were reported as “rejected”. However, **5,380** applications were found submitted by those who were not registered as Postal Voters. In effect, only **3,974** applications were the rejected figure which is an insignificant rate of rejection. These were inevitable to have been rejected as these did not carry the vital information such as addresses or VPIC numbers.

A review will be carried out to assess the possibility to improve the effective participation of postal voters through minimization of errors by applicants and revisiting the transportation procedures to cut down delivery time in country and abroad for the National Assembly elections.

Everything went smoothly and there were no major problems encountered in any of the Polling Stations and Counting Centres on the Day of Poll. Therefore, it is a privilege to report that the elections in all the twenty Dzongkhags went smoothly.

The *National Council Elections 2013* could be conducted smoothly primarily due to the enthusiastic, nonstop and dedicated support received by the Election Commission from the **20** Chief Election Coordinators; **39** Deputy Chief Election Coordinators; **205** Assistant Chief Election Coordinators; **20** Returning Officers; **28** Assistant Returning Officers, **4,250** Polling Officers and the Security Personnel of the Royal Bhutan Police and Royal Bhutan Army.

It is noteworthy that the Elections were observed by **20** National Observers, **27** Micro-Observers and total of **5** International Medias, 4 from India and 1 from France. The Media Arbitrator supported by the Media Team monitored and provided support for proper and adequate media coverage of the Election by the **11** accredited media agencies and **188** media personnel. We look forward to

their detailed Reports and to taking lessons which would be useful in the conduct of future elections.

In terms of finances, the estimate of the total budget is to the tune of Nu. **500** Million out of which Nu. **8.71 M** was disbursed to the Candidates as the Public Election Campaign Fund; an estimate Nu. **8.5 M** for the sponsored activities; Nu **50 M** as deposited work to the Dzongkhag; Nu **11.3 M** to Royal Bhutan Police and Nu. **14.4 M** to Royal Bhutan Army. The detail Budget and Expenditure Report will be prepared and made available for Public viewing in due course of time but not later than 3 months from now.

The details of the Final Results are available on the Election Commission's Website: [www.election-bhutan.org.bt/NCResult2013](http://www.election-bhutan.org.bt/NCResult2013)

The *Certificate of Election* shall be ready in two days time, and awarded to the successful Candidates on 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2013.

The general public is advised that the Election Petition period starts from today, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2013 and shall end at 5.00 p.m. of 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2013. If any voter or Candidate feels aggrieved or wishes to contest any unlawful omission or commission by any person which has adverse bearing on free and fair elections, he/she can file an Election Petition related to this National Council Elections, including appealing against the decision made through the election dispute settlement system during the Election Period, Poll Day proceedings and/ or EVMs.

The success of the National Council Elections has to be attributed to the voters who turned out to vote, the entire team of dedicated election officials, security

personnel and polling officers who worked tirelessly with commitment and enthusiasm.

Further, we would like to acknowledge the unwavering support rendered by various Ministries, Departments, Dzongkhag and Gewog Administrations, Media and other Agencies to the Election Commission in the discharge of its functions.

The Election Commission of Bhutan looks forward to working together in the conduct of the National Assembly Elections 2013.

Lastly and with humility, the Election Commission of Bhutan takes this honour to offer its deepest gratitude to His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo for Their Vision and Wisdom, His Holiness the *Je Khenpo* of *Zhung Dratshang*, the Royal Government of Bhutan for its commitment to democratic elections, the *Zhung Dratshang*, *Rabdeys*, *Goendeys* and *Lam Lopons* for their Blessings and Prayers.



**Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan**

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