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**ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN**

*(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)*



ECB/CEC-PR/2013/335

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> of August 2013

### Press Release

This is for kind information of the general public and electorate of the *Nonong\_Shumar Demkhong* of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag that the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) has received the Writ for Election from the Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan declaring seat of *Nanong\_Shumar Demkhong* as vacant vide his letter no. NAB-SP/36/2013/1090 dated 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2013.

Accordingly, the Election Commission of Bhutan had after having considered several options as to the schedule for Bye-Election to be contested by the two Candidates of the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

ECB sensitive to reality of the need for the representative of *Demkhong* to participate right from the First Session of Parliament and participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan approval; August/September being agriculture season; importance for the electorate to have time to absorb the implications of the resignation of the Member of Parliament-Elect; climate favorability for travel in August/September and the Election Officials having resumed departmental duties after a long spell of election duties very recently, had to rule out the first option to conduct the Bye-Election earlier with Poll Day as early as in September 2013.

Therefore, the ECB is pleased to inform that that the Bye-Election is being scheduled to be held after the agriculture season is over. In doing so, it is also to afford the electorate adequate time to devote on issues related to the vacancy and Bye-Election while aspirant candidates receive more time for preparation to participate.

In view of the above, in the larger public interest the Bye-Election process shall begin in early October 2013 with a Royal Decree That His Majesty The King May Be Pleased to Issue with the Poll Day in the early November 2013 in full compliance to the Section 188 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

By Order,



**Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan**

Copy to:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, Royal Government of Bhutan, Gyalyong Tshogkhang, Thimphu, for kind information.
2. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty's Secretariat, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu
3. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty, Secretariat of Druk Gyal Zhipa,
4. Thimphu Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan, Royal Court of Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Thimphu,
5. Hon'ble Officiating Chief Justice, Royal Court of Justice, High Court of Bhutan, Thimphu
6. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu,
7. All Hon'ble Secretaries to the Royal Government of Bhutan,
8. President, Druk Phuensum Tshogpa, Thimphu for kind information,
9. President, People's Democratic Party, Changangkha, Norling Building, Thimphu for kind information,
10. Election Commissioners, ECB, Olakha, Thimphu for kind information,
11. Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Administration Pema Gatshel for information,
12. Heads of Departments, Divisions and Units, ECB, Olakha, Thimphu,
13. Dzongkhag Electoral Officer, Dzongkhag Election Office, Pema Gatshel for information & necessary action.