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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



DC/CHAIR/2017/ 3833

Dated: 6th of November 2017

NOTIFICATION

Delimitation of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017
Draft Issued for Public Information and Comments

The first-ever Final Delimitation Order No. DC/CHAIR/2007/637 was issued on 26th of March 2007 by the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan established under Article 24 (4) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. In pursuance of Section 90 of the *Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008* requiring review and necessary revision to be carried out after every ten years, the Delimitation Commission notifies the general public as follows:

1. Based on the provisions of the Constitution and the Election Act, the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012* specifically provides that:

4.1. *Boundaries shall be drawn so that Demkhongs within a Dzongkhag are, as far as possible, equal in the number of registered voters, resulting in equivalent weight of the votes cast by every voter.*

However, other factors prescribed below may also be taken into consideration.

4.2. *A Demkhong shall correspond, wherever possible, to the existing administrative units and boundaries to facilitate benefits from integration within the territorial area.*

4.3. *The means of communication and travel within a Demkhong needs to be taken into account in delimiting Demkhongs.*

4.4. *Geographical and landmark features such as mountains, rivers and main roads shall be taken into account in delimiting Demkhongs.*

4.5. *Demkhongs shall be unbroken and inter-connected to facilitate easier interaction of political parties and candidates with their electorates.*

4.6. The final delimitation process will, as far as possible, take into consideration the size, remoteness as well as sparseness of population

7.4 The Delimitation Commission shall, for the allocation of National Assembly Seats, take a total of 10,000 registered voters as the standard size of a National Assembly Demkhong. However, no Dzongkhag shall be allocated less than two and more than seven National Assembly Seats.

2. A review exercise has been duly considered by the Delimitation Commission with the registered voter population as of 8th of May 2017 taken as the basis, as presented in the *Table 1* below.

Table 1: Constituency Information

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
1.	Bumthang	NA0101	Chhoekhor_Tang	Chhoekhor, Tang	5,721
		NA0102	Chhumig_Ura	Chhumig, Ura	3,498
		2		4	9,219
2.	Chhukha	NA0201	Bongo_Chapchha	Bjagchhog, Bongo, Chapchha, Darla, Getana	13, 512
		NA0202	Phuentshogling	Doongna, Geling, Loggchina Meadtabkha, Phuentshogling, Sampheling	10,228
		2		11	23,740
3.	Dagana	NA0301	Drukjeygang_Tseza	Drukjeygang, Gozhi, Karna, Khebisa, Largyab, Tshangkha, Tseza	11,521
		NA0302	Lhamoi Dzingkha_Tashiding	Dorona, Gesarling, Karmaling (Deorali), Lhamoi Dzingkha, Nichula, Tashiding, Tsenda-Gang	11,327
		2		14	22,848

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
4.	Gasa	NA0401	Khamaed_Lunana	Khamaed, Lunana	968
		NA0402	Khatoed_Laya	Khatoed, Laya	966
		2		4	1,934
5.	Haa	NA0501	Bji_Kar-tshog_Uesu	Bji, Kar-tshog, Uesu	3,982
		NA0502	Sombaykha	Gakiling, Samar, Sangbay	3,361
		2		6	7,343
6.	Lhuentse	NA0601	Gangzur_Minjey	Gangzur, Khoma, Kurtoed, Minjey	7,717
		NA0602	Maenbi_Tsaenkhar	Jarey, Maenbi, Maedtsho, Tsaenkhar	7,644
		2		8	15,361
7.	Monggar	NA0701	Dramedtse_Ngatshang	Balam, Chagsakhar, Dramedtse, Na-Rang, Ngatshang, Shermuhoong, Thang-Rong	12,600
		NA0702	Kengkhar_Weringla	Gongdue, Jurmed, Kengkhar, Saling, Silambi	10,254
		NA0703	Monggar	Chhaling, Drepoong, Monggar, Tsakaling, Tsamang	10,008
		3		17	32,862
8.	Paro	NA0801	Dokar_Sharpa	Dokar, Loong-nyi, Nagya, Sharpa	8,209
		NA0802	Lamgong_Wangchang	Dopshar-ri, Doteng, Hoongrel, Lamgong, Tsentso, Wangchang	9,512
		2		10	17,721

