



MANIFESTO

Wangtse Chhirpel : Prosperity for All

People's Democratic Party



DEDICATED TO THE KINGS AND THE PEOPLE OF BHUTAN

As the 2013 general elections are at our doorsteps, we are once again reminded of the historic year of 1907 when the people of Bhutan handed to Druk Gyalpo Ugyen Wangchuck, the power to rule this country. The following glorious 100 years were defined by the visionary rule of the Great Wangchucks who tirelessly struggled to build this nation brick by brick.

In 2008, a sovereign nation, prosperous and in the right path toward social and economic progress, was handed back to the people. Our visionary fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who coined the term Wangtse Chhirpel, introduced democracy by devolving power first to the communities to elect their leaders, to a parliament to elect their ministers, and then to the whole nation to elect their representatives. Under His Majesty Jigme Khesar's wise leadership, our democratic institutions have been nurtured and strengthened. He has been a unifying, inspiring and corrective presence for our young democracy.

This manifesto, a blueprint of the PDP's program for the next five years, is drawn from the wisdom of our monarchs and is motivated by the unflinching love of the Bhutanese people for this country.

Despite being a small population, we have proved our mettle over the centuries, guarding this land from external threat, colonization, and undue influences. We have not just survived, but thrived, adapting to the call of changing times.

With the blessings of our guardian deities, the wise leadership and sacrifices of our Kings, we could lead our lives towards fulfilling our personal and national goals. Our farmers, men and women, have tilled the land to turn barren lands green to feed their families and also the rest of us. Our armed forces, braving sun and snow along threatening terrains, have guarded our frontiers and ensured we enjoy peace and security. Our civil servants have been the backbone of our development. Our teachers are mindful that they are nurturing the future of this country. Despite a weak economy, our businessmen have been contributing to the national coffers and have created jobs. And the thousands in our unorganized sector sweat for their country as they go about earning their daily bread.

It is the vision of our King and the face of every citizen of our glorious land - men and women, young and old - who inspire Wangtse Chhirpel, which empowers people for liberty, equality and prosperity by devolving power and authority from the centre to the people.

We, the members of PDP, with gratitude and happiness, submit this manifesto to the People of Bhutan.





Tshering Tobgay
President,
People's Democratic Party

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Five years back, on our 100th National Day, His Majesty the King said, “Today, in the womb of a strong and peaceful monarchy, we have begun to nurture the hopes of a vibrant democracy. It is this endeavour that we must henceforth uphold as our greatest priority - the success of democracy. For in the success of democracy lies the consolidation of our nation’s achievements and the future happiness and wellbeing of Bhutan.”

Bhutan became a parliamentary democracy at the best of times. Though after an initial reluctance and confusion on what this new system of governance would bring, we went to the polling booths with 83% of voters casting their franchise. This act displayed the trust our people had in a system, which we received as a gift from the golden throne. Our transition would never have been possible without the guidance of His Majesty the King.

The People’s Democratic Party is the first political party formed after His Majesty the Fourth King introduced parliamentary democracy in 2006. In the first elections of 2008, the party won 33% votes to be in the opposition and had two lawmakers in the 47-member National Assembly.

On December 17, 2012, our 104th National Day, His Majesty The King conferred Druk Thuksey, the highest civilian honor, on PDP for the party’s participation in the historic transition to democracy. This recognition is humbling for all PDP members and wellwishers. Despite being the world’s smallest opposition party, we have constructively



engaged in the first five years of parliament. PDP has stood for the people of Bhutan and been their voice inside and outside parliament with dedication and conviction. As the second elections approach, we return to you with a group of candidates who are capable of representing you in the National Assembly. Believing in the right for all Bhutanese to enjoy prosperity and happiness, we are committed to empowering people for liberty, equality and prosperity by devolving power and authority from the centre to the people.

We congratulate and welcome all the other political parties who are participating in the second democratic elections. We provide a choice for our people to elect the best to serve them. PDP is honored to be part of this exciting journey.

PDP resolves to make His Majesty’s vision of Gross National Happiness a reality through the creation of enabling environment for the people to use their democratic powers responsibly and progressively and to chart the nation’s destiny. PDP pledges to serve the people of Bhutan with dedication and humility, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck with loyalty and devotion, and bear true allegiance to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

This manifesto, prepared after a wide range of discussions with citizens from all walks of life, is a document of our humble aspirations for the people of Bhutan. I, on behalf of all PDP candidates, seek your blessings to fulfill your dreams for a prosperous Bhutan.

Tashi Delek

Tshering Tobgay
President,
People's Democratic Party





Guiding Philosophy

GNH transcends ideologies and no political party can claim ownership over it. GNH is His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo's legacy. It is a profound philosophy that takes into account the intangible components of spirituality, culture, the natural environment, and good governance along with material development when determining policy. We are extremely proud of our development policy and will always be inspired and guided by this precious philosophy.

The People's Democratic Party's ideology, *Wangtse Chhirpel*, draws inspiration from Gross National Happiness. Though theorizing about GNH and placing the idea for the world is necessary, PDP believes in the simple premise on which it is constructed. As His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck has succinctly said: GNH is Development with Values.

Values We Believe In

PDP believes in prosperity for all. And our pursuit of social and economic development should mirror the values of liberty, justice, equal opportunity and basic social security for all citizens. The party ideology of Wangtse Chhirpel is based on these values inspired by Gross National Happiness.

Wangtse Chhirpel

*Empowering people for liberty, equality and prosperity by devolving power
and authority from the centre to the people*

The term Wangtse Chhirpel was coined by our Fourth Druk Gyalpo and was prudently implemented throughout his reign from the 70s. Wangtse Chhirpel believes that people know what is best for them, policy makers at the central government only facilitate and help people organize and implement their aspirations. Wangtse Chhirpel devolves power to institutions, as defined by the Constitution. The government should not interfere, but instead facilitate governance.

Contents

Dedicated to the Kings and the People of Bhutan:	4
Message from the President:	6
Guiding Philosophy:	7
Values We Believe In:	7
Wangtse Chhirpel:	7

PART I

Institutions that guarded Democracy:	12
a. Our Monarchy:	13
b. A Committed Civil Service:	13
c. Steadfast Judiciary:	14
d. Fearless ACC:	14
e. Strong Election Commission:	14
f. Resilient Private Sector:	15
g. Proactive Civil Society:	15
h. Watchful Media:	15





Contents

PART II	
The PDP Pledge : Prosperity For All	16
1. Security and Sovereignty:	17
2. Good Governance:	20
a. Constitutional Bodies:	21
b. Local Government:	22
i. Empowering Gewogs:	24
ii. Empowering Thromdes:	25
iii. Empowering Dzongkhags:	26
c. Rural Development:	26
d. Root Out Corruption:	28
e. An Efficient Civil Service:	28
f. An Independent Media:	30
g. A Vibrant Civil Society:	30
h. Effective Disaster Management:	31
3. Economic Development:	32
a. Towards a Robust and Free Economy:	33
b. Getting Out of the Rupee Crisis:	34
c. Private Sector:	35
d. Developing Infrastructure:	37
e. A Competitive Financial Sector:	38
f. Agriculture to Alleviate Poverty:	39

Contents

g. Hydropower and Energy:	41
h. Tourism:	42
4. Human Development:	44
a. Health Services for All:	45
b. An Education System to be Proud of:	46
c. Social Security and Welfare:	48
d. Youth and Women :	50
5. Environment and Sustainable Development:	52
6. Arts, Culture and Heritage:	54
7. Endowments:	59
8. Rising East:	60
9. Pledges for the First 100 Days in Office:	64
10. Our Vision:	68
11. Our Mission:	68
12. PDP Symbol:	69





Part I

INSTITUTIONS THAT GUARDED DEMOCRACY

The steel frame of a democratic society is its institutions. Thanks to the vision of our Monarchs, robust institutions necessary for a smooth transitioning to democracy was already in place in 2008 when we became a democracy. In the past five years the transition to democracy has been smooth and successful and we, as Bhutanese people, are proud that we did not experience the anxiety that many other countries around the world endured to nurture a democratic culture. The successful transition has been possible mainly because the democratic institutions fulfilled their constitutional duties and performed their roles honestly and independently.



a. Our Monarchy

Our Monarchy has been selfless and uncompromising in keeping Bhutan a united, peaceful and sovereign nation. Forward looking in their vision for our country, they laid the foundations of a democratic culture. The Third Druk Gyalpo instituted a parliament with people's representatives, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo introduced decentralization and democracy and His Majesty Jigme Khesar consolidated our democratic institutions.

The Wangchuck dynasty has always kept the welfare of the Bhutanese people above everything else. Under the guidance of His Majesty Jigme Khesar, *Kidu* has been institutionalized taking welfare to the doorsteps of every needy citizen. At times of disaster, he has been the first to reach the people offering them comfort and helping them rebuild lives. He has always reached out to our young people inspiring them to envision a prosperous Bhutan, which they can build together. During his reign, the relations with India, our closest neighbor and friend, was strengthened not allowing it to strain under any circumstances. He has been Bhutan's best ambassador to the world presenting a country with a noble vision for the wellbeing of all humanity.

b. A Committed Civil Service

Our monarchs instituted, with utmost care, a bureaucracy that is honest, dedicated and that shares a common vision for the future. Our civil servants, across all levels have proved to be one of the best, with the interest of the nation always as their priority. We have the brightest and the most efficient planners, engineers, economists, administrators that a nation can expect. Despite challenges that have sometimes undermined their role, despite unreasonable expectations, they have kept their spirits up and have not lost their vision.



c. Steadfast Judiciary

The Judiciary has been steadfast in discharging justice, setting the right precedence without fear or favour. After the Opposition Party filed the first constitutional case on the cabinet's legality to tax people, the government ran a national campaign on its right to go ahead without putting up a parliament bill. The court ruling against the government decision proved that our Judiciary is a strong institution that cannot be swayed by political pressure. The historic verdict in the Gyalpozhing case has strengthened people's trust in the rule of law.

d. Fearless ACC

The Anti Corruption Commission, since its beginning has been on an uphill battle against corruption in Bhutan. The embattled DPT government has challenged the authority of this constitutional body several times after it was caught in wrongdoing. When it was not able to question the ACC, it tried to co-opt the Commission, by asking the Commission to investigate members of government. Despite testing times, the ACC has not deterred in their duty, reinforcing people's faith in the institution.

e. Strong Election Commission

The Election Commission of Bhutan, despite being challenged by parliament over local government issues and a reduced budget for 2013, has upheld its constitutional role of conducting free and fair elections. The Commission has been widely applauded for conducting the 2008 elections, the 2011 LG elections and the recent National Council elections systematically and fairly. The ECB has functioned with integrity ensuring the credibility of our young democracy.

f. Resilient Private Sector

The past five years saw the toughest times for our private sector, throttled by the rupee crisis, lack of support from the government and an unfavorable financial climate. Despite all this, our hardworking business people infused fresh ideas into business. They continued to invest, provided jobs and are paying taxes to the national coffers. We honor their resilience and commits to further empowering our private sector.

g. Proactive Civil Society

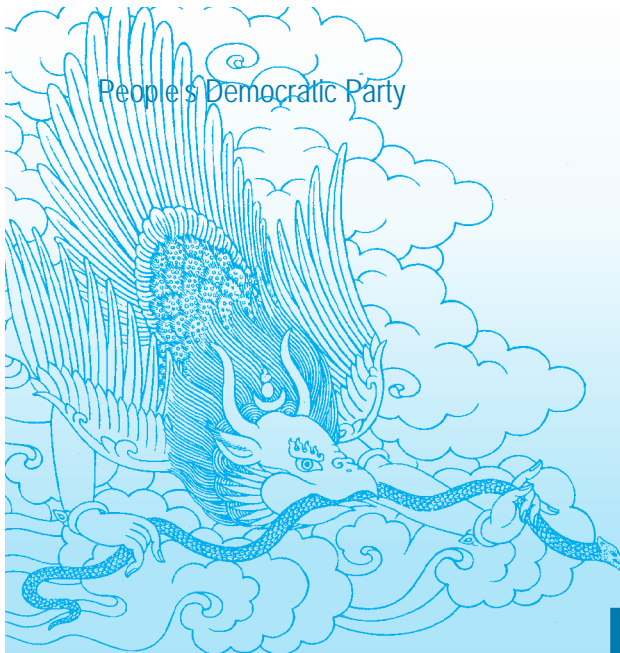
Our civil society organizations, small and big, have played an immense role in providing support to the needy and hope for those in distress. Their role has been immense in supporting women, fighting domestic violence and lifting people from poverty. They have nurtured new entrepreneurs helping many take the road towards prosperity. Without much fanfare, our CSOs have been contributing to ward overarching goal of Gross National Happiness.

h. Watchful Media

Five years back, Bhutan's free media covered the first elections in high spirits, sharing the excitement of a new democracy in the making. Today, the private press is dying. But despite struggles, the fourth estate has been on a constant guard, questioning government wrongdoing, applauding right policies and informing people. They have not deterred in this task of writing the first draft of history without fear or favor.

The People's Democratic Party applauds all our institutions in upholding the highest values of democracy and making our constitution a living document. The party will continue to support and further strengthen all our democratic institutions for a free, prosperous and just Bhutan.





Part II

THE PDP PLEDGE: PROSPERITY FOR ALL

This manifesto, the action plan for a PDP government was not borne in isolation. It is a document chiselled over the years in close consultation with people from all walks of life; farmers, teachers, civil servants, policy makers, economists, and the private sector. At a time when we witness a serious trust deficiency between the government and the people, this manifesto believes that we need a government that trusts its people. This Manifesto strives to achieve our dream of Prosperity for All through *Wangtse Chirphel*, empowering people for liberty, equality, and prosperity by devolving power and authority from the centre to the people.



1. SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

PDP believes that security and sovereignty of the country are non-negotiable and will be accorded the highest of priorities. All the three armed forces will be strengthened with adequate human resource and the expertise to safeguard the country from all threats. We believe that our armed personnel should be contented so they can ensure that our security is never compromised. We will follow prudent foreign policy adopted by our Kings which have served the nation exceedingly well in the past. While continuing to tread on the international stage cautiously, we will further our engagement with India and strengthen the strong bond of friendship.

The PDP government will ensure that our national security is not compromised in anyway. We will improve measures to strengthen security at the





While continuing to tread on the international stage cautiously, PDP will further our engagement with India and strengthen the strong bond of friendship.

international borders and will also strengthen internal security. We believe that our armed personnel have to be happy to ensure that they deliver their best and we will offer full support to improve their quality of life. We will train retired soldiers to make them competent to take up civilian jobs after retirement.

Efforts will be taken to formulate plans and programs to reduce crime and support the Royal Bhutan Police in executing the plans to ensure safety of the people. Fighting crime through educational and advocacy programs will be a priority. PDP will initiate a neighbourhood watch program including civilians with support from the Royal Bhutan Police to ensure safe neighbourhoods.

A prudent foreign policy

Our foreign policy will prioritise to strengthen our time-tested friendship with India. We will foster good relations with the neighbouring Indian states

of West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Sikkim and Bihar to ensure the safety of Bhutanese travelling through those states and to convenience business relations. We will look into the possibilities of establishing liaison offices in the above mentioned Indian states.

The PDP government will continue to strengthen relations with all countries to ensure Bhutan's presence in the international arena. However, our approach will be cautious and we will take informed stands on issues that pertain to Bhutan, especially our sovereignty and independence. We will focus on security to ensure safety of our people living in and near our border towns.





2. GOOD GOVERNANCE

PDP believes in placing the people in the centre of our development process. We believe that the people should be involved in the developmental process and it can only be done by empowering them. We believe in empowering the citizenry and all other democratic institutions like the constitutional bodies. We believe in strengthening our constitutional institutions to function without interference. Strong constitutional bodies are the backbone of a functioning democracy. They have to be strengthened with funds and required human resources. We believe in empowering the local government bodies. The Local Government Act has to be amended to give local government institutions autonomy. Today the local governments are independent only on paper. They are not financially healthy. This will change with the proper streamlining of funds for the local bod-

ies. Our thromdes should be vibrant communities where people love to live and work. To achieve this, thromdes have to enjoy full autonomy. For effective functioning, interference from government ministries should be curtailed.

Only a happy civil service can be efficient. The PDP government will remove bureaucratic hurdles that throttle growth in the civil service. Position Classification System will be revisited, and if needed, revoked. Special housing schemes including housing allowance for civil servants who do not have government quarters will be fast-tracked.

The PDP government will not increase government ministries. The prime minister will also assume the portfolio of at least one ministry to ensure that there is no need to have too many ministers. We will ensure that the prime minister's office is not bloated. The prime minister and cabinet ministers will have minimum security. On completing the term, PDP cabinet will return the duty vehicles to the government.

PDP will initiate a **Meet-the-People** program: We will start this program where all the cabinet ministers including the prime minister will dedicate at least one day in the weekend to meet the people. The prime minister will meet the youth, the private sector and people from all other sectors on Saturdays without any appointment. Cabinet ministers will also be in their office and people can walk in without appointment. PDP will initiate this program so that the top leadership should be abreast with problems of the people. This program will also ensure transparency in governance.

a. Constitutional Bodies

The constitutional bodies require to be strengthened by trusting them with their authority and independence to ensure that democracy succeeds. The PDP government will also create a forum to regularly meet the





constitutional bodies to ensure that they are able to fulfil their constitutional mandates to the best of their abilities.

The PDP government will ensure that all the constitutional bodies are adequately staffed and have enough resources to fulfil their constitutional functions.

- *We will ensure that the most capable people with the highest of integrity are heading the constitutional bodies.*
- *We will make it sure that there is no kind of external pressure on these bodies to compromise on their independence and functionality.*
- *Benefit schemes for all constitutional bodies will be put in place to ensure that they are adequately compensated for their contributions.*
- *We will ensure that all institutions are free of corruption and internal auditing mechanism will be strengthened.*

b. Local Government

PDP's ideology of *Wangtse Chhirpel* places the local government at the centre of our development philosophy. We believe that actual democratization will only fruition by devolving power from the centre to the people. We will prioritise to empower the local government to ensure that it can work independently with minimal guidance from the centre.

