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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/NOTIF-01/2025-2026/993

Dated: July 18, 2025

NOTIFICATION

Bye-Election for National Assembly Member of Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong of Trongsa Dzongkhag

The Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB), in pursuance of Sections 577 and 579 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, hereby issues this notification for the conduct of Bye-Election in *Nubi_Tangsibji* National Assembly (NA) *Demkhong* under Trongsa Dzongkhag.

The Election Schedule and the details concerning the Nomination of Candidates, Electoral Roll, EVMs, Polling Officials, Polling Management, Security and other arrangements are hereby being notified as follows:

A. Election Schedule

1. The election schedule shall be as follows:

Table 1: Election Schedule

Date	Remarks
17/7/2025	• Issuance of Royal Decree
18/7/2025	• Issuance of Notification calling the conduct of NA Bye-Election, 2025 for <i>Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong</i> • Appointment of Election Officials • Eligible Voters to start registration for postal ballot
22/7/2025	• Issuance of draft Electoral Roll claims and objections
26/7/2025	• Last date for filing of nominations of candidates
27/7/2025	• Scrutiny of nominations • Submission of application for election campaign funds by candidates • Commencement of the Election Campaign
29/7/2025	• Last date for withdrawal of Candidature
1/8/2025	• Last date for registration for Postal Ballot
3/8/2025	• Freezing of Electoral Roll

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of final electoral roll and postal voter list
5/8/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning Officer to initiate sending postal ballots
14/8/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Debate
2/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of election campaign
3/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day for receiving postal ballots
4/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll Day and Counting of Postal Ballots
5/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Results & submission of the Results to the Druk Gyalpo • Commencement of the Election Petition Period
8/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuance of Election Certificate to the successful candidates
14/9/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of election petition period

B. Filling of Nomination Papers

2. The nomination papers shall be submitted by a candidate nominated to contest the Bye-Election with the last date for filing of nominations being **26th July 2025**.
3. The nomination paper must be complete, signed and countersigned as required and include the following prescribed forms:
 - 3.1. Nomination Form;
 - 3.2. Notice of Nomination of a Candidate;
 - 3.3. Asset Declaration attested jointly by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and ECB;
 - 3.4. Tax Clearance Certificate for Election;
 - 3.5. Audit Clearance Certificate for Election;
 - 3.6. Security Clearance Certificate for Election;
 - 3.7. Integrity Vetting Report (IVR) from ACC;
 - 3.8. Certificate Confirming No Non-Performing Loan (NPL) from Credit Information Bureau (CIB);
 - 3.9. Court Affidavit;
 - 3.10. Formal University Degree attested by ECB based on the endorsement of qualification from the Bhutan Qualifications and Professional Certification Authority (BQPCA);

- 3.11. Determination of 5 years work experience;
 - 3.12. Relieving orders from concerned agencies (if relevant);
 - 3.13. A copy of Citizenship Identity Card (CID);
 - 3.14. CID copy of Spouse (if applicable);
 - 3.15. Marriage Certificate (if applicable); and
 - 3.16. Undertaking by candidates for the Office of Profit.
4. A candidate eligible to contest the Bye-Election shall be a registered member of the contesting parties provided under Section 209 (b) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

C. Scrutiny of Nominations

5. The Returning Officer shall undertake the scrutiny of the nomination papers filed by the candidates.
6. The candidates contesting Bye-Election should get their Asset Declaration attested jointly by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and ECB before filing nominations to the Returning Officer concerned.

D. Last date for Withdrawal of Candidature

7. The last date for withdrawal of candidature shall be 5 p.m. on **29th July 2025** as per Section 225 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

E. Demkhong

8. The details of the *Demkhong* in which the Bye-Election has been called is as follows:

Table 2: Detail of *Demkhong*

Sl. No	Dzongkhag	Demkhong	Gewogs
1	Trongsa	Nubi_Tangsibji	Nubi and Tangsibji

F. Electoral Roll

9. The qualifying date shall, in relation to the Electoral Roll for the Bye-Election to *Nubi_Tangsibji* National Assembly *Demkhong*, be on **1st July 2025**. Therefore, any person who attains the age of eighteen as on **1st July 2025** shall be deemed to

meet the minimum age requirement as a voter under the Electoral Laws.

10. A registered voter who is born on or after **26th July 1960** and on or before **26th July 2000** shall be deemed to meet the maximum (65 years) and minimum (25 years) age requirement for nomination as a candidate for the Bye-Election.

G. Election Code of Conduct

11. The Election Code of Conduct shall come into force from the date of the notification calling the Bye-Election and shall continue to be in force until the completion of the election period, i.e. **18th July 2025 to 4th September 2025**.
12. All election officers, political parties, candidates and voters must comply with the Election Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Electoral Laws, Rules and Regulations and Guidelines.

H. Election Campaign

13. The campaign period for the Bye-Election shall commence from **27th July 2025** onwards and must end at 8 a.m. of **2nd September 2025** i.e., 48 hours prior to the hour fixed for the commencement of poll for the election.
14. No Minister, Member of Parliament, official or member of a political party or elected person shall campaign directly or indirectly for any candidate.
15. No visits 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 spouses under Section 331 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.
16. Elected Local Government officials, namely, Thrompon, Gup, Mangmi, Tshogpa, Thromde 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.
17. No candidate shall use the title, designation, rank, Kabney/Rachu, Pata/Gyentag, or any other sign, insignia or symbol of an office held earlier, on person, car or any personal effects as may be used during the campaign period by the candidate, representatives, or supporters.

18. A civil servant shall be permitted to attend electoral events like common forums organized by the ECB. However, no civil servant shall campaign directly or indirectly or participate in the electoral forums organized by the candidates or give grounds to reasonably construe support, opposition or dislike of any candidate contesting the elections.
19. All banks or financial institutions shall report to the ECB of any abnormal transaction of money, including in the account of a candidate contesting the election in the *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong*.
20. The smaller group meetings shall not be conducted before **7 a.m. and after 5 p.m.**
21. Any unauthorized person carrying out election campaign activities must be reported to an election officer or election security personnel on duty to be prosecuted for violation of Electoral Laws.
22. A candidate shall be liable for all acts of commission and omission of their election representatives (Godenpas/Layjeypas/Jabchorpas) which may include any interference in the conduct of lawful electoral works and/or disturbing peace and order, undermining free and fair election.
23. A candidate, during the election, shall carry out all election campaign activities only upon obtaining permit/approval from the Returning Officer.
24. A candidate and all concerned shall neither serve meals and refreshments nor pay money, offer gifts and rewards to the general public or voters for attendance of election campaigns or produce, wear and distribute T-shirts and caps for campaigning.

I. Election Campaign Finance

25. A candidate shall, upon acceptance of his/her nomination by the Returning Officer, be eligible to receive Election Campaign Fund at the rate of Nu. 150,000/-.
26. A candidate cannot exceed his/her election campaign expenses beyond the ceiling fixed by the Election Commission i.e., total of Nu. 150,000/- being provided by the State and up to an equivalent amount being permitted to be spent from the party's resources, raised from the permissible sources.

J. Election Campaign Returns

27. A candidate must submit weekly accounts of campaign expenses and file Election Returns as per the prescribed procedures set out in the Public Election Fund Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2018.

K. Public Debate

28. Public debate shall be arranged and conducted in collaboration with the BBSC as per the Guidelines for Conduct of Public Debate for the Bye- Election, 2025 in *Nubi_Tangsibji National Assembly Demkhong*.

L. Remaining Apolitical and Above Politics

29. No religious events, involving public gatherings, shall be organized or conducted during the entire election period in the concerned Demkhong, in particular, by the candidates and their supporters.
30. Religious personalities shall neither vote nor participate directly or indirectly in the election.

M. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

31. CSOs shall not participate, directly or indirectly, and give grounds to reasonably construe support, opposition or dislike of any candidates contesting the election.

N. Postal Ballots

32. A person who applied for postal ballot shall not be allowed to vote in person as his/her name will be included in the postal voters' list and marked as 'PB' in the list sent to the polling station by the Returning Officer.

O. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

33. The Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) shall be used for all polling stations in the *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong*.

P. Indelible Ink

34. Indelible ink shall be used during the Bye-Election and marked from the top of the nail to the bottom of the first joint of the **RIGHT** index finger.

Q. Poll Day

35. The poll day for the Bye-Election shall be on **4th September 2025**. The poll day shall be declared as a public holiday in the *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong*.
36. The polling hours shall be from **8 am to 5 pm**. However, those voters already in the queue at **5 pm** shall be allowed to vote with issuance of tokens to those in the queue with the last voter present at that time in the queue being given token No. 1.
37. The ECB shall accept either the valid Citizenship Identity Card (CID) or Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) for the purpose of identification of the voter on the poll day.
38. All employers are required, by law, to grant the required number of days as leave of absence for a reasonable period as is necessary to enable him/her to vote at the election, subject to the exceptions made in Sections 339 and 341.

R. Election Result, Counting, Consolidation and Declaration

39. After the close of polls, the polling stations shall become the Counting Centers where the EVM results shall be counted immediately, as per the set procedure, and relayed to the Returning Officer and the ECB Head Office.
40. Candidates or their representatives can witness and observe all stages of the polling and counting procedures but shall not make public statements on estimates and guesses before the results of the election are officially declared.

S. Election Officials

a) Election Coordinators

41. The Dzongdag of the concerned Dzongkhag shall be appointed as the Chief Election Coordinator and Dzongrab as the Deputy Chief Election Coordinator, and the Gewog Administrative Officer of the respective Gewogs as the Gewog Election Coordinator.

b) National Observer

42. A senior officer from the Civil Service shall be appointed as National Observer (NO) for NA Bye-Election, 2025 for *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong*, vested with

authority, roles, and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and in particular the relevant provisions contained in the Guidelines for National and International Observers and the Appointment Order.

c) Returning Officer

43. A senior officer shall be appointed as Returning Officer (RO) for the NA Bye-Election, 2025 for *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong*, vested with full authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Returning Officers and the Appointment Order.

d) Presiding and Polling Officers

44. Returning Officer shall appoint the Presiding and Polling Officers from the list of government officials working in the same Dzongkhag, provided by Dzongkhag Election Office.
45. Presiding and Polling Officers are vested with authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Presiding Officers.

e) Counting Supervisors & Counting Assistants

46. The Returning Officer shall authorize the Presiding Officer and Polling Officer III in a polling station to function as the Counting Supervisor and the Counting Assistant to count the votes after the close of Poll.
47. Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants shall be vested with authority, roles and responsibilities as per the provisions in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations and Handbook for Counting Supervisor and Counting Assistant.

f) Media Arbitrator

48. The Media Arbitrator appointed for the Bye-Election shall be vested with the authority and be responsible for fulfilling the roles and responsibilities as provided in the Electoral Laws, Rules, Regulations, and the Appointment Order.

g) Assignment of Duty Stations

49. National Observer, Returning Officer, Presiding Officers, Polling Officers, Counting Supervisors and Counting Assistants shall ensure that he/she is not

being placed in the *Nubi_Tangsibji Demkhong* where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered, unless authorized otherwise.

T. Election Control Rooms

50. For the purpose of monitoring, supervision and direction of the conduct of election, election Control Rooms shall be set up in the Office of the Returning Officer at the *Demkhong* level and at the Election Commission head office for the national level.

U. Uncontested Election

51. 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.
52. The election in the *Demkhong* with only one candidate after the last date of filing of nomination of Candidates announced herein will be conducted as ‘Uncontested Election’ in accordance with Sections 575 and 576 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008.

V. Law and Order & Deployment of Forces

53. The Royal Bhutan Police shall be responsible for deploying security personnel at every polling station as per the *Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.
54. Security personnel shall ensure that he/she is not being placed in the *Demkhong* where his/her *Gung* or *Mitsi* is registered, unless authorized otherwise.
55. The Election Security Focal Officers shall work in close coordination and cooperation with the election officers as a team towards conducting the election smoothly.
56. Desuups shall be mobilized as per requirements to supplement and complement the efforts of the RBP.

W. Election Dispute Settlement Body System

57. The quasi-judicial role of the Election Commission during the Election Period shall be fulfilled through the Election Dispute Settlement Body System which includes three levels of decision-making and appeal;

- a. Dzongkhag Election Dispute Settlement Body (DEDSB);
 - b. Central Election Dispute Settlement Body (CEDSB); and
 - c. Full Election Commission.
58. Election Complaints shall be received by Chief Election Commissioner, Chief Election Coordinator, National Observer and Returning Officer but must contain all details as in Election Dispute Settlement Body Form No.1;
59. The adjudication of election disputes shall be guided generally by the principles and provisions of the laws of the land and in particular the electoral laws, Election Dispute Settlement Rules and Regulations; and
60. A complaint related to an election shall be dealt with only by an Election Dispute Settlement Body or the Election Commission.

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 23rd Day of the 5th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year corresponding to 18th July 2025.

Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan