

# CHARTER

## DRUK THUENDREL TSHOGPA



**Druk Thuendrel Tshogpa**

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## **PREAMBLE**

*Inspired by our visionary monarchs in institutionalizing a vibrant Democratic Constitutional Monarchy;*

*Bearing true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;*

*Committed in body, speech and mind towards embodiment of the four boundless compassion of the Principles of the State Policy;*

*Having demonstrated that prudent management of the four elements of the environment and nature lies at the cornerstone of our ecosystem and a Constitutional pledge;*

*Believing at all times that a value-driven society lies at the heart of our national strength in exercising the sovereign power of the people of the sovereign Kingdom;*

*Realizing, therefore, the need for a value-based party for the advancement of progressive democracy and the social, cultural, political and economic growth of Bhutan;*

*Reimagining a political party based on trust emanating from the belief of putting the Nation First, where members are naturally inclined to making personal sacrifices;*

*Committed towards ensuring national cohesion and stability through a broad-based membership and support in all Dzongkhags;*

*Reaffirming our collective wisdom to relentlessly pursue peace, progress and prosperity for the people, for all times to come;*

*Thereby, solemnly upholding the sovereignty, national security, unity and integrity of the Kingdom;*

We, the members of DRUK THUENDREL TSHOGPA, shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and give unto ourselves this Charter and pledge to abide by its provisions laid hereunder:

## ARTICLE 1

### 1. Name

The name of the Party shall be “**Druk Thuendrel Tshogpa**” and hereinafter referred to as “**DTT**” or “**Thuendrel Tshogpa**”.

## ARTICLE 2

### 2. Election Symbol

- 2.1. The Election Symbol of the Party is the beaming Sun cast against clear Blue Sky.
- 2.2. The Sun represents the *Tsa-Wa-Sum*, the perennial source of Hope, Unity, Peace, Prosperity and Happiness for the Bhutanese People.
- 2.3. The rays of the sun represent Thuendrel Tshogpa members in the service of the *Tsa-Wa-Sum* and Thuendrel Tshogpa’s broad-based inclusive policies, plans and programmes.
- 2.4. The Blue Sky represents Thuendrel Tshogpa’s clarity of loyalty and dedication to the *Tsa-Wa-Sum*.

## ARTICLE 3

### 3. Political Philosophy

Thuendrel Tshogpa is an ardent advocate of putting the Nation First, by making personal and collective sacrifices in the pursuit of a progressive modern economy anchored in the timeless tradition of the Gross National Happiness (GNH) society under the visionary guidance of our benevolent Monarchs.

## ARTICLE 4

### 4. Vision

A value-based Party committed towards the pursuit of Gross National Happiness.

## ARTICLE 5

### 5. Mission

To manifest Thuendrel Tshogpa's service to the *Tsa-Wa-Sum* in *Lue-Nga-Yi* sum (body, speech and mind) with relentless focus on efficient public service delivery through tenacity, discipline and *Ngar*.

## ARTICLE 6

### 6. Values

In pursuing its vision and mission, Thuendrel Tshogpa will consistently uphold the **THUENDREL** values derived from the timeless concept of *Tha Damtshi - Lay Jumdrey*:

- 6.1. Trust and integrity that binds every Bhutanese.
- 6.2. Humility in making personal and collective sacrifices in putting the Nation First.
- 6.3. Unity in our purpose and shared values.
- 6.4. Equity in opportunities as well as outcomes.
- 6.5. Nurture a vibrant democracy.
- 6.6. Dedication in our services to the public.
- 6.7. Resilient and adaptive in the face of challenges and opportunities.
- 6.8. Empathy and compassion in democratic governance.
- 6.9. Loyalty to The Golden Throne.

## ARTICLE 7

### 7. Objectives

To achieve the vision and mission, the following are Thuendrel Tshogpa's objectives:

#### 7.1. Good Governance

- 7.1.1. Safeguard the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- 7.1.2. Promote vibrant democracy with unity, harmony, solidarity, equity and social justice;
- 7.1.3. Combat corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity;
- 7.1.4. Enhance coordination, collaboration and cooperation among all stakeholders of Bhutanese society;
- 7.1.5. Support free, independent, pluralistic and professional media;

- 7.1.6. Promote friendly relations with the international community based on peace, cooperation and the sovereign equality of states, while continuing to strengthen close relationship and economic cooperation with India; and
- 7.1.7. Respect and honor international law and treaty obligations, and promote settlement of international disputes through peaceful means to promote international peace and security.

## **7.2. Inclusive and Harmonious Society**

- 7.2.1. Promote greater participation of women and youth in all spheres of society through responsive policies and programmes;
- 7.2.2. Create and provide gainful employment for youth and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs);
- 7.2.3. Promote enabling conditions for people, including for PwDs, to pursue happiness by addressing varied social issues.
- 7.2.4. Support socio-equitable development by addressing the regional, income, and gender gaps;
- 7.2.5. Promote unity and a harmonious political environment through dialogue, consultation and cooperation with all registered political parties;
- 7.2.6. Promote meaningful public engagement/consultations in the formulation of policies and legislations.
- 7.2.7. Improve the quality of infrastructure and services in the social sector such as health and education.

## **7.3. Economic Prosperity**

Thuendrel Tshogpa shall foster economic development by:

- 7.3.1. Reviving and strengthening socio-economic development by promoting private sector initiatives in industrial development, public private partnerships, entrepreneurship development, foreign direct investments, innovation, rural enterprises, research & development and incentive mechanisms;
- 7.3.2. Promoting fair and equitable economic prosperity through policies, including a progressive taxation system;
- 7.3.3. Enhancing food, water and energy security by deploying appropriate technologies, innovative financing mechanisms and sustainable use of natural resources;
- 7.3.4. Promoting investments in existing and new public infrastructure to accelerate balanced and sustainable socio-economic development;
- 7.3.5. Promoting sustainable eco-tourism by leveraging Brand Bhutan; and

- 7.3.6. Exercising fiscal prudence and maintaining government debt to manageable limits.

#### **7.4. Environment Sustainability**

- 7.4.1. Promote sustainable management of natural resources to combat land degradation, increase land productivity, conserve biodiversity and ensure continued ecosystem services;
- 7.4.2. Maintain and enhance Bhutan's exemplary leadership in global environmental conservation through better policies, management practices and effective communication strategies;
- 7.4.3. Promote low carbon emission technologies and mitigate GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions, while also mainstreaming climate adaptation into development planning for resilient ecological and socio-economic systems; and
- 7.4.4. Promote collective management of natural resources to ensure socio-economic well-being.

#### **7.5. Cultural Diversity**

- 7.5.1. Support and promote national identity, tradition and culture through preservation and promotion of the country's rich cultural, religious, and spiritual heritage;
- 7.5.2. Formulate policies and programmes to support and promote unique traditional arts, creativity and artistic skills; and
- 7.5.3. Nurture indigenous cultures, languages, value systems and way of life, which forms the core of Bhutanese society.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **8. Party Membership**

#### **8.1. Registration of Membership**

- 8.1.1. Membership shall be open to all registered voters who support the principles and objectives of Thuendrel Tshogpa. A person is eligible to be a member of the Party if the person is:
  - 8.1.1.1. A citizen of Bhutan,
  - 8.1.1.2. Over 18 years of age and
  - 8.1.1.3. Not a member of the Royal Family, a truelku, lam, any influential religious personality or ordained members of any religion or



religious institutions excluding the laity, or a member of the armed-forces or civil service, and has not been disqualified to be a voter under any provision of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

- 8.1.2. A Thuendrel Tshogpa member shall not be a member of any other Political Party at any given time.
- 8.1.3. Registration of new members shall be carried out only in Thuendrel Tshogpa offices and at the free will of the interested voters using the Member Application Form and pay applicable Member Registration and Annual Membership Fees.
- 8.1.4. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall not resort to door-to-door registration of members.
- 8.1.5. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall not register new members during the National Assembly election period except as provided under Section 209(c) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.
- 8.1.6. Registration fee shall be Nu. 20/- (Ngultrum Twenty) and annual membership fee shall be Nu. 50/- (Ngultrum Fifty) for each member. However, the Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee shall, from time to time, revise the registration and membership fees not exceeding the maximum ceiling as prescribed by the relevant regulations.
- 8.1.7. Annual membership fees, except in the case of a new member, shall be payable in the first month of each year.
- 8.1.8. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall update its membership and submit it to the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) on a quarterly basis.
- 8.1.9. Upon acceptance of membership, the person's name shall be entered in the Party's official record with a copy submitted to the Public Election Fund Division.
- 8.1.10. The membership shall be renewed annually by remitting the annual membership fees.

## **8.2. Resignation, Withdrawal or Removal from Membership**

- 8.2.1. A person ceases to be a member of Thuendrel Tshogpa if the person:
  - 8.2.1.1. Dies;
  - 8.2.1.2. Resigns from memberships;
  - 8.2.1.3. Is expelled from the Party membership; and
  - 8.2.1.4. Withdraws his/her membership from the Party by officially notifying the Party office in writing.
- 8.2.2. Membership of the Party shall be refused, revoked, or suspended by the Party on any of the following grounds:

- 8.2.2.1. Actively supporting a person standing against the Party's candidate;
  - 8.2.2.2. Assuming membership of another Political Party;
  - 8.2.2.3. Contravening and breaching with the Party Policy, Regulations or Ideology or Objectives as set out in the Party's Charter;
  - 8.2.2.4. Failing to pay applicable membership fees; or
  - 8.2.2.5. Failing to comply with prevailing laws and regulations relating to political parties and elections, which shall result in automatic and immediate forfeiture of their membership with the Party.
- 8.2.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall immediately update any change in its membership, be it for reasons of death, removal, resignation or withdrawal, with details posted on its website and copies submitted to the ECB.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **9. Rights and Responsibilities of Members**

- 9.1. A member shall owe his/her unflinching loyalty to the *Tsa-Wa-Sum* and uphold the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan at all times. A member shall:
- 9.1.1. Commit himself/herself to the cause of an independent, secular and Democratic Constitutional Monarchy;
  - 9.1.2. Abide and conform to the Party's Charter, programmes, principles and policies;
  - 9.1.3. Adhere to the Party Charter and other rules framed thereunder;
  - 9.1.4. Work to always promote the Party principles; and
  - 9.1.5. Has the right to participate in Party meetings and conventions by expressing views and suggesting actions.
- 9.2. Any right, privilege or obligation which a person has by virtue of membership to the Party is non-transferrable.

## **ARTICLE 10**

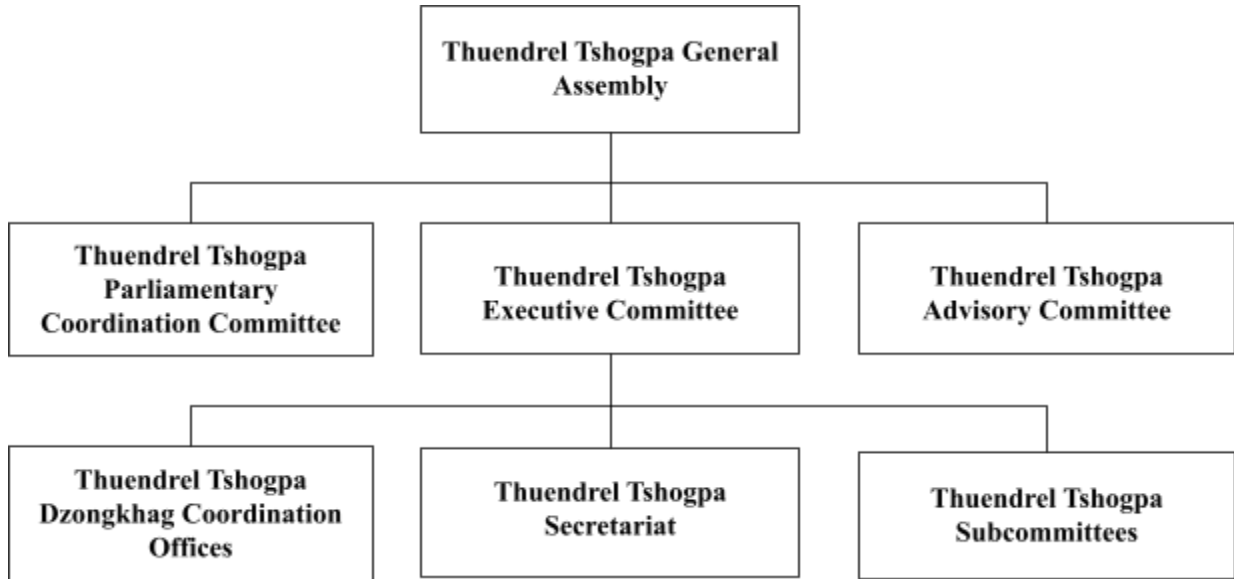
### **10. Structure of the Party**

#### **10.1. Organogram and Structure**

The structure of Thuendrel Tshogpa is based on the principle that each part serves the community and constituents at all levels, informs and educates in political and social matters, provides a forum for open and transparent debates on local, national and global issues and facilitates access for the public to elected representatives.

The structure of Thuendrel Tshogpa shall comprise the following:

- 10.1.1. Thuendrel Tshogpa General Assembly
- 10.1.2. Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee
- 10.1.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa Parliamentary Coordination Committee
- 10.1.4. Thuendrel Tshogpa Advisory Committee
- 10.1.5. Thuendrel Tshogpa Secretariat
- 10.1.6. Dzongkhag Coordination Offices
- 10.1.7. Subcommittees



*Figure 1. Organogram of Thuendrel Tshogpa*

**10.2. Party Elections**

In accordance with Article IV of the Political Parties Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2015, Thuendrel Tshogpa shall:

- 10.2.1. conduct elections at regular intervals to elect the Party leader and other office bearers.
- 10.2.2. submit to the ECB the results of intra-party elections, with details of the total number of votes cast and the number of votes secured by each contestant for all of its party office bearers, and a copy of the Party’s notifications declaring the results of the election.
- 10.2.3. if elected, elect their Leader in Parliament through intra-party election.

**10.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa General Assembly (TTGA)**

- 10.3.1. Composition:
  - 10.3.1.1. Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee Members

- 10.3.1.2. Members of the Parliament, if elected
  - 10.3.1.3. Candidates
  - 10.3.1.4. Coordinators (National, Dzongkhag, Demkhong, Thromde and Gewog)
  - 10.3.1.5. All registered members.
- 10.3.2. Powers and Functions:
- 10.3.2.1. To provide stewardship and direction for the Party.
  - 10.3.2.2. To elect the Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee.
  - 10.3.2.3. To consider the Party's Annual Accounts and Annual Reports.
  - 10.3.2.4. To adopt the Party Charter and approve its subsequent amendments.
  - 10.3.2.5. To adopt and approve rules either directly or through delegation to the Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee.
  - 10.3.2.6. To delegate such authorities to the committees as per the provisions of the Charter.
- 10.3.3. Rules and Procedure:
- 10.3.3.1. The TTGA shall convene once a year or as decided by the Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee.
  - 10.3.3.2. At least one month's advance notice shall be provided for regular meetings.
  - 10.3.3.3. At least 10 days notice shall be provided for emergency conventions.
  - 10.3.3.4. The Party President shall chair all sessions.
  - 10.3.3.5. The Vice President shall chair the sessions in the absence of the President.
  - 10.3.3.6. Meetings for the TTGA and all subsequent Committees may be conducted through digital technology and virtual platforms but ensuring fair participation of the members present.
  - 10.3.3.7. The TTGA resolution shall be agreed to in writing by all voting members of the Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee and has the same effect as a resolution passed by the TTGA. Writing includes emails and other electronic means of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.

#### **10.4. Thuendrel Tshogpa National Committees**

There shall be three national level committees established within the Charter for the purpose of instituting checks and balances and also to ensure free, fair and transparent

democratic processes within the Party. The following national level committees shall report to the TTGA:

- 10.4.1. Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee
- 10.4.2. Thuendrel Tshogpa Parliamentary Coordination Committee
- 10.4.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa Advisory Committee

**10.4.1. Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee (TTEC)**

10.4.1.1. The Thuendrel Tshogpa Executive Committee shall be the apex executive body, headed by the Party President and shall be composed of the following members:

- 10.4.1.1.1. President,
- 10.4.1.1.2. Vice President(s),
- 10.4.1.1.3. Leader of the Party at the National Assembly, if elected,
- 10.4.1.1.4. National Coordinator
- 10.4.1.1.5. Twenty Candidates, and
- 10.4.1.1.6. Twenty Dzongkhag Coordinators.

10.4.1.2. Rules of Procedure

- 10.4.1.2.1. Prior to registration with the ECB, the first formal convention (publicly notified) of Thuendrel Tshogpa shall elect the TTEC.
- 10.4.1.2.2. After registration, the TTEC shall be endorsed by the TTGA.
- 10.4.1.2.3. Meeting notifications shall be at least 10 days for regular meetings and 2 days for emergency meetings.
- 10.4.1.2.4. TTEC shall convene every three months.
- 10.4.1.2.5. The quorum requirement shall be two-third.
- 10.4.1.2.6. The General Secretary of the Party shall be the member secretary.
- 10.4.1.2.7. Emergency meetings could be convened by the President.
- 10.4.1.2.8. All decisions shall be taken by a simple majority.