All local government institutions will be strengthened and it will be empowered to take more independent decisions. PDP will empower the local government mainly in three ways:

- **More administrative powers:** *Local government bodies will be given maximum autonomy to take decisions. They will have more power to*



The PDP government will initiate an annual grant of Nu 20,00,000 (Nu 2 million or Nu 20 lakhs) for every gewog. The gewog will have full discretion to use the grant for developmental projects or any other related expenses.

prioritize developmental activities and even change developmental activities based on need and urgency. They will enjoy more power over other institutions located under their jurisdiction like schools, BHUs, livestock centres etc so that prompt decisions can be taken.

- **By giving more financial powers:** *The local government bodies have limited financial power in terms of available funds or the discretion to use it. PDP government will give them more funds and more discretion.*
- **By giving local government leaders the salaries and allowances they deserve:** *We will come up with a Local Government Entitlement Act and will ensure that local government leaders get salaries and benefits that are commensurate to their responsibilities. We will aim to pay them well to ensure that capable people are attracted to take up the important positions.*

With the belief that development plans should follow a bottom-to-top





approach, we will ensure that each local government body enjoys more power and discretion to ensure they are independent functionaries of the government.

i. Empowering gewogs

To ensure that there is true *Wangtse Chhirpel* and achieve our goal of Prosperity for All, people must be empowered at the grassroot level. The PDP government will ensure that all gewog administration offices are independent and empowered to take their own decisions based on the unique ground realities of every gewog. We will strengthen all gewog centres with more manpower and resources.

- The PDP government will initiate an annual grant of Nu 20,00,000 (Nu 2 million or Nu 20 lakhs) for every gewog. The gewog will have full discretion to use the grant for developmental projects or any other related expenses. This grant will go a long way in meeting urgent local needs. It can also be used as relief in times of disasters. The grant will also give financial flexibility to gewogs which will go a long way in helping them function independently. Today, a gewog centre gets a

meagre sum of Nu 50,000 over and above the budget for miscellaneous expenses.

- Within the first week of forming the government, PDP will call the Pay Commission to look into the salary and benefit packages of local government officials. PDP will look into the possibilities of at least doubling the salary of gups and increasing the allowances and other benefits. PDP believes that local leaders have to be paid well to make the post attractive. The only way to encourage the well educated, capable and talented pool of Bhutanese citizens to serve in the local government bodies is to make it attractive.
- We will ensure that all gewogs have basic facilities in place. People should have a good reason not to look beyond the gewog for basic services. We will ensure that:
 - Every gewog centre is connected by a black-topped motor road.
 - Every gewog office will have at least one utility vehicle.
 - Every gewog has a Fuel Station that will sell kerosene, gas cylinder, petrol and diesel.
 - Every gewog has at least one FCB shop to sell subsidized goods and commodities.
 - Every gewog has a Farmers' Bank. We will initiate special loan schemes for farmers to buy utility vehicles like power tillers and bolero pick-up trucks.
 - Every Chiwog/village will have at least one power tiller.
 - All farm roads will have proper surfacing and drainage provision.

ii. Empowering Thromdes

To strengthen the local government, every institution of the local government should be established and strengthened with adequate manpower





and resources. Towards that end, PDP will establish a thromde in every Dzongkhag headquarter as required by the Constitution. Every thromde will have a thrompon each. The establishment of the thromde will expedite uniform urban development of all dzongkhag towns in the country.

iii. Empowering Dzongkhags

The dzongkhag administration has to be strong and independent to ensure that benefits trickle down to the grassroots in an effective manner. PDP will prioritise to strengthen the dzongkhag administration by providing necessary infrastructure, resources and facilities. PDP pledges that:

- *Every dzongkhag will have at least one good school with boarding facilities. The school will be under the dzongkhag administration and it will encourage to have students from within the dzongkhag.*
- *Every dzongkhag will have at least one excavator for every dzongkhag*
- *Every dzongkhag administration will have a fire fighting unit.*
- *Every dzongkhag hospital will have three doctors including one specialist.*
- *Every hospital will have two ambulances each.*

c. Rural Development

For balanced and equitable development, we have to ensure that the benefits of economic progress reach the grassroots. Our people need to enjoy living in our rural areas and not consider it as a burden. PDP believes that rural development through agriculture promotion and consolidation of CSIs should be at the heart of the agenda for Prosperity for All.

- *PDP will ensure that all 205 gewogs will have basic infrastructure and facilities in place.*
- *Rural accessibility will be improved by introduction of bus services between different dzongkhags and rural destinations.*
- *We will introduce bus services to gewogs with motor roads.*
- *We will establish a Cooperative Development Fund for the benefit of our rural population.*
- *We will encourage the participation of our people in the One-Gewog-One-Product movement.*
- *We will encourage civil servants who want to serve from their home dzongkhag to enable a sense of ownership to the place and contribute to rural development.*
- *We will promote select towns as regional centers.*
- *We will strengthen our Cottage and Small Industries (CSI) by enabling rural Bhutanese to be entrepreneurial.*
- *We will develop the CSIs with special focus on vulnerable groups like women and youth.*
- *We will explore possibilities of establishing clusters in the CSI sector.*
- *Small-scale rural businesses will be freed of tax burden.*
- *Collaboration with financial institutions and developmental partners to introduce financial packages to help entrepreneurs in the CSI sector will be a priority.*
- *We will launch a nationwide poverty census within the first 100 days of our governance to identify those under the poverty line. We will then initiate a special poverty alleviation program.*
- *We will lift the vehicle import ban for rural businesses and farmers to let them buy utility vehicles to facilitate rural development.*





d. Root Out Corruption

PDP will review legislations on corruption to ensure that the Anti Corruption Commission gets more authority to fight corruption. We will ensure equal opportunities to all citizens.

- *Understanding that corruption is an evil, PDP we adopt a policy of zero tolerance to corruption. It will not only be reiterated in words unlike in the past but the PDP will ensure that corruption is not tolerated in any form such as misuse of power, bribery, favouritism, nepotism or policy corruption.*
- *With the help of the ACC, we will initiate a comprehensive study of corruption in the country. The study will aim to identify all kinds of corruption and its reasons and will recommend the government and the ACC for remedial measures.*
- *The PDP government will ensure uniform application of the rule of law. We will ensure that corruption cases are not delayed and there is immediate prosecution and trial.*

e. An Efficient Civil Service

The civil service is the driving force to take our country forward. PDP believes that the Bhutanese civil service is one of the most efficient in the world and it is important to keep the morale of the civil servants high by streamlining the civil service. We acknowledge that civil servants are not adequately recognized for their services today.

The PDP government will ensure that the civil service is strengthened. It will be a priority to ensure that the civil service enjoys the respect of

the public which will only be possible if service delivery is enhanced and improved. We will ensure that right people are posted in their area of expertise. The civil service will be endowed with all resources to be an effective organization in every department.

To ensure civil service efficiency:

- *We will initiate a house rent allowance of 20% for civil servants.*
- *We will also revise the salary and all allowances including TA/DA for the civil service.*
- *The Bhutan Civil Service Rules will be revisited and necessary changes will be made. Position Classification System will be revisited, and if needed, revoked.*
- *We will encourage home posting of civil servants. We will encourage couples in the civil service to be posted together. We will come up with special schemes for civil servants posted in rural areas. We will initiate rural posting allowance.*
- *We will ensure that special schemes for couples in the civil service to facilitate their transfers and postings.*
- *We will do away with preliminary exams before the Civil Service Board Exams for entry to the civil service for university graduates.*
- *We will initiate studies to uplift the morals of the civil servants and necessary steps will be taken to ensure that our civil servants are happy with their professional services.*
- *In areas that lack expertise, we will ensure that retired civil servants and people from the private sector can contribute to the civil service on a contract basis.*
- *We will establish common web services for the whole of the govern-*





ment and revamp government intranet services and extend it to local governments including gewog centers.

- *We will give more autonomy including financial autonomy to schools. We will initiate incentive packages for teachers and trainings for teachers will be given special attention.*
- *To promote meritocracy in the civil service, the PDP government will initiate prestigious scholarships in prestigious universities around the world which will be offered to civil servants based on their accomplishment, performance and potential.*

f. An Independent Media

Media is one of the most crucial institutions of a democracy. We will approve private television and make the Bhutan Broadcasting Service a Public Service Broadcaster. We will enact the Right to Information (RTI) Act and come up with necessary legislations to ensure that the Bhutanese media grows. We will introduce media literacy programs in the school curricula.

g. A Vibrant Civil Society

We acknowledge the role our civil society organizations have played in our quest for an equitable society. An efficient civil society will strengthen democracy, uplift people from poverty, support the disadvantaged and help achieve our aspiration of Prosperity for All.

Civil society organizations will play an increased role in supporting the national vision and public service delivery. With the support of civil society organizations, PDP will increase the engagement between people and

the government. We will engage the civil society by outsourcing services to civil society organizations so that it can play a crucial role in social programs related to poverty alleviation, women and youth issues, drug rehabilitation, old-age programs and related issues.

h. Effective Disaster Management

In the past five years, Bhutan has been exposed to an unprecedented number of natural and manmade disasters which showed how vulnerable we are. PDP will strengthen disaster management efforts and professionalise disaster response system to ensure that people get help at the earliest when they need it most.

PDP will have disaster relief and support plan for calamities including earthquakes, fire, forest fires, landslides and floods. The disaster response mechanism at all levels - gewog, dzongkhag, regional, and national level - will be strengthened and institutionalised. A national earthquake monitoring system will be initiated. There will also be a landslide mitigation plan. Flood warning network stations and glacial lake outburst flood early warning system in selected river basins and related infrastructure will be strengthened. We will establish an independent disaster management fund in all Dzongkhags/Gewogs. We will purchase two ambulance helicopters for disaster relief and evacuation during medical emergencies. We will also strengthen His Majesty's Relief Fund. We will join the Red Cross Movement.





3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PDP believes in having prudent economic goals that is sustainable and achievable. We believe in improving the standard of living and economic health qualitatively by taking prudent decisions. We believe in creating a level playing field for everyone and not to leave anyone behind. Economic growth has to be enhanced through market diversity and the increase of material growth in our pursuit of economic development.

The immediate task will be to address the rupee crisis and normalize the current economic situation. Hydropower will continue to be the driver of economic growth, and we will encourage FDI projects that benefits local businesses. Industries that ensure rupee inflow will be encouraged with special financial assistance. Taking the BCCI into confidence, *Doing Business* will be eased to ensure that Bhutan moves up the ladder to become an investment friendly country. Basic infrastructure like roads bridges, air strips, and a strong IT network will be priority. The financial sector will be recharged with effective policy instruments.

a. Towards a Robust and Free Economy

A sound economy is the basis of economic growth. The PDP government will aim to achieve an annual average economic growth of 10% in the next five years. We will pursue our economic plans with a multi-pronged strategy to develop the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors. We will seek to broaden and diversify our economic base, equip our people for new opportunities, and help vulnerable people to help themselves leap out of the crevice of poverty, disabilities, or discrimination. We will stimulate productivity and quality of what we produce in those areas where most Bhutanese work today. We will enable farms, industries, and service sectors to create new business and employment opportunities faster.

- *We will take advantage of the free trade agreement with India and promote export oriented businesses. We will also explore other export destinations and revise trade agreements with other countries.*
- *We will promote industries that will help in import substitution. We will support small and cottage industries that produce local products to help lessen imports.*
- *We will promote Foreign Direct Investment and come up with an FDI*





Act. We will explore the possibilities of joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

- *We will improve ease of doing business and will simplify tax procedures. To promote small businesses, we will exempt small businesses and small businesses in rural areas from tax and will come up with more reliable system of valuing income of small businesses.*
- *We will develop industrial estates and Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the country. We will promote the FDI participation in industrial estates.*
- *We will open an amusement theme park in Southern Bhutan to encourage tourism and also to develop the local economy.*
- *We will encourage industries in Southern Bhutan that can tap into the free trade agreement and proximity with India.*
- *We will prioritize the construction of the South-North highways including the Samtse-Haa National Highway.*
- *In order to facilitate international trade, the construction of the dry port in Phuentsholing will be fast-tracked and the possibilities of starting dry ports in other southern dzongkhags will be explored.*
- *We will initiate support schemes for business associations like Tour Operators, Hotels, Guides and Handicraft associations.*
- *We will start traditional medicine wellness centres in all dzongkhags.*

b. Getting Out of the Rupee Crisis

Solving the rupee crisis will be key to stabilising the current economic problem and PDP will ensure that efficient short term and long term monetary and fiscal policies are put in place to address the rupee crisis.

The PDP government will initiate an in-depth study of the rupee crisis to evaluate whether we need major revamping of our foreign exchange and trade policies.

- *We will start negotiating with relevant state governments of India to restart the Bhutan lottery business in India. The Bhutan lottery has the potential to become the biggest rupee earning business for Bhutan.*
- *To reduce imports, we will support local businesses with special focus on small and cottage industries that would help in import substitution. We will also study the possibility of diversifying imports and exports.*
- *We will expand the mining sector sustainably to enhance exports.*
- *We will work closely with the RMA to design appropriate monetary policies to ensure that local businesses do not suffer because of the rupee shortage.*
- *Easing the rupee shortage in the short term will be a priority to ensure that businesses don't suffer from the lack of rupee in the economy. For the long run, we will ensure that complimentary fiscal and monetary measures are taken to avoid the rupee crisis in the future.*

c. Private Sector

The private sector is the engine of growth. We will ensure that doing business becomes enjoyable. We will view industry and service sectors as the domain of private entrepreneurship, which calls for efficient transportation, ICT, other logistical infrastructure, and services. They will be encouraged to exercise freedom and innovation within good business gov-





ernance. In particular, those who demonstrate corporate social responsibility, which seeks win-win strategies between “what’s good for business and what’s good for the society”, will be highly encouraged.

In keeping with the ideology of *Wangtse Chhirpel*, we will involve the private sector in defining its own role. We will empower the Private Sector Development Committee (PSDC) and give it more authority to negotiate its terms with the government. We will enable enterprising businesswomen and men – especially the younger generation – to seize business opportunities and take jobs where people are, not the other way around. Small business development and self-employment opportunities will be supported. We will promote industries that create employment.

- *We will come up with a comprehensive private sector development plan in consultation with the private sector.*
- *We will promote corporate social responsibility and offer schemes including tax relaxation to businesses that value, respect and fulfil social obligations.*
- *We will promote environment friendly businesses.*
- *In consultation with the private sector, we will revisit the Companies Act and make necessary amendments.*
- *Efforts will be made to further industrial linkages and clusters.*
- *Studies will be done to explore possibilities of enhancing productivity of existing industries. It will be a priority to encourage FDI promotional activities.*
- *We will study import substitution and encourage feasible businesses.*
- *Efforts will be made to renew existing bilateral trade agreements and explore potential trading partner countries.*
- *We will prioritise to spread business and business opportunities across*

the country, particularly to the east.

- *We will promote self-employment and will initiate support schemes like loans for new entrepreneurs.*
- *We will initiate a pension scheme for private sector employees and enforce Provident Fund and Gratuity.*
- *We will promote industries that produce local construction materials.*
- *We will study the possibilities of introducing a cap on taxi numbers in the country. We will introduce business licenses to run taxi services.*

d. Developing Infrastructure

As a developing country we need to ensure basic infrastructure in place for our economy to take off.

- *We will expand and improve the infrastructure at the Paro international airport. PDP will look into the possibility of having one more international airport.*
- *We will expand domestic airport infrastructure and improve safety standards.*
- *We will strengthen internet and telecom infrastructure. We will provide internet connectivity to all schools.*
- *We will fasttrack the construction of national highways and explore possibilities to link it to the upcoming Asian highway.*
- *Timely maintenance of farm roads will be a priority. We will construct new roads. It will be a priority to reduce the percentage of households living more than an hour of walking distance from the nearest road point.*
- *We will strengthen road maintenance capacity at the local govern-*





ment level by providing machinery and manpower by encouraging public private partnership in road maintenance.

- We will develop industrial estates at identified locations around the country.
- Efforts will be made to reduce administrative cost in public service delivery through community centres and online procedures.
- We will promote food processing facilities and packing houses.
- Promote new orchards with marketing friendly schemes.
- The development of a Print Park will be prioritised.

e. A Competitive Financial Sector

PDP will ensure that the financial institutions are well poised to offer the best of financial services and can be at par with international service providers. PDP will prioritise to enliven the stock market and explore foreign investment in the sector. Access to finance will be made easier and special financial packages for the rural sector will be prioritised.

We will ensure competition in the financial sector and financial institutions will be encouraged to come up with new financial services and products. The foreign exchange regime will be reviewed periodically and foreign currency will be provided to export oriented businesses to encourage exports.

- We will encourage Foreign Direct Investment in the financial sector.
- We will also empower the Royal Securities Exchange Commission (RSEBL) to come up with the necessary instruments to enliven the stock market.
- We will facilitate external commercial borrowings for the private sector.
- We will encourage financial institutions to come up with attractive schemes to encourage a vibrant saving culture.

- New financial services like fund management will be encouraged.
- PDP will encourage financial institutions to simplify rural banking service procedures.
- We will initiate special loans for the purchase of agriculture machinery. Loans will be given at nominal interest rates for rural housing.
- We will raise the annual tax deductible income from Nu 100,000 to Nu 200,000. We will raise the limit for deduction on education spending from Nu 50,000 to Nu 150,000.

f. Agriculture to Alleviate Poverty

About 70% of our population depend on agriculture. But we are yet to see agriculture as a major contributor to the national economy. Aiming at vegetable and cereal self-sufficiency, we will transform agriculture as a means for prosperity. Improving access to market will be given utmost priority.

As a country with a small population, Bhutan can eradicate poverty by wisely using our limited resources and engaging the CSOs effectively. The PDP government will strive to make agriculture profitable by providing basic infrastructure for farming, by infusing technology in farming methods like farm machinery, by providing high yielding varieties of seeds, by improving access to markets, among others.

- PDP will encourage farmers' cooperatives and various incentives for the cooperatives.
- The production of import substitution products will be encouraged like dairy products and projects like food processing plants, cold storages will be set up.





