

7 POINT PLEDGE

TO THE PEOPLE OF BHUTAN



Manifesto 2013

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A man wearing a light-colored shirt, dark pants, and a cap is operating a red and white tractor in a field. The tractor is pulling a red plow, and the man is holding the steering handle. The background shows a hilly landscape with sparse vegetation.

NEW TIMES, NEW IDEAS.

People's Government

...must be in the hands of the people!

Foreword by the **PRESIDENT**

We, the Bhutanese are once more on the threshold of exercising our fundamental rights of shaping the destiny of this nation, our motherland. This choice that we make will either set ablaze the ideals of democracy that we so deeply treasure.

This historic hour summons DNT to rise up and answer to the call and the yearning of the Bhutanese citizens for a country that is united in peace and harmony; a government that is strong, stable and trust worthy; an economy that is progressive and sustainable; a society that prioritises happiness and bear responsibility for the elderly and the vulnerable; and a party that connects with people and bridges the gaping disparities between the rich and the downtrodden.

Our kings have consolidated our sovereignty, strengthened our institutions and prepared us for the future. With democracy, all that we have witnessed in the last five years was a chain of uneventful happenings: the collapse of our economy; failures and losses in opportunities; escalation in corruption and nepotism; gaping holes and disastrous flaws in policies, of which rupee shortage and credit crunch stands as just one example. This has slackened businesses and put household plans to a standstill.

Thus, 2013 beckons the Bhutanese for a greater responsibility and a fuller participation towards making a wiser choice & we must rise up and let our voices ring loud and clear to usher in change. As the hourly hand ticks, DNT can feel the atmosphere charged with renewed hope for a new beginning; and hope-filled from far across that of a farmer's, a housewife's, a civil servant's, a soldier's, a business person's and a youth's. This hope of the Bhutanese for new ideas for new times echoes deep within DNT.

DNT will strive for consistency between what we say and what we do and in so saying, we will ensure a strong and a consistent parliamentary voice. It may be a new face that DNT carries, but the hearts and the hands that lay the ground for foundation are by no means new; if at all, they speak of toils and struggles, of devotion and commitment; and of duty and humility, having learnt to serve and not being served.



Dorji Choden
President





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VISION

Inspired and emboldened by our rich inheritance and its glory, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa shall, in solidarity, steer the nation forward by upholding the constitution in our relentless pursuit to safe-guard the most sacred and cherished dreams of every Bhutanese to enjoy peace, prosperity, equity and justice.



MISSION

Through its passionate, consistent and engaged efforts, Nyamrup shall strive to harness and nurture the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, equity and liberty. We shall take a courageous and principled position in favor of righting the wrongs and building a collective capacity to democratically, efficiently, and responsibly deliver human services to build, support and empower every citizens: whereby all Bhutanese will live together harmony and with equal opportunities; where talent and hard work is recognised and rewarded; wealth and power distributed fairly and equitably; where every man, woman and child shall enjoy the rights and the privileges of life; yet still come together as one in upholding and honouring the sacred values and principles enshrined in the Constitution.



CORE BELIEFS

NEW TIMES, NEW IDEAS

Nyamrup reaffirms that for a nation to progress and prosper, it should resonate willingness to change with time. Consequently, a crucial test for Nyamrup's leadership lies in realizing a change that can meet the people's enduring needs; confront and redress failed systems of the past; build on the successes of this past century and ensure security and greatness in the next; above all usher in fundamental improvements which privileges the average Bhutanese to play a crucial role in the progressive social change. Nyamrup shall aspire to harness and reorient the energies of the Bhutanese to live the dreams as so dreamt by our beloved Kings.



Nyamrup Candidates, 2013

NATIONAL AGENDA

It is crucial that Nyamrup reflect the wishes, priorities and dreams of all sections of Bhutanese to move in the same direction with common hopes for a brighter future for our children and grand children. Thus, we strive for consistency between what we say and what we do and in so saying, Nyamrup will ensure a strong and a consistent parliamentary voice in upholding and protecting the values and principles of democracy. The crucial spark and a central democratic goal of DNT, therefore, lie in its solemn commitment to champion for more humane goals of bridging the growing cleavages of the rich and the downtrodden; recognize and realize the evolving potential of the women populace; mobilize energies and attentions to the youth to revitalize and nurture them into promising generations; and respect and acknowledge the voices of each individual.



SYMBOL

Each blossom, known in Dzongkha as *Khamshing Metog*, is the election symbol of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa. The blossom paints the first colour of spring and it represents hope, the essence of the human spirit that embraces the virtuous aspiration of peace, happiness and prosperity.

Small it may be but by virtue of its sanctity of purity and beauty it's used as an offering to the gods. Likewise, our pledge to serve the King, the Country and the People will invariably remain steadfast. The nation's wealth, peace and happiness, like its sweet fragrance, must take all the directions of the country.

Its effervescent yet ephemeral existence reminds us of our impermanence, the universal truth, which keeps us in complete awareness that every life matters, that we cannot afford to leave anyone behind.

