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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC/NOTIF-01/2015/1378

12th of March 2015

NOTIFICATION

Bye-Elections for the Post of Gup in Monggar Gewog under Monggar Dzongkhag and Gewog Tshogde Tshogpas in Tandingang Chiwog of Tang Gewog under Bumthang Dzongkhag, Toedkor Chiwog of Laya Gewog under Gasa Dzongkhag and Gooyoom_La-Nangzor Chiwog of Chongshing Gewog under Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in pursuance to Sections 577 and 579 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, and Section 33 and 34 of the Local Government Act, 2009 hereby calls Bye- Elections for the posts of Gup in Monggar Gewog and Gewog Tshodge Tshogpa in Tandingang Chiwog, Toedkor Chiwog and Gooyoom_La-Nangzor Chiwog.

The Election Schedule and the details concerning *Demkhongs*, Selection Procedure for Nomination of Candidates, Electoral Rolls, EVMs, Polling Stations, Polling Officials, Polling Management, Security and other arrangements are hereby being notified as follows:

(A) Election Schedule

1. The Schedule shall be as follows:

| Date and Time | Remarks |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 12 th of March 2015 | - Issuance of Notification - Freezing of Electoral Roll |
| 14 th of March 2015 | - Commencement of <i>Zomdu</i> for selection/Signature Process by Eligible Candidates for the post of <i>Tshogpa</i> |
| 18 th of March 2015 | - Last Date for filing of Nominations of Candidates |

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- 5.2. The EVM must be used in the *Chiwog Zomdu*.
- 5.3. In the absence of any Registered Voter interested to contest, the meeting shall submit to the Dzongkhag Election Authority a statement (Nomination Form No. 6A) to that effect.
6. A Registered Voter aspiring to contest *Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa* Election in Tandingang *Chiwog*, Toedkor *Chiwog* and Gooyoom_La-Nangzor *Chiwog* shall produce signatures of at least 5 percent of the Registered Voters from the *Chiwog* supporting his/her nomination provided it is from at least 5 different *Gungs* and no voter or *Gung* has supported more than one Nominee
7. For the purpose of ascertaining the age eligibility of candidate which as per the Electoral Laws must be minimum of 25 years and maximum of 65 years, a candidate for this Election must be born on or before 18th of March 1990 but not before 18th of March 1950.

(E) Electoral Roll

8. The Electoral Roll used for the General Election 2013 shall be used as the basis with further revision as per the qualifying Date. All those registered in the Final Electoral Roll shall be eligible to vote in the concerned *Demkhong*.
9. The qualifying date for the Electoral Roll shall be the 1st of January 2015. All those who are not younger than eighteen years of age as on 1st of January 2015 or born on or before 1st of January 1997 shall be deemed to meet the minimum age requirement to be a voter.
10. No changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll after 12th of March 2015. However, the respective Dzongkhag Election Office shall continue to distribute the Voter Photo Identity Cards to those who were unable to collect it earlier even up to the Poll Day.

the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures, failing which he/she will be barred from participation in future elections.

(I) Common Forum for the Public Address by All Candidates

17. The Returning Officer, in consultation with the respective Election Coordinator and Security Coordinator shall arrange a Common Forum in each *Chiwog* and further at Villages as may be necessary and found feasible to provide the candidates of the concerned *Demkhong* equal opportunity to address the electorate eliminating the necessity to call for public meetings by each Candidate separately and thereby avoiding inconvenience to voters of attending multiple sessions as per the Guidelines for the conduct of the Common Forum for Election Campaign, 2013.

(J) Postal Ballots

18. The Postal Voter List shall be based on Postal Voters Registration for the *Second Parliamentary Election 2013*.

19. The schedule for the processing of Postal Ballots shall be as given below:

| Date and Time | Remarks |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 12 th of March 2015 | - Eligible Postal Voters to initiate application for Postal Ballot to the Returning Officer |
| 18 th of March 2015 | - Last date of receipt of Application for Postal Ballots by Returning Officer |
| 19 th of March 2015 | - Returning Officer to commence sending Postal Ballot to registered Postal Voters |
| 5 th of April 2015 | - Last day/ time for receiving Postal Ballots (5 PM) |

Commission on 12th of March 2015 and vested with authority, Roles and Responsibilities as per provisions in the Electoral Roll Laws, Rules, Regulations and Guidelines and respective Handbooks.

National Observer

26. The Election Commission of Bhutan shall appoint a National Observer for observing the election for the Gup in Monggar.

Returning Officers

27. The Election Commission shall appoint the Dzongkhag Electoral Officer of Bumthang, Gasa, Monggar and Pema Gatshel Dzongkhags as the Returning Officer for the conduct of the *Bye-Election* in the respective Dzongkhags.

Presiding and Polling Officers

28. The appointment of Presiding and Polling Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the Returning Officer on or before 3th of April 2015 i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.

Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

29. The Presiding Officers shall serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant, authorized as such in the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer.

Assignment of Duty Stations

30. The Election Officials shall not be posted to the Gewog where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered.

(R) Election Code of Conduct

38. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period i.e. from 12th of March 2015 to 6th of April 2015.
39. All Election Officers, Candidates and Voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

(S) Poll Day - A Public Holiday

40. The Poll Day, 6nd of April 2015, shall be declared as a Public Holiday in the concerned *Demkhong*. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any registered voter from the *Demkhong* wishing to go to vote in person.

(T) No or Only One Candidate

41. If there is no Candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of Candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice.
42. If there is only one Candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of Candidates announced herein, an uncontested election, in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, will be conducted.

Now, thereof, from the day of issue of this Notification, the Election Commission of Bhutan notifies the general public on the Election Schedule of the Bye-Election and all matters relating to it.