- *We will establish facilities for farmers to package and sort agricultural and forest products. We will establish storage facilities including cold storage infrastructure in the villages.*
- *For rural farmers and communities affected by mining, we will initiate a Community Development Fund (CDF) with special incentives.*
- *We will introduce incentive packages for investors in the agriculture sector.*
- *Crop insurance will be improved to help farmer during the eventualities of crop damage by wild animals or unpredictable weather.*
- *We will establish traditional medicine herbal gardens in every dzongkhag.*
- *Construction of new irrigation schemes and improving existing ones will be a priority to ensure that our farmlands do not suffer. We will develop and update national irrigation database. We will explore irrigation using groundwater sources.*
- *Construction of water storage structures will be a priority.*
- *We will promote major RNR products for export.*
- *We will enhance cereal production. We will explore export markets for rice, buckwheat, pulses, vegetables and fruits.*
- *We will encourage horticulture business and export, and strengthen plant research and development.*
- *We will establish a proper network of community seed banks.*

g. Hydropower and Energy

Hydropower has been the backbone of our economy and we believe in strengthening the sector with necessary legislation. PDP will ensure that Bhutan gets the maximum out of the most productive sector in the country. PDP will encourage participation of local business community in developing hydropower plants and we will also explore renewable energy sources.

Bhutan's hydropower potential still remains largely untapped and we will expedite the identified projects to ensure that we are able to generate at least 10,000 Megawatt of hydropower by 2020. It is only natural for Bhutan to take advantage of the power shortage in the neighbouring countries and we will try to maximise revenue from hydropower. We will plan to build hydropower plants as Clean Development Mechanism projects to earn carbon credits. To safeguard the hydropower projects from floods which are built along river basins, we will also institute proper flood warning systems and ensure that our dams are able to withstand any potential threats from floods.

- *The PDP government will encourage the participation of the private sector in the construction of hydropower projects.*
- *Foreign Direct Investment opportunities will be explored in the energy sector in close consultation with the Government of India.*
- *We will encourage PPP and IPP models in the energy sector.*
- *We will expand the existing training capacity to generate employment and reduce dependence on non-Bhutanese workers in the hydropower sector. We will train locals in hydropower training institutes outside Bhutan.*
- *We will develop master plan for Renewable Energy Technologies and*





- promote research and development in the renewable energy sector.*
- *We will commission wind power plants and construction of biomass power plants. We will look into introducing Bio-fuels to reduce impacts of fossil fuels.*
 - *We will upscale solar water heating projects.*
 - *Will explore free electricity for rural households with basic energy needs.*
 - *Efforts will be taken to fast-track the construction of new hydropower projects and establish a hydrological monitoring network.*
 - *We will review the current proposal by BPC to increase electricity tariff.*

h. Tourism

Tourism has been the second highest revenue earner after hydropower. It is also one of the credible sources of earning hard currency. We will strengthen TCB and make efforts to professionalise the sector through trainings. PDP also diversify tourism products and ensure that local communities are able to reap the benefits from this sector.

While Bhutan has to remain as a top tourist destination, we will ensure that its benefits are evenly distributed to all sectors of the economy and also helps promote Bhutanese customs, traditions, and culture.

- *We will increase annual tourist arrivals to 200,000 in the next five years. It will also double the revenue from the tourism sector but the increase in revenue will be facilitated by a combination of tariff revision, aggressive marketing and reduction of royalty.*



- *We will ensure that at least 20% of tourists visit the East for uniform distribution of benefits from the sector.*
- *We will diversify tourism products to ensure there is regional spread and balanced seasonality growth.*
- *We will establish biking and trekking trails in central and eastern Bhutan.*
- *To streamline tourism in the country, we will adopt the Bhutan Tourism Bill.*
- *We will introduce new tourism products to deliver income and employment opportunities through community participation.*
- *We will develop Dzongkhag Tourism Development Plans.*
- *New tourist destinations will be identified.*
- *We will promote Bhutan as a MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) tourism destination.*
- *We will enhance trainings in the hospitality sector. We will intensify trainings provided by the Hotel and Tourism Management Training Institute.*
- *We will encourage free foreign language training programs.*



4. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

PDP believes that the objective of human development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives. We can achieve this by enlarging people's freedoms and opportunities and improving their well-being. Ensuring meaningful education, a healthy life, welfare for the disadvantaged, housing for all, and resolving unemployment is at the heart of PDP's human development agenda. Our youth need to be confident of a Bhutan entrusted to them. For that we need to equip them with life skills that empower them to create a future they envision.

a. Health Services for All

Free healthcare will always remain the birthright for every Bhutanese. It should, however, never come at the cost of compromise in quality. Access to medical facilities will be improved and referrals outside the country will also be made more accessible.

- We will immediately address the issue of doctor shortage in our hospitals. We will work towards ensuring that all hospitals have at least three doctors each including a specialist.*
- We will increase the number of medical scholarships.*
- We will introduce two helicopter ambulances for emergency evacuation.*
- The number of nurse-per-bed will be decreased from 1:9 to 1:6.*
- We will increase the number of health workers in gewogs with at least one female health worker in every BHU.*
- We will establish paediatric cardiology services.*
- Mongar referral hospital will be upgraded as a centre for research.*
- The frequency of mobile health camps in gewogs will be increased.*
- We will give autonomy to all hospitals particularly to JDWNRH and regional hospitals.*
- The OPD waiting time at JDWNRH will be reduced.*
- All dzongkhag hospitals will be enabled with telemedicine facilities.*
- Tele-referral facility with major international hospitals to fast-track the referral system will be introduced.*
- Satellite clinics will be opened to reduce pressure on urban hospital.*
- We will establish a centre for traditional medicine research.*
- Lifestyle disease clinics will be established in all hospitals.*





PDP will increase the intake capacity of existing tertiary institutes and build three colleges in the East.

- *Introduction of mobile dental clinics will be a priority.*
- *With the help of civil society organizations, we will encourage programs in urban and rural communities to help people give up tobacco, alcohol and drugs.*
- *We will encourage the establishment of certified private health clinics.*

b. An Education System to be Proud Of

Every Bhutanese should enjoy the right to free basic education. Providing a strong base for our education system, skills and contentment for our teachers and confidence for our students to take the world of challenges will be our priority.

