



**Report  
of the  
Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan for the National  
Assembly Constituencies, 2017**

20<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2017

## **Election Commission of Bhutan**

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## **1. Introduction**

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 of Bhutan reviewed the territorial boundaries of the National Assembly Constituencies in the 20 Dzongkhags on the basis of registered voter population as of 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2017.

Public hearings are required to be conducted to facilitate direct interaction with the public to explain the delimitation process, present the Draft Delimitation Plan and receive feedback; answer questions, hear their concerns and record any objections or suggestions for consideration of the Delimitation Commission before the issue of the Final Delimitation Order.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Delimitation Commission Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2017 considered the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 and approved the schedule to conduct Public Hearing as required under the Laws in the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> of September and 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2017.

Accordingly, the Notification on the Draft Plan of the National Assembly Demkhongs, 2017 of the 20 Dzongkhags was issued on 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 for public information and comments and the public hearings in the 20 Dzongkhags were conducted from 20<sup>th</sup> of November to 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

As provided in the Laws of the land, the public hearings were open to all the registered voters with specific invitation to the Gups, Mangmis, Thrompons, Goshay Nyenshays of all 205 Gewogs and 4 Dzongkhag Thromdes, and also included the officials of the respective Dzongkhag Administrations.

The Public Hearings were led by the six Members of the Delimitation Commission supported by a team from the Election Commission of Bhutan (Head Office). The Agenda as well as the talking points for the opening and closing statements by the Hon'ble Members of the Delimitation Commission followed a standard and approved format to ensure uniformity and consistency in the public hearings in all Dzongkhags.

The arrangements for the public hearings were coordinated by the respective Dzongkhag Election Offices in consultation with the Dzongkhag Administration under the overall guidance and coordination by the Secretary, ECB.

## 2. Schedule for Public Hearing and Composition of Teams

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Date	Venue	Delimitation Commission Member and Team Members
1	Samdrup Jongkhar	20/11/2017	GT Hall, Dewathang	<b>Hon'ble CEC</b>  Team: 1. Namgay Tshering, Chief ICT Officer 2. Pema Gyeltshen, PA to CEC
2	Pema Gatshel	21/11/2017	GT Hall, Shumar	
3	Trashigang	24/11/2017	DT Hall	
4	Punakha	4/12/2017	DT Hall	
5	Lhuentse	22/11/2017	Dzongkhag Conference Hall	<b>Hon'ble Secretary, NLCS</b>  Team: 1. Tshering Deki, AO 2. Thinley Lhundup, ICTO
6	Monggar	23/11/2017	Wangchuk Hotel Conference Hall	
7	Trashie Yangtse	24/11/2017	DT Hall	
8	Gasa	27/11/2017	DT Hall	<b>Hon'ble Secretary, MoHCA</b> Team: 1. Tenzin Namgyel, EO 2. Sonam Wangmo, ICTO
9	Wangdue Phodrang	29/11/2017	DT Hall	
10	Bumthang	20/11/2017	DT Hall	<b>Hon'ble Secretary, MoWHS</b>  Team: 1. Ugyen Choden, ERO 2. Tshewang Lhundup, APO
11	Trongsa	22/11/2017	DT Hall	
12	Zhemgang	24/11/2017	DT Hall	
13	Dagana	20/11/2017	Tsendagang Gewog Center	<b>Hon'ble EC Ugyen Chewang</b>  Team: 1. Tashi Dorji, HoD, DERD 2. Garjaman Biswa, ICTO
14	Tsirang	22/11/2017	Dzongkhag Conference Hall	
15	Sarpang	23/11/2017	RRCO Meeting Hall	

16	Samtse	21/11/2017	DT Hall	<b>Hon'ble EC Deki Pema</b>  Team: 1. Thinley Jamtsho, Chief ADMO 2. Sonam Rinzin, ICTO
17	Chhukha	23/11/2017	Phuentshogling Thromde Hall	
18	Paro	26/11/2017	Wangchang GC	
19	Haa	28/11/2017	DT Hall	
20	Thimphu	30/11/2017	DT Hall	

### 3. Agenda for Public Hearing on Draft Parliamentary Delimitation Plan

The Public Hearings were conducted in all 20 Dzongkhags as per the Agenda given below:

<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	
<b>09:00am</b>	Arrival and Registration of the Participants
<b>***National Anthem***</b>	
<b>09:30am</b>	1. Welcome Address by Dasho Dzongdag 2. Statement by Hon'ble Member of Delimitation Commission 3. Photo Session
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>10:45 am</b>	1. Proposal and Map Presentation 2. Comments and Feedbacks
<b>12.30 pm</b>	Wrap-up by Hon'ble Member of Delimitation Commission
<b>***His Majesty's Video Clip***</b>	
<b>12:45 pm</b>	<b>Vote of Thanks by Dzongkhag Electoral Officer</b>
<b>01:00 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<i>End of programme</i>	

#### **4. Talking Points for Opening Remarks by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

##### **(1) Delimitation in the context of our Democracy**

- a) Bhutan is a Democratic Constitutional Monarchy.
- b) Our Constitution provides that the Sovereign power belongs to the people of Bhutan (Article 1.1) and the general will of the people shall be the basis of government and it shall be expressed through periodic elections (Article 23.1).
- c) People to elect Members to Parliament and Local Governments.
- d) Parliament has two Houses – the National Council (NC) and the National Assembly (NA).
- e) The NC consist of twenty-five members of which 20 are elected by the voters in each of the 20 Dzongkhags; and five eminent persons nominated by the Druk Gyalpo. No allocation of seats or boundary setting required for NC elections.
- f) The NA is to have a maximum of fifty-five members, elected from each Dzongkhag in proportion to its registered voter population, provided that no Dzongkhag shall have less than two or more than seven members. This requires the process of delimitation to allocate seats in the 20 Dzongkhags and set the boundary so that voters in each constituency directly elect one member to the NA (Article 12.1).
- g) Delimitation is therefore an integral and critical process. The Electoral Laws sets out the criteria and process of delimitation in detail to ensure that it is carried out in a sound, unbiased, free and fair manner. At the same time, the process is also required to be a consultative one wherein the Delimitation Commission must give due consideration to all the comments and feedback received from the public while arriving at an independent and objective decision (Sections 76 to 99 of Chapter 5 of the Election Act with further elaboration in the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012*).
- h) This is why this level of public hearing is being called in each of the 20 Dzongkhags in the country led by the six members of the Delimitation Commission.

**(2) Introduce the Delimitation Commission which comprises (as provided under Section 81 of the Election Act) of:**

- Chief Election Commissioner, Chairperson
- Two Election Commissioners, Members
- Secretary MoHCA, Member
- Secretary MoWHS, Member
- Secretary NLCS, Member

**(3) Second Delimitation of the National Assembly Constituencies**

- a) The Laws require that a delimitation exercise be undertaken *after every ten years* to reflect the changing registered voter population, subject to the limitation of a minimum of two and a maximum of seven members from each Dzongkhag (Article 12.2).
- b) The first-ever delimitation order for the NA Constituencies was issued in 2007 wherein a total of 47 Constituencies were allocated to the 20 Dzongkhags based on the criteria set out in the laws.

- c) As regards the criteria for the allocation of National Assembly seats and delineation of boundaries, Section 86 of the Election Act provides that:

*The Delimitation Commission shall divide each Dzongkhag, Gewog, and Dzongkhag Thromde into relevant constituencies and delimit them on the basis of the registered voters after giving due regard to the provisions of this Act, in accordance with the established Rules and Regulations and the following:*

- a) *The existing boundaries of the administrative units;*
  - b) *All constituencies of the same group, as far as practicable, have equal registered voter population and be geographically compact areas;*
  - c) *The means of communication and travel within a constituency;*
  - d) *The geographical conditions of a constituency; and*
  - e) *Maintenance of an unbroken and inter-connected constituency as far as possible.*
- d) Section 7.4 of the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012* sets a standard size and provides that:

*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.*

- j) Accordingly, the Delimitation Commission reviewed the registered voter population figures, as of 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2017, for each of the constituencies. It is found that while the registered voter population has changed over the last ten years, in no constituency has there been such a change as to require any change to the existing number and territorial boundaries of the National Assembly Constituencies.
- k) Therefore, the Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in the country without change for the next ten years.

#### **(4) Purpose of the Public Hearing**

- a) You may wonder then why the public hearing?
- b) As mentioned earlier, delimitation is such an important process that the Laws specifically require that a consultative process be followed so that public opinions are received and given due consideration by the Delimitation Commission with the process of public hearings being prescribed in detail.
- c) Therefore, this session today is to:
  - To facilitate direct interaction with you, the members of the public to explain the Delimitation Process;
  - Present the Draft Delimitation Plan and receive feedback;
  - Answer your questions and hear your concerns; and
  - Record your suggestions for consideration of the Delimitation Commission before the issue of the Final Delimitation Orders of the *National Assembly Constituencies, 2017*.

#### **(5) Clarification on Boundary Demarcation by Parliament and Electoral Boundaries**

- a) Any alteration of areas and boundaries demarcation of any Dzongkhag or Gewogs can only done with the consent of not less than three-fourths of the total number of members of Parliament (Article 1.4).
- b) The electoral boundaries decided by the Delimitation Commission are within these

boundaries set by Parliament for e.g. the number of National Assembly *Demkhongs* and the grouping of gewogs to form that *Demkhong* is decided by the Delimitation Commission but it is within the given overall Dzongkhag boundary which can only be changed by Parliament. Similarly, the number and boundaries of *chiwogs* are decided by the Delimitation Commission but within the gewog boundary set by Parliament.

#### **(6) Next segment of the hearing**

As required, my team members will be presenting the maps with the detailed information of the NA constituencies of the Dzongkhag.

After that we will open the meeting for your comments, queries, concerns, suggestions or feedback. We cannot take a decision here at the hearing but it is our duty to explain and clarify as far as possible and to faithfully note whatever you express and put up to the Delimitation Commission for its due consideration.

Therefore, please take this opportunity to express yourself freely as it will only add value to this consultative process.

#### **5. Talking Points for Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

- Offer profound gratitude for their participation. All comments and suggestions received during the public hearing from the voters will be faithfully reported to the Delimitation Commission for due consideration. The Delimitation Commission will be meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 and a final decision arrived at the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.
- It also has to be gently reminded that while the comments and suggestions from the public have to be considered in full by the Delimitation Commission, it is **not** binding on the Commission. The purpose of this legal provision is to ensure that the delimitation process, so central to fair elections, are not influenced by vested and narrow interests.
- As the Nation prepares for the Third Parliamentary Elections in 2018, urge each and every voter to participate and exercise their franchise as an opportunity to fulfill the sacred and natural responsibility through heartfelt “*Tshornang*”. Let us all remember that at the end of the day we are all Bhutanese and we must not only rejoice at being members of a special family but also sincerely and deeply appreciate the duty and responsibility as a Bhutanese Citizen.

- His Majesty the King, during the Adoption of the Constitution in 2008, Commanded that:

***“Only in understanding our duties will the exercise of our powers be fruitful. If we can serve our nation with this knowledge and in this spirit, then an even brighter future awaits our country.”***

## **6. Report on Public Hearings for the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017**

### **6.1. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag**



The Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag was held in the Gewog Tshogdu hall of Dewathang Gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag on 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Administration
- b) Dasho Dungpa, Jomotsangkha Dungkhag
- c) Dasho Dungpa, Samdrupchhoeling Dungkhag
- d) Dasho Thrompon, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Thromde
- e) Gups of the 14 Gewogs
- f) Mangmis of the 14 Gewogs
- g) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde
- h) Sr. Sector Heads from Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Administration
- i) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

## **Welcome Address**

The Dasho Dzongrab of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Administration, who was also the Officiating Dasho Dzongdag, extended his warm welcome to the Chief Election Commissioner and the team. He also introduced himself and all the other participants gathered in the hall and then highlighted on the importance of such public hearings, which are being conducted by the Delimitation Commission prior to the finalization of the Delimitation Plans in accordance to the provisions of the law. He completed his welcome address by sharing few statistical data on election related tasks and the electorate strength.

## **Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan began his statement with the introduction of self and the Delimitation Commission and delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

## **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan presented the proposal and the maps with the detailed information of the National Assembly constituencies of the Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag. The Team also presented detailed report on the Local Government (LG) and Parliamentary (NCNA) Polling Stations that are identified in the Dzongkhag since both LG and NCNA has different number of Polling Stations according to the allocated Demkhongs.

## **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

The Mangmi of *Phuentshogthang* Gewog submitted that the Phuentshogthang Gewog is one of the Gewogs of the *Jomotsangkha* Dungkhag and in view of the existing administrative units and boundaries as well as the commonality of interest of the communities, be separated from the *Dewathang\_Gomdar* Constituency and allotted a separate Constituency together with the other two Gewogs of *Jomotsangkha* Dungkhag.

To this the Chief Election Commissioner highlighted on the criteria for the allocation of National Assembly seats and delineation of boundaries according to Section 86 of the *Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008* and Section 7.4 of the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012* that sets a standard size of 10,000 registered voters as the standard size of a National Assembly Demkhong.

The Chief Election Commissioner committed that the team shall take note of it and put it up for discussion during the Delimitation Commission meeting.

**Concluding Address by Hon’ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

The Hon’ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag as per the given *Talking Points*.

**Vote of thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks.

## 6.2. Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2017 in the GT hall of Shumar Gewog, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag, Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Administration
- b) Dasho Dungpa, Nganglam Dungkhag
- c) Gups of the 11 Gewogs
- d) Mangmis of the 11 Gewogs
- e) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs
- f) Sr. Sector Heads from Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Administration
- g) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

### Welcome Address

The Dasho Dzongdag of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Administration extended his warm welcome to the Chief Election Commissioner and the team to Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag. He also introduced himself and all the other participants gathered in the hall and then highlighted on the importance of such public hearings, which are being conducted by the Delimitation Commission prior to the finalization of the Delimitation Plans in accordance to the provisions of the law. He also shared the

statistical data of election related tasks and the electorate strength.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan began his statement with the introduction of self and the Delimitation Commission and delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan presented the maps with the detailed information of the National Assembly constituencies of the Dzongkhag. It included the following;

- The standard size of a National Assembly Constituency is ten thousand registered voters as per the Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012. And that a Dzongkhag can be allotted a minimum of two and a maximum of seven Constituencies.
- Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag 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 Constituencies to maintain and reflect the existing administrative unit as far as possible.
- The total number of registered voters in Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 is 24,503. By the standard size criteria, 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.
- Therefore, the Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag without change for the next ten years until 2027.

## **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

There were no questions, comments or suggestions raised from the participants concerning the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag.

The Dasho Dzongdag of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag sought clarification whether the Demkhong Boundary is being drawn based on the total number of Registered Voters or the Existing Gewog Boundaries.

The Land Record Officer of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag informed the participants about the pending boundary disputes between Zobel Gewog and *Shumar* Gewog and also *Nganglam* Dungkhag and *Panbang* Dungkhag.

## **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag as per the given *Talking Points*.

## **Vote of thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks.

### 6.3. Trashigang Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Trashigang Dzongkhag was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 in the DT hall of Trashigang Dzongkhag and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag, Trashigang Dzongkhag
- b) Dasho Dzongrab, Trashigang Dzongkhag Administration
- c) Dasho Dungpa, Wamrong Dungkhag
- d) Dasho Dungpa, Thrimshing Dungkhag
- e) Thromde Thuemi, Trashigang Dzongkhag Thromde
- f) Gups of the 15 Gewogs
- g) Mangmis of the 15 Gewogs
- h) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde
- i) Sr. Sector Heads from Trashigang Dzongkhag Administration
- j) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

#### **Welcome Address**

The Dasho Dzongdag of Trashigang Dzongkhag Administration extended his warm welcome to the Chief Election Commissioner and the team to Trashigang. He also introduced himself and all

the other participants gathered in the hall and then highlighted on the importance of such public hearings, which are being conducted by the Delimitation Commission prior to the finalization of the Delimitation Plans in accordance to the provisions of the law.

He completed his welcome address by sharing few statistical data of his Dzongkhag's election related tasks and the electorate strength and commended all the participants to take this opportunity to clear all their doubts.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Chairman**

Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan began his statement with the introduction of self and the Delimitation Commission and delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan presented the proposal and the maps with the detailed information of the National Assembly constituencies of the Dzongkhag.

It included the following;

- The standard size of a National Assembly Constituency is ten thousand registered voters as per the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012*. And that a Dzongkhag can be allotted a minimum of two and a maximum of seven Constituencies.
- 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 number of 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.

- Therefore, the Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in Trashigang Dzongkhag without any changes for the next ten years until 2027.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**DT Thrizin** of Trashigang Dzongkhag submitted that there is a village named *Benshingmo*, comprising of around nine households, located along the Gewog boundary of *Kanglung* and *Udzorong*. And that the residents of this village are split between the two adjoining Gewogs with few household in *Kanglung* Gewog and few household in *Udzorong* Gewog. As such in view of the reasons stated above, he requested the Delimitation Commission to either move the entire village to *Kanglung* Gewog or to *Udzorong* Gewog.

**Response:** The Chief Election Commissioner informed that alterations to Dzongkhag and Gewog Boundary are beyond the mandate of the Delimitation Commission and is bestowed to the Parliament of Bhutan. Such issues should be discussed at the grassroots and forwarded to the Parliament for deliberations.

The **Mangmi of Kangpar Gewog** submitted that his Gewog has five Polling Stations at the moment and that they have requested for two additional Polling Stations in the Gewog.

**Response:** The Chief Election Commissioner instructed the Mangmi to coordinate with the Dzongkhag Election Office and submit a proposal to the Election Commission of Bhutan at the earliest.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman, Dasho Chogyal Dago Rigdzin, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Trashigang Dzongkhag as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin, Trashigang Dzongkhag Tshogdu**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Trashigang Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Trashigang Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks

#### 6.4. Punakha Dzongkhag



**Venue :** Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall

**Date :** 4th December 2017

**Time :** 9:00 AM

The Public Hearing on Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Punakha Dzongkhag was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall led by the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab
- b) DT Chairman
- c) Gups of 11 Gewogs and 1 Thromde Representative
- d) Mangmi of 11 Gewogs
- e) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde
- f) Sector Heads from Punakha Dzongkhag Administration
- g) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

The Public Hearing for the day was started gracefully with the singing of “**National Anthem**”.

#### **Welcome Address**

In absence of Dasho Dzongdag, Dasho Dzongrab of Punakha Dzongkhag welcomed and thanked the Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner and the team for coming all the way from the capital

for discussion and hearing of such an important matter. He also stressed on few statistics of his Dzongkhag's election related tasks and the electorate strength.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner**

The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan (Chairperson of Delimitation Commission) delivered his opening remarks as per the talking points attached as per the given Talking Points.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The proposal on the Draft Delimitation Plan with the detailed information of the National Assembly (NA) Constituencies of the Punakha Dzongkhag was presented by the technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan. The team said the standard size of a National Assembly Constituency is ten thousand registered voters as per the Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012. And that a Dzongkhag can be allotted a minimum of two and a maximum of seven Constituencies. Therefore, the Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in Punakha Dzongkhag without any changes for the next ten years until 2027, since the total registered voter population in Punakha Dzongkhag as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 is 15,768. And the two Constituencies of *Kabisa\_Talog* and *Lingmukha\_Toedwang* have a total registered voter of 9,293 and 6,475 as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 respectively.

The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Gasa Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different number of Polling Stations according to the allocated Demkhongs.

A brief Boundary Description of the Constituencies was also presented with the help of the boundary description information from the National Land Commission of Bhutan.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Toedpaisa Mangmi:** He said previously the people of *Damkhyi\_Renakha* Chiwog vote at Chhudzomsa Polling Station, later the name of the Polling Station was changed to Sitokha and people had to travel a long way through rough road to vote at Sitokha Polling Station. Therefore, he requested to change the Polling Station name from Sitokha to Chhudzomsa.

**DT Thrizin** also suggested if the Citizenship Identity Card could replace Voter Photo Identity Card

(VPIC) as the Election Commission has to bear huge amount in producing VPICs and also some of the Party workers avail huge number of VPICs on behalf of their supporters and they could not hand over to the voters and it is being misused by them. Therefore, he suggested charging minimal fee on VPICs. He also informed on the need to submit resignation letter from a Religious Organization after resigning the Monastic body.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Chairman**

The Hon'ble Chairperson of the Delimitation Commission, Hon'ble CEC concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Punakha Dzongkhag as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Gasa Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Punakha Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks. He thanked the Hon'ble CEC and the team for a valuable input for making them understand the process of Delimitation and Hearing

## 6.5. Lhuentse Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 for Lhuentse Dzongkhag was convened on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017 at the Dzongkhag Conference Hall chaired by the Delimitation Commission Member Dasho Pema Chewang, Secretary, National Land Commission. The Public Hearing was attended by the following members:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab
- b) DT Chairperson
- c) Gups and Mangmis of 8 Gewogs
- d) 3 Goshay Nyenshay each from 8 Gewogs
- e) Dzongkhag Sector Heads and
- f) General Voters under Lhuentse Dzongkhag.

The Hearing was inaugurated with the **National Anthem** and Marchang Ceremony.

### Welcome Address

The Dasho Dzongrab extended his warm welcome to the Delimitation Commission team and all the participants from eight Gewogs under Lhuentse Dzongkhag. He emphasized on the importance of

Public Hearing having mainly to create public awareness on the Delimitation Plans and exercises. Public comments and feedback having viewed as important and basis to execute and finalize the Delimitation plans, the hearing is called in all 20 dzongkhags. He expressed his profound gratitude for the entire Delimitation Commission team for all their time and trouble taken in fulfillment of the Nation's great goal towards achievement of vibrant Democracy. He also reminded the floor that this would be the right time to ask/express their questions or concerns relating to the Electoral Constituencies and boundaries.

### **Statement by the Hon'ble DC Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member, the Secretary of the National Land Commission welcomed and thanked the entire Dzongkhag team and all participants. Having done with the extension of his greetings, Dasho delivered his introductory statement as per the given *Talking Points*.

The Hon'ble member in addition to his preamble speech welcomed everybody for their active participation by sharing views and comments. It was informed that the questions and views raised in the meeting would be recorded for its review and consideration in the upcoming Delimitation Commission meeting scheduled to commence on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

A detailed technical presentation of the Delimitation Maps, including detailed boundary of the Constituency, numbers of Gewogs and total number of Registered Voters under each Gewog and constituency was done by the Technical Team from the Election Commission of Bhutan.

The Team also highlighted some of the changes in Polling Station Names and number of Polling Stations which were merged in some gewogs.

A brief Boundary Description of the Constituencies was also presented with the help of the boundary description information from the National Land Commission of Bhutan.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Khoma Gup** informed that some of the household under the *Berpa* village is under *Baptong* Chiwog which in reality is actually near to *Kholma* Chiwog. He said that voters from those households would be more convenient to vote in *Kholma* Chiwog. Therefore, he requested the

Delimitation Commission to kindly look into the matter and consider the changes.

In addition to the question raised by Khoma Gup, **Gangzur Mangmi** reported that voters of *Yongmaling* village under *Kyidloong\_Somshing* Chiwog have to vote at *Thrima\_Shawa\_Zhamling* Chiwog for Local Government Elections. Likewise, few households under *Thimyong* village under *Kyidloong\_Somshing* Chiwog have to come and vote at *Nyimzhong\_Tongling* Chiwog.

**Response:** In response, the Dzongkhag Election Officer informed that a separate Delimitation exercise for Local Government is done every 10 years, and that concerns pertaining to Local Government Demkhongs will be taken care during that time. In addition to that Hon'ble Secretary informed that the points are being noted and will be submitted to the Commission for further deliberation.

The **Mangmi of Gangzur Gewog** requested the need of an additional polling station at *Tsholing* village under *Gangzur* Gewog as the village is very far from *Kyidloong\_Somshing* Chiwog for Local Government Elections but for Parliamentary Elections the Temporary Polling Station in place would work.

**Response:** The Dzongkhag Election Officer responded that the current situation and place of voting is the outcome of the first Local Government Delimitation Exercise and if deemed necessary, the next Delimitation Exercise might bring the changes.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

As closing remarks, the DC Member summarized the main points and delivered the closing statements as per the given *Talking Points*.

The DC Member expressed his appreciation to the participants for attending and taking active part in the meeting and also highlighted the importance of participation in a democracy to fulfill the national goal and Vision of our Beloved Monarchs of a Strong Democracy.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The hearing finally concluded with vote of thanks by the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin, where he thanked Hon'ble DC Member and the Team for successful conduct of Delimitation Public Hearing and also the people for their participation. He added that with the upcoming of 3<sup>rd</sup> Parliamentary Election 2018, the Public Hearing came as a great help to everyone with concern of Parliamentary Constituencies. And he wished the team for their safe return

## Other Activities

During the Public Hearing, the Dzongkhag Election Officer distributed the Dzongkhag Election office strategy to increase Voter Turnout in Parliamentary Election 2018 of Lhuentse Dzongkhag to *Dasho Dzongrab* and *Gups* of all Gewogs. He requested all to go through it and help the Dzongkhag Election Office in fulfilling the mission 2018.

The Public Hearing ended well with offering of *Zhabten* to His Majesty.

## 6.6. Monggar Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 for Monggar Dzongkhag was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 at the Conference Hall of Wangchuk Hotel chaired by the Hon'ble Delimitation Member Dasho Pema Chewang, Secretary, National Land Commission. The Public Hearing was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab
- b) DT Chairperson
- c) Gups and Mangmis of 17 Gewogs
- d) 3 Goshay Ngyenshay each from 17 Gewogs
- e) Sector Heads of the Monggar Dzongkhag Administration
- f) General Voters under Monggar Dzongkhag.

### **Welcome Address**

The Public Hearing began with the welcome speech by Monggar Dasho Dzongrab, where he welcomed Hon'ble DC Member and team from head office and everyone who have come to attend the Public Hearing. He briefly highlighted on the purpose and importance of the Public Hearing and informed that it is only a platform of opportunity to incorporate any changes in the Delimitation of Constituency.

### **Statement by the Hon'ble DC Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member, in his statement firstly welcomed and thanked all the participants followed by a brief introduction about the responsibility of the Delimitation Commission.

He then, explained as per the Talking Points affixed in the **Annexure 1**. He informed the participants that the next Public Hearing for the Local Government and National Assembly Constituency will be conducting in 2021 and 2027 respectively. Therefore, all issues related to Local Government can be asked during Delimitation Public Hearing on Local Government. He also reminded the floor that he represents the Delimitation Commission for the Public Hearing and not National Land Commission, hence, any question related to Land Issues should not be asked.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

A detailed technical presentation of the Delimitation Maps, including Constituency Details, Gewogs under the Constituency and number of Registered Voters under each Gewog was done by the Technical Team from the Election Commission of Bhutan. The Presentation also included Change in Polling Station Names and Change in Number of Polling Stations. A brief Boundary Description of the Constituencies was also presented with the help of the boundary description information from the National Land Commission of Bhutan.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Saling Gup** reported that though the number of Registered Voters in Monggar Dzongkhag has not increased much in the last ten years and does not qualify for increment of Constituency, considering the Geographical Area of the Dzongkhag he proposed for an addition National Assembly Constituency.

**Hon'ble Secretary** reminded the floor about the difference in Number of Registered Voters in Monggar Dzongkhag from 2007 to 2017. He informed that the point will be presented to the Commission.

**Na-Rang Gup** proposed that Polling Stations should be same for National Assembly, National Council and Local Government. He said that it would ease on the confusion of voters having to go to different Polling Stations for Parliamentary Elections and Local Government Elections.

**Drepoong Gup** proposed for building permanent structures in the place of Temporary Polling

Stations. He informed that although at initial stage, it would incur a huge expenditure; however, in long run it will benefit the Election Commission of Bhutan to reduce huge expenses on building Temporary Polling Stations.

To the question raised by **Na-Rang Gup**, the **Dzongkhag Election Officer** clarified that, during the Local Government Elections, it is required for a Gewog to have each polling station in every Chiwog, from where a Tshogpa is elected. Hence, a Polling Station is required in every Chiwog. However, during the Parliamentary Elections, those Polling Stations are merged with respect to the walking distance for voters and the number of registered voters, in order to save resource and expenditure. He also cited an expenditure and resource required per polling station during an election.

For the proposal submitted by *Drepoong Gup*, the **Hon'ble Secretary** supported the Dzongkhag Election Officer's response on cost saving. He also quoted **His Majesty's 109<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration Speech** on just how much consumable land is left for people of Bhutan. He said that, it is our responsible to use resources efficiently. The Hon'ble DC Member suggested that any structure that was proposed in Chiwog Level could be coordinated and considered keeping a provision for using it as Polling Station.

**Ngatshang Gup** reported that some villages falling in between *Nagtshang* and *Monggar* Gewog are not sure about their legitimate boundary. He informed that they are not sure if they fall under *Ngatshang* Gewog or *Monggar* Gewog. To this, the Dzongkhag Election Officer informed that, first they should find out in which Gewog these villages fall in Civil Registry and then it will solve the issues by finding proper Gewog Boundary.

**Thromde Ngotshab** requested the separation of Thromde and Gewog Civil Registry. He said that Voters from Thromde do not vote for electing the Gup but all the Administrative works are handled by Gewog as their Civil Registry is together.

To this, **Hon'ble Secretary** informed that Hon'ble Secretary of the Home and Cultural Affairs is also one of the Delimitation Commission Member, and that he will put up this concern in the next meeting.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member concluded as per the given *Talking Points*. In addition, he reminded the floor that any concern about Boundary related to *Chiwogs* and *Gewogs*

should be passed through Parliament. He also expressed his appreciation over the turnout of participants for the Public Hearing, as it showed the support of everyone in contributing to the vibrant Democracy of Bhutan. He also assured that, all the queries have been noted and will be submitted to the Delimitation Commission on the next meeting.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin thanked Hon'ble DC Member and the Team for successfully conducting the Public Hearing and clearing the doubts. He also reminded the importance of participating in contributing to the vibrant Democracy by voting in the upcoming Parliamentary Election in 2018. He also, on behalf of Monggar Dzongkhag to render any supports to the Election Commission of Bhutan and Dzongkhag Election office in making the upcoming Parliamentary Elections a success.

### **Other Activities**

During the Public Hearing, the Dzongkhag Election Officer distributed the Dzongkhag Election Office Strategy to increase Voter Turnout in Parliamentary Election 2018 of Monggar Dzongkhag to Dasho Dzongrab and Gups of all Gewogs. He requested all to go through it and help the Dzongkhag Election Office in fulfilling the mission.

The Public Hearing ended well with offering of *Zhabten* to His Majesty.

## 6.7. Trashy Yangtse Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 for Trashy Yangtse Dzongkhag was conducted on 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2017 at the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall chaired by the Hon'ble Secretary of the National Land Commission (Delimitation Commission Member). The Public Hearing was attended by:

- a) Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer
- b) DT Chairperson
- c) Gups and Mangmis of 8 Gewogs
- d) 3 Goshay Ngyenshay each from 8 Gewogs
- e) Sector Heads of the Dzongkhag Administration
- f) General Voters under Trashy Yangtse Dzongkhag.

### Welcome Address

In the absence of Dasho Dzongda and Dasho Dzongrab, the Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer, welcomed the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member, team from head office, Gups, Mangmis and other the participants of the Delimitation Public Hearing Programme. He briefed on importance and objectives of the Delimitation Exercise on National Assembly Constituency as it happen only in every 10 years. He also reminded that the Public Hearing was conducted as per the provision in the Constitution and the Election Act.

## Statement by Hon'ble DC Member

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member welcomed and thanked all the participants followed by the sharing of brief responsibilities of the Delimitation Commission. He informed the floor that the similar Delimitation Public Hearing is being conducted in all 20 Dzongkhags led by other 5 Commission Members. He then presented his statement as per the Talking Points in *Annexure 1*. He reminded the participants that the Delimitation exercise is very important and it considered as the most important juncture in the nation today as is gearing towards the conduct of third Parliamentary Elections.

In addition to that Dasho informed, if there were any issues or question related to the Draft Delimitation Plan it will be welcomed. He also pointed out that the entire question raised here will be noted and will present to the Delimitation Commission meeting that will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

## Proposal and Map Presentation

A detailed technical presentation of the Delimitation Maps, including Constituency Details, Gewogs under the Constituency and number of Registered Voters under each Gewog was done by the Technical Team from the Election Commission of Bhutan. The Presentation also included Changes in Polling Station Names and Change in Number of Polling Stations.

A brief Boundary Description of the Constituencies was also presented with the help of the boundary description information from the National Land Commission of Bhutan.

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

Toedtsho Gup raised question that there is a need of a separate Polling Station for *Chemkhar\_Manam* Chiwog which was clubbed with the *Jangphutse* Chiwog earlier. To this the Dzongkhag Election Officer informed that the concern was noted and the proposal will be forwarded to Department of Electoral Registration and Delimitation of the Election Commission of Bhutan.

**Yangtse** Gup said that clear information about the Boundary Delimitation of Thromde was needed as it is unclear whether to follow **Local Government Delimitation Order of the Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs 2010** or Draft Delimitation for Thromde Tshogdu 2015.

**Hon'ble Secretary** stated that although it is a question related to Local Government, it is being noted and will be submitted to the Commission.

## **Concluding Address by Hon’ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon’ble Secretary, National Land Commission wrap-up as per the *Talking Points* in **Annexure 2**. He also assured that, all the queries have been noted and will be submitted to the Delimitation Commission on the next meeting.

## **Vote of Thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin Wogm thanked Hon’ble DC Member and the Team for conducting the Public Hearing and also the participants for meaningful and fruitful suggestions and discussions. He also thanked the team for clearing all the doubt of the participants and ensuring that their concerns were noted to be submitted to the Delimitation Commission.

## **Other Activities**

During the Public Hearing, the Dzongkhag Election Officer distributed the Dzongkhag Election office Strategy to increase Voter Turnout in Parliamentary Election 2018 of Trashigang Dzongkhag to Chief Dzongkhag Education Officer and Gups of all Gewogs. He requested all to go through it and help the Dzongkhag Election Office in fulfilling the mission.

The Public Hearing ended well with offering of *Zhabten* to His Majesty.

## 6.8. Gasa Dzongkhag



**Venue** : Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall

**Date** : 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Time** : 9:00 AM

The Public Hearing on Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Gasa Dzongkhag was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall led by the Hon'ble Secretary, Dasho Sonam Topgay, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Delimitation Commission Member) and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab
- b) DT Chairman
- c) Gups of 4 Gewogs and 1 Thromde Representative
- d) Mangmi of 4Gewogs
- e) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde
- f) Sector Heads from Gasa Dzongkhag Administration
- g) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

The Public Hearing for the day was started gracefully with the “**National Anthem**”.

## Welcome Address

In absence of Dasho Dzungdag, Dasho Dzunggrab of Gasa Dzongkhag welcomed and thanked the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member (Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs) and the team for coming all the way from the capital for discussion and hearing of such an important matter. He also stressed on few statistics of his Dzongkhag's election related tasks and the electorate strength.

## Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member

The Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Delimitation Commission Member) in his opening remarks, welcomed and expressed his immense gratitude to the participants present in the meeting followed by introduction of the Members of the Delimitation Commission. He informed the meeting the public hearing is conducted in all the 20 Dzongkhags led by the six Members of the Delimitation Commission. Then he delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

## Proposal and Map Presentation

The proposal on the Draft Delimitation Plan with the detailed information of the National Assembly (NA) Constituencies of the Gasa Dzongkhag was presented by the technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan. The team said the standard size of a National Assembly Constituency is ten thousand registered voters as per the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012*. And that a Dzongkhag can be allotted a minimum of two and a maximum of seven Constituencies. Therefore, the Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in Gasa Dzongkhag without any changes for the next ten years until 2027, since the total registered voter population in Gasa Dzongkhag as of 8th May 2017 is 1,934. And the two Constituencies of *Khatoed\_Laya* and *Khamaed\_Lunana* have a total registered voter of 966 and 968 as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 respectively.

The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Gasa Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*.

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

The **participants** present in the meeting raised an issue on the boundary of *Khatoed* and *Laya*

Gewogs, as the people are not clear about the boundary description between these two Gewogs. They said the people of the two Gewogs have approached the Dzongkhag Administration to seek clarification on the boundary description and also the issue was deliberated in the Dzongkhag Tshogdu of Gasa Dzongkhag. Since the Dzongkhag Administration could not provide them with a clear description, the Dzongkhag Tshogdu resolved that a letter to be put up to the Parliament and the Election Commission of Bhutan, to help them understand the clear boundary between these two Gewogs. The participants also request the team to clarify on the boundary issue of *Khatoed* and *Laya* Gewogs.

To this the **Hon'ble Secretary** informed that the letter was submitted to the Election Commission of Bhutan and the Parliament regarding the boundary issue of *Khatoed* and *Laya* Gewogs. He said the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan / Election Commission of Bhutan does not have the authority to decide the change the boundary of a Dzongkhag or a Gewog, as it has to be approved by the Parliament. He said the main task of the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan is to allocate the electoral constituencies and the electoral boundaries for the purpose of the Parliamentary and the Local Government elections within the boundary approved by the Parliament, based on the provision of the Constitution and the Electoral Laws. He also said the electorates should distinguish between the boundary approved by the Parliament (*Santsham/Dotsham*) and the boundary demarcated by the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan (*Chaetsham*).

The *team* also presented the detailed boundary description of the *Khatoed* and *Laya* Gewogs, which was compiled by the National Land Commission during the early nineties. The team also informed the issue will be duly noted to be deliberated in the Delimitation Commission meeting which will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

**Mani Chiwog Tshogpa:** He asked if there is any possibility to change/relocate the boundary of *Mani Chiwog* to Chamsa Lum from Zamjana River (Gewog Boundary).

**Answer:** The Team informed that the proposal for the change in boundary of the Chiwog will be duly noted for further deliberation by the Delimitation Commission in preparation to 2021 Local Government Delimitation Exercise.

**Choongra\_Loobchag Tshogpa (Laya Gewog)** asked if there is any possibility to change the NA Constituency as *Khatoed\_Khamaed* and *Laya\_Lunana*. He said the reason for grouping the Constituency as *Khatoed\_Laya* and *Khamaed\_Lunana* in 2007 Delimitation Exercise, were due to the lack of qualified aspiring candidate to contest the election from *Laya* and *Lunana* gewogs.

On this the **team** said that the law requires a total of 10,000 registered voters as the standard size of the National Assembly Demkhong. However, no Dzongkhag shall be allocated less than two and more than seven National Assembly Constituencies. Also, the boundaries shall be drawn so that Demkhongs within a Dzongkhag are as far as possible, equal in the number of registered voter, resulting in equivalent weight of the votes cast by every voter. However, the factors like Remoteness and Sparseness of the population, Landmark and Geographical features, means of communication and travel within the *Demkhong* are also taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member also committed that the team shall take a note of it and put it up for discussion during the Delimitation Commission meeting that will be held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The **Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**, Dasho Sonam Topgay, Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs thanked the floor for their active participation and concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Gasa Dzongkhag as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Gasa Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Gasa Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks. He thanked the Hon'ble Secretary and the team from Election Commission of Bhutan for a valuable input for making them understands the Delimitation process and hearing their concern.

## 6.9. Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag



**Venue** : Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall

**Date** : 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Time** : 9:00 AM

The Public Hearing on Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag was conducted on 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at Dzongkhag Tshogdue Hall led by the Hon'ble Secretary, Dasho Sonam Topgay, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Delimitation Commission Member) and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag
- b) Dasho Dzongrab
- c) DT Chairman
- d) Gups of 15 Gewogs and 1 Thromde Representative
- e) Mangmis of 15 Gewogs
- f) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde
- g) Sector Heads from Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Administration
- h) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office

The Public Hearing for the day was started gracefully with the “**National Anthem**”.

## **Welcome Address**

Dasho Dzongdag of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag extended his warm welcome to the Hon'ble Secretary Dasho Sonam Topgay, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Delimitation Commission Member) and the team to Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag.

He highlighted on the importance of such public hearings, which are being conducted by the Delimitation Commission prior to the finalization of the Delimitation Plans in accordance to the provisions of the law. And also thanked the team for coming for discussion and hearing such an important matter. He completed his welcome address by sharing few statistical data of his Dzongkhag's election related tasks and the electorate strength.

## **Statement by Hon'ble Member of Delimitation Commission**

The Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs (Delimitation Commission Member) welcomed to the meeting and thanked them for making it possible to attend the meeting despite their busy schedule for the Royal visit. Then he delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

## **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The proposal on the Draft Delimitation Plan with the detailed information of the National Assembly (NA) Constituencies of the Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag was presented by the technical team from the Election Commission of Bhutan. The team said the standard size of a National Assembly Constituency is ten thousand registered voters as per the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2012*. And that a Dzongkhag can be allotted a minimum of two and a maximum of seven Constituencies. The Delimitation Commission proposes to retain the existing number and territorial boundaries of the NA Constituencies in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag without any changes for the next ten years until 2027, since the total registered voter population in Dzongkhag as of 8th May 2017 is 18,884. And the two Constituencies of *Athang\_Thedtsho* and *Nyishog\_Seaphu* have a total registered voter of 9,249 and 9,635 as of 8th May 2017 respectively.

The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Gasa Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*.

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

**Saephu Gup:** Stated on the need of additional Chiwog in *Booso\_Zeri* Chiwog of Saephu Gewog, since the registered voter population in this Chiwog is very high compared to other Chiwogs. He said the Chiwog has a total of 483 registered voters as of 2016 LG Election. He said the developmental activities in this Chiwog are less compared to other Chiwogs, since the budget is insufficient to carry out the activities.

**Response:** The team said that as per the *Delimitation of Demkhong Rules and Regulation of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*, there shall be maximum number of 300 voter or 100 household or five villages to create a new Chiwog. However, the team also informed that the proposal for the additional Chiwog will be duly noted to be deliberated in the Delimitation Commission Meeting which is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017.

**Bjenag Gup:** He said that *Khotokha* village is a one-day walk from the *Tashi Tokha* Chiwog and there are 36 permanent household settled in the village. He said it is very difficult for the voters to travel all the way from *Khotokha* to Polling Station. He said most of the voters chose not to vote due to the distance they have to travel. Therefore, he requested for a new Polling Station at *Khotokha* village in order to facilitate the voter turnout.

**Response:** The Dzongkhag Electoral Officer said that the Chairman of DT of the Dzongkhag has submitted a request for additional Chiwog at *Khotokha* village in the year 2013 and the Officials from the ECB head office, Dzongkhag Election Office and the Gewog Administration visited the village to study the feasibility of the village. He said it is not possible to provide additional Polling Station in *Khotokha* village for LG Election, since the voters from all five Chiwogs reside there as their summer residence. He also said that the voters have to transfer their census in *Khotokha* village in order to provide additional Polling Station.

**Ruebisa Gup:** He said *Ruebisa* Gewog has six Chiwogs and one of the Chiwog in his Gewog has a total registered voter of 703 and 6 villages. Since the registered voter in the Chiwog is very high, he said that there might be a provision of adding one more Chiwog in his Gewog and therefore proposed for a new Chiwog.

**Phangyuel Mangmi:** He asked if there is any possibility to allocate 3 NA seats in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag, since Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag has vast geographical area and the total registered voters above 18,000. He cited an example of Gasa Dzongkhag having a total registered voter below 2000 is also allocated 2 NA seats.

He also requested to change the Polling Station of Uesargang\_Hampoekha, Chhungserkha\_Dhomkha and Chhungoen Chiwogs from Rabgayzampa Polling Station to Chhungsaykha Polling Station, as it is centrally located for this three Chiwogs.

Response: The Hon'ble Secretary said the criteria 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. He also said that the registered voters should increase from 18,000 to 30,000 in order to allocate 3 seats in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag. He also said the proposal will be duly noted to deliberate in the Delimitation Commission meeting which is scheduled on 15th of December 2017.

Rinchhengang Gup & Tshogpa: They propose to retain the Chiwog name Rinchhen Toed and Rinchhengang Maed as Lho Rinchhengang and Jang Rinchhengang, since all the documents at Gewog level is maintained as Lho Rinchhengang and Jang Rinchhengang. They also said the voters in their Gewog never use the new name as Toed and Maed.

Response: The Dzongkhag Electoral Officer said that the Chiwog name was changed as Rinchhengang Toed and Maed as per the proposal from the Gewog Administration. He also said the Election Office has to bear huge amount to again retain their old Chiwog name and in producing their Voter Photo Identity Cards.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member, Dasho Sonam Topgay, Secretary, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs concluded the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Gasa Dzongkhag as per the given Talking Points.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin of the Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Tshogdu officially closed the Public Hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan 2017 for National Assembly Constituencies of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag with his vote of thanks. He thanked the Hon'ble Secretary and the team from Election Commission of Bhutan for a valuable input and making them understand the process of Delimitation and a Hearing.

## 6.10. Bumthang Dzongkhag



The Public Hearings on the Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Bumthang Dzongkhag was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at the Bumthang DT hall at 9:30 AM. It was chaired by the Delimitation Commission Member Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement.

The hearing was attended by the Dzongdag, Dasho Phub Tshering, Dasho Dzongrab, other officials from the Dzongkhag who attended the Public Hearing included:

- a) DT Chairperson, Bumthang
- b) Sector Heads, Bumthang
- c) Dzongkhag Election Officials, Bumthang
- d) Municipal Engineer
- e) Gups and Mangmis of Chhoeckhor, Tang, Chhumig and Ura Gewog
- f) Goshay Nyanshay

The public hearing in Bumthang began with the singing of National Anthem of Bhutan.

### Welcome Address

It was followed by welcome speech from **Dasho Dzongdag** of Bumthang. He greeted and welcomed the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member and Team from ECB head office, Gups

and Mangmis of Bumthang Dzongkhag, *Goshay Nyanshay* of Bumthang Dzongkhag, officials of Bumthang Dzongkhag Administration and other participants. In his welcome note, he pointed out that the revision of National Assembly Constituencies happened only after ten years. He said that this is a good opportunity to give comments and suggestions and it should be based on legal provisions and for general good and larger benefits.

### Statement by Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission

The Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement (Delimitation Commission Member) welcomed all the participants gathered for a meeting and delivered his opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### Presentation of Map

Ugyen Choden, Electoral Registration Officer presented on the NA constituencies of the Bumthang Dzongkhag. She mentioned that Bumthang Dzongkhag consists of two Demkhong namely *Chhoekhor\_Tang* and *Chhumig\_Ura* Demkhong and four gewogs. The registered voters of Bumthang Dzongkhag as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 are as follows:

*Chhoekhor\_Tang Demkhong* - 5721 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

འདེམས་ཁོངས།	ཆེད་ལོག	Registered Voters
ཆོས་འཁོར་རྫོང་།	ཆོས་འཁོར་།	3716
	རྫོང་།	711
	ཁྲོམ་སྡེ།	794
བསྡུ་མཁན་-		5721

*Chhumig\_Ura Demkhong* - 3497 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

འདེམས་ཁོངས།	ཆེད་ལོག	Registered Voters
རྒྱ་མིག་_ཁུ་ར།	རྒྱ་མིག་	1709
	ཁུ་ར།	1786
བསྡུ་མཁན་-		3495

She also informed the participants on the List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station of Bumthang Dzongkhag as below.

*List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station*

Sl. No.	Gewog	Polling Station Code	Existing Name	Name/Location Changed
1	Chhoekhor	NA110102	Dhur CPS	Dhur Community Hall
2	Chhoekhor	NA110103	Tamzhing NFE	Tamzhing Community Hall
3	Chhoekhor	NA110105	Kharsa CPS	Kharsa PS
4	Chhoekhor	NA110107	Gangrithang CPS	Gangrithang PS
5	Chhumig	NA110201	Choongphel CPS	Choongphel PS
6	Chhumig	NA110202	Zung-NGae CPS	Zung-NGae PS
7	Tang	NA110302	Tang LSS	Tang Central School
8	Tang	NA110303	Khangrab CPS	Khangrab PS
9	Ura	NA110401	Ura LSS	Ura Central School
10	Ura	NA110402	Shingkar CPS	Shingkar PS
11	Ura	NA110403	Shing-Nyer CPS	Shing-Nyer PS
12	Ura	NA110404	Tangsibi CPS	Tangsibi PS

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

**District Engineer:** He said that there is no proper demarcation of Thromde boundary and therefore people are facing problem in which administration to follow.

**Civil and Registration Officer:** He mentioned that the revised spelling of Chhumig has been causing problem in making uniformity in civil registry.

**DT Thrizin:** He acknowledge the spelling of Gewog as “Chhumig”

**Tang Gup:** He proposed to change the name of *Bepzur\_Kunzangdraag* Chiwog to *Bepzur chiwog*.

## Concluding Address by Hon’ble Delimitation Commission Member

The Hon’ble Delimitation Commission Member thanked the participants for their views, comments

and suggestions and he delivered his concluding address as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The hearing finally concluded with vote of thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin, where he thank Hon'ble DC Member and team for having come so far for Public Hearing and also the all the participants for their meaningful participation and submitting the valuable feedback and suggestion in the interest of the people of Bumthang and Nation as a whole.

## 6.11. Trongsa Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the **Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017** of Trongsa Dzongkhag was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2017 at the Trongsa DT hall at 9:30 AM. It was chaired by the Delimitation Commission Member Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement.

The hearing was attended by the Trongsa Dasho Dzongrab and other officials from the Dzongkhag who attended the Public Hearing included:

- a) DT Chairperson, Trongsa
- b) Sector Heads, Trongsa
- c) Dzongkhag Election Officials, Trongsa
- d) Municipal Engineer
- e) Gups and Mangmis of Trongsa Dzongkhag
- f) Goshay Nyanshay

The public hearing in Trongsa started with the singing of National Anthem.

### Welcome Address

The welcome speech was delivered by Dasho Dzongrab of Trongsa Dzongkhag. He greeted the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member and team from ECB head office, Gups, Mangmis, *Goshay Nyanshay*, officials of Trongsa Dzongkhag Administration and other participants. He pointed out the importance of the public hearing with regards to making the public aware of the National Assembly constituency boundary, legal provisions and changes of the boundary demarcation. He also urges participants to give comments and suggestions on the Draft Delimitation plan 2017.

## Statement by the Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission

The Delimitation Commission Member, Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, first greeted the Dasho Dzongrab, Officials of Trongsa Dzongkhag Administration, Local Leaders, *Goshay Nyanshay* of Trongsa Dzongkhag and other participants.

After the warm greetings, Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member then made the statement on Public Hearings on the Draft Delimitation Plan of Trongsa Dzongkhag for the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 as per the given *Talking Points*.

### Proposal and Map Presentation

Tshewang Lhendup, Training Coordinator presented on the NA constituencies of the Trongsa Dzongkhag. He mentioned that Trongsa Dzongkhag consists of two Demkhong namely *Draagteng\_Langthil* and *Nubi\_Tangsibji* Demkhong and four gewogs. The registered voters of Trongsa Dzongkhag as of 8th May 2017 are as follows:

*Draagteng\_Langthil Demkhong* - 5558 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

འདེམས་ཁོངས།	ཆེད་ཡོག	Registered Voters
བཟག་སྟེང་གླང་མཐིལ།	བཟག་སྟེང་།	੧੧੧੧
	གླང་མཐིལ།	੧੦੧੦
	སྒོར་ཕུག	੧੧੧੦
བསྟོམས་-		੫੫੫੧

*Nubi\_Tangsibji Demkhong* - 4163 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

འདེམས་ཁོངས།	ཆེད་ཡོག	Registered Voters
རུབ་སྒྲིལ་གླང་མཐིལ།	རུབ་སྒྲིལ།	੧੫੬੧
	གླང་མཐིལ།	੧੫੦੦
	ཁྲོམ་སྟེ།	੧੧੧
བསྟོམས་-		੪੧੬੨

He also informed the participants on the List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station of Trongsa Dzongkhag as below.

*List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station*

Sl. No.	Gewog	Polling Station Code	Existing Name	Name/Location Changed
1	Draagteng	NA270101	Kuenga Rabten LSS	Draagteng Gewog Center
2	Draagteng	NA270102	Samcholing CPS	Samcholing PS
3	Draagteng	NA270103	Tashidingkha CPS	Tagtse Central School
4	Korphu	NA270201	Korphu CPS	Korphu ECR
5	Nubi	NA270401	Bemji CPS	Bemji PS
6	Nubi	NA270402	Sherubling HSS	Sherubling Central School
7	Nubi	NA270403	Kar-Zhong CPS	Kar-Zhong CPS
8	Nubi	NA270405	Sinphoog CPS	Sinphu ECR
9	Tangsibji	NA270504	Namgaychoeling CPS	Tangsibji Gewog Center
10	Tangsibji	NA270505	Tshangkha LSS	Tshangkha Central School

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

**Langthil Mangmi:** He said that some Tshogpas have only 30 to 35 households to cater while some have more than 100 households to cater for their respective chiwogs. There isn't uniform distribution of household and therefore he suggested if there is any possibility of having equal number of households for each chiwog/ under each Tshogpa.

**Korphu Gup:** He said that some of the people have their land under *Korphu* Gewog but have their Misti under *Sarpang* Dzongkhag therefore the Gewog administration are facing administrative problem.

**Tangsibji Gup:** He stated that currently *Kela* Chiwog is under *Tangsibji* Gewog. There is no road connection to the gewog center and the walking distance is shorter to *Draagteng* Gewog Center, therefore they suggested, if there is any possibility of merging the chiwog with *Draagteng* Gewog or otherwise need a road/farm road connection from *Tangsibji* to *Kela* chiwog.

**Korphu Gup:** He said that the voters of *Korphu* Toed and *Korphu* Maed Chiwogs were allocated inconvenient Polling Stations during the past elections. To this the Dzongkhag Election Officials clarified that since the *Korphu* Toed and *Korphu* Maed chiwogs are located closely and clustered,

there were some confusion among the voters and also in allocating the Polling Stations but the issue was solved during the Local Government Election 2016.

**Thromde Ngotshab:** He said that one household of *Thromde* falls under Nubi Gewog, which creates confusion to the voters. Therefore, he asked for the need of clear verification of the boundary. To this the team informed that it will be duly noted to be deliberated in the Delimitation Commission meeting which will be conducted after the public hearing.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member thanked for their valuable views, comments and suggestions, regarding the Draft Delimitation Plan and also the concern pertaining the Local Government Delimitation. He said the views and suggestions are duly note and it will be deliberated in the Delimitation Commission Meeting which is scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2017. And he continued with his closing remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

The hearing concluded with vote of thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin, where he thank Hon'ble DC Member and team for having come so far for Public Hearing and also the all the participants for their meaningful participation and valuable feedback and suggestion.

## 6.12. Zhemgang Dzongkhag



The Public Hearings on the Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly (NA) Constituencies, 2017 of Zhemgang Dzongkhag was held on 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at the Zhemgang Dzongkhag Tshogdu hall at 9:30 AM. It was chaired by the Delimitation Commission Member, Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement.

The hearing was attended by the Zhemgang officiating Dasho Dzogdag and other officials from the Dzongkhag who attended the Public Hearing included:

- a) DT Chairperson, Zhemgang
- b) Sector Heads, Zhemgang
- c) Dzongkhag Election Officials, Zhemgang
- d) Municipal Engineer
- e) Gups and Mangmis of Zhemgang Dzongkhag
- f) Goshay Nyanshay

The public hearing in Zhemgang started with the singing of National Anthem.

## Welcome Address

It was followed by welcome speech by **officiating Dasho Dzongdag**. He greeted the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member and team from ECB head office, Gups and Mangmis, *Goshay Nyanshay*, officials of Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration and other participants. He pointed out the importance of the public hearing with regards to making the public aware on the NA constituency boundary, legal provisions and changes of the boundary demarcation. He also urges participants to give comments and suggestions on the draft Delimitation plan 2017.

## Statement by the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member

The **Delimitation Commission Member, Hon'ble Secretary of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement**, first greeted the officiating Dasho Dzongdag, Officials of Zhemgang Dzongkhag Administration, Local Leaders, *Goshay Nyanshay* of Zhemgang Dzongkhag and other participants.

After the warm greetings, Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member then made the statement on Public Hearings on the Draft Delimitation Plan of Zhemgang Dzongkhag for the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 as per the given *Talking Points*.

## Proposal and Map Presentation

Tshewang Lhendup, Training Coordinator presented on the NA constituencies of the Zhemgang Dzongkhag. He mentioned that Zhemgang Dzongkhag consists of two Demkhong namely *Bardo\_Trong* and *Panbang* Demkhong and four gewogs. The registered voters of Bumthang Dzongkhag as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 are as follows:

***Bardo\_Trong* Demkhong** - 10157 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

འདེམས་ཁེངས།	ཆེད་ཁོག།	Registered Voters
བར་དོ་གྲོང་།	བར་དོ།	༩༤༩༩
	ནང་སྒོམ།	༩༧༧༠
	ཤིང་མཁའ་མ།	༩༩༡༧
	གྲོང་།	༡༧༤༩
	ཁྲོམ་སྒྲེ།	༩༥༩
བསྡུས་པ་-		༡༠༡༥༧

**Panbang Demkhong - 7211 Total registered voters as of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

འདེམས་ཁོངས།	ཆེད་འོག།	Registered Voters
པན་སྐང།	བྱུག་དཀར།	༡༡༩༥
	སྒོ་ཤིང།	༡༠༣༠
	ངང་ལ།	༣༥༥༠
	འཕངས་མཁའ།	༡༩༤༤
བསྡུས་-		༧༢༡༡

He also informed the participants on the List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station of Zhemgang Dzongkhag as below:

*List of the change in the Name/ Location of the Polling Station*

Sl. No.	Gewog	Polling Station Code	Existing Name	Name/Location Changed
1	Bjoka	NA300203	Dali CPS	Dali ORC
2	Goshing	NA300303	Lingmapong CPS	Goshing CPS
3	Nangkor	NA300401	Buli CPS	Buli Gewog Center
4	Ngangla	NA300503	Pangbang CPS	Sonamthang Central School (Lower campus)
5	Phangkhar	NA300603	Panabi ORC	Kulamti
6	Shingkhar	NA300703	Radi	Radi ORC
7	Trong	NA300804	Zhemgang HSS	Zhemgang Central School (B)

**Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Trong Gewog Mangmi:** He said that due to the boundary of Gewog and Thromde, part of Trong Gewog falls under Thromde.

**Shingkhar Gup:** He raised that due to Gewog boundary, 2 gunpas under Thrisa Chiwo of Shingkhar Gewog falls under Bardo Gewog.

**Nangkor Gup:** During LG election *Nyakhar* chiwo Polling Station is at RNR Center whereas

for the Parliamentary Election the voter has to vote at Tsheldang CPS, therefore the Gup apprise that they need Parliamentary Polling Stations same as LG Polling Station for the *Nyakhar* chiwog.

**Ngangla Gup:** He said that they need definite demarcation of Gewog boundaries.

**Goshay Nyanshay:** He said that currently *Dhakphel* village is under *Nangkor* Gewog but geographically and administratively it will be more convenient if it is under Trong Gewog.

**Shingkar Gup:** He mentioned that currently Thajong PS caters to two villages but old age people of *Zangling* could not reach/walk to Thajong Ps, therefore additional Polling Station is needed to cater the old age people of *Zangling* village.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member thanked all for their participation and delivered his concluding address as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of Thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin**

The hearing finally concluded with vote of thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin., where he thank Hon'ble DC Member and team for having come so far for Public Hearing and also the all the participants for their meaningful participation and submitting the valuable feedback and suggestion in the interest of the people of Zhemgang and Nation as a whole.

### 6.13. Dagana Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing in Dagana Dzongkhag was held on 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 at *Tsenda-Gang* Gewog Center. A total of 37 participants comprising of Gups, Mangmis, *Goshay Nyenshay*, Dzongrab and other officials from the Dzongkhag attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member, Dasho Ugyen Chewang as per the agenda.

#### **Welcome Address**

In absence of Dasho Dzongdag of Dagana, Dasho Dzongrab delivered a welcome speech. In his address, he also highlighted on the entitlement of the Electoral Constituencies under the provision of the Electoral laws.

#### **Statement by the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Member explained about the constitution of the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan and its members. He informed that the Public Hearings in twenty dzongkhags were being held to present the draft Delimitation Plan to the public.

Besides his deliberation on the Public Hearings, he cautioned participants on the negative effect of carrying out religious activities during the election period. As the electoral law forbids, they were to plan everything not befalling during this period.

## Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

Most of the questions and comments received in the hearing were general in type. The questions in pertinent to the Delimitation and the electoral boundaries were hardly of any. The answers to the questions were mostly answered in the meeting unlike those that required special attention were left for consideration in the Delimitation Commission meeting.

The DzEO, Rigzin Lhendup pointed out on the proposed polling station namely *Lhaling PS* being missed out in the presentation of which only *Labtsakha PS* and *Jemathang PS* under *Karmaling gewog* were mentioned. The present polling booth located at two-hour walking distance, the senior voters from these three villages are underprivileged to exercise their franchise.

**Karmaling Gup** entreated that the LG Contestants be permitted to contest in NA/NC elections too. He proposed that the villages namely *Gyabling*, *Pipling*, *Gumti* and *Dunglagang* currently located under *Tsendagang Gewog* be clubbed under *Karmaling Gewog* due to following reasons:

- Convenient for the voters to achieve their tasks/reach dungkhag and gewog office and get back home on time.
- The villages being located far away from Tsendagang gewog but closer to Karmaling Gewog.

**Tsenda-gang Gup** agreed to the proposal made by *Karmaling Gup* and said there was no problem in clubbing the villages under *Karmaling Gewog*. The Gup mentioned about twelve households with registered voters of around hundred having difficulty during monsoon to cast their votes at the *Samar Chu* Polling Booth. The swelling river, *Samar Chhu* has been an obstacle making difficulty to cross. Therefore, he requested to shift the *Samar Chhu* Polling Station to the gewog center.

To this the Hon'ble Member accepted this proposal for consideration in the Delimitation Commission Meeting. He said that the committee has no authority over the Dzongkhag and gewog boundaries which were already approved through the Parliament. The Electoral Constituencies and boundaries of the Local Government (LG) elections would remain intact and untouched until next Public Hearings.

**Tashiding & Tshangkha Gups** shared their views on compulsory requirement of bank account to deposit state fund by candidate. They said that the weekly submission of accounts and the deposit of Nu. 50,000 required in the bank a/c had been burdensome to many. Therefore, they persuaded that the candidate contesting in the Local Government (LG) Elections is waived-off from the submission of bills.

To this the **Hon'ble Member** clarified that the need of Bank A/c is for proper management of state fund and the submission of accounts by the candidate is to ensure judicious use of government fund to avoid corruptions. This is being done for proper accountability and transparency. The Nu. 50,000 is the maximum limit required and the minimum deposit can be of any amount. The candidate if reluctant to deposit amount in his/her A/c may do so in written statement but in so doing, the candidate is subject to question if any expenditure is incurred thereafter.

The DzEO, Dagana further cautioned that the candidate failing to submit final expenditure accounts is disqualified to contest in the next elections.

**Tseza Gup** raised his concern about temporary Polling Stations requiring permanent structures. For instance, *Dawa Dzingkha* PS which is temporarily shifted at Thongsu for voter's convenient. Therefore, he proposed in the name change of *Dawa Dzingkhag* PS to Thongsu PS. The gup also sought clarification about Mitsi transfer.

The **Head of DERD**, Tashi Droji explained that the temporary Polling Stations with altered location are due to environmental situation. There is no as such permanent structure built as polling station but if there be any upcoming government structures, he requested for a provision with the entrance and exit to serve as polling booth. As to the Mitsi Transfer, one-year cooling period is required if the *Demkhong* is affected.

**Khebisa Gup** said that the *Thumba* Chiwog has a custom of celebrating festival known as Lumba every year wherein about 35 households assemble for grand celebration; and if this befalls during the election period, is there restriction from the election?

The Head of DERD clarified that it depends on how it is organized. If it falls during the election period and has influencing character, it is strictly forbidden whereas, if the organization has not much requiring of public gathering and takes place in a silent mode, it is allowed. The candidates are strictly prohibited to initiate the program and influence voters. The Hon'ble Member advised to take note of the sponsors whenever such events are organized. If the focus is in view of upholding the tradition/festival, there is no harm but if the motive is for conducting campaign then it is a serious concern.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

He said that the issues and recommendations will be raised through appropriate forum and thanked everybody for their active participation. The finalization will be on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017 through

Delimitation Commission meeting and the issuance of the Final Delimitation will be on 19<sup>th</sup> of Dec, 2017.

In anticipation of the more voter turnout in the upcoming Parliamentary Elections 2018, he pledged all participants to support each other by creating awareness. The voting through *Tshornang* was his fundamental message of reminder to all; and thanked everyone for attending this meeting.

### **Vote of thanks**

With his thanksgiving, he recalled on the successes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LG elections and coveted for similar support and inspiration with more awareness required for the upcoming elections. He stressed on the need of practical effort in creating awareness to the public. He said all should be in one spirit and do good governance to serve one country.

#### 6.14. Tsirang Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing of Tsirang Dzongkhag was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2017 at Dzongkhag Conference hall. A total of 112 Participants attended the meeting comprising of Dasho Dzongda, Dzongrab, Dzongkhag Tshogde Thrizin, Gups, Mangmis, Goshay Nyenshay, and other Dzongkhag officials. The meeting was inaugurated by lighting of butter lamps followed by the National Anthem and *Marchang* Ceremony.

#### **Welcome Address**

Dasho Dzongdag extended her warm welcome to everybody in the meeting. In her initial address, she promised to render whatever support is required from the dzongkhag during entire election period. She says that the young officers are given opportunities to gain experience. She promised vote in the upcoming elections and urged everybody to exercise their franchise.

#### **Statement by the Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission**

The Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission in his statement as in *the former Public Hearing talked about the importance of Public Hearings*. He said that the constituency maps that would be presented were at its draft stage. The finalization would be at the Delimitation Commission meeting on 15th December, 2018 after consideration of proposals, suggestions and comments received from the Public Hearings. This meeting is given due importance as this is the

only platform where public can share their views and give comments; and this happens only after ten years.

Then he moved onto speaking about the constitution of the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan and its members. The detailed statement is per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

There weren't any issues or changes with regard to the electoral boundaries and constituencies.

**Dasho Dzungda** talked about biased supporters of the candidates in the elections; as a result, there is great partiality affecting the contesting candidate in any elections. To contest for any electoral post, it requires a great deal of capability, and the lack of support to the right candidate is the affecting a lot.

The **Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission** emphasized on the importance of campaign in order to help voters make right choice. He said that this education to the voters is being imparted by the ECB and there should not be a problem if voters elect capable candidate.

The Voters should keep in mind that the candidate elected must be beneficial to the country and people. Since it is the voice of voters based on their majority decision, it is important to go as per public viewing. Therefore, the right choice is very vital.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission thanked all the participants and agreed to render whatever support is required of the ECB. He also briefly explained on the revised Postal Ballot Procedures. The ECB is facilitating to the differently abled voters. The existence of the PB Square Polling Booth was explained to create awareness. The ECB is also working on the voter turnout strategies of the 20 Dzongkhags with view of increasing voter turnouts in the upcoming parliamentary election. The Wrap-up in detail is as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of thanks**

The Public Hearing in Tsirang Dzongkhag ended successfully by delivering the Vote of Thanks by Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin. He promised to render full support during the entire election period with whatever support is required of them. The imparting of election is the most important thing as the Parliamentary Election is around the corner.

## 6.15. Sarpang Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing of the Sarpang Dzongkhag was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2017 at the RRCO conference hall in Gelephu. A total of 60 Participants attended the meeting comprising of Dasho Dzongda, Dzongrab, Dasho Dungpa, Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin, Gups, Mangmis, Goshay Nyenshay, Thromde Ngotshab and other Dzongkhag officials. The meeting was inaugurated by singing of National Anthem followed by a *Marchang* Ceremony.

### **Welcome Address**

Dasho Dzongdag welcomed everybody in the meeting and expressed his gratitude to the Team from Thimphu. His address also included message about the importance of Public Hearings at its draft stage before finalization.

### **Statement by the Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission**

The Hon'ble Member of the Delimitation Commission in his opening statement emphasized on the background and purpose of the Public Hearings. He said that such forum was only opportunity to get feedback and discuss as it commences only after ten years. The detail statement is as per the given Talking Points.

Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

### **Chhuzargang Gup apprised that:**

1. The existing issue pertaining to the boundary between gewogs which is affecting in

carrying out developmental activities in gewogs.

2. With the increased number of population, the gup submitted his proposal for an additional chiwog under his gewog.
3. He apprised that the Sarpang Dzongkhag is in need of additional NA Constituency considering the geographical size of the Dzongkhag. This was proposed through the Parliament already and the public are hoping to get it.

The **Hon'ble Member** explained that the Delimitation Commission has no authority over the Dzongkhags and gewogs boundaries as it was approved by the Parliament on the basis of agreement by three fourth of its members. The Delimitation Commission only look after the geographical condition and the allotment of constituencies according to the provision of the Constitutional Law. To this, he also clarified on the fulfillment of criteria as required by the Constitutional Law to allot additional constituency.

The proposal as to the requirement of additional Chiwog and the NA Constituency would be reviewed as per the provisions of the Electoral Law. As the Public Hearing is held after every ten years, the law requires waiting until next Public Hearing for allotment of constituencies though there is rise in the registered voters.

**Chhuzanggang Mangmi** shared his idea about replacement of VPIC be done by CID to cast vote. He said that the Voters willing to vote are sometimes disadvantaged owing to the loss of VPIC.

The **Head of DERD** clarified that the VPIC and CID are two different thing serving different purposes. The differences between VPIC and CID were clearly explained. The carrying of right weapon for right task was advised.

**Umling Gup** further supplemented to what *Chhuzanggang* gup had raised with regard to the uncertain gewog boundaries. He said that the gewog maps be provided with its precise boundaries. The Gup also proposed on the requirement of Tshogpa under Rijoong Chiwog which has presently the registered voters of One Hundred and thirty.

To this the **Hon'ble Member** highlighted on the same prevailing issues with other dzongkhags too and agreed to raise this in the Delimitation Commission meeting.

**Gelegphu Gup**, in view of creating more awareness shared his views on the requirement of each

Election Notice Board in every Chiwog.

He requested that the changes required in the VPIC be done after every three years as the reissuance of VPIC time and again is confusing voters.

To this Tashi Dorji, **Head of DERD** clarified that the reissuance of the VPIC has no time set to do on every three years; nor have we done on a frequent basis. It was done only at the time when voter's Mitsi was transferred or important information in VPIC is affected. The only major reissuance of VPIC was done in replacement of the former VPIC used during first Parliamentary Elections, 2008.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Wrap-up in detail of the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member is as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The Public Hearing Sarpang Dzongkhag was completed successfully with the Vote of thanks by the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin.

## 6.16. Samtse Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Samtse Dzongkhag was held on 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2017 in the Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall of Samtse Dzongkhag Administration and it was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag,
- b) Dasho Dzongrab,
- c) DT Thrizin,
- d) Gups of 14 Gewogs,
- e) 1 Thromde Representative,
- f) Mangmi of 15 Gewogs,
- g) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde,
- h) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office.

The Public Hearing for the day was started gracefully with the “**National Anthem**”.

### Welcome Address

Dasho Dzongdag of Chhukha Dzongkhag first welcomed and thanked the team for coming all the way from the capital for discussion and hearing of such an important matter. He also stressed on few statistics of his Dzongkhag’s election related tasks and the electorate strength. He also thanked other participants attending the hearing program.

## Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member

Hon'ble Election Commissioner delivered her opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### Proposal and Map Presentation

The Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly and National Council Constituencies was presented by the team from the Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu. The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Samtse Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated Demkhongs. Presentation was also made on the detailed boundary description of every Gewogs in Samtse Dzongkhag, the document which was acquired from National Land Commission and contained details of all the Gewog boundaries listing natural and man-made landmarks, monuments and prominent places within.

### Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

**Namgaychhoeling Gup:** He said that there are only four Polling Stations for Parliamentary as reflected in the list. They said that they have already asked the Election Office of Samtse for additional Polling Stations as in the Local Government elections.

**Samtse Gup:** He asked if there is any possibility of change or update in the name for Samtse *Thromde* since both the Gewog and *Thromde* has similar name. Further the *Thromde* Tshogpa Demkhong is named as *Norjangsa*. The village named Gurung Basti is inappropriate for an urban area and therefore asked what the possibilities of are changing the name.

**Tading Gup:** The Gup talked about a village nearer to the international border under *Tading\_Tenpaling* Chiwog with some 20 households and 150 Registered Voters are facing cases of theft when they have to go to vote to the distant *Tading* ECR Polling Station.

**Phuentshogpelri Gup:** His statement is also about the proposal of additional Polling Station for *Tingtingma* village having 17 voters because the distance is very far. He said that the proposal was already submitted to Samtse Dzongkhag Election Officer earlier.

**Norgaygang Gup:** *Tshachhu* village of *Norgaygang* Gewog with more than 100 Registered Voters and 47 households is in need of a separate additional Polling Station since *Changju* PS is located very far away from the village.

**Tashichhoeling Gup:** Though all the Polling Station related statements are under the process of update, he also proposed for additional Polling Station in *Daangling\_Gangjoog* Chiwog. He said that the number of Polling Station deployed during the LG elections are enough.

**Dungtoed Gup:** He proposed for an additional National Assembly Constituency with reference being made to the poverty situation in the dzongkhag, total of 15 gewogs and comparison to Trashigang Dzongkhag population which has 5 seats.

A *Goeshey Nyenshey* present in the meeting expressed that the current number of constituencies are adequate but polling stations need review.

A **participant** requested for keeping the same number of Polling Stations for Parliamentary and the Local Government Elections, as more Polling Stations would ensure more accessibility for voters.

#### **Response:**

The **Dzongkhag Electoral Officer** explained that the summary of Polling Stations presented are not the updated one since the proposal has already been submitted to ECB Head Office and that the Department of Electoral Registration & Delimitation is still in the process of reviewing the updates.

**Hon'ble Commissioner** explained that:

- 1) There are more Polling Stations for the Local Government Elections than the Parliamentary Elections since it is required to have at least one Polling Station in all the Chiwogs in a Gewog. For Parliamentary elections, this is not absolutely necessary and the nearby Polling Stations can be merged to serve few Chiwogs or villages without undue voter inconvenience but with significant Human Resource and financial implications. In this regard, the Delimitation Rules specify that a voter should not have to travel more than two hours to reach the assigned Polling Station but a Polling Station shall also cater to a minimum of 100 voters.

In view of the concerns expressed from many Gewogs, Samtse Dzongkhag Election Office was asked to once again review the Polling Stations as soon as possible and for the Dzongkhag Administration to provide guidance for a final list to be submitted to ECB by

the end of December 2017. It was reminded that an additional Polling Station shall have cost implications but at the same time there should be efficient facilitation of service and therefore a balanced consideration should be there.

- 2) All the names as shown in the Local Government or the Parliamentary Demkhongs came from the people and community themselves through the *Gewog Tshogde* and *Dzongkhag Tshogdu* process. She said that the proposal for the change in name for some case with regards to LG Demkhongs would be deliberated in the next delimitation practice that is due in 2021. She said that the stories and attributes of each names carry importance, and if relevant should be proposed similarly through the LG process and provisions. The proposed changes and updates in village and Chiwog names are nevertheless being noted down for submission to the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan and would be deliberated as part of the Local Government Delimitation exercise due in 2021.
- 3) As regards the additional National Assembly Constituency, the laws provide for the benchmark of 10,000 registered voters per constituency. The registered voter population of the existing four constituencies in Samtse are close to the 10,000 registered voters benchmark (i.e. Dophuchen\_Tading with 12,536; Phuentshopelri\_ Samtse with 10,229; Tashichhoeling with 12,376 and Ugyentse\_Yoeseltse with 9,816) and the total 44,957 registered voters in the Dzongkhag does not justify an additional *demkhong*. Consideration of the other delimitation criteria including the state of connectivity and communication infrastructure within the Dzongkhag also does not justify an additional constituency.

With regard to the poverty concerns, it is to be noted that while Samtse Dzongkhag has four seats, other Dzongkhags such as Dagana, Chhukha, Lhuentse and Zhemgang, with similar poverty situation have only two seats and have not been considered for increasing. This is because the criteria for delimitation, including the population, geography and the state of communication and infrastructure development, prescribed in the laws addresses such development concerns as well as the representati.

In terms of Trashigang Dzongkhag having 5 seats, it was pointed out that the Dzongkhag had been allocated the 5 seats during the first delimitation exercise in 2007 to maintain the contiguity of the existing administrative boundaries. Going by the population criterion alone, the number could be considered for reduction. However, the other criterions including implications to the existing administrative boundaries and the state of accessibility within the constituencies were taken into consideration and as in Samtse Dzongkhag, it is proposed to maintain the existing seats with no change.

**Dasho Dzongdag** said that it's very important to vote but equally important to consider the expenditure incurred by the Royal Government if more and more Polling Stations are being established just to increase the voter participation when there are other equally pressing needs for the scarce resources. He said that Samtse Dzongkhag would like to find other ways to increase the voter turnout and pointed out that although LG has more Polling Stations, the voter turnout was only 58% during the last LG elections, while in 2013 NA/NC election, a total of 61% turned out to vote.

**Dophuchen Gup:** Since the voter population/electorate in his Gewog is very high compared to the other Gewogs, he said that adding one more Chiwog in his Gewog is justified.

**Response:** Hon'ble Commissioner said that the proposals for LG delimitation are being duly noted and will be submitted for further deliberation by the Delimitation Commission in preparation to 2021 LG Delimitation Exercise.

**Yoeseltse Gup** enquired about any possibilities of providing postal voting facilities to the general public and not just to a certain group of people.

**Response:** Hon'ble Commissioner explained that the Electoral Laws provide for specific categories of voters with the criteria primarily being that such persons are required to be on duty including on election duty. If everybody were to cast their vote via post, this would have undesirable implications in representativeness, focus and nature of campaigns which would not be in the best public interests in the long run. Therefore, Postal Ballot facilities are provided only to those people who cannot be available in their designated Polling Station during the Poll Day because of the important nature of their work that cannot be left unattended. There are no possibilities of providing the facility to all the general voters but wherever there is genuine need such as Bhutanese working and residing overseas, not necessarily on official duty; youth awaiting employment; taxi drivers; hotel employees etc. are being facilitated by the ECB.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Wrap-up in detail of the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member is as per the given *Talking Points*

## 6.17. Chhukha Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of the Chhukha Dzongkhag was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2017 in the new Phuentshogling Thromde Meeting Hall and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag,
- b) Dasho Thrompon,
- c) Dasho Dzongrab,
- d) Dasho Dungpa, Phuentshogling Dungkhag,
- e) DT Chairperson,
- f) Gups of 10 Gewogs,
- g) Mangmi of 11 Gewogs,
- h) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde,
- i) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office.

The Hearing was inaugurated with the **National Anthem** and *Marchang Ceremony*.

### Welcome Address

Dasho Dzongdag of Chhukha Dzongkhag first thanked the team for coming all the way from the capital for discussion and hearing of such an important matter. He also stressed on few

statistics of his Dzongkhag's election related tasks and the electorate strength. He also thanked other participants attending the hearing program and congratulated the Delimitation Team for successfully completing the public hearing in Samtse Dzongkhag. He assured of greater and serious participation in the election process from all the Gewogs in his Dzongkhag.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

**Hon'ble Election Commissioner** delivered her opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly and National Council Constituencies was presented by the team from the Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu. The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Chhukha Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*. A detailed boundary description was also presented as per the standard boundary document issued by the National Land Commission. The description includes detailed list of natural and man-made landmarks, prominent places and monuments within a Gewog.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Dasho Dzongdag:** He first inquired about the mismatch in the number of Registered Voter Summary in some of the Gewogs as per the information he has in his report. He also said that the total area as reflected in the document from the Land Commission and Dzongkhag record is not matching.

**Response:** It was confirmed that the correct figures are as in the Notification on the Draft Delimitation Order which gives the full details. The land area mismatch to be taken up separately with the NLC.

**Geling Gup:** He said that the draft delimitation plan for the parliamentary constituencies are perfect and doesn't need any updates or changes currently. However, he said that voters in Chongeykha have to travel a long distance to the nearest Polling Station Bubu. He also stressed further on the issue of Changkha village which is located under Phuentshogling Gewog and thram is there but with *mitsi* under Geling Gewog and it had been raised to Dzongkhag Tshogdue and then to the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan for boundary change.

The Dzongdag, supporting the submission on the Changkha village issue, also pointed out that the

similar issue is there with the Lalikha village with *thram* in Phuentshogling and *mitsi* in Doongna village. Further, the accessibility of the Babana, Papaling and Chazi villages to its Gewog center is very difficult whereas it is in close proximity, besides having traditional linkages, to Dawakha of Paro Dzongkhag.

**Response:** The Election Commissioner pointed out that under the Constitution any decision on change in Gewog or Dzongkhag boundary can only be passed by Parliament and that the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan cannot decide on this as had also been reported earlier.

**Logchhina Gup:** The *Logchhina* Gup said that people from *Bjachhog* village in *Dolepchen* *Bjachhog* Chiwog has to travel all the way to *Dolepchen* ORC which is very far and difficult to travel. He asked if there is any way to provide a separate Polling Station for the village alone.

**Doongna Gup:** The Gup asked if there is any possibility of adding a new Chiwog in his Gewog since there are multiple distant villages in one of the Chiwogs where only one Tshogpa is available to look after all the villages.

**Logchhina Gup:** The Gup of *Logchhina* also inquired about the provision of getting one additional Chiwog to the present one in his Gewog considering the area and population.

One *Goshay Nyenshey* also raised the question of why only some of the general public is eligible for voting via post, while some are not.

**Bjachhog Gup:** The Gup raised the question of Campaign Fund (State Funding), which is not provided to the Local Government candidates by the State. On the other hand, a candidate funding his or her own campaign expenditures without exceeding the ceiling of Nu. 50,000 is still required to document in detail and report. He said if there is any possibility of State Funding for LG candidates. There was also an enquiry about a Polling Station called “Jumja Old Livestock Center” which is physically located in another Gewog Bongo.

A *Goshay Nyenshay* from *Bjachhog* Gewog asked if both *Tsimasham* Thromde and the Gewog will share the same Polling Station or both shall have separate Polling Stations.

**Response:** The Dzongkhag Electoral Officer said that the proposed Polling Stations would be identified in consultation with the respective Gewog Administrations. She pointed out that there is difference between the number of Polling Stations in the Local Government and Parliamentary Elections with more number of LG Polling Stations since every *Demkhong/Chiwog* have to have

at least one Polling Station. This answered most of the questions raised in the hearing regarding the Polling Stations.

The Election Commissioner said that all the deliberations and comments made during the hearing would be noted down and further put up for discussion during the meeting of the Delimitation Commission, which will be held by in December 2017 for issue of Final Delimitation Order. She said that the issues regarding the Polling Stations would be addressed by the Dzongkhag Election Office and Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration with clear indication of where and how additional Polling Stations are needed. She said that the Delimitation of Local Government *Demkhongs* is also nearing and therefore issues related to it will be discussed once the Parliamentary Elections are over after 2018. The request of additional *Chiwog* in some Gewogs would be further taken up during the LG delimitation.

With regards to State Fund for LG campaigns, since it is not reflected in the Electoral Acts, it is clear that ECB cannot add campaign fund for the Local Government elections. The requirement for funds is moderated by the fact that the LG constituencies are much smaller in terms of area as well as voter population. However, the reporting and disclosure requirements are there to ensure that money power has no undue influence in elections and keeping in mind that the expenditure is for election to a public office and not personal funds being used for personal purposes. Similarly, the Laws clearly outline the postal voter categories and those engaged directly in their duty during elections are considered for Postal Voting. This is being done so that the services are not interrupted when carrying out elections. If everybody were to cast their vote via post, this would have undesirable implications in representativeness, focus and nature of campaigns which would not be in the best public interests in the long run. Therefore, Postal Ballot facilities are provided only to those people who cannot be available in their designated Polling Station during the Poll Day because of the important nature of their work that cannot be left unattended. There are no possibilities of providing the facility to all the general voters but wherever there is genuine need such as Bhutanese working and residing overseas, not necessarily on official duty; youth awaiting employment; taxi drivers; hotel employees etc. are being facilitated by the ECB.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member thanked all the participants for their active participation and delivered the closing remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

## 6.18. Paro Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 for Paro Dzongkhag was held on 26th of November 2017 in the Wangchang Gewog Center and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongrab,
- b) Gups of 5 Gewogs and 1 Thromde Representative,
- c) Mangmi of 6 Gewogs,
- d) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde, and
- e) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office.

The Hearing was inaugurated with the **National Anthem** and *Marchang* Ceremony.

### Welcome Address

Dasho Dzongrab talked about the summary statistics and importance of boundary delimitation in elections and democracy. He also thanked all the participants for attending the two days program that will cover Delimitation Public Hearing and the training for Political Party *Godrenpas* and *Jabchorpas* and Election Dispute Settlement. He requested all the participants to get actively involved with the discussions for better planning and betterment of the Dzongkhag and the Country as a whole.

## Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member

Hon'ble Election Commissioner's delivered her opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### Proposal and Map Presentation

The Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly and National Council Constituencies was presented by the team from the Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu. The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Paro Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*. A detailed boundary description of every Gewogs in Paro Dzongkhag was also presented and deliberated. The document for boundary description was acquired from National Land Commission and it contained details of all the Gewog boundaries listing natural and man-made landmarks, monuments and prominent places within.

### Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session

**Dokar Gup:** There is a village named “*Mindi*” which is located in *Dokar* Gewog but it is reflected under *Sharpa* Gewog as per the *mitsi* and therefore people from this village are bound to vote in *Sharpa* Gewog. He also queried on the boundary description of the Isuna Rongchhu.

**Sharpa Gup:** He supported the earlier statement made by the *Dokar Gup*,

**Lamgong Gup:** He said that there are 3 households in between Loong-nyi and Lamgong Gewog which is physically located in Loong-nyi but whose *mitsi* is in Lamgong. He said that people who are ordained as monk in Sikkim and other places change their status after they come back to Bhutan and settle down but is still reflected in the record as Religious Personalities although married and a householder and therefore not able to get a VPIC. They are unable to change their status since they cannot provide the necessary documentation of having disrobed.

**Doteng Mangmi:** He said that there are no changes required with no problems in his Gewog currently. He just wanted to suggest having or allotting same number of population in all the Gewogs if possible. Because the development budget is allocated according to the population of the Gewog and therefore there are difficulties in carrying out developmental activities. He said that it would be good and wise to have uniform number of people in all the Gewogs.

**Lungnyi Gup:** Similar to the case in Dokar Gewog, there is also household in Hungrel whose

mitsi is in Shari and therefore bound to vote in *Shari* Gewog.

**Response:** Dzongkhag Election Officer said that there are not very big issues and difficulties at the moment with regards to elections and delimitation. He said that he would also look into the concerns expressed during the Electoral Roll verification that will be carried out shortly. He stressed on the importance of voting from place of *mitsi* and therefore the need to address the concerns.

The land boundary was once again presented and the definition as received from the NLC was read out for clarity. Any discrepancy would need to be taken up by the Dzongkhag and the LG delimitation exercise would also accord an opportunity for detailed discussions.

Hon'ble Election Commissioner said that similar situation is there in Chhukkha Dzongkhag where a village is located in one gewog but mitsi is in another. In Paro, a few households seem to still have this issue unresolved recalling the past experience of Soe *Yagsa* village with the same issue of having their *mitsi* in Lamgong and Wangchang Gewogs although physically under the *Tsento* Gewog. They transferred their respective civil registration to *Soe Yagsa*. Similarly, the solution for the remaining households in Paro could be transfer of *mitsi* to where the land and assets are located because the geographical area cannot be moved and change of the Gewog Boundary can only be done as act of Parliament.

Hon'ble Election Commissioner appreciated the thought on development budget allocation and pointed out the implications of making all gewogs of uniform population size.

She said that all the submissions are being noted and documented for presenting to the Delimitation Commission and as most comments are related to the LGs, these would have to be deliberated when carrying out the LG Delimitation exercise.

On the issue of those who are no longer Religious Personalities, Hon'ble Election Commissioner advised that such citizens should approach the authorities during the Draft Electoral Roll Claims and Objection Period along with all the relevant documents to attest their present status, which could include attestation from the Local Government authorities and the issue can be addressed thereof.

**Goshay Nyanshay** thanked the Election Commissioner for clearing all the doubts regarding Delimitation and Elections. He said that there is difficulty in the process when people migrate to urban areas buying land and assets but not transferring their *mitsi* and having to go to the

respective place of their *mitsi* to vote.

**Response:** Commissioner again emphasized on the legal provisions on the durational requirement and the opportunity to transfer *mitsi* so that they can vote from place of residence where their assets are located and have implications on a daily basis and one's interest would be best represented.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Wrap-up in detail of the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member is as per the given *Talking Points*.

### 6.19. Haa Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 for Haa Dzongkhag was held on 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 in the new Haa Dzongkhag Tshogdu Hall and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag,
- b) Dasho Dzongrab,
- c) Dasho Dungpa, Sombaykha Dungkhag,
- d) DT Chairperson,
- e) Gups of 5 Gewogs and 1 Thromde Representative,
- f) Mangmi of 6 Gewogs,
- g) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde, and
- h) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office.

The Hearing was inaugurated with the **National Anthem** and *Marchang* Ceremony.

#### Welcome Address

**Dzongkhag Election Officer** welcomed all and briefed the floor about the Public Hearing team who started their first hearing in Samtse Dzongkhag. He then talked about the Draft Delimitation Plan that was necessary to be carried out after its completion of 10 years since 2007.

**Dasho Dzongdag** thanked all the participants who have turned up for the meeting besides their busy schedule in the preparation and arrangement of their Dzongkhag's upcoming National Day Celebration on the 17th of December 2017. He also congratulated the Election Commission of Bhutan for successfully conducting two Parliamentary and Local Government elections. He highlighted the public hearing for the Draft Delimitation Plan which is a very important process.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The **Hon'ble Election Commissioner** delivered her opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly and National Council Constituencies was presented by the team from the Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu. The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Haa Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*. A detailed boundary description of every Gewogs in Haa Dzongkhag was also presented and deliberated. The document for boundary description from National Land Commission with details of all the Gewog boundaries listing natural and man-made landmarks, monuments and prominent places within was presented.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

Before any comments or questions, Dasho Dzongdag informed the floor about the importance of the Public Hearing and how they have arranged it despite their busy schedule. He encouraged all individuals present in the meeting to ask questions and make comments regarding the Draft Delimitation Plan when provided the opportunity.

**Eusu Gup:** He thanked for giving him such an opportunity to attend this important meeting. He said that everything is clear and fine with the demarcation and delimitation in the Dzongkhag since there are no changes found necessary at the moment. However, he said that it is really difficult to recognize and identify the demarcation of some *Chiwogs* because they are not same as Chiwog boundaries that were there before 2011. He also said that there is uneven merging of villages in a Chiwog depending on the population.

**Kar-Tshog Mangmi:** He said that it is not very clear whether *Thoka* village is under *Ingo Chiwog* or the Dzongkhag Thromde.

**Gakiling Gup:** He said that there are only four Polling Stations in his Gewog where it used to have five previously and it will not be enough as most of the villages are located distantly.

**Bji Gup:** He asked if there is any provision for increasing the number of Chiwogs in his Gewog since the budget is allocated as per the number of Chiwogs in a Gewog and not the villages. He also said that some village names are not properly reflected in his Gewog as done traditionally, referring to **Tsoenka\_Talung** whereas they would always say *Talung\_Tsoenka*.

**Samar Gup:** He asked on the Polling Station for *Sektena* and *Fentena* villages.

**Sangbay Gup:** He said that most of the people from one of the village called *Bebji* in his Gewog have not received their VPICs since the last LG election.

**Response:** Hon'ble Commissioner said that most of the questions and statements are about Polling Stations where she explained the difference between the LG and Parliamentary Polling Stations and the reasons for the differences in the number. She said that there is a minimum of one Polling Station in every Chiwog for the Local Government since it is not appropriate of having a Polling Station of a *Demkhong* in another *Demkhong*. Polling Stations in the Parliamentary elections are less because many are merged within a *Demkhong* keeping in mind of the distance, budget and the voter population.

The Hon'ble EC also said, although the Public Hearing is about the draft delimitation plan for the Parliamentary constituencies, the questions and comments regarding the LG are also noted for reference in the LG delimitation process to be done in 2021. She said that the task of updating all the names may start after the completion of 2018 elections through the Local Government process as preparation towards the next LG delimitation exercise.

With regard to the VPIC for *Bebji*, it was pointed out that a new VPIC is not required for every election and the 2011 VPICs are valid unless in case of change in Polling Station or *mitsi*. Currently, the updating and verification of Electoral Rolls are being carried out in all Dzongkhags, Gewogs and Chiwogs. The *midhey gothrips* must advice all voters to take the opportunity to avail the VPIC during this period and the Dzongkhag election authorities also would be facilitating to the maximum possible extent.

With regard to the question on the *Thromde* boundary, the Hon'ble Commissioner clarified that the boundary would be as in the last Local Government Elections wherein the areas demarcated out of the gewog and added to the Dzongkhag *Thromde* in 2015 is reverted back to the original gewogs.

## **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Wrap-up in detail of the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member is as per the given *Talking Points*.

## 6.20. Thimphu Dzongkhag



The Public Hearing on the Draft Delimitation Plan of the National Assembly Constituencies, 2017 of Thimphu Dongkhag was held on 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2017 in the **Thimphu Dzongkhag** Tshogdu hHall and was attended by:

- a) Dasho Dzongdag,
- b) Dasho Dzongrab,
- c) Dasho Dungpa,
- d) Gups of 8 Gewogs and 7 Thromde Representative,
- e) Mangmi of 8 Gewogs,
- f) 3 Goshay Nyanshey from each Gewogs and Thromde,
- g) Officials from Dzongkhag Election Office.

The Hearing was inaugurated with the **National Anthem** and *Marchang* Ceremony.

### Welcome Address

Dasho Dzongdag of Thimphu welcomed Hon'ble Commissioner, Secretary and Officials from the Election Commission of Bhutan and all the participants for attending the public hearing on the

Draft Delimitation Plan issued by the Delimitation Commission of Bhutan. He also thanked the representatives from Thimphu Thromde who has also come to attend the meeting.

### **Statement by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Hon'ble Election Commissioner delivered her opening remarks as per the given *Talking Points*.

### **Proposal and Map Presentation**

The Draft Delimitation Plan for the National Assembly and National Council Constituencies was presented by the team from the Election Commission of Bhutan, Thimphu. The team also presented a detailed report on all the Polling Stations that are identified in Thimphu Dzongkhag since both the Local Government and Parliament has different set and number of Polling Stations according to the allocated *Demkhongs*. A detailed boundary description of every Gewogs in Thimphu Dzongkhag was also presented and deliberated. The document for boundary description provided by the National Land Commission with details of all the Gewog boundaries listing natural and man-made landmarks, monuments and prominent places within was also presented.

### **Public Feedback, Question & Answer Session**

**Dzongkhag Electoral Officer** pointed out that there is a lot of difficulty in asking people within the *Thromde* to attend a meeting or a gathering because most of them being very busy involved in their own business. He then talked about the Dzongkhag's strategy for improving voter turnout in the upcoming Parliamentary Elections wherein they have targeted and are trying to highlight the sense of duty of every voter. He said that they don't face difficulty in asking voters in the Gewogs to attend sessions for voter education but with the voters in Thimphu Thromde which has the maximum Registered Voters comparing to other gewogs it is very difficult. He informed that they will start their voter education from the month of December and again encouraged everyone present to participate in the upcoming elections.

**Chang Olakha Tshogpa** highlighted the detailed boundary under her *Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhong*, where the area is found to be very big and the voter population is as high as 1,800. Therefore, she suggested that it can be divided into two *Tshogpa Demkhong* as *Changzamtog* and *Changjiji*. She also said that there was a lot of people who were confused when the Polling Station in Changbangdu was changed and therefore affecting poor voter turnout which was as low as 600 out of 1,800 in the last election held.

**Lingzhi Gup** proposed the provision of a separate Parliamentary *Demkhong* for the three Gewogs of *Lingzhi* Dungkhag as these high-altitude Gewogs have different livelihoods and interests and face different challenges and opportunities. The other *Gewogs* and *Thromde* could form other two constituencies. He also said that the youth and eligible people from these three *Gewogs* are not contesting in elections since they feel that they have no chance of getting elected and get the opportunity to serve in Parliament as *Thimphu Thromde* and the other *Gewogs* have much larger voter population.

**Naro Gup:** He started by firstly supporting the proposal made by the *Lingzhi* Gup. He also reported that the winter and summer residence in *Naro* gewog makes it difficult for the people to migrate or turn up for voting since the Polling Stations identified are not as per their migration season. He also talked about the Civil Servants who are paid by the Government when working for a particular election but do not make proper payments for the services from the community.

**Response:** Hon'ble Commissioner expressed appreciation for the questions starting with the lady representative of *Thimphu Thromde* who has turned up for the Public Hearing. She said that the present hearing is for Parliament. However, the Local Government Delimitation is due by 2021 and thus, such issues of on the LG constituencies would be taken up then while these would also be reported back to the Delimitation Commission for noting.

She acknowledged voters getting confused with the change in *Changbangdu* Polling Station pointing out that change in the the Polling Station became inevitable when the school was dismantled. During the last LG elections, voters with Polling Station at *Changbangdu* were re-directed to the Loselling Polling Station even on Poll Day itself, which may have inconvenienced a few even though it was unavoidable.

She said that the question raised by *Lingzhi* and *Naro* Gups is very relevant and important to be discussed. She gave a background on the various legal provisions and criteria for delimitation and the underlying reasoning including the concerns for ensuring uniform weightage of each vote; majority rule along with protection of minority interests and rights; role of political parties in aggregating diverse interests into a common platform etc. She also shared briefly on the international ratio of representation and where our country is considered one of the best ratios with 1:10,000 while there are countries with 1 representative for over 100,000 voters.

On the need for seasonally appropriate Polling Stations made by *Naro* Gup, this is to be duly noted and implemented by the Dzongkhag Election Office after detailed discussion as the general period

for the upcoming elections have already been notified.

**DT Thrizin** pointed out that the number of interested NA/NC candidates are increasing every now and then which may be because of the State funding being provided for the election campaign. He said that the LG, similarly, should be provided with some kind of State funding because all the candidates are contesting with their heart and soul. He also said that the LG contestants has to do their own expenditure but still accountable with report. He asked if there is any possibility to have State funding for LG election campaign. He also expressed that being apolitical, NC is not so different with the Local Government except with respect to some few issues. He also felt that the NA elections causes social disharmony at the local and community level with confusion and chaos created by the various activities to gain support for the different political parties. He also asked if there is any possibility of creating a solution of making the availability of voting from one's place of residence without having to go to place of *mitsi*.

**Olakha Goshey Nyenshey:** The Tshogpa mentioned about the difficulty and confusion in getting services like getting even a medicine and agricultural products has to be routed through the Gewog even when someone falls under the *Thromde*, indicating confusion between urban and rural services.

**Gey-Nyen Gup** highlighted the difficulties faced during any elections, be it LG or NA/NC, wherein empty Lhakhangs which is not used for any religious purposes anymore, parks and beautiful places and Governmental Offices which is no more used are some places which he finds is worthy to be used for such purposes rather than open places. He also talked about the possibility of constructing permanent Polling Stations.

He said that around 10 to 11 households are being mixed between Chigoen and Bama *Chiwogs* where there are around 77 households' altogether. He asked if these two *Chiwogs* can be merged hereafter.

Though Thimphu Dzongkhag has only 13,000 registered voters; he said that the residents are more than 100,000 having to go all the way to where their *mitsi* is registered for any election though having assets and land in Thimphu. They are availing all the services from the *Thromde* here but cannot exercise their voting right here. He said that if ECB can create awareness and make people transfer their *mitsi* during the voter education process.

**Response: Hon'ble Commissioner** thanked the participants for asking so many important questions regarding not only about delimitation but generally related to elections.

With regards to State Fund for LG campaigns, since it is not reflected in the Electoral Acts, it is clear that ECB cannot add campaign fund for the Local Government elections. The requirement for funds is moderated by the fact that the LG constituencies are much smaller in terms of area as well as voter population. However, the reporting and disclosure requirements are there to ensure that money power has no undue influence in elections and keeping in mind that the expenditure is for election to a public office and not personal funds being used for personal purposes.

As regards, voting from the place of residence, the options are (1) to ensure mitsi is in the place of residence where one has one's assets and interests for which there are clear official procedures to make mitsi transfer possible although it cannot be made compulsory as the person has the right to choose; and (2) postal ballot for which the Laws clearly outline the postal voter categories and new ways are being explored to make the postal ballot system efficient and effective. However, if all voters were to cast their vote via post, this would have undesirable implications in representativeness, focus and nature of campaigns which would not be in the best public interests in the long run. Therefore, Postal Ballot facilities are provided only to those people who cannot be available in their designated Polling Station during the Poll Day because of the important nature of their work that cannot be left unattended. There are no possibilities of providing the facility to all the general voters but wherever there is genuine need such as Bhutanese working and residing overseas, not necessarily on official duty; youth awaiting employment; taxi drivers; hotel employees etc. are being facilitated by the ECB.

Certain amount of disturbance in the community is inevitable during the election period as a nature of competition but the most important is that the electoral laws, rules and code of conduct are upheld, with measures put in place to ensure compliance as well as redressal of grievances, and the electoral outcomes are accepted, respected and found above reproach. In this all citizens and leaders each have to play a constructive and positive role.

Lhakhangs and private places are not used as Polling Stations or even for conduct of campaigns to ensure there is no conflict of interest or any occasion where any participant feel hesitant or ill at ease owing to differences of religious beliefs or any such factors. While it is important to ensure that the venue and infrastructure for various activities are conducive. it is also equally important to look at the convenience to the voter in terms of distance. Therefore, while the suggestion is appreciated, the organisers in the Dzongkhags would need to ensure that the venues are comfortable as well as convenient to the voters.

Similarly, the issue raised on the provision of development services has to be raised and addressed

by the Thromde/Gewog/Dzongkhag Administrations.

The proposal for permanent Polling Stations is an important issue and raises the need for concerted efforts to use our resources efficiently. In this regard, the ECB would like to reiterate our request to all concerned, in particular the *midhey gothrips* and the Gewog and Dzongkhag administrations that any public structure proposed in the Gewogs and Chiwog could be reviewed in terms of using it as a Polling Station during elections with the design to incorporate two door (entry and exit) which would save the cost of building permanent or temporary Polling Stations.

On the merger of the Chigoen and Bama Chiwogs, it will be noted but detailed discussion and decision would have to be taken during the Local Government Delimitation exercise.

**Maedwang Gup** questioned why documentation procedures are required for *mitsi* transfer when everything is reflected online in the civil registry. Because of this, there are hardship a person has to follow to get his or her census transferred.

**Response: Head of DER&BD** clarified that under the laws, a minimum period of one year is needed after the transfer of mitsi to be registered in the Electoral Roll, and therefore would not be enrolled immediately after the transfer. The documentation process is being carried out as per the regulations. The online process has not been in use for long and it would be premature to do away with the documentation process immediately.

### **Concluding Address by Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member**

The Wrap-up in detail of the Hon'ble Delimitation Commission Member is as per the given *Talking Points*.

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