10.4.1.3. Functions and Powers

The functions and powers of the TTEC are as follows:

- 10.4.1.3.1. Policy & Strategy
  - 10.4.1.3.1.1. Formulate and adopt policies and strategies for the Party to achieve its vision and mission including its Manifesto.
  - 10.4.1.3.1.2. Formulate and adopt bye laws, rules and regulations in line with the Party Charter.
  - 10.4.1.3.1.3. Recommend formation of bodies, committees and other structures that promote Party functions.

- 10.4.1.3.1.4. Review and propose changes and amendments to the Charter and Manifesto when necessary.
- 10.4.1.3.1.5. Ensure that annual work plans and strategies conform to the framework of Party Charter and the Party Code of Conduct.
- 10.4.1.3.2. Operations and Executive
  - 10.4.1.3.2.1. Establish and recruit all offices, bodies, committees, sub-committees and structures necessary for the operation of the Party including its recruitment of office bearers and staff.
  - 10.4.1.3.2.2. Prepare, approve and submit reports to the TTGA.
  - 10.4.1.3.2.3. Review, scrutinize and approve the functions and deliverables of all the bodies and committees, including the office bearers of the Party.
  - 10.4.1.3.2.4. Assign government portfolios to the members elected to the National Assembly;
  - 10.4.1.3.2.5. Assess and monitor performances of the bodies, committees, office bearers and elected members of the National Assembly through a comprehensive Thuendrel Tshogpa Performance Management System (TTPMS).
- 10.4.1.3.3. Legal and Financial
  - 10.4.1.3.3.1. Be the entity that can sue and be sued.
  - 10.4.1.3.3.2. Enter into legal contracts on behalf of the Party.
  - 10.4.1.3.3.3. Be the appellate body for all dispute resolutions within the purview of the Party, except appeals against the misconduct of the TTEC.
  - 10.4.1.3.3.4. Approve budgets and acceptance of the Statement of Accounts;
  - 10.4.1.3.3.5. To elect the President and Vice President(s) for the Party.
  - 10.4.1.3.3.6. Every power not specifically vested in any other organ shall be exercisable by the TTEC.
  - 10.4.1.3.3.7. All other organs and units shall perform such functions and carry out such duties in their respective areas as determined by the TTEC.

#### **10.4.2. Dzongkhag Coordination Offices**

- 10.4.2.1. The Party shall establish Party Offices in all 20 Dzongkhags with budgetary and other resource support from the Head Office.
- 10.4.2.2. The Dzongkhag Coordination Office shall consist of members of the Dzongkhag Coordination Committee, as follows:
  - 10.4.2.2.1. Dzongkhag Coordinator,
  - 10.4.2.2.2. Demkhong Coordinators,
  - 10.4.2.2.3. Thromde Coordinator,
  - 10.4.2.2.4. Gewog Coordinators, and
  - 10.4.2.2.5. Demkhong Candidates.
- 10.4.2.3. The Dzongkhag Coordination Office shall be chaired by the Dzongkhag Coordinator and shall have the following functions:
  - 10.4.2.3.1. Conduct meetings twice a year.
  - 10.4.2.3.2. Maintain minutes of meetings, all accounts and records.
  - 10.4.2.3.3. Spearhead registration of members in their respective Dzongkhags.

#### **10.4.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa Parliamentary Coordination Committee (TTPCC)**

To coordinate and bring about better cooperation between the organizational party members and elected legislative members of the Party, there shall be a Thuendrel Tshogpa Parliamentary Coordination Committee (TTPCC), as follows:

- 10.4.3.1. President
- 10.4.3.2. Vice President
- 10.4.3.3. National Coordinator
- 10.4.3.4. Two elected candidates, including the leader of the party in the National Assembly
- 10.4.3.5. Two Dzongkhag Coordinators
- 10.4.3.6. Two Gewog Coordinators
- 10.4.3.7. Two Demkhong Coordinators
- 10.4.3.8. Two Thromde Coordinator
- 10.4.3.9. Functions and Scope
  - 10.4.3.9.1. Develop and adopt coordination strategies for the party's smooth functioning through regular engagement between the elected and non-elected candidates.
  - 10.4.3.9.2. Review and monitor conduct, performances and delivery of the elected officials in the National Assembly through a granular based Annual Parliamentary Performance Management System (APPMS).

- 10.4.3.9.3. Engage members in regular dialogues to stay informed on local issues, including development works, local events and other informal reports.
- 10.4.3.9.4. Meet as and when required and submit their report to the TTEC and TTGA.
- 10.4.3.9.5. General Secretary shall be responsible for providing all secretariat services to the TTPCC.
- 10.4.3.9.6. The quorum shall be two-thirds and decisions shall be based on a simple majority.

**10.4.4. Thuendrel Tshogpa Advisory Committee (TTAC)**

- 10.4.4.1. The TTEC may constitute a maximum seven-member advisory board or committee from the following areas to guide and advise the Party, from time to time, on various policy and strategic issues:
  - 10.4.4.1.1. An expert in economics
  - 10.4.4.1.2. An expert in science and technology
  - 10.4.4.1.3. An expert in culture and tradition
  - 10.4.4.1.4. Any other areas deemed important and urgent by the TTEC from time to time.
- 10.4.4.2. The TTAC shall not have any executive powers but their resolutions shall be considered strategic for the Party.
- 10.4.4.3. The TTAC shall function according to the structure and rules and regulations formulated in line with this Charter.

**10.4.5. Subcommittees**

- 10.4.5.1. The TTEC may establish subcommittees on needs basis including, but not limited to, the following:
  - 10.4.5.1.1. Candidate Selection Committee (CSC)
  - 10.4.5.1.2. Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)
  - 10.4.5.1.3. Policy Research Committee (PRC)
  - 10.4.5.1.4. Campaign Management Committee (CMC)
  - 10.4.5.1.5. Media and Public Relations Committee (MPRC)
  - 10.4.5.1.6. Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC)

**10.4.5.2. Candidate Selection Committee (CSC)**

- 10.4.5.2.1. The CSC shall be established to carry out all due diligence and the recruitment process for potential candidates in a fair, transparent and professional manner.
- 10.4.5.2.2. The CSC recommendations shall be submitted to the TTEC for approval after which the TTEC shall make the nomination of Candidates for election to the National Assembly. The Party's decision shall be represented by a simple majority



vote of the members during a TTEC meeting organized for the purpose and in accordance with the Political Party Rules of the ECB.

#### **10.4.5.3. Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC)**

There shall be a Dispute Resolution Process to conduct a formal, just and fair procedure that ensures members have chances to defend themselves and the right to appeal:

- 10.4.5.3.1. The TTEC shall institute a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) for resolving disputes within the party, among party members, bodies and components of the Party and for initiating disciplinary actions against any member of the Party.
- 10.4.5.3.2. An aggrieved member or party shall have the right of appeal to the TTEC or a body constituted by it for the purpose within 10 days of the Committee decision.
- 10.4.5.3.3. To help ensure that any grievances against TTEC are administered impartially, the neutral TTAC shall be the recourse and not the TTEC in such matters.
- 10.4.5.3.4. The DRC shall abide by the age-old tradition and principles of amicable settlement through mediation where possible for disputes which are not criminal in nature.

#### **10.5. Thuendrel Tshogpa Secretariat**

- 10.5.1. There shall be a Party Secretariat comprising, but not limited to, the following:
  - 10.5.1.1. President
  - 10.5.1.2. Vice President
  - 10.5.1.3. General Secretary
  - 10.5.1.4. Treasurer
  - 10.5.1.5. National Coordinator
  - 10.5.1.6. Internal Auditor
  - 10.5.1.7. Legal Advisor
  - 10.5.1.8. Media Spokesperson

### **ARTICLE 11**

## **11. Powers and Functions of the Office Bearers**

### **11.1. President**

The President shall have the following powers and functions:

- 11.1.1. Chair the TTGA, TTPCC and the TTEC meetings.
- 11.1.2. Provide strategic and effective leadership to the Party
- 11.1.3. Delegate clear responsibilities to office-bearers.
- 11.1.4. Devolve his/her duties and powers to the Vice President in his/her absence.
- 11.1.5. Represent the Party at local, national and international levels.
- 11.1.6. The President shall not hold the dual position of the Party President and an elected Parliament member at the same time.
- 11.1.7. In the event that the President is elected to the Parliament, the TTGA shall elect a new President within one month after the elections.
- 11.1.8. An elected Member of Parliament shall not be eligible to contest for the post of President.

## **11.2. Vice President**

- 11.2.1. The Vice President shall take up the role of the President in his/her absence.
- 11.2.2. The Vice President shall assist and support the President in all Party affairs.

