



ECB/NOTIF-01/2021/4149

Dated: 27th February 2021

NOTIFICATION

Bye-Elections for the Post of *Gewog and Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa* in Local Government 2021

The Election Commission of Bhutan, in pursuance of Sections 577 and 579 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, hereby calls Bye-Elections for the post of Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa in Jagarthang Chiwog of Lamgong Gewog under Paro Dzongkhag where vacancy occurred due to the demise of incumbent; and Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa in Samdrup Jongkhar Toed and Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa in Khandophung_Minjiwoong Chiwog of Serthig Gewog under Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag and Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa of Thongsa_Tobchhenthang Chiwog of Tading Gewog under Samtse Dzongkhag where vacancies resulted upon the resignation of incumbents.

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

(A) Election Schedule

1. The Schedule shall be as follows:

Date and Time	Remarks
27 th February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Issuance of Notification- Signature process by Eligible candidates for the post of Tshogpas
5 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Last Date for filing of Nominations of Candidates
6 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scrutiny of Nomination of Candidates & Commencement of the Election Campaign- Last date of registration for Postal ballot
8 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Last date for withdrawal of Candidature- Returning Officer to commence sending Postal Ballot to registered Postal Voters
17 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- End of Election Campaign

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18 th March 2021	- Last day for receiving Postal Ballots
19 th March 2021	Poll Day and Counting of Results
20 th March 2021	- Declaration of Results & Submission of the Results to the Druk Gyalpo - Start of Election Petition Period
2 nd April 2021	- End of Election Petition Period
3 rd April 2021	- Issuance of the Certificate of Election

(B) Selection Procedure of the Candidates / Signature Process by the Candidates

2. A registered voter who fulfills the criteria laid down in Section 178 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 is eligible to be nominated as a Candidate for Election.
3. A registered voter aspiring to contest *Gewog Tshogde Tshogpa* Election shall produce signatures of **at least 5 percent of the Registered Voters** from the Chiwog supporting his/her nomination provided no voter has supported more than one Nominee.
4. For the purpose of ascertaining the age eligibility of candidate which as per the Electoral Laws must be minimum of **25 years** and maximum of **65 years**, a candidate for this Election must be born on or before **5th March 1996** but not before **5th March 1956**

(C) Electoral Roll

5. The qualifying date for the Electoral Roll shall be the of **1st January 2021**. All those who are not younger than **eighteen years of age as on 1st January 2021 or born on or before 1st January 2003** shall be deemed to meet the minimum age requirement to be a voter.
6. The Final Electoral Roll for the Election shall be published and provided to the Returning Officer on **28th February 2021** and to the Candidates on **5th March 2021**.

(D) Election Campaign

7. A Candidate shall have up to **12 days for campaigning**, which must stop 48 hours before the start of Poll.

8. No Minister, Member of Parliament, official or member of a political party or elected person shall campaign directly or indirectly for any Candidate. No trips or official tours shall be undertaken by a Minister or Member of Parliament to a *Demkhong* during the Election Period except to cast their votes on the Poll Day should they wish not to use the Postal Ballot facility extended to them and their spouse under Section 331 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.
9. The other elected Local Government officials i.e. *Thrompon, Gup, Mangmi, Tshogpa* and Dzongkhag *Thromde Ngotshab* shall not campaign directly or indirectly for any Candidate and shall only participate as a voter on the Poll day.

(E) Election Campaign Finance & Election Campaign Returns

10. A Candidate cannot exceed his/her election campaign expense beyond the ceiling fixed in Section 59 of the Public Election Fund Act, 2008 i.e. total of Nu. 50,000/-.
11. A Candidate must submit accounts of campaign to the Returning Officer for his/her scrutiny and file Election Returns within Thirty Days of declaration of the Election Result as per the prescribed procedures, failing which he/she will be barred from participation in future elections.

(F) Postal Ballots

12. The Postal Voter List shall be generated in addition to the list used for the *Third Parliamentary Elections 2018*.

(G) Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC)

13. Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) issued by the Election Commission shall be the valid document for identification of voters at the Polling Stations.

(H) Electronic Voting Machines

14. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for polling in all the Polling Stations.
15. Quality indelible ink shall be used during the elections and care must be taken in applying the indelible ink on the **Right Index Finger**.

(I) Election Officials

16. The Dzongdag of concerned Dzongkhag shall be appointed as the Chief Election Coordinator, concerned Dzongrab/Dungpa/Executive Secretary of Thromde as the Deputy Chief Election Coordinator and the concerned Gewog Administrative Officer as Gewog Election Coordinator.
17. The Election Commission shall appoint the Dzongkhag Electoral Officer of concerned Dzongkhag as the Returning Officer for conduct of the Bye-Election.
18. The appointment of Presiding Officers and Polling Officers for the Elections shall be as per the Appointment Orders issued by the Returning Officer two days before the day of Poll, unless otherwise authorized.
19. The Presiding Officers shall serve as the Counting Supervisors and a Polling Officer as the Counting Assistant, authorized as such in the Appointment Orders issued by the concerned Returning Officer.
20. The Election Officials shall not be posted to the Chiwog where his/her Gung or Mitsi is registered.

(J) Election Code of Conduct

21. The Election Code of Conduct shall continue to be in force until the completion of the Election Period i.e. from **27th February 2021 to 19th March 2021**.
22. All Election Officers, Candidates and Voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

(K) Poll Day & Polling Hours

23. The Poll Day, **19th March 2021**, shall be declared a Public Holiday in concerned Demkhong. All employers are required by law to grant required number of days as election leave for any registered voter from the Demkhong wishing to go to vote in person in polling station. The polling hours shall be from **9 am to 5 pm**.

(L) No Candidate or Only One Candidate

24. If there is no Candidate after the last date for filing of nomination of Candidates notified herein, the election will be postponed till further notice.

25. If there is only one Candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of Candidates announced herein, an uncontested election, will be conducted in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

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

Issued on the 15th Day of the First Month of the Iron Female Ox Year corresponding to 27th February 2021.

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan