



CHARTER OF THE PARTY IN ENGLISH

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Preamble

WE the undersigned-founding members:

- ❖ **Guided** by the desire to nurture and strengthen the principles of parliamentary democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- ❖ **Bound** by the allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- ❖ **Committed** to enhancing peace, security, political stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Bhutan at all times;
- ❖ **Believing** in the separation of the Government and Nation State of Bhutan, such that the State resources and wealth belong to the People of Bhutan;
- ❖ **Aware** of the need to safeguard and enhance Bhutan's rich cultural heritage within the setting of cultural diversity;
- ❖ **Convinced** that inclusive and equitable economic growth with environmental sustainability, fair distribution and efficient use of resources are the best strategies for the wellbeing of the Bhutanese people; and
- ❖ **Led** by the principles of social democracy, as suited to Bhutan, as the ideal form of political philosophy for moving forward all Bhutanese people together,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

1. Name and Election Symbol

1. The political Party shall be called the DRUK NYAMRUP TSHOGPA, a people-centred and pragmatic Party moving the nation forward together.
2. Its Election Symbol shall be peach blossom flower with stalk and leaves.
3. The Election Symbol shall be borne on Party's flag and used as the logo.

2. Principles

- a. The Party shall follow the principles of social democracy, as suited to Bhutan.
- b. The Party shall commit itself to promote and nurture the needed institutions to ensure that the overarching principles of justice, freedom and solidarity are strongly protected.
- c. The Party shall protect individual rights and promote individual duties, as enshrined in the Constitution, both de jure (in law) and de facto (in practice).
- d. The Party shall endeavour to promote the philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and individual wellbeing in keeping with national values and principles of good governance.
- e. The Party shall respect the principles of market economy which have proven in advancing human creativity and enterprise development and contributing to economic growth and social progress.

- f. The Party shall make public policies and enact laws for the maximum benefit of all the Bhutanese people as the shareholders of State resources.
- g. The Party shall endeavour to develop and execute public policies to minimize inequalities of income and concentration of wealth, and promote equitable distribution of public facilities among individuals and people living in different parts of the Kingdom.

3. Vision

A prosperous, progressive, equitable and just nation based on the rule of law where social justice, individual freedom, popular participation and sustainable development are guaranteed.

4. Objectives

- a. Pursue social and economic development while promoting our culture and values.
- b. Strengthen national unity, social cohesion and patriotism through justice and fairness where all persons are equal before the law.
- c. Pursue the goal of inclusive, equitable and sustainable economic growth by harnessing natural resources justifiably so that the state of natural environment and eco-system is not compromised.
- d. Follow a path of balanced regional development to address the problems of poverty, inequality and underdevelopment.
- e. Create favourable conditions for enhancing the growth and contribution of the private sector through fiscal and monetary policies, incentives and measures.
- f. Foster regional and global peace, security and cooperation and develop friendly relations with all members of the international community.
- g. Maintain close and harmonious relations with all our neighbours, especially safeguarding and nurturing Indo-Bhutan friendship, in keeping with Bhutan's historical tradition.

5. Beliefs

- a. We believe that wealth and power should be spread among all Bhutanese people, that opportunities should be provided equally to reduce the gap between the rich and poor.
- b. We believe nothing gives people a greater feeling of accomplishment and worth than self-determination, sense of ownership and personal responsibility when it comes to managing State natural resources.
- c. We commit to work for a society which will maximise individual freedom and liberty, to live a dignified and purposeful life without fear or undue restrictions.
- d. We believe in upholding individual rights as enshrined in the Constitution as long as those rights do not impinge upon the rights of other members in the community.

- e. Without compromising the safety and safeguard for the future generations, we will strive for just and equitable distribution of benefits amongst all Bhutanese from the use of natural and other resources.
- f. We endeavour to guarantee every person with access to food, clothing, shelter, education, health care as well as legal and social protection.
- g. We believe in the freedom of information and speech as a vital tool for fair and effective representation and social stability.
- h. We believe that local decisions should largely be taken at the local level through maximum public participation.
- i. We have faith in the power of free and rational debate as well as in public consultations for reaching decisions by consensus.
- j. We resist prejudice and subjugation in all forms, oppose vested interests and believe that everyone is equal before the law.
- k. We believe in transparency, responsibility and democratic decision-making process.

6. Values

- a. Place the interest of the Nation first and then the Party above all other interests.
- b. Uphold the rights of individuals and the duties of the State as enshrined in the Constitution.
- c. Serve the people with dedication, honesty, integrity and transparency.
- d. Be responsible and accountable for all decisions and actions.
- e. Be humble, pragmatic and truthful towards those we serve.
- f. Respect our culture and tradition.
- g. Display positive attitude towards work, value time and be result-oriented.
- h. Encourage healthy debates and consultations as well as respect alternative views.
- i. Equality before the law, in opportunities and services.
- j. Live by examples and become role models for others.
- k. Resist all forms of corruption.

7. Commitments

The Party shall commit to:

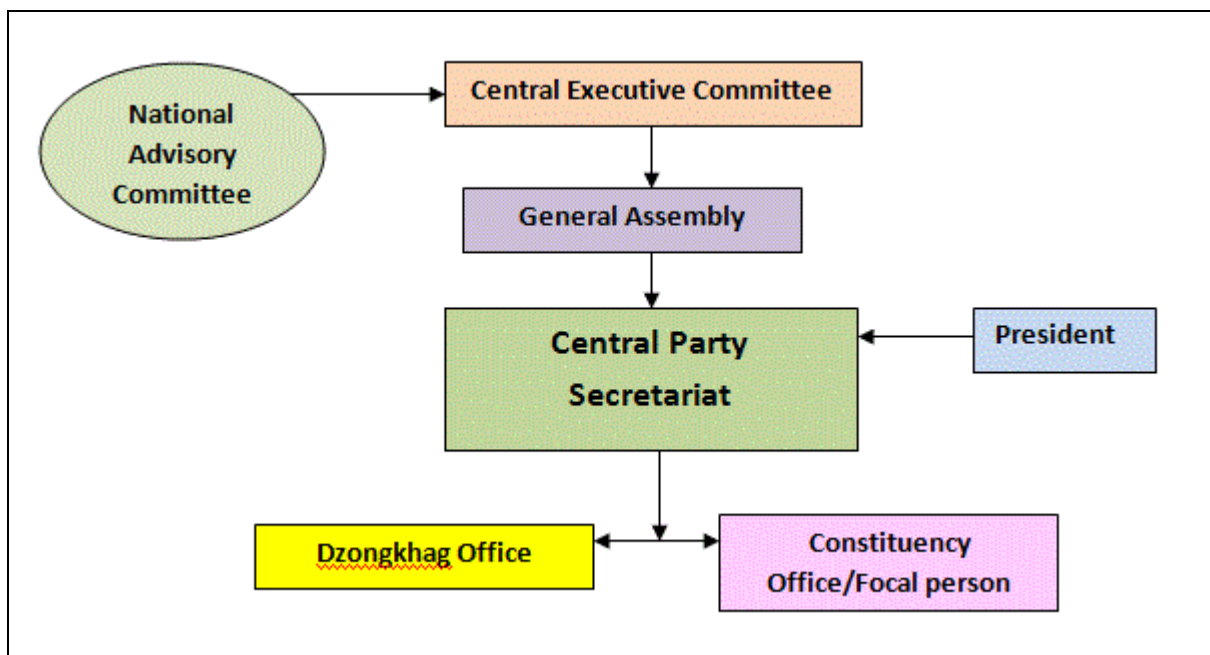
- a. Safeguarding the Constitution of Bhutan;
- b. Serving the people of Bhutan;
- c. Upholding sovereignty, unity and integrity of Bhutan;
- d. Maintaining the national identity, living culture and the pristine environment with a view to passing it to future generations;
- e. Providing quality, timely, equitable and convenient public services with transparency and fairness;

- f. Building a vibrant democracy;
- g. Economic development that is inclusive, sustainable, regionally balanced and holistic, and conducive to the establishment of an egalitarian society free from any exploitation;
- h. Transparency and accountability in all policies and actions; and
- i. Exercising fiscal prudence and keeping external borrowings to manageable limits.

8. Organizational Structure

The Party shall be organized at the national and Dzongkhag levels with the following structure:

Figure 1: Organization Structure of the Party



8.1 National Level

8.1.1 Central Executive Committee (CEC)

A. Membership

- a. The Central Executive Committee (CEC) shall consist of 15 members comprising the President, General Secretary (GS), Treasurer, Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee (NAC), five members from National Assembly/candidates, four members from Dzongkhag offices with one each from Western, Central, Eastern and Southern regions and two independent members elected from the General Assembly (GA).
- b. The President, GS, Treasurer and Chairperson of the NAC shall automatically become members of the CEC by virtue of their position in the Party.

- c. The remaining 11 members shall be elected through intra-party elections for office bearers, from amongst its members keeping in view the need to have fair regional representation.
- d. The Party shall encourage and promote equal representation of women in the CEC.

B. Adoption of Charter

- a. The first CEC shall be co-opted by the Conveners to adopt the provisional Charter.
- b. The Charter shall be formally approved and endorsed by the first Party Convention.

C. Function of the CEC

- a. To present an annual report covering the work of the Party to the GA together with a financial statement and audited annual account;
- b. To propose to the GA such amendments to the Charter as may be desirable, and to submit to the GA such proposals, resolutions and declarations as may be required by political developments and circumstances;
- c. To spread among the people the principles and objectives of the Party and take any action that the CEC may deem necessary for such purposes;
- d. To organize and maintain a fund to finance elections;
- e. To mobilize funds for the Party in accordance with the Election Act and the Public Election Fund Act;
- f. To establish and guide all Party offices in accordance with the Charter and the policies laid down by the GA; and
- g. To make such rules as it considers necessary for proper administration and discipline of the Party and its registered members.

D. Powers of the Central Executive Committee

The CEC shall have powers to:

- a. Appoint a member to fill any vacancy on the CEC until the next GA;
- b. Appoint sub-committees on critical issues so as to hold substantive and detailed discussion on them with a view to making recommendations to the CEC;
- c. Meet as and when necessary to discharge its business;
- d. Appoint, pay and dismiss staffs employed by the Party as per the rules and regulations set thereof;
- e. Purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise, acquire, movable or immovable property of any kind in furtherance of the objectives of the Party;
- f. Sell, exchange, lease, or otherwise dispose off any movable or immovable property or interest thereon on such terms as may be considered expedient and in accordance with established national rules and practices;
- g. Borrow for the Party such amount of money either at one time or from time to time and at such rate of interest and in such form and manner and upon such security as may be

specified in any resolution passed by the GA and which is within the electoral laws, in particular the Public Election Fund Act;

- h. Build, construct, improve, develop and maintain any property necessary for the Party;
- i. Invite personalities to become members of the NAC and to appoint them to posts that are of strategic importance to the Party; and
- j. Make nomination of candidates for election to the National Assembly and take decision with a simple majority votes of members during the CEC meeting organized for the purpose

8.1.2 General Assembly (GA)

A. Functions

The main functions of the GA will consist of the following but not be limited to them:

- a. Availing prior approval from the Election commission of Bhutan and make amendments to the Party Charter;
- b. Electing the President, GS and Treasurer of the Party keeping in view the need to maintain regional representation;
- c. Electing members from the GA to the CEC as per the criteria laid down by the GA;
- d. Considering the annual report of the Party;
- e. Approving the annual budget of the Party;
- f. Approving the annual programme of work of the CEC; and
- g. Deciding on any other matter brought to its attention as per prescribed rules of the Party.

B. Annual Convention

- a. The GA shall be convened once a year as a rule.
- b. A special/extraordinary session may be held as per the decision of the CEC, with a clearly defined agenda, as and when necessary and at such time and place as determined by the CEC.
- c. All registered members of the Party shall be entitled to attend the GA and they shall enjoy equal rights irrespective of their posts or positions in the Party.
- d. The GS of the Party shall inform all the Party members in writing of the dates and venue of the GA at least one month before the meeting.
- e. The GS of the Party shall give a written notification to all members on the provisional agenda at least one week before the GA.

C. Rules of Procedure

- a. Any member may submit a proposal or resolution in writing to the CEC for discussion in the GA through their respective constituency coordinator/Dzongkhag office or through the Party Secretariat at Thimphu.
- b. A member may submit such proposal or resolution to the GS at least two weeks before the proposed date of the GA;

- c. The CEC shall consider the submission and inform the proposer in writing on its decision for inclusion or exclusion from the provisional agenda.
- d. The President shall preside over the GA as the Chairperson.
- e. The Chairperson shall cause to adopt the provisional agenda of the meeting.
- f. At least two members shall second a proposal/resolution submitted by another member for discussion in the Convention.
- g. Decisions in all meetings of the Party shall normally be taken by consensus.
- h. When all efforts fail to reach a consensus, decisions may be taken by a simple majority vote of the members present. In case of a tie, the Chairperson shall cast a deciding vote.
- i. Any proposal to change the Party Charter shall require support by a two-thirds majority in a Party meeting.
- j. The GS shall maintain and circulate the minutes of the GA to the members.
- k. The Chairperson shall have full authority to control the proceedings of the GA so that the deliberations are fruitful and orderly.

8.1.3 National Advisory Committee (NAC)

A NAC shall be constituted to advise the CEC on national policies and strategies. Its membership and functional modalities shall be as follows:

A. Membership

- a. The NAC shall consist of a maximum 11 members who shall be appointed by the CEC;
- b. The members shall be chosen keeping in view the need to maintain a regional balance, having people with diverse experience and giving due regard to the participation of women in the Party; and
- c. The members of the NAC shall be selected from among the registered members in the Party.

B. Functioning

- a. The NAC shall elect from among its members a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and any other posts as deemed necessary to carry out its functions;
- b. The GS or a nominee made by the CEC shall attend the NAC meetings as its Member-Secretary;
- c. The NAC shall meet at least once a year. It can however meet more often if deemed necessary by the Chairperson;
- d. The NAC meetings shall be presided over by the Chairperson, and the Vice-Chair in his/her absence;
- e. The decisions shall be taken as per the procedure laid down above for the GA and CEC; and
- f. The members of the NAC can attend the CEC meetings as an observer.

C. Duties of the NAC

- a. The NAC shall provide advice to the CEC on policies and strategies of the Party;

- b. The NAC shall advise the CEC on funding and financial sustainability;
- c. The NAC shall monitor and evaluate the performance of the Secretariat and its wings and report to the CEC on its findings; and
- d. The NAC shall undertake any other assignment prescribed by the CEC in the interest of the Party.

8.2 Dzongkhag Level

8.2.1 Constituency/Dzongkhag offices

- a. The Party shall establish Dzongkhag offices as determined by the CEC in each Dzongkhag and as per the requirements of the ECB.
- b. Every constituency shall have a focal contact point that will function as the node for Party activities in the constituency.
- c. The Party shall for all official purposes communicate with the Dzongkhag as well as with constituency focal points.
- d. Wherever deemed appropriate, the Dzongkhag office may also function as a constituency focal point for that particular constituency in which the office is located.
- e. The Party candidate/appointee from the constituency shall assume major responsibility for co-ordination and mobilization of support for the Party from his/her constituency.
- f. The Party candidate/appointee shall appoint a representative from among registered members to assist him/her and also to officiate in his/her absence.
- g. Each constituency shall form a committee with at least one representative from each Gewog and Thromde under that constituency.
- h. The Party candidate/appointee shall be the Chairperson of the constituency committee.
- i. The candidate representative shall serve as the member-secretary and shall maintain all official documents including minutes of the meeting, communication with the central Party office, list of Party members and book of accounts.
- j. The Constituency Committee shall be the highest decision-making body for the Party at the constituency level.
- k. At the Dzongkhag level, the Party candidates/appointees and the respective constituency candidate representatives shall form the Dzongkhag committees.
- l. One of the constituency candidate representatives or any other registered person nominated by the Dzongkhag committee shall function as the Dzongkhag coordinator.
- m. Each region shall nominate/elect one Dzongkhag coordinator to be a member of the CEC.