The blossom is a song of nature. It's a celebration of nature's irrefutable wisdom and for Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, it represents the principle of Freedom, Justice and Solidarity, the core values that spun the humanity's story.

The blossom is a celebration of life, and together we unite to celebrate democracy.



INTRODUCTION

Five years ago, under the stewardship of His Majesty the King, we took the first bold step on the path of democracy with the first parliamentary election in 2008. The selfless devolution of power by our farsighted Monarchs revealed the immense trust and confidence they had on the people of Bhutan to chart our future. To ensure a strong foundation for democracy and its evolution, we were presented with a magnanimous gift in the form of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. This sacred document must form the basis of all our laws and guide us into our future.

The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa is committed to upholding the sacred provisions of the Constitution and that our security, sovereignty, and independence shall be the cornerstone of all our policies.

In the last five years of our nascent democratic journey, it has become apparent that people deserve

more political parties so that they can exercise greater choices in selecting a new government. Elected governments must respect and abide by the Constitution, be answerable to the people who elect them, and be held accountable for their actions. We need a government that will listen to the people, accept and review feedback,





acknowledge constructive criticism, and above all, respect the independence of democratic institutions. A government by the people must also be a government for the people, that works for their best interests and leaves no one behind. At this early stage of our democratization, aspiring politicians have a responsibility to set examples by living up to the highest standards of leadership, be humble and easily accessible, encourage healthy debate and respect public opinion.

There is also an urgent need for a stronger opposition to provide effective check and balance, especially in a small and young democracy as ours. The importance of a strong opposition and its role in strengthening democracy cannot be undermined. Decisions must be made collectively within a shared leadership and in the best interest of the nation. Healthy political debate and respect for alternative views expressed by other political parties must be encouraged to strengthen democracy.

We have been fortunate to have selfless Monarchs who have steered the country over decades to overcome the status of being a least developed country. Planned economic developments have resulted in basic infrastructure and services to our people. The hopes and aspirations shared by the people are incorporated into the plan documents through their respective GYT and DYT and implemented through the collaborative efforts of the

different arms of the government. Irrespective of whichever Party comes to power, the unwavering and dedicated efforts of the civil servants and local government leaders will continue to determine the level of achievement. DNT will work closely with all sectors, continue to harness the strengths and dedicated services of the executive and rely on their cooperation in implementing future plans.

While the DPT government deserves to be credited with several achievements, we should also be aware of some of the failures. Our economy is experiencing a huge rupee crisis, daunting debt burden, rising credit crunch, high inflation, and ever increasing economic disparities. Corruption has emerged as a growing issue and threatens the very fabric of our small society. The independence of democratic institutions such as the ACC, media and judiciary are being undermined. In the rush to fulfil campaign promises, the quality of many development activities has been irresponsibly compromised. Regional imbalance in infrastructure, services and opportunities is becoming stark while our capital city continues to grow unsustainably. Youth unemployment is high, youth related problems continue to remain unresolved, and opportunities for them remain limited. These and many others are detrimental to democracy and to our future development. DNT is affirmative that we can provide an alternative that will make our country a better place for all.



WHY DRUK NYAMRUP TSHOGPA?

Nyamrup has been founded on the firm commitment to building a strong political institution that will actively contribute towards a vibrant democracy and providing an alternative choice for the people of Bhutan. We believe that the governing party must be subject to greater political competition, guard against complacency and promote accountability and responsibility.

Towards this we are:

- » Guided by the desire to nurture and strengthen the principles of parliamentary democracy as enshrined in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- » Bound by the allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- » Committed to enhancing peace, security, political stability, sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Bhutan at all times;
- » Convinced in the separation of the Government and Nation State of Bhutan, such that the State resources and wealth belong to the People of Bhutan;
- » Aware of the need to safeguard and enhance Bhutan's rich cultural heritage within the setting of cultural diversity;
- » Certain that inclusive and equitable economic growth with environmental sustainability, fair distribution and efficient use of resources are the best strategies for the wellbeing of the Bhutanese people; and
- » Led by the principles of social democracy, as suited to Bhutan, as the ideal form of political philosophy for moving forward all Bhutanese people together,



OUR PLEDGE

The 2013 election is very critical. Our precious democracy is at stake. The future of democracy for every Bhutanese must be safeguarded. The transition to a constitutional democracy has confronted us with numerous challenges that require bold new ideas in these new times.

Nyamrup is keenly aware that the 11th FYP developed by each community in consultation with their local leaders and has passed through several consultations at various levels. Therefore, while the overall plan may remain the same, we will prioritize programmes and projects in line with our political strategy. We offer this manifesto as a pledge to the people of Bhutan. The seven-point pledge is a reflection of the desire of the people of Bhutan.

We are confident to deliver the pledges we make in this seven-point contract. We have a strong and committed team of professionals with diverse experiences. The guidance of His Majesty the King, the wisdom of our elders, the blessings of our choe-chong sungma, and the will of our people will steer us forward through the 11th Plan. We will work together with the civil servants, local governments, the private sector, the civil societies, and all development partners to ensure smooth implementation of our plans and programs.