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
9.	Pema Gatshel	NA0901	Khar_Yurung	Chhimoong, Chongshing, Dungmaed, Khar, Yurung	9,032
		NA0902	Nanong_Shumar	Nanong, Shumar, Zobel	8,809
		NA0903	Nganglam	Chhoekhorling, Dechhenling, Norboogang	6,662
		2		11	24,503
10.	Punakha	NA1001	Kabisa_Talog	Barp, Guma, Goenshari, Kabisa, Talog, Toedpaisa	9,293
		NA1002	Lingmukha_Toedwang	Chhubu, Dzomi, Lingmukha, Shelnga-Bjemi, Toedwang	6,475
		2		11	15,768
11.	Samdrup Jongkhar	NA1101	Dewathang_Gomdar	Dewathang, Gomdar, Orong, Phuentshogthang, Wangphu	13,429
		NA1102	Jomotshangkha_Martshala	Langchenphu, Lauri, Martshala, Pemathang, Samrang, Serthig	10,153
		2		11	23,582

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
12.	Samtse	NA1201	Dophuchen_ Tading	Doomtoed, Dophuchen(Dorokha), Duenchhukha, Tading	12,536
		NA1202	Phuentshogpelri_ Samtse	Norboogang (Chengmari), Phuentshogpelri (Pagli), Samtse	10,229
		NA1203	Tashichhoeling	Norgaygang (Bara), Pemaling (Biru), Tashichhoeling (Sipsu), Tendruk (Tendu)	12,376
		NA1204	Ugyentse_ Yoeseltse	Namgyalchhoeling (Lahireni), Yoeseltse, Sang-Ngag-Chhoeling (Chargharey), Ugyentse	9,816
		4		15	
13.	Sarpang	NA1301	Gelegphu	Chhuzanggang, Gelegphu, Jigme Chhoeling, Samtenling (Bhur), Serzhong, Tareything (Taklai), Umling	16,283
		NA1302	Shompangkha	Chhudzom (Dovan), Dekiling, Gakiling (Hilley), Senggey, Shompangkha	12,451
		2		12	
14.	Thimphu	NA1401	North Thimphu Thromde_ Kawang_ Lingzhi_ Naro_ Soe	North Thimphu Thromde, Kawang, Lingzhi, Naro, Soe	5,446
		NA1402	South Thimphu Thromde_ Chang_ Darkarla_ Ge-nyen_ Maedwang	South Thimphu Thromde, Chang, Darkarla, Ge-nyen, Maedwang	8,124
		2		8	

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
15.	Trashigang	NA1501	Bartsham_ Shongphu	Bartsham, Bidoong, Yangnyer, Shongphu	10,688
		NA1502	Kanglung_ Samkhar_ Udzorong	Kanglung, Samkhar, Udzorong	10,311
		NA1503	Radhi_ Sagteng	Merag, Phongmed, Radhi, Sagteng	9,155
		NA1504	Thrimshing	Kangpar, Thrimshing	6,550
		NA1505	Wamrong	Khaling, Lumang	7,821
		5		15	
16.	Trashhi Yangtse	NA1601	Boomdeling_ Jamkhar	Boomdeling, Jamkhar, Tongmajangsa (Tomzhang), Yangtse	8,793
		NA1602	Khamdang_ Ramjar	Ramjar, Khamdang, Toedtsho, Yalang	8,740
		2		8	
17.	Trongsa	NA1701	Draagteng_ Langthil	Draagteng, Korphu, Langthil	5,558
		NA1702	Nubi_ Tangsibji	Nubi, Tangsibji	4,163
		2		5	
18.	Tsirang	NA1801	Kilkhorthang_ Mendrelgang	Barshong, Kilkhorthang, Mendrelgang, Patshaling (Beteni), Rangthangling, Tsholingkhar	11,080
		NA1802	Sergithang_ Tsirangtoed	Doonglagang, Gosarling, Pungtenchhu, Semjong, Sergithang (Pataley), Tsirangtoed	10,527
		2		12	

