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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC-PP/2018/402

Date: 22nd of August 2018

To
Hon'ble President
Druk Phuensum Tshogpa
Thimphu

Hon'ble President,

The Election Commission of Bhutan was honoured to receive the Letter of Intent from the **Druk Phuensum Tshogpa** on 21st 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 15th of September 2018.

In the course of the Scrutiny of the Letter of Intent, the Commission observed that the Party had 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 not only in form but also in spirit during the Election Period. Specifically, it is reminded that the campaign pledges to religious institutions and of religious nature are not permitted regardless of what terms are used or are reflected in the Manifesto.

The Commission requires the Party to abide by the concerns highlighted by the Election Commission regarding non-interference with Constitutional mandate of RCSC except in light of the Parliament's mandate to review and amend legislation.

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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, DNT, BKP, PDP for kind information and necessary compliance
2. 47 Returning Officers, 47 National Observers, 2 Assistant Returning Officers, 2 Micro Observers
3. 20 Dzongkhag Election Authorities