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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/CEC/NOTIF-01/2015/1769

Dated: 4th of September 2015

NOTIFICATION

First-ever Bhutan Children's Parliament Election for the Post of BCP National Council and BCP National Assembly Members

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in pursuance to Sections 5, 6, 9 10 and 11 of Article 3 of the Constitution of the Bhutan Children's Parliament of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2015, hereby calls Election for the post of Member of Bhutan Children's Parliament (BCP Election 2015)

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
4 th September 2015	- Issuance of Notification
5 th September 2015	- Commencement of Signature Process by Eligible Candidates
7 th September 2015	- Last Date for filing of Nominations of Candidates - Scrutiny of Nominations of Candidates & Commencement of the Election Campaign
8 th September 2015	- Last date for withdrawal of Candidature

10 th September 2015	- End of Election Campaign (9.00 AM)
12 th September 2015	Poll Day and Counting of Results
13 th September 2015	- Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to the Druk Gyalpo - Start of Election Petition Period
15 th September 2015	- Issuance of the Certificate of Election
23 th September 2015	- End of Election Petition Period

(B) Polling Hours

2. The polling hours shall be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and as notified to the constituencies by the respective Returning Officer.

(C) Demkhong

3. The name and boundary of the *Demkhong* to be used shall be the same as that of National Council (NC) and National Assembly (NA) of Bhutan.

(D) Elective Offices under BCP Constitution

4. The BCP-NC shall comprise of 20 elected members, each representing a Dzongkhag and elected by the Democracy Clubs of that Dzongkhag.
5. The BCP-NA shall comprise of 47 elected members, each representing the BCP-NA Demkhong which shall be the same, geographically, as the NA Demkhong of the Parliament of Bhutan.
6. Where there is only a single Democracy Club in a Demkhong, a registered BCP Voter aspiring to contest the BCP NA or NC Election shall produce signatures of at least 5 percent of the Registered BCP Voters from the

respective Democracy Club supporting his/her nomination provided a BCP voter may only support one aspiring Candidate's nomination.

7. Where there are no candidates, the concerned Democracy Club shall provide written submission to the Returning Officer in the Form No. (Annexed herewith)
8. As per Section 9 of Article 3 of the Constitution of Bhutan Children's Parliament each Democracy Club is entitled to elect one candidate to contest the BCP-NA elections in the respective Demkhongs.
9. A Democracy Club shall select its candidate to contest the BCP NC/NA election in a Zomdu called by the Returning Officer.

(E) Electoral Roll

10. The Electoral Roll for the BCP Elections 2015 shall include all the members of the registered Democracy Clubs in the country as of 31st of August 2015.
11. All those who are younger than twenty four years of age as on 12th of September 2015 meet the minimum age requirement to be a voter.
12. No changes shall be made to the Electoral Roll after 7th of September 2015. However, the respective Dzongkhag Election Office shall continue to distribute the Children's Voter Cards even up to the Poll Day.
13. The Final Electoral Roll for the BCP Elections 2015 shall be published by the Department of Electoral Registration and Boundary Delimitation and provided to the Dzongkhag Electoral Officers and the Candidates on 7th September 2015.

(F) Election Campaign

14. A Candidate shall have up to 4 days for campaigning, which must stop 48 hours before the day of Poll.

Election Campaign Finance

15. There shall be no campaign finance provided except for the facilitation as provided in an unbiased and uniform manner by the respective Returning Officer.

(G) Children's Voter Card (CVC)

16. The Children's Voter Card (CVC) issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the Polling Stations during the BCP Elections 2015.

(H) Electronic Voting Machines

17. Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all the Polling Station.

(I) Indelible Ink

18. Quality indelible ink shall be used during the elections and care must be taken in applying the indelible ink on the **Right Thumb**.

(J) Polling Stations

19. The Polling Stations shall be as indicated in the Final Electoral Roll.

(K) Election Officials

Observers

19. The Dzongkhag Electoral Officers of the respective Dzongkhags shall be appointed as Observers for the BCP election.

Returning Officers

20. The Election Commission shall appoint the Dzongkhag Electoral Registration Officer of as the Returning Officer for the conduct of the *BCP Election* in the respective *Dzongkhag*.

Presiding and Polling Officers

21. 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 9th of September 2015 i.e. three days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorised.

Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

22. 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.

(L) Security & Administration

23. The *Dzongkhag Electoral Officers* and the Dzongkhag Education Officers shall serve as the Focal Points for all administrative matters in the *Dzongkhag/Dungkhag* and *Gewog* respectively for the election period.

24. The Election Officials must remain in their station during the entire election period.

25. The respective schools shall be responsible for ensuring security of the BCP election process in the schools.

(M) Election Control Rooms

24. Control Rooms shall be established in the Office of the Returning Officer and at the Election Commission Headquarters to effectively supervise, direct, monitor and backstop the conduct of elections.

(N) Election Code of Conduct

25. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period i.e. from 4th of September 2015 to 25th of September 2015.

26. All Election Officers, Candidates and Voters must comply with the BCP Constitution and the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

(O) Poll Day

27. The Poll Day is on the 12th September 2015.

(P) No or Only One Candidate

28. 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.

29. 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 **BCP Election for the Post of *BCP National Assembly Member and BCP National Council Member***.

Issued on the 21st Day of the Ninth Month of the Wood Female Sheep Year corresponding to 4th of September 2015.



Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan

Copies for kind information to:

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Royal Government of Bhutan, Kingdom of Bhutan.
2. Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan, Royal Court of Justice, Supreme Court of Bhutan, Thimphu.
3. Hon'ble Speaker, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan.
4. Hon'ble Chairperson, National Council, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan.
5. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, National Assembly, Parliament of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan.
6. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty the King of Bhutan, His Majesty's Secretariat, Tashichhodzong, Thimphu.

7. Hon'ble Officiating Chief Justice, Royal Court of Justice, High Court of Bhutan, Thimphu.
8. Hon'ble Secretary to His Majesty, Secretariat of Druk Gyal Zhipa, Thimphu.
9. Hon'ble Chairperson, Royal Civil Service Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan
10. Hon'ble Chairperson, Anti-Corruption Commission, Thimphu, Bhutan.
11. Hon'ble Auditor General, Royal Audit Authority, Thimphu, Bhutan.
12. Hon'ble Cabinet Secretary, Royal Government of Bhutan, Tashichhoedzong, Thimphu.
13. All Hon'ble Secretaries to the Royal Government of Bhutan.
14. Hon'ble Chief of Police, Royal Bhutan Police, Thimphu, Bhutan.
15. Hon'ble President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Thimphu, Bhutan.
16. Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Administration, Concerned Dzongkhags.
17. Drangpon, Royal Court of Justice, Concerned Dzongkhags.
18. Dzongkhag Electoral Officer, Concerned Dzongkhag.
19. Dzongkhag Education Officer, Concerned Dzongkhag.



Annexure 1

Nomination Form No 1

Statement Declaring No Nominee for Post of BCP NA/NC

This is to declare that, during the *Zomdu* held on (*date*) for nomination of a Candidate for the post of **BCP NA/NC**, no Registered Voter was interested to contest the election from
(*Name of the School*)

In testimony of the above and in full knowledge of the fact that appropriate actions may be taken as per the provisions of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 if any dispute arises, we, hereby, give our signatures below:

Sl. No.	Name	CVC No.	Signature/ Right Thumb Impression

(Use additional sheet if necessary)

(Countersigned by Team Leader)

Dzongkhag Election Authority

Date:



Returning Officer Form No. 1A

NOTICE OF NOMINATION OF A CANDIDATE

The *Democracy Club*, hereby, nominates Mr. /Ms.
..... to contest in the BCP NA/NC Elections for the post of
Member of Bhutan Children's Parliament.

The above-mentioned candidate bears Children's Voter Card No. and
is enrolled in the Electoral Roll of that *Demkhong*.

I, hereby, issue this Notice as the Team Leader of the Dzongkhag Election Authority
responsible for the conduct of the *Zomdu*
held on/...../..... (date) to select the Candidate.

Signature:

Name:

Designation:

Date:

Place: