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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

(Ensuring Free, Fair & Democratic Elections & Referendums)



ECB/LCD-12/2026/139

Date: 16 September 2026

### Press Release

## Declaration of Results of the Functional Literacy Test for the Second Phase of the Fourth Local Government Elections, 2027

The Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) is pleased to announce the results of the Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Test (FLT) conducted for the Second Phase of the *Fourth Local Government Elections, 2027*.

The Functional Competency Assessment (FCA) was conducted on 1 September 2026, followed by the Functional Competency Engagement (FCE) from 2 to 4 September 2026. The FLT was conducted to assess the functional competencies required for candidates seeking to participate in the upcoming Local Government Elections.

### A. Registration

A total of 3,698 candidates registered for the FLT through the online registration system to sit for the assessment at 48 test centres across the country. Of these, 2,228 candidates registered for Competency Level 1 and 1,470 for Competency Level 2, representing candidates from all 205 *Gewogs*. In addition, four candidates registered from Samdrup Jongkhar *Thromde*.

The details of candidates registered for the FLT, based on age categories and formal academic qualification, are presented below:

#### *Registration by Age and Gender*

For Level 1, registrations were highest among aged 25 to 35 with **1,565** and followed by those aged 36 to 45 with **1,323**. The detailed distribution by age, gender and competency level is presented below:

| Age Range    | Male<br>Level 1 | Male<br>Level 2 | Female<br>Level 1 | Female<br>Level 2 | Total        |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 18–24        | 30              | 46              | 11                | 22                | 109          |
| 25–35        | 572             | 629             | 105               | 259               | 1565         |
| 36–45        | 838             | 276             | 116               | 93                | 1323         |
| 46–55        | 425             | 94              | 22                | 20                | 561          |
| 56–65        | 109             | 33              | 0                 | 1                 | 143          |
| 65+          | 0               | 1               | 0                 | 0                 | 1            |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,974</b>    | <b>1,079</b>    | <b>254</b>        | <b>395</b>        | <b>3,702</b> |

### ***Registration by Academic Qualifications***

The registered candidates represent a wide range of academic backgrounds, from Non-Formal Education (NFE) to Master's degree holders. These qualifications are self-declared by the candidates and have not been independently verified by the Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB). The highest number of registrations was recorded among candidates with Class XII qualifications, with 1,051 candidates, comprising 619 candidates for Competency Level 1 and 432 candidates for Competency Level 2.

This was followed by 889 candidates with Class X qualifications, while the registration also showed a total of 528 candidates with Bachelor's degree (493) and Master's degree (35), and the remaining with qualifications including diploma/certificate-level, class 8 and primary qualifications, *Zindra*, and non-formal education, among others. The details of candidates registered for the FLT, based on academic qualification are presented below:

| <b>Academic Qualification</b> | <b>Level 1</b> | <b>Level 2</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Master's Degree               | 34             | 1              | 35           |
| Bachelor's Degree             | 465            | 28             | 493          |
| Diploma or Certificate        | 64             | 12             | 76           |
| Class XII                     | 619            | 432            | 1,051        |
| Class X                       | 476            | 413            | 889          |
| Class VIII                    | 186            | 198            | 384          |
| Class VI and Below            | 149            | 181            | 330          |
| Monastic Education (Zindra)   | 176            | 113            | 289          |
| Non-Formal Education          | 46             | 60             | 106          |
| Others                        | 13             | 36             | 49           |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>2,228</b>   | <b>1,474</b>   | <b>3,702</b> |

### **B. Attendance**

A total of 2,734 candidates appeared for the test, of which 19 candidates appeared in only FCA, therefore, 2,715 candidates completed both FCA and FCE. Of those who completed both component, 1,706 appeared for Competency Level 1, and 1,009 for Competency Level 2.

### ***Attendance by Age***

Candidates in the 25-35 years age group constituted the largest proportion of test takers, with a total of 1,164 candidates of which 488 candidates appeared for Level 1, while 676 appeared for Level 2.

This was followed by 986 candidates in the 36-45 years age group, comprising 761 candidates in Level 1 and 225 candidates in Level 2. The number of test takers was comparatively lower across other age groups.

### ***Attendance by Qualifications***

Candidates with Class XII qualification constituted the largest group of test takers, with a total of 820 candidates, comprising 486 candidates in Level 1 and 334 candidates in Level 2. This was followed by 670 candidates with Class X qualification, of whom 376 appeared for Level 1 and 294 for Level 2. The test also included 336 candidates with Bachelor's degree and 20 Master's degree in Level 1, and 20 Bachelor's degree holders in Level 2.

The remaining test takers comprised candidates with qualifications including diploma/certificate-level, class 8 and primary qualifications, *Zindra*, and non-formal education, among others.

The detailed distribution of test takers by age categories and academic qualification is presented below:

| Level   | Academic Qualification      | 18–24 | 25–35 | 36–45 | 46–55 | 56–65 | Total |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Level 1 | Master's Degree             | 0     | 4     | 4     | 6     | 6     | 20    |
|         | Bachelor's Degree           | 2     | 149   | 156   | 22    | 7     | 336   |
|         | Diploma or Certificate      | 1     | 13    | 17    | 7     | 4     | 42    |
|         | Class XII                   | 6     | 219   | 223   | 31    | 7     | 486   |
|         | Class X                     | 1     | 68    | 174   | 117   | 16    | 376   |
|         | Class VIII                  | 0     | 12    | 59    | 55    | 24    | 150   |
|         | Class VI and Below          | 0     | 8     | 48    | 46    | 12    | 114   |
|         | Monastic Education (Zindra) | 0     | 13    | 65    | 45    | 14    | 137   |
|         | Non-Formal Education        | 0     | 2     | 13    | 18    | 4     | 37    |
|         | Others                      | 0     | 0     | 2     | 5     | 1     | 8     |

|              |                             |           |              |            |            |            |              |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Level 2      | Bachelor's Degree           | 0         | 15           | 5          | 0          | 0          | 20           |
|              | Diploma or Certificate      | 0         | 7            | 1          | 0          | 0          | 8            |
|              | Class XII                   | 24        | 267          | 41         | 2          | 0          | 334          |
|              | Class X                     | 4         | 219          | 58         | 13         | 0          | 294          |
|              | Class VIII                  | 3         | 76           | 29         | 14         | 2          | 124          |
|              | Class VI and Below          | 3         | 34           | 39         | 14         | 9          | 99           |
|              | Monastic Education (Zindra) | 0         | 44           | 33         | 4          | 0          | 81           |
|              | Non-Formal Education        | 2         | 6            | 16         | 5          | 2          | 31           |
|              | Others                      | 0         | 8            | 3          | 5          | 2          | 18           |
| <b>Total</b> |                             | <b>46</b> | <b>1,164</b> | <b>986</b> | <b>409</b> | <b>110</b> | <b>2,715</b> |

### C. Results

The qualification rate was **70.51%** for Competency Level 1 and **81.57%** for Competency Level 2. The mean scores were **60.99** for Level 1 and **62.10** Level 2.

#### **Competency Level 1**

For Competency Level 1, a total of **1,203** candidates, comprising **1,078** male and **125** female, achieved an aggregate score of 50 percent or above, with a minimum of 40 percent in FCA and FCE components. These candidates have therefore met the prescribed requirements for the award of the Competency Level 1 Certificate, making them eligible to file nominations to contest for the positions of *Gup*, *Mangmi*, or *Thromde Ngotshab*.

The overall qualified percentage of male was **70.87%** out of **1,521** appeared, and that of females was **67.56%** out of **185** appeared.

The candidates meeting the requirements for Competency Level 1 Certification represent a diverse range of educational backgrounds, including Master's degree holders (**17**), Bachelor's degree holders (**285**), Class XII graduates (**390**), Class X graduates (**249**), diploma/certificate holders (**34**), and candidates with Class VIII (**76**), primary (**55**), Zindra (**86**), and Non-Formal Education (NFE) qualifications (**9**), other (**2**).

A total of **57** candidates who appeared for the Competency Level I FLT did not meet the required aggregate threshold of 50 percent or above. However, as they secured at least 40 percent in each of the FCA and FCE components, they were eligible to receive Level II certification, as per the prescribed criteria.

A total of 352 incumbent candidates, including 162 *Gup*, 183 *Mangmis* and 7 *Thromde Ngotshabs* took the FLT for Competency Level 1 and 286 qualified for Level 1 certification.

### **Competency Level 2**

For Competency Level 2, a total of **823** candidates, comprising **582** male and **241** female, achieved an aggregate score of 50 percent or above, with a minimum of 40 percent in each of the FCA and FCE components. These candidates have therefore met the prescribed requirements for the award of the Competency Level 2 Certificate, making them eligible to file nominations to contest for the positions of *Gewog Tshogpa* and/or *Thromde Tshogpa*. Additionally, the **57** candidates from Level 1 who did not meet the required aggregate threshold of 50 percent but secured at least 40 percent in each of the FCA and FCE components, were eligible to receive Level II certification, as per the prescribed criteria.

The candidates meeting the requirements for Competency Level 2 Certification represent a diverse range of educational backgrounds, Bachelor's degree holders (**20**), Class XII graduates (**315**), Class X graduates (**241**), diploma/certificate holders (**8**), and candidates with Class VIII (**96**), primary-level (**64**), *Zindra* (**65**), Non-Formal Education (NFE) qualifications (**8**), and others (**6**).

### **D. Holders of FLT Certificates previously issued by the ECB**

Individuals who are already in possession of FLT Certificates previously issued by the ECB and who intend to contest elections only for the position of Tshogpa were not required to sit for the FLT. Accordingly, the Commission will issue Competency Level 2 Certificates to 1,749 individuals who have expressed their intentions to contest tshogpa election in the upcoming second phase of Local Government elections. Others holding previously issued FLT certificates and intending to contest tshogpa election for upcoming second phase of Local Government election may apply to the respective dzongkhag election offices.

### **E. Results**

Candidates can view their results at <https://flt.ecb.bt>.

### **F. Clerical Re-check**

Candidates who wish to have their scores re-checked may apply directly to the ECB Headquarters in the "Appeal Form" within three working days from the date of declaration of the results.

The application periods are as follows:

| Test Centre                           | Application Period                        |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Test centres in 19 Dzongkhags         | 17, 18 & 21 September 2026, until 5:00 PM |
| Two test centres in Thimphu Dzongkhag | 18, 24 & 25 September 2026, until 5:00 PM |

For appeals, please download the **Appeal Form** from the link here: <https://www.ecb.bt/appeal-form/>

## G. FCA and FCE Arrangements

The committee comprising members from relevant agencies were deployed for development of question bank for both the FCA and FCE, the model answers and evaluation scheme including assessment rubrics which was further reviewed by the FLT committee and Commission. The questions were prepared based on the task-based roles assigned to each competency level, with a mix of questions covering different levels of difficulty.

For the FCE, a total of 116 assessment panels across 48 test centres nationwide were deployed, each panel comprising three panelists, one serving as the Chairperson, resulting in a total of 348 panelists. The panelists were responsible for conducting and assessing the FCE and also served as invigilators for the FCA. The panelists and invigilators were deployed through cross-*Dzongkhag* assignments to maintain an objective and consistent assessment process across the country.

The sequence of candidates was randomised for the conduct of FCE, through a draw of lots by the respective *dzongkhag*, to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality.

## I. Current scenario on completion of the FLT

With the conclusion of this FLT the overall scenario of certificate holders are as follows:

| <i>Gewog</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Dzongkhag<br/>Throm</i>                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Chiwog</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 138 <i>Gewogs</i> with 5 or more candidates</li><li>- 35 <i>Gewogs</i> with 4 candidates</li><li>- 22 <i>Gewogs</i> with 3 candidates</li><li>- 6 <i>Gewogs</i> with 2 candidates</li><li>- 4 <i>Gewogs</i> with 1 candidate</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 5 <i>Throms</i> with 2 candidates</li><li>- 5 <i>Throms</i> with 1 candidate</li><li>- 4 <i>Throms</i> without a candidate</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 109 <i>Chiwogs</i> with 5 or more candidates</li><li>- 114 <i>Chiwogs</i> with 4 candidates</li><li>- 202 <i>Chiwogs</i> with 3 candidates</li><li>- 317 <i>Chiwogs</i> with 2 candidates</li><li>- 239 <i>Chiwogs</i> with 1 candidate (including 4 <i>Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs</i> of Samdrup Jongkhar <i>Throm</i>)</li><li>- 70 <i>Chiwogs</i> without a candidate (including 2 <i>Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs</i> of S/J <i>Thromde</i> and 1 <i>Thromde Tshogde Tshogpa Demkhongs</i> of Phuentshogling <i>Thromde</i>)</li></ul> |

## J. Expenditure

The total expenditure (estimated) for the conduct of FLT is Nu. 7.811 million.

## K. Feedback

Feedback from stakeholders involved in the preparation and conduct of the FLT is being collected and will be given due consideration for the future. Anyone wishing to provide comments, suggestions or express their views is welcome to do so by writing to <[cec@ecb.bt](mailto:cec@ecb.bt)>.

The ECB takes this opportunity to remind the general public on the upcoming Local Government Elections 2027 and urges all to prepare and participate actively to ensure its successful conduct and, ultimately, effective and responsive local governance.

## Election Commission of Bhutan

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