Pledge 1

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK



“All of us are new to this democratic transition. We have all equally acquired four and a half years of experience in democracy”.

His Majesty the King, National Day Speech, 17 December 2012.

Democracy, this gift from our wise monarchs, is still new in Bhutan. We have to nurture and strengthen this sacrosanct gift so that the supremacy of moulding our future lies with all of us, the Bhutanese. As a people's party, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa will assemble all its resources and wisdom to create a healthy democracy by listening to the voices of the people and making decisions through maximum consultations.

Based on the experiences of the past five years, there is an urgent need to ensure and uphold the independent functioning of the democratic institutions. Therefore, Nyamrup believes that this must be consciously safeguarded. The very foundation of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa is premised on its spirit to enhance democratic culture and empower people to act according to democratic principles and values. Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa will therefore harness every effort to:

- 1.1 *Safeguard the national security, sovereignty, and independence of the country in the context of our geo-political position as a small landlocked nation;*
- 1.2 *Maintain a foreign policy guided by the principle of mutual respect and benefit, one that will enhance our economy and strengthen the sovereignty of our nation; Further, we will maintain and strengthen our close and friendly relations with India.*
- 1.3 *Initiate the Right to Information (RTI) Bill to facilitate access to information for transparency and accountability at all levels;*

- 1.4 *Guarantee the independence of all democratic institutions and further strengthen it to effectively carry out their responsibilities;*
- 1.5 *Facilitate the development of an easier and convenient system for people to exercise their voting rights.*
- 1.6 *Explore the prospects of civil servants participating in the electoral process without being politically associated.*
- 1.7 *Review all the legislations, rules and regulations to align them so that our laws benefit all the Bhutanese and that the people of Bhutan enjoy equal justice.*
- 1.8 *Preserve and promote art and culture, Dzongkha and other languages, and respect all religions as enshrined in the constitution.*
- 1.9 *Explore the possibility of establishing an annual national research budget to promote research and development in the country.*





Pledge 2

SOCIAL PROTECTION: LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



“In order for democracy to flourish and take unshakable root in our small landlocked nation, my hope is that every single citizen will have the opportunity to own a home of his or her own, and become an equal partner in, and beneficiary of, the nation’s progress and growth.”

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

The legacies of our socio-cultural values and the harmonious community bond that has been much extolled for generations are menaced by the rapid pace of development and the external influences. The rural-urban migration that is on the rise each day has caused the disintegration of our closely knit traditional family structures.

While our farm homes are becoming empty and our farmlands left untilled with only the elders remaining in many villages, our youth in the urban areas struggle to get employment and sustain themselves and their family. This is the reality which is unbecoming of a country that espouses Gross National Happiness as its overarching philosophy for its growth and progress.

Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa will therefore charge itself with the responsibility of creating an enabling environment for all the Bhutanese to live GNH by choosing a pathway that represents a healthy balance of economic development and our age-old societal and family values. Through the efforts of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa, the GNH theories will transpire into realizable realities and towards this end, Nyamrup shall strive:

- 2.1 *Provide social security to elderly people through nominal pensions, discount schemes on public transport, easier access to health screening, and catering to their spiritual lives;*

we will support initiatives through civil society, private sector or government, aiming to provide housing and care to elderly people around local, community or other appropriate locations.

- 2.2 *Support armed forces personnel to avail facilities to rehabilitate themselves in rural areas upon retirement;*
- 2.3 *Develop programs and implement targeted interventions for those living below the poverty line;*
- 2.4 *Initiate and support special programs targeting vulnerable populations such as the disabled, orphans, and those living on the fringes of society;*
- 2.5 *Introduce an effective social protection mechanism for all those who work in private sector;*
- 2.6 *Enable single mothers to register their children in the civil registry;*
- 2.7 *Strengthen disaster preparedness and response mechanisms in collaboration with all relevant agencies, and assess disaster-prone communities, areas, properties or assets and prepare for appropriate adaptive measures;*





Pledge 3

REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY



“The recent Rupee shortage is a serious problem. I feel it is a reminder that, as a Nation, we must exercise our traditional sense of caution and work even harder as we address the challenges of the time”

His Majesty the King, National Day Speech, 17 December 2012.

Our economy has grown steadily at an average of 8.5% over the 10th FYP. GDP is projected to have increased to Nu. 95 billion and GDP per capita income to US \$ 2,986.¹ While these figures are indeed impressive, there has not been any significant improvement in the income of an average Bhutanese. Business opportunities remain limited without credit and processing business documents still remain lengthy and cumbersome.

The private sector which should be the engine of growth in Bhutan has been stifled and has not seen much progress in the last five years. This is evident from the World Bank’s ranking on “ease of doing business index”, where Bhutan slid from a rank of 118 in 2008 to 148 out of 185 countries in 2012.

The double-digit inflation rate of 13% (food commodities inflation of 18.7%) has never been experienced before and this has made the lives of the common Bhutanese extremely difficult. Trade balance which was Nu. -13,938 millions in 2010 has aggravated to Nu. -23,545 millions while the overall balance of payments which was Nu. 4,973 millions in 2010 spiralled down to -5,456 millions. Bhutan’s international (foreign) reserves judiciously built over time has fallen to USD 770 million for the year ending June 2012 from USD 906 million in 2011(RMA). Our total outstanding debt has increased to an equivalent of USD 1.4 billion as of June 2012 (RMA) from USD 819.9 millions in 2008.

DNT is affirmative that the private sector will have to play an important role in revitalizing and taking our economy forward. The sector can help in putting back the economy on its track of sustainable development where economic growth is both inclusive and equitable. In order to capitalize on this potential of the sector, it is necessary and urgent to put in place appropriate

¹PM’s State of the nation report 2013

monetary and fiscal measures. Such measures should provide an enabling environment for the sector to invest and expand in the areas of business, housing, industrial and other entrepreneurial activities both in urban and rural areas. A dynamic and diversified economy would generate employment and uplift the overall income of the people. These measures would also tide over the huge debts that have been accumulated. Against this background and to ensure sustainable economy in line with the 11th plan objective of achieving “urban wellbeing and rural prosperity”, Nyamrup will undertake the following:

3.1 *Constitute a team of professional experts to advise the cabinet on the economy.*

3.2 *Establish a R&D wing for political and economical advisory (groom a team of highly educated and dedicated professionals).*

3.3 *Establish an empowered committee of the key stakeholders (MOEA, DOT, DOI, DoCSI, DGM, DoE; MoF, DRC; NLCS; Thromdes; MoWHS; MoIC; MoFA; all licensing agencies as required), to be responsible for setting and achieving the targets in the economic sector.*

3.4 ***Become self-reliant by***

3.4.1 *Supporting entrepreneurs who adopt innovative mechanization in the construction industry, use local labour and materials, and prefabricated materials;*

3.4.2 *Establish a Producer-Consumer market link with local institutions (military and educational institutions; and projects) for local produces;*

3.4.3 *Promoting a workable mechanism for institutions, including schools and colleges, to buy locally-produced food stuff from the neighbouring communities;*

3.4.4 *Promoting and diversifying high-end regional tourism with special attention to cultural and religious sites and natural landscape to give benefits to the local people;*

3.4.5 *Up-scaling the existing initiatives to promote and diversify markets for Bhutanese products through strengthened market intelligence and improved marketing strategies.*

3.5 ***Exercise prudent measures on public expenditure by focusing on:***

3.5.1 *Balancing Investment opportunities with revenue return analysis in the*

context of the impact on current economy and its growth projections

- 3.5.2 *Cost-benefit analysis of planned programmes and their expenditures keeping in view their environmental, economical and social long-term benefits;*
- 3.5.3 *Balancing the expenditure budget with revenue generation and funds from external sources for planned projects and programmes; and*
- 3.5.4 *Reducing expenses on luxurious offices, luxurious vehicles, travels and “chadis”.*

3.6 Boost private sector by giving attention to:

- 3.6.1 *Establishing one stop “business facilitation centers” that will facilitate and ease the business process.*
- 3.6.2 *Enhancing the human resource capacities of the private sector by providing increased number of scholarships;*
- 3.6.3 *Taking appropriate measures to ensure equitable access to credits;*
- 3.6.4 *Reviewing the possibility of divesting and privatizing state-owned companies that have potentials to perform better as private entities;*
- 3.6.5 *Strengthening BCCI to represent the private sector more effectively;*
- 3.6.6 *Reviewing the excise refund practice to incentivise growth of industries in Bhutan and help them become more competitive;*
- 3.6.7 *Encouraging government and public companies to outsource certain functions to the private sector;*
- 3.6.8 *Reviewing and enhancing domestic wage rates and relax restriction on daily labourers from across the border; and*
- 3.6.9 *Reviewing and revising FDI policy to make the investment as per the national priorities, regional balance, skills promotion, executive development, and employment generation.*

3.7 Enhance rural prosperity by:

- 3.7.1 *Exploring strategies to decongest overcrowded Thromdes and promoting regional growth centres by appropriately relocating selective establishments and supporting new establishments/institutions in other parts of the country, along with creation of economic and job opportunities;*
- 3.7.2 *Recognize that informal economy is a permanent feature of the economy, polity, and society. Support and protect informal economy, both agriculture/non agriculture. We believe Bhutan’s both employment future and opportunity to reduce economic disparity lie*

in the informal economy as 77% of the total work force of Bhutan is in the informal economy, including 60% in agriculture. Institute informal economy budget Analysis (IEBA), both in the central and local government.

- 3.7.3 *Reviewing and further supporting agricultural subsidies to encourage horticulture, cereal crop and niche farm production;*
- 3.7.4 *Strengthening agricultural marketing by identifying markets, encouraging rural cooperative farming, enabling affordable transportation and establishing cold storages; also set up incentive schemes such as skills development, credit facilities, marketing and transport subsidies;*
- 3.7.5 *Reviewing existing conservation policy to balance conservation and sustainability of human livelihood to help farmers so as to affectively address human-wildlife conflict.*

3.8 Adopt responsible fiscal and monetary measures:

- 3.8.1 *Review the state of present credit control and ensure adequate levels of credit in the market*
- 3.8.2 *Monitor and ensure that public debt does not grow to unmanageable levels and ensure a positive Balance of Payments and enhance the management of Bhutan's foreign reserves.*
- 3.8.3 *Review rural taxes to make rural economy more vibrant; and*
- 3.8.4 *Review import duties and sales taxes on luxury goods and items.*

3.9 Adopt strategic measures relating to resources, environment and climate change to:

- 3.9.1 *Strengthen the national climate change adaptation strategy and foster public – private partnership for enhancing the sustainable water resource utilization through the process of :*
 - *Identifying and designating the critical water shed areas for protection;*
 - *Identifying and designating the critical water source areas for protection;*
- 3.9.2 *Review the current hydropower policy and diversify renewable energy options, and study the macroeconomic forecasts to ensure that hydropower does not crowd out other economic sectors;*



Pledge 4

A GOVERNMENT THAT CARES: **BRIDGING THE GAP**



“I always say, in the past, we were all equally poor. Today, with growing prosperity, we in Bhutan must be mindful of the threat posed by economic disparities within society. Its unfortunate and lasting effects can be seen in so many nations around the world.”

His Majesty Fifth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

While the Bhutanese have reaped the benefits of the successive development plans, some sections have enjoyed it more than the others; there are also many who continue to lag behind. Rapid socio-economic development has also led to rising inequalities especially among the rural and the vulnerable population.

The call of the time is therefore to implement policies that ensures fairer distribution of opportunities and resources and bridges the economic disparities gap.

About 12% of Bhutanese still continue to live in poverty with many families unsure of their next meal. The number of abandoned elderly people is on the rise. Stark differences are readily becoming apparent between the urban and rural, between Thimphu and other Thromdes, between Dzongkhags, and between the rich and poor. Many Bhutanese children drop out of schools because they lack funds to meet school expenses. Gender stereotyping and gaps remain despite enactment of numerous laws and policies. All of these gaps need to be bridged and resolved. Rising inequalities are potential social threats. We will dedicate ourselves to diagnosing the causes of inequality and implement targeted programmes to address it. Nyamrup will strive to:

- 4.1 *Table the “Mitser Thoblam Charthrim” or Citizens’ Dividend Act, which is dedicated to our people and to our future generations. It will give economic, social, and political power to the people. Once the law is enacted, it will be a path towards fair and just distribution of our nation’s natural wealth for the benefit of all people, for all times to come. We believe no Bhutanese should be left behind.*
- 4.2 *Review resource allocation framework to enable local governments with high levels of*

poverty and absence of basic infrastructure to receive additional funds; Furthermore targeted area development projects where the incidences of poverty are high will be initiated;

- 4.3 Review the taxable income (PIT) ceiling to give relief to the lower income group (exemption of PIT for those earning less than Nu.200,000 per annum);*
- 4.4 A thorough review will be commissioned to study the daily substance and travel allowance, vehicle mileage and porter rates for civil servants.*
- 4.5 Increase minimum wages for ESP/GSC/Muster roll staff and national work force commensurate with the rising costs of basic necessities;*
- 4.6 Initiate home ownership schemes to provide decent shelters to first-time home-owners, and review the Tenancy Act for better implementation;*
- 4.7 Support economic empowerment of women through expanded access to education, income-generating schemes and explore provision for availing regulated domestic helpers.*
- 4.8 Support establishment of small-scale business cooperatives for women, especially the wives of armed forces.*
- 4.9 Support NCWC and other NGOs to address gender issues and implement stringent laws on gender related harassment.*





Pledge 5

EDUCATING FOR GLOBAL COMPETENCE



“Our education system built and nurtured with your hard work and dedication has served us well. But we must understand that the times have changed here in Bhutan and all around us in the world. We cannot face new challenges with the same tools. ...every person and institution must evolve to meet the aspirations of our people and the changing needs of our nation”

His Majesty Fifth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

Education has received a very high priority in the 10th plan particularly in the area of access and quality. In the area of access the education sector has made incredible progress with the number of schools reaching an all time high and the net enrolment reaching near to 100%. While there has been good progress in improving the quality of education yet there is a need to further focus in this area so that the education system is able to produce graduates with necessary skills and values to be able to compete with the best in the world. Therefore, Druk NyamrupTshogpa will build on the foundations of the 10th plan and ensure that the education sector continues to receive the highest priority to achieve high standards in the education system.

Our quest to attain education for all has prepared more job seekers and fewer entrepreneurs. The need of the time is now a paradigm shift from “education for all” to “education with quality that is responsive to Bhutanese and global employment opportunities”. Our youth should graduate from schools and tertiary institutions with skills to respond the demands of the job market and the mobile labour structure. Druk NyamrupTshogpa shall therefore endeavour to make responsive investment in human capital so that our graduates from different levels of educational institutions are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, values and competence to be employed in the global job market. Towards this end Druk NyamrupTshogpa

will:

5.1 *Review the education system to:*

- » *To develop and put in place the National Education Policy, which would provide broad directions to the National Education System.*

5.2 *Focus on the quality of education through consolidation and rationalization of schools both in terms of physical structures and the curriculum.*

- *Review the status of all schools in terms of numbers of students and existing physical structures to rationalize and downgrade the very small and unsustainable primary schools to extended classrooms (ECRs) and send the children of class IV and above to the nearest school with adequate and appropriate teaching learning infrastructure and facilities, so as to provide quality learning outcomes while minimizing wastage of resources and enhancing efficiency in delivery of education services.*
- *Even though the curriculum has undergone several changes and modifications, yet there is still a need to review the curriculum further and align it with our national goals. Necessary changes need to be brought into the content to equip our children with knowledge and skills that will enable them to compete favourably in the national, regional and international job markets. Curriculum reforms will be aimed to ensure that our children have greater opportunities to learn and excel in globally useful skills. We will include ICT as an important subject in schools to build the necessary foundations for Bhutan to become a knowledge-based society.*
- *Introduce vocational educational program as an optional subject for students from classes 9 to 12 with proper accreditation of marks in their final examination.*

5.3 *To motivate teachers through the development and implementation of a well structured teacher human resource strategy. The strategy will streamline teacher career tracks, their recruitment, professional development and performance management system.*

- *Ensure that all teachers acquire a minimum number of hours of professional development and establish a performance management system to recognize their professional input and individual commitment*
- *To encourage teachers to teach in rural Bhutan, we will review their living*

conditions and ensure that their basic needs like accommodation and access to health services and communications like internet are made available.

- 5.4 Encourage establishment of private schools of international standards both for local as well as to attract international students.*
- 5.5 Include students in monastic schools/shedras in the education system for extending regular financial support for infrastructure, capacity building, education materials and teaching aids.*
- 5.6 Develop selected schools/educational institutions as education villages/towns by enhancing infrastructure, facilities, and resources with the community participating for their sustenance;*
- 5.7 All schools should have phone network and be provided with internet facilities. We will explore the feasibility to provide laptops to access information for teaching and communication. IT libraries will be established.*







Pledge 6

**HARNESSING THE YOUTH
POTENTIAL: OUR YOUTH,
OUR FUTURE**



I have said it time and time again, “a nation’s future will mirror the quality of her youth – a nation cannot fool herself into thinking of a bright future when she has not invested wisely in her children.”

His Majesty the King’s speech at the 3rd convocation of the RUB.

Development and modernization has led to change in the lifestyles and expectations of our youth. They are the most vulnerable to numerous issues such as alcohol and substance use, HIV/AIDS, crime, and alienation in the society.

Our youth also struggle for employment; the highest unemployment rate at 7.3% (LFS 2012) is also among this group. While resources have been invested to help our youth, they need more attention and priority. More could be done to harness their potentials and prepare them to bloom into responsible Bhutanese and global citizens as aspired by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa will therefore do the utmost to:

- 6.1 *Ensure the implementation of the National Youth Policy to address the needs of the young people through a concerted and collective effort of all relevant agencies. This will ensure greater impact with efficient utilization of resources.*
- 6.2 *Develop a youth employment strategy that will include research and job mapping, analyzing future job requirements and instituting programs that equip young people with skills to take up jobs in demand;*
- 6.3 *Expand and strengthen regional-based vocational training institutes through reviewing and revising curricula, improving pedagogy, recruiting master trainers to train, instituting supervised internships and encouraging apprenticeship programs.*
- 6.4 *Promote and facilitate cooperatives and firms for youth groups in various business ventures;*

- 6.5 *Promote and strengthen the existing youth service centres for job information, recreation and facilitate participation of youth and young women representatives in democracy and good governance;*
- 6.6 *Institute effective mechanism to ease procedures and ensure equitable, fair and transparent training and employment opportunities such as facilities for conducting RCSC orientation and examination in regional centres;*
- 6.7 *Review the existing co-curricular programmes in schools like counselling, scouting etc to strengthen and integrate them under the broad umbrella on educating for GNH to infuse life skills and values in our youth.*
- 6.8 *Assess the utility of graduate orientation program and further support the ongoing Duesup programme.*
- 6.9 *Set up at least two rehabilitation centers of international standards, one in the east and one in the west, for the treatment of youth addicted to alcohol and other substance abuse.*
- 6.10 *Explore linkages with regional and global institutions and agencies to provide opportunities for young people to develop skills to take up jobs abroad and also facilitate them to get employment abroad.*
- 6.11 *Enhance sporting activities/programmes to enable youth to take it up as career options and also facilitate the growth of national talents to be able to compete at the regional and international level through institution of structured agencies like a National Sports Authority with clear mandates and functions.*





Pledge 7

BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES: YOUR RIGHT, OUR COMMITMENT



“Throughout my reign I will never rule you as a King. I will protect you as a parent, care for you as a brother and serve you as a son. I shall give you everything and keep nothing”

His Majesty the King’s Coronation Speech

Long before Bhutan embraced democracy, free basic public services have been recognized as the foundations for growth and progress of Bhutan its people. Investments ploughed in this have transpired into villages connected with farm roads and electricity, villages with access to basic facilities such as health, primary education, renewable natural resource extension services, irrigation, and safe drinking water. However, while these facilities remain a much coveted dream of many villages, those with it struggle to maintain them.

Rapid urbanization on the other hand is an emerging challenge with over 31% of the total population now living in urban areas. With high rate of rural urban migration, it is estimated that by 2020, the urbanization level will be between 50% and 73%, This exerts considerable pressure on urban infrastructures and services. Increasing congestion, housing problems, poor sanitation, environmental concerns, and safety issues are some of the challenges being faced.

Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa will therefore commit to ensuring a decent life with easy access to all the basic public services and facilities. We shall strive to:

7.1 Provide better infrastructure by:

- 7.1.1 Strengthening agencies in developing infrastructures that are of high quality and user-friendly;

- 7.1.2 *Exploring the potential for construction of ropeways and underground tunnels;*
- 7.1.3 *Constructing new and improving the existing infrastructure, particularly rural roads, drinking water supply schemes, rural electrification, irrigation channels, and telecommunications including TV and radio connectivity.*

7.2 Consolidate health services by:

- 7.2.1 *Strengthening the delivery of free health services to all and improving quality by setting minimum standards;*
- 7.2.2 *Upgrading referral services in the regional hospitals with additional professional staff (specialist doctors, nurses and technicians) and equipment;*
- 7.2.3 *Providing greater autonomy to JDWNRH to carry out its responsibility as the tertiary referral center and support its expansion of specialised services thorough greater allocation of resources;*
- 7.2.4 *Introducing post graduate courses for doctors and nurses at JDNWRH in select departments that will benefit doctors to specialize and improve quality of care for patients by quicker and round the clock access to health care;*
- 7.2.5 *Supporting the establishment of high quality specialized private health services in select areas through close consultation with the medical fraternity, public and Medical and Health Council.*
- 7.2.6 *Meeting the increased demand for nurses and paramedical workers by exploring the possibility of establishing nursing colleges in different regions in partnership with international nursing institutions;*
- 7.2.7 *Focusing on precaution and preventive measures especially for emerging diseases due to changing life styles;*
- 7.2.8 *Support systematic and regular mobile specialised medical groups to targeted areas and vulnerable people, particularly for eye checkups, dental checkups, diabetic treatment, and maternal health.*
- 7.2.9 *Instituting better incentive mechanisms for those performing hazardous work, recognizing the contribution of dedicated and outstanding work and developing opportunities to upgrade skills and knowledge.*

7.3 Provide transport and communications services by:

- 7.3.1 *Completing the southern east-west highway to ease travel along the southern border;*
- 7.3.2 *Improving the quality, safety and reliability of the national highways and district roads to ensure that they are usable throughout the year;*
- 7.3.3 *Adopting minimum criteria policy to build and maintain high-quality roads and bridges in future.*
- 7.3.4 *Reviewing the policy that mandates the local communities to maintain farm roads; also review road access to scared religious monasteries for preserving aesthetic aspects of our cultural sites.*
- 7.3.5 *Exploring possibility of starting railway services from the Indian border to the internal foothill of Phuntsholing, Samdrukjonkhar, and Sarpang.*
- 7.3.6 *Facilitating and improving the operation and support maintenance of roadside amenities like rest rooms, restaurants, and lodges by local communities;*
- 7.3.7 *Providing improved telecommunications services including Internet to all 205 Gewogs.*

7.4 Strengthen waste management and public utility services by:

- 7.4.1 *Developing and implementing a comprehensive waste management programme for urban centres;*

7.5 Strengthen Community Centres in the community through:

- 7.5.1 *Establishing community centres in all gewog centres to facilitate provision of services through one stop shops for rural residents;*
- 7.5.2 *Providing equipment and resources to the community centres to provide effective services such as farmer information, processing of various licenses, issue of permits, paying bills, drafting of legal documents, and others;*

CONCLUSION

This seven point pledge, the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa manifesto, embodies our five year commitment to all the Bhutanese. Along with GNH infused development and progress of our nation and our people, the Bhutanese will also witness that the bedrock of Nyamrup's vision is also strengthening of security, sovereignty, and independence of our country.

It must be known that while this manifesto is founded on the programmes and activities indicated in the draft 11FYP, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa has also proposes furthermore to prioritize policies and planned activities to bridge the gap between the urban and rural, rich and the poor, and gender; ensure efficient public service delivery, and promote democracy and good governance.

In keeping with the principles of freedom, justice and solidarity, we are convinced that we can live up to the expectations of the people in the next five years and beyond. Of all, Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa shall uphold the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan so that all the Bhutanese will cherish the virtue and magnificence of democracy that Bhutan embraced some five years ago in 2008. Nyamrup will deliver progress beyond statistics.







Aum Demola, from a remote village in Zhemgang, lives in a hut that's almost falling down. She doesn't have a proper hut that will keep the rain and the wind away. But she calls it her home. Inside her hut, there is hardly anything. Her only and most prized asset is her leftover meal from the previous night that she kept under lock in a wooden box in her bamboo hut. She has the key around her neck.

The struggles of Aum Demola and many of our fellow citizens have challenged Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa to rise up for their cause to establish a truly people's government that serves the people and not the other way round.

Bumthang



Phuntsho Namgey
Chumey-Ura constituency
Phone: 77104595/17654595



Galey Dendup
Chhoekhor-Tang constituency
Phone: 17931421



Karma Nidup
Bongo-Chapcha constituency
Phone: 17113656



Jai Bir Rai
Phuentsholing constituency
Phone: 17119190

Dagana



Prakash Sharma
Lhamoyzingkha-Trashiding constituency
Phone: 17601307



Tashi
Drujeygang-Tseza constituency
Phone: 17340090

Gasa



Tshering Dhendup
Goenkhamay-Lunana constituency
Phone: 17975800



Tenzin
Goenkhatoe-Laya constituency
Phone: 17615283

Haa



Dorjee Wangmo
Sombaykha constituency
Phone: 17583443



Jigme Lhendup
Bji-Katsho-Uesu constituency
Phone: 17710230



Tshewang Dema
Ganzur- Minjay constituency
Phone: 77301097



Sonam Dendup
Menbi-Tsenkhar constituency
Phone: 77108998

Lhuentse

Vice President



Jigme Zangpo
Mongar constituency
Phone: 17604031

Mongar



Jigme Dorji
Dremtse-Ngatshang constituency
Phone: 77288887/17721021



Pema Dechen
Kengkhar-Weringla constituency
Phone: 17478633

Paro



Nima Tshering
Doga-Shaba constituency
Phone: 17603612

Paro



Jamtsho Wangyel
Langong-Wangchang constituency
Phone: 77305277



Dr. Singye Namgyal
Khar-Yurung constituency
Phone: 17702127/17130275

Pemagatshel



Karma Dorji
Nanglam constituency
Phone: 77110488



Sonam Dendup
Nanong-Shumar constituency
Phone: 17715362/77412317

Punakha



Sangay Phurba
Kabji-Talo constituency
Phone: 77248055



Dr. Tandi Dorji
Lingmukha-Teowang constituency
Phone: 17114018

Samdrup Jongkhar



Wangdi Gyetshen
Deothang-Gomdar constituency
Phone: 17612091



Pelzang Wangchuk
Jomotsangkha-Martshala constituency
Phone: 17605057

Samtse



Nima Tshering
Sipsu-Samtse
constituency
Phone: 17684332



Mani Kumar Pradhan
Ugyentshe-Yoeseltse
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Phone: 17600093



Loknath Sharma
Dophuchen-Tading
constituency
Phone: 17602251



Kamal Dan Chamling
Pagli-Samtse constituency
Phone: 17111541

Vice President

Sarpang



Achyut Bhandari
Gelephu constituency
Phone: 17601907



Kul Bahadur Tamang
Shompangkha constituency
Phone: 17117344

Thimphu



Sangay Zam
North Thimphu Throm
constituency
Phone: 17113518



Dr. Lotay Tshering
South Thimphu Throm
constituency
Phone: 17162399

President

General Secretary

Trashigang



Dorji Choden
Thrimshing constituency
Phone: 17604259



Tenzin Lekhpell
Bartsham-Shongphu
constituency
Phone: 77105757



Norbu Wangchuk
Kanglung-Samkhar-Udzorong
constituency
Phone: 77106331



Kentsho Wangdi
Wamrong constituency
Phone: 17578330



Kinley Dorji
Radhi-Sakteng constituency
Phone: 17602633/ 17141719

Trashiyangtse



Tshewang Dorji
Khamdang-Ramjar
constituency
Phone: 17624554



Lobzang Tenzin
Bumdelling-Jamkhar
constituency
Phone: 17650639

Trongsa



Yeshey Penjor
Nubi-Tangsitbi constituency
Phone: 77248454/ 17706535

Trongsa



Pema Zangmo
Drakteng-Langthel
constituency
Phone: 17278209

Tsirang



Bhim Thapa
Kikhortang-Mendrelgang
constituency
Phone: 17899739



Chhatraman Chhetri
Pataley-Tsirangtse
constituency
Phone: 17610034

Wangduephodrang



Rinchen Namgay
Athang-Thedtsho constituency
Phone: 17110818



Phuntscho Wangdi
Nyisho-Sephu constituency
Phone: 17626387

Zhemgang



Lekey Dorji
Bardo-Trong constituency
Phone: 77113029



Tshering
Panbang constituency
Phone: 17753283



People's Government

...must be in the hands of the people!



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