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Constituency		Gewogs	Registered Voter Population (8 th of May 2017)
19.	Wangdue Phodrang	NA1901	Athang_Thedtsho	Athang, Bjenag, Darkar, Gase Tshogongm, Gase Tshowongm, Nahi, Thedtsho, Ruebisa	9,249
		NA1902	Nyishog_Saephu	Dangchhu, Gangteng, Kazhi, Nyishog, Phangyuel, Phobji, Saephu	9,635
		2		15	18,884
20.	Zhemgang	NA2001	Bardo_Trong	Bardo, Nangkor, Shingkar, Trong	10,157
		NA2002	Panbang	Bjoka, Goshing, Ngangla, Phangkhar	7,211
		2		8	17,368
TOTAL		47		205	411,780

3. In the first Delimitation Order of 2007, 16 Dzongkhags namely Bumthang, Chhukha, Dagana, Gasa, Haa, Lhuentse, Paro, Punakha, Samdrup Jongkhar, Sarpang, Thimphu, Trashy Yangtse, Trongsa, Tsirang, Wangdue Phodrang and Zhemgang were allocated the minimum of 2 seats each while Monggar and Pema Gatshel were allocated 3 seats each and Samtse and Trashigang were allocated 4 and 5 seats respectively.
4. The 16 Dzongkhags had less than 20,000 total Registered Voters in the year 2007. It is found during the review that the voter population in none of these Dzongkhags have reached 30,000 or more, i.e. as of May 2017, thereby not meeting the prescribed standard voter population size criteria.

5. Of the 4 Dzongkhags allocated more than 2 NA seats in 2007:

- (1) Monggar Dzongkhag with registered voter population of 25,579 was allocated 3 seats in 2007 with due regard to the existing administrative boundaries of the 17 gewogs which include remote and inaccessible gewogs. As the registered voter population as of 8th May 2017 stands at 32,862 and meets the 10,000 per seat standard requirement, there appears to be no need for any change to the 3 seats currently allocated.
- (2) Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag with registered voter population of 18,830 was allocated 3 seats in 2007 in consideration of the-then changes in the overall geographical boundary of the Dzongkhag with three Gewogs of Chhoekhorling, Dechhenling and Norboogang under Nganglam Dungkhag of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag and Nanong Gewog from Trashigang Dzongkhag being merged to Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag. The newly transformed Nganglam Dungkhag was then allocated one seat and the rest of the Gewogs and the newly added Nanong gewog were grouped under two *Demkhongs* to maintain and reflect the existing administrative unit as far as possible.

The total registered voters in Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag as of 8th May 2017 is 24,503. By the standard size criterion alone, the existing number of seats could be considered for reduction. However, in view of the implications and consideration of the other criteria related to *Demkhong* boundary corresponding, wherever possible, to existing administrative units and boundaries as well as commonality of interests of communities and the state of accessibility within the Constituency, no change is found necessary.

- (3) Samtse Dzongkhag with registered voter population of 33,349 was allocated 4 seats in 2007 to maintain the contiguity of the existing administrative boundaries and ensure equality of voting strength within the Dzongkhag. As the registered voter population, as of 8th May 2017, stands at 44,957 and meets the 10,000 per seat standard requirement, there appears to be no need for any change to the 4 seats currently allocated.
- (4) Trashigang Dzongkhag with a total registered voter population of 33,596 was allocated 5 seats in 2007 to maintain the contiguity of the existing administrative boundaries.

The total registered voters in the Dzongkhag as of 8th May 2017 is 44,525. By the standard size criterion alone, the existing number of seats could be considered for reduction. However, considering the implications and with due regard to the other criteria related to *Demkhong* boundary corresponding, wherever possible, to existing administrative units and boundaries as well as the state of accessibility within the Constituency, no change is found necessary.

It is also noted that the total population of Trashigang Dzongkhag is the highest at 74,036 trailed by Samtse Dzongkhag with 66,410.

6. Comparing the total registered voter population of the Dzongkhags, it is found that the voter population of the five Dzongkhags of Chhukha (**23,740**), Dagana (**22,848**), Samdrup Jongkhar (**23,582**), Sarpang (**28,734**) and Tsirang (**24,855**) are over 20,000.

However, the registered voter population in these Dzongkhags have not reached the prescribed 30,000 level and no other compelling reasons has emerged or been brought to the notice of the Delimitation Commission to consider increase in the number of seats in these Dzongkhags.

Any change in the number of seats allocated has to be carefully considered in the context of compelling reasons against the implications of foregoing benefits from existing integration of the administrative and the representative units as well as confusion and possible inconvenience to the general public.

The Delimitation Commission, in view of these considerations, proposes to retain the existing numbers and territorial boundaries of the National Assembly Constituencies in the 20 Dzongkhags. The electoral boundary and names of each of the National Assembly Constituencies, drawn in relation with the ground features and the existing Gewog Administrative boundaries, are shown Dzongkhag-wise herein as **Annexure**.

This proposal to maintain, without change, the existing number of seats and territorial boundaries of the National Assembly Constituencies are hereby being issued for information and feedback of the general public as required under the Laws.

Public hearings, open to all registered voters, will be carried out in the 20 Dzongkhags as per the Schedule in *Table 2* below.

Table 2: Public Hearing Schedule

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Date	Time	Venue
1	Bumthang	20/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
2	Dagana	20/11/2017	9:00 am	Tsenda-Gang Gewog Center
3	Samdrup Jongkhar	20/11/2017	9:00 am	Samdrup Jongkhar PS Hall
4	Samtse	20/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
5	Pema Gatshel	21/11/2017	9:00 am	Pema Gatshel MSS
6	Lhuentse	22/11/2017	9:00 am	Dzongkhag Conference Hall
7	Trongsa	22/11/2017	9:00 am	Sherubling CS
8	Tsirang	22/11/2017	9:00 am	Dzongkhag Hall
9	Chhukha	23/11/2017	9:00 am	Phuentshogling Dungkhag Hall
10	Monggar	23/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
11	Sarpang	23/11/2017	9:00 am	RRCO Meeting Hall
12	Trashigang	24/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
13	Zhemgang	24/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
14	Trashigang	25/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall
15	Paro	26/11/2017	9:00 am	Wangchang Gewog Center
16	Gasa	27/11/2017	9:00 am	Khatoed Gewog Center
17	Haa	28/11/2017	9:00 am	Dzongkhag DT Hall
18	Wangdue Phodrang	29/11/2017	9:00 am	Bajo HSS Hall
19	Punakha	30/11/2017	9:00 am	Technical Training Institute Hall
20	Thimphu	30/11/2017	9:00 am	DT Hall

Feedback may also be provided, until 30th of November 2017, with full identification and address, in person, fax, email or mail to:

Secretary
Democracy House
P.O. Box 2008
Kawajangsa
Thimphu

Email: dtenzin@ecb.bt
Fax: 02-325733

All feedbacks and comments from the general public shall be duly considered by the Delimitation Commission in arriving at the Final Delimitation Order 2017.

Issued on the *Eighteenth* of the *Ninth* month of the Fire Male Monkey Year corresponding to 6th of November 2017.

By Order,



Chogyal Dago Rigdzin

Chief Election Commissioner

CHAIRPERSON, DELIMITATION OF BHUTAN