## **11.3. General Secretary**

Under the directives of the President and TTEC, the General Secretary (GS) shall:

- 11.3.1. Oversee the overall management and administration of the Party, including recruitment of office-bearers upon endorsement by the TTEC;
- 11.3.2. Coordinate and liaise with all Dzongkhag Coordination Offices;
- 11.3.3. Convene the TTGA, and any meetings of the TTEC;
- 11.3.4. Make all correspondences, maintain register of all party members, maintain records of TTGA and all meetings;
- 11.3.5. Ensure that the decisions passed by the TTGA and TTEC are implemented accordingly;
- 11.3.6. Represent the Party at functions and events in the absence of the President and the Vice President;
- 11.3.7. Ensure all requirements are met, while filing in Party registration, submission of annual accounts and making press conferences; and
- 11.3.8. Liaise with ECB on compliance with the election rules and regulations.

## **11.4. Treasurer**

The Party Treasurer shall:

- 11.4.1. Manage the overall funds and expenditure of the Party;
- 11.4.2. Ensure that books and records of accounts are properly maintained and stored;

- 11.4.3. Maintain accounting and reporting format as per election rules and Royal Audit Authority rules and regulations ;
- 11.4.4. Submit quarterly financial reports to the TTEC meetings;
- 11.4.5. Prepare annual financial reports for the Party for publication in its annual reports;
- 11.4.6. Collect membership fees and voluntary contributions, and deposit the amount in Thuendrel Tshogpa's bank account;
- 11.4.7. Be the signing authority of the Party on all withdrawals as joint signatory with the General Secretary;
- 11.4.8. Ensure the Party's financial management is sound and prudent; and
- 11.4.9. Be responsible for resource mobilization within the scope of Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

#### **11.5. National Coordinator**

The Party's National Coordinator shall:

- 11.5.1. Support the General Secretary in the management and administration of the Thuendrel Tshogpa Secretariat;
- 11.5.2. Be a member of the TTEC and TTPCC; and
- 11.5.3. Coordinate Party-related matters among all Dzongkhag Coordinators.

#### **11.6. Internal Auditor**

The Party Internal Auditor shall:

- 11.6.1. Conduct periodic auditing of the Party's books of accounts to ensure sound and prudent financial management;
- 11.6.2. Liaise with Royal Audit Authority and the ECB for auditing purposes;
- 11.6.3. Create a robust internal system, as a preventive measure, to avoid or rectify any financial lapses; and
- 11.6.4. Ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

#### **11.7. Legal Officer**

The Party Legal Officer shall:

- 11.7.1. Provide legal advice to the Party;
- 11.7.2. Lead the drafting of Party rules and regulations;
- 11.7.3. Ensure that Party activities conform to existing national laws, rules and regulations; and
- 11.7.4. Represent the Party in the court of law in case of litigations.

### **11.8. Party Spokesperson**

The Party Spokesperson shall:

- 11.8.1. Provide leadership and oversight to the Campaign Management Committee and the Media & Public Relations Committee;
- 11.8.2. Develop a comprehensive media strategy for the Party;
- 11.8.3. In collaboration with the TTEC, develop campaign plans, media messages, press releases, blogs, web materials and flyers among others; and
- 11.8.4. Serve as the key party focal person for media outlets.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **12. Records**

- 12.1. The Party shall have the following records maintained by the Party Secretariat:
  - 12.1.1. Party Charter,
  - 12.1.2. Register of Members,
  - 12.1.3. Accounts of the Constituencies, and
  - 12.1.4. Minutes of the meetings.
- 12.2. The Dzongkhag Coordination Office(s) shall maintain the following records:
  - 12.2.1. Party Charter,
  - 12.2.2. Updated accounts,
  - 12.2.3. Minutes of the meetings, and
  - 12.2.4. Personal file on each Constituency Candidate.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **13. Party Conduct**

- 13.1. The Party shall conduct itself in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 and the Political Party Rules of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2015. The Party SHALL NOT commit the following:
  - 13.1.1. Propagate any opinion, or act in a manner prejudicial to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
  - 13.1.2. Undermine the sovereignty or integrity of the nation;
  - 13.1.3. Undermine public order or public morality or indulge in any criminal activity;
  - 13.1.4. Promote sectarian or regional discord;
  - 13.1.5. Indulge in any activity, which may create ill-will, differences or cause tensions between communities, religious or linguistic groups;
  - 13.1.6. Permit Thuendrel Tshogpa supporters to use any public or private property, without approvals of the TTEC and property owner's written

- permission, for purposes of erecting flags, cut-outs, suspending banners, pasting election posters and notices; and
- 13.1.7. Impart any military or paramilitary training to its members or any other persons.
  - 13.1.8. Forbid any kind of gambling, substance or drug abuse and any illegal activities on the office premises.
  - 13.1.9. Engage in any illegal strikes, demonstrations or any practices disruptive or harmful to the *Tsa-Wa-Sum*.
  - 13.1.10. Organize any lottery, whether confined to its members or not, in the name of the Party or its office-bearers, committees or members, unless approved by relevant Government authorities.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **14. Party Obligations**

- 14.1. The Party shall abide and honor the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, National Referendum Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan and all other related electoral laws, rules and regulations. Among others, it has the obligations to:
  - 14.1.1. Implement the provisions of the Party Charter.
  - 14.1.2. Observe the Party code of conduct at all times.
  - 14.1.3. Maintain Party offices and records of associated members and office bearers.
  - 14.1.4. Maintain consolidated accounts and follow GAAP/BAS accounting principles.
  - 14.1.5. Submit all accounts and reports to the ECB for regulatory compliance.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **15. Party Finances**

Thuendrel Tshogpa shall mobilize adequate funds to ensure that the Party structure is supported with resources necessary to educate, train and facilitate maximum democratic participation at local and national levels.

#### **15.1. Source of Finances**

- 15.1.1. Registration fee
- 15.1.2. Membership fee
- 15.1.3. Voluntary contribution (in-kind and cash)

## **15.2. Party Accounts**

Thuendrel Tshogpa shall, in such form as prescribed under the Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, submit to the Commission a consolidated statement of annual accounts of the Political Party audited by the Royal Audit Authority containing:

- 15.2.1. Annual income and expenses
- 15.2.2. Sources of funds;
- 15.2.3. Assets and liabilities; and
- 15.2.4. Campaign accounts after elections.

The Party shall administer its finances and maintain the Books of Accounts in line with the relevant national standards.

## **15.3. Voluntary Contributions**

- 15.3.1. The Party shall be entitled to accept voluntary contributions, financial or in kind, made by any of its registered members, provided the total value of such contributions does not exceed Nu. 500,000/- (Ngultrum Five Hundred Thousand) per member, per year or as may be fixed by the ECB from time to time.
- 15.3.2. Any in-kind contribution, including voluntary time put in for Thuendrel Tshogpa works or for providing rent free rooms for housing the party offices must be accorded monetary value and be accounted in Thuendrel Tshogpa's Financial Reports as Voluntary Contributions of the concerned registered members.
- 15.3.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall ensure that only a registered member, confirmed as a registered voter in the Electoral Roll, makes a Voluntary Contribution to the Party.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **16. Dissolution of Party**

- 16.1. The Party shall stand dissolved as per Section 146 of the Election Act.
- 16.2. The Party may only be dissolved if a proposal to that effect is passed by a three-fourth majority of its members present and voting at the General Assembly or Special Party Convention.
- 16.3. Any proposal to dissolve the Party must incorporate proposals for the disposal of assets and records of the Party.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **17. Rule of Law**

- 17.1. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall abide by the provisions of national legislations or statutes and international treaties where Bhutan is a signatory at all times and

ensure that the Principles of the Rule of Law are adhered to including but not limited to the following:

- 17.2. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall ensure that the laws of Bhutan are applied equally and fairly, so that no member of Thuendrel Tshogpa is above the law.
- 17.3. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall respect and nurture the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
- 17.4. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall ensure that laws are made in an open and transparent way.
- 17.5. Thuendrel Tshogpa shall ensure that the laws are capable of being known by everyone, so that everyone can comply.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **18. Interpretation and Amendments**

- 18.1. All amendments to the Party Charter must be approved by the TTGA or a special meeting convened specifically for the purpose, based on a resolution at the TTGA.
- 18.2. A 30-day notice, at the least, of the amendment must be given to the General Secretary and the two-third quorum requirement of the TTGA has to be fulfilled for the amendments with a simple majority.
- 18.3. The TTEC shall be the final authority on the interpretation of the Charter.
- 18.4. Amendments to the charter shall be recommended by the TTEC and approved by the ECB.
- 18.5. Any issues not captured in this charter shall be as per the provisions of the Election Act and the Election Rules and Regulations for the Political Party.

**Authorized Signatory**  
**Druk Thuendrel Tshogpa**

## Annexure I: Meetings: Frequency, Quorum and Notices

#	Body	Advance Notification	Emergency Notification	Quorum
1	TTGA	30	10	Open
2	TTEC	15	3	Two-third
3	TTPCC	15	3	Open
4	Dzongkhag Committees	7	2	Two-third
5	Gewog Committees	3	1	Two-third
6	All others	3	1	Two-third