8.2.2 The functions of the Constituency Committee

- a. Scrutinize and register new members.
- b. Implement Party activities at the constituency level.
- c. Represent the Party at the constituency level.
- d. Any other functions as prescribed by the CEC.

8.2.3 The function of the Dzongkhag Coordinator and Dzongkhag Committee

- a. The Dzongkhag committee shall coordinate the activities of the different constituencies.
- b. Arrange logistics for the Party representatives and leaders during their visits to the constituencies and the Dzongkhag.
- c. Liaise with the ECB or any other agency with due information of the Party Secretariat.
- d. Any other function as prescribed by the CEC.

8.2.4 Other committees

The Party shall establish any other committee with such functions as and when appropriate to further the mandate of the Party and in accordance with the national rules and regulations.

9. Management of the Party

9.1 Party Secretariat

- a. There shall be a Party Secretariat based at Thimphu which will be headed by the GS.
- b. The Secretariat shall have the following wings, each to be headed by a Party member appointed by the CEC who in turn will be supported by other staff to carry out following functions:
 - i. **Operations Wing**
 - Party rules and regulations
 - Legal advice and opinion
 - Administration
 - Personnel and human resource management
 - Party finance and treasury
 - ii. **Constituency Support Wing**
 - Maintain data of each constituency
 - Develop manifesto for each constituency
 - Identify and recommend Party workers/post holders/candidates
 - Coordinate campaign activities
 - Support candidates with logistics and finances
 - Coordinate with local governments and Party workers
 - iii. **Public Affairs Wing**
 - Communications and media
 - Press releases and interviews
 - Advocacy

- Development of campaign materials
- Public relations
- Protocol and hospitality
- Foreign relations

iv. Program & Research Wing

- Policy and program development and monitoring
- Party manifesto for elections
- Research on critical issues affecting the Party interests
- Maintenance of statistics and data
- Review of program impacts
- Development of special programs and projects

- c. The secretariat shall establish any other wing as deemed to be in the interest of the Party and this shall be done only on the recommendation of the CEC.

9.2 Responsibilities of the President

The President of the Party shall not hold both the post of the Party President and the post of the Prime Minister or the Opposition Leader, as and when the check and balance in the Party is deemed necessary by the CEC. If the Party wins, the nominee(s) for the post of the Prime Minister or the Opposition Leader need not be limited to the Party President.

The President shall have the following major responsibilities:

- a. To provide effective leadership to the Party;
- b. To take responsibility for his/her actions as the head of the Party;
- c. To represent the Party in various national and international forums;
- d. To lead various teams within the Party at national and local levels; and
- e. To delegate clear responsibilities to other members in the Party hierarchy within the broad guidelines given in the Charter.

9.3 Responsibilities of the General Secretary

Under the direction of the President and CEC, the GS of the Party shall:

- a. Convene the GA, any Special Party Conference and all meetings of the CEC;
- b. Prepare supporting documents for the above meetings including their agendas;
- c. Make all correspondences under the directions of the CEC;
- d. Keep a register of all Party members;
- e. Maintain records of GA, CEC and NAC meetings;
- f. Keep all members fully informed of all important decisions of the CEC;
- g. Inform members of the date fixed for the GA and other relevant events; and
- h. Be assisted by an Assistant GS, if appointed.

9.4 Responsibilities of the Treasurer

The Treasurer, to be assisted by an Assistant Treasurer, as required, shall be responsible for:

- a. Managing the funds of the Party including incomes and expenditures;
- b. Issuing proper receipts for all payments made to the Party;
- c. Collecting membership fees;
- d. Maintaining and operating bank accounts;
- e. Signing all cheques and other financial instruments along with other signatories authorized by the CEC; and
- f. Be responsible for drawing up the Financial Statement and Accounts for presentation to the GA.

10. Membership

The Party membership shall be open to any Bhutanese citizen who is a registered voter but not a member of any other political party, civil service, armed forces, the National Council or Local Government and who undertakes to comply with this Charter and the conditions of membership as given below:

- a. A member shall be loyal to the King and country, and uphold the Constitution of Bhutan;
- b. A member shall abide by the Charter, principles, policies and objectives of the Party;
- c. Application for membership shall be made in writing (using the Party membership application form) and be addressed to the GS;
- d. It shall be the duty of the Dzongkhag/Constituency Committee and the GS to consider carefully the suitability of the applicant for admission as a member, giving due regard to the ideals and guidelines of the Party;
- e. Upon approval of a member, s/he shall be asked to pay the membership fees as fixed by the CEC within a stipulated date. An applicant shall become a member only after making the full payment of his/her subscription; and
- f. The membership shall cease by death, resignation or removal.

11. Discipline

- a. In the best interest of the Party, the CEC shall institute disciplinary action against any member including suspension or removal from a post or expulsion from the Party for anti-Party actions or behaviour. The CEC shall formulate rules and regulations for this purpose.
- b. An expelled member shall have the right of appeal to the GA or a body constituted by it for this purpose.
- c. An expelled member may be re-inducted into the Party on the recommendation of the CEC.

12. Term

- a. The term of all post holders or office bearers in the Party except support staff shall ordinarily be for four years. S/he may hold an office for a maximum of one more term, subject to endorsement by the GA; and
- b. S/he can resign at any time giving a month's written notice to the General Secretary.

13. Party's Obligation

- a. It shall abide by the laws, rules and regulations as prescribed by the ECB in relation to functioning of political parties, elections and funding.
- b. The Party shall promptly communicate to the ECB on any changes in the Party structure, its offices, office-bearers, address, or any other changes.
- c. The Party shall submit all documents, reports and any other information as required by the ECB. It shall follow the reporting mechanism instituted by the ECB and abide by the processes established by it.
- d. It shall submit a consolidated statement of the annual accounts, duly audited by the Royal Audit Authority, to the ECB in such form as prescribed under the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan. It shall contain, *inter alia*, the following information:
 - i. Annual income and expenses;
 - ii. Sources of funds;
 - iii. Assets and liabilities; and
 - iv. Campaign accounts after an election.

14. Party Conduct

- a. The Party shall always strive to conduct itself in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Rules and Regulations made therein.
- b. The Party shall take stringent action, as determined by the CEC, on the following activities:
 - i. Gambling of any kind, whether for stakes or otherwise, substance or drug abuse and any illegal practices shall be forbidden on the Party's premises;
 - ii. The Party funds shall not be used to pay the fines of members who have been convicted in a court of law;
 - iii. The Party shall not engage in any illegal strikes or demonstrations or in any disruptive or harmful activities against the King, country and people; and
 - iv. The Party shall not organize any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Party or its office-bearers, committee or members, unless approved by relevant Government authorities.

15. Nomination of Candidates for Election to the National Assembly

- a. The names of candidate for contesting the National Assembly elections may be suggested by the Party Secretariat, Dzongkhag Committees, NAC or any other committee set up by the Party for this purpose.
- b. The Constituency Coordination Wing in the Party Secretariat shall be responsible for ensuring that all such nominations fulfil the minimum criteria laid down by the ECB.
- c. The CEC shall consider all such names and shall make the nomination of candidates for election to the National Assembly after a decision of the Party taken with simple majority votes of the members present during a CEC meeting organized for the purpose. .
- d. The Party shall nominate the right number of candidates for the number of seats in the National Assembly.
- e. All nominated candidates shall declare his/her asset and liabilities in the manner prescribed by the Election Commission.

16. Dispute Resolution

All dispute pertaining to the Party and its members shall be resolved as per the *dispute resolution process* adopted by the Party.

17. Party Accounts and Financial Management

- a. The sources of incomes of the Party shall be strictly limited to the following three sources and their amounts not exceeding the ceilings prescribed by the Election Commission of Bhutan:
 - I. Registration fees;
 - II. Membership fees; and
 - III. Voluntary contributions from the registered members only.
- b. All financial transactions above Nu. 5000/- will be undertaken through bank cheques.
- c. The Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining and reporting on the accounts of the Party and shall follow the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

18. Dissolution of the Party

The Party shall stand dissolved by a declaration of the Supreme Court of Bhutan as per Section 145 of the Election Act.

19. Interpretation of Charter

The CEC shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the Charter.