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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC-PP/2018/405

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> of August 2018

To  
Hon'ble President  
Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa  
Po. Box No. 1358  
Thimphu

Hon'ble President,

The Election Commission of Bhutan was honoured to receive the Letter of Intent from the **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa** on 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2018 expressing the intention of the Party to contest the Third Parliamentary Elections 2018 to offer choice and option to the voters of the Kingdom in electing Members of Parliament to National Assembly and take on the role of the Ruling or Opposition Party.

The Election Commission has reviewed the information submitted with the Letter of Intent and revisions thereof and is pleased to inform that the Commission finds the Party eligible to contest the Primary Round of elections to the National Assembly of the Third Parliamentary Election of the Kingdom of Bhutan with the Primary Round Poll Day on 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

In the course of the Scrutiny of the Letter of Intent, the Commission observed that the Party has revised and/or re-worded Sections of the Manifesto in line with the concerns highlighted by the ECB. The Commission expects the Party to abide by these changes in spirit, as well as in form during the Election Period. Resorting to religion, regionalism or Royal Patronage are offences under the Constitution and the Election Act.

The Commission requires all Parties to commit to ensure dignified campaigning without mudslinging and derogatory comments.

In this regard, pledges of religious institutions and of religious nature are not permitted, regardless of whether the review and revision was able to point out

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Post Box No.: 2008, *Democracy House*, Kawajangsa, Thimphu: Bhutan

334851, 334852 (PABX), 334762 (EA to CEC), Fax: 334763

Website: [www.ecb.bt](http://www.ecb.bt) E-mail: [cec@ecb.bt](mailto:cec@ecb.bt)

every term in the Manifesto. The Commission requires the Party to abide by the concerns highlighted by the Election Commission for upholding the apolitical status of CSOs and non-interference with the Constitutional mandate of the RCSC except in light of the Parliament's mandate to review and amend legislation.

The Party should submit the Application for State Funding for Election Campaign at the Party's earliest convenience and commence the Election Campaigns as per the Election Campaign Schedule approved by the respective Returning Officer.

The Election Commission once again urges all Parties/Candidates and supporters to ensure a clean and ethically contested election that is in line with the Election Code of Conduct which would ensure peace and harmony in the Bhutanese Community as envisioned by His Majesty The King and His Majesty The Druk Gyal Zhipa and enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Yours Sincerely,



Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

**Copy to:**

1. Hon'ble President, BKP, PDP, DPT for kind information and necessary compliance
2. 47 Returning Officers, 47 National Observers, 2 Assistant Returning Officers, 2 Micro Observers
3. 20 Dzongkhag Election Authority