- *There will be a major overhaul in the education system to make it more relevant to the current global and national employment realities.*

- *Science, math and language learning will be strengthened in the primary level.*
- *We will introduce government subsidized loan schemes for students to pursue higher studies. Today, parents sell their land and ancestral property to send children to college.*
- *We will review the nutrition level of food given to students in boarding schools and appropriately improve it to meet the required nutrition levels. The current quality of food served to students has even resulted in death of students which shows how grave the situation is. Similarly, the extent of students suffering from the lack of adequate nutrition has not even been studied and the need to provide good food to students has been largely undermined.*
- *We will introduce Art and Music education in schools.*
- *Computer labs and internet connectivity will be provided to all schools.*
- *We will introduce travel concession for students who use public transport including air travel.*
- *Processing and packaging facilities for school agriculture and livestock farms will be introduced and students will be encouraged to participate in community farming during peak agriculture season.*
- *Entrepreneurship modules will be introduced. Vocational clubs in all middle secondary and higher secondary schools will receive government support.*
- *Students will be encouraged to take up internships during holidays with private and government institutions.*
- *Colleges will be encouraged to start projects with private sector firms and VTI's will launch partnerships with industries.*
- *We will introduce vocational skills (Zorig Chusum including electri-*





cal, masonry, carpentry, plumbing...etc) in secondary schools as an optional subject.

- *We will begin exchange programs for teachers and students with universities in the region.*
- *An annual award for best educational institutions and teachers will be instituted.*
- *We will initiate mandatory refresher courses for all teachers every five years*
- *Teachers will be given rural posting allowance.*
- *Teachers will receive more opportunities to upgrade their skills in foreign countries.*
- *Selected schools will be turned into centres of excellence in specific games and sports. Students who display excellence in certain games can pursue their education in these sports schools.*
- *We will increase the intake capacity of existing tertiary institutes and build three colleges in the East.*
- *We will encourage upgradation of private for international admissions.*
- *It will be our policy to encourage students to complete their education. Towards the end, we will allow students who have failed in class X and XII to repeat once in the same government school.*

c. Social Security and Welfare

We acknowledge that there are citizens who have not benefited from the social and economic progress we have made. PDP promises to take care of the economically and socially marginalized among us. Moreover, every Bhutanese should enjoy the benefits of credible social security



schemes so that our citizens are taken care during times of distress and old age.

- *We will revise the national minimum wage rate.*
- *Senior Citizens Homes will be built along monasteries.*
- *Special training will be given to health workers to take care of the elderly.*
- *For citizens above the age of 65, we will sponsor the annual pilgrimage to Bodhgaya, India.*
- *Low cost spectacles to the elderly will be provided.*
- *Wheel chair ramps will be constructed at bus*

terminals and other public places.

- *Designated seats in public transport will be provided for senior citizens, pregnant women, mothers with toddlers and people with special needs.*
- *An allowance for senior citizens above 70 years of age will be instituted.*
- *We will introduce insurance for workers who meet with accidents at workplace.*
- *A retirement scheme for workers in the unorganized sector will be introduced.*
- *A labor tribunal will be established for effective settling of disputes.*
- *A roof of one's own is the dream of every Bhutanese. Special schemes will be put in place to ensure housing for all.*





- *With support from private sector and civil society organizations, PDP will establish a subsidized meal program in urban centres for the low salaried employees in the unorganized sector.*
- *We will look into the possibility of reducing insurance premium for taxis.*

e. Youth and Women

Women constitute more than half of our population and their involvement in all spheres of life is important. The fact that Bhutanese women are not discriminated compared to other countries in the region should not make us complacent. Unless our youth are gainfully employed they cannot contribute to nation building. PDP will have short and long term plans to bridge the demand-supply mismatch in the job market.

- *PDP will guarantee full employment for our youth. Towards the end, we will initiate a youth employment policy to ensure that all young people in the country get a job if they choose to have one.*
- *We will draft legislation to ensure 20% quota for women in all elected offices including the parliament and local government bodies.*
- *PDP will extend the maternity leave program for mothers from the existing three months of paid leave to an additional nine months of relaxed service. They will be given only 50% of the work load to ensure that the new born child gets enough attention.*
- *We will improve facilities at Day Care Centers and ensure a safe environment for children.*
- *We will promote women recreation centres.*
- *The Women and Child Protection Unit, RENEW, and the NCWC will be strengthened and domestic violence cases will be fast-tracked.*

- *Special small scale loan schemes for women entrepreneurs will be introduced.*
- *We will introduce an unemployment benefit scheme for the youth.*
- *We will do away with the Royal Civil Service Commission preliminary exams to give students from different streams an equal opportunity to excel in the subject of their choice.*
- *We will launch a start-up village as part of the Thimphu Tech Park and encourage Angel Investing for prospective business ideas developed by college students or young graduates.*
- *Sports and recreation clubs will be established across the country with seed funding for the benefit of our youth.*
- *We will organize annual national games and indigenous games competition for students and young adults.*
- *Bhutan Students Associations will be reorganized to be more effective for the benefit of our students outside.*
- *We will establish a National Sports Academy and five multi-sports halls will be constructed across the country.*





5. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In line with the development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, PDP believes in upholding developmental ethics to ensure that our people are always kept at the centre of the developmental process. Conservation of the natural environment will be given utmost importance to maintain a healthy balance between economic development and environmental conservation. PDP will ensure that economic development is accompanied by values that respect our environment.

The PDP government will place environmental conservation on the top of the agenda. We will respect the constitutional requirements of always maintaining more than 60% of the land mass under forest cover. We will play a leadership role on the environmental front in the global arena. Our Sustainable Development policies will ensure that our economic plans go in harmony with the commitment to preserve our environment.

- *We will strengthen the National Environmental Commission to ensure that they command more authority to oversee that all economic plans are in line with environmental ethics.*
- *We will encourage all urban towns to be bicycle friendly.*
- *We will introduce alternate fuels to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. We will promote renewable energy.*
- *We will encourage sustainable and environmental mining and encourage reduction in industrial pollution by the use of newer and better technologies.*
- *Steps will be taken to encourage sustainable initiatives that will protect our pristine environment and also support judicious use of our resources. Regulation on e-waste will be put in place.*
- *All development initiatives of the government will be scrutinized through GNH screening tests to ensure that it is sustainable. Projects and policies that are sustainable and in line with GNH principles will be given priority.*
- *Green businesses will not only be prioritised but will be incentivised with support schemes like financial packages and tax exemptions.*
- *We will encourage community forests and will incentivise product marketing of community forestry groups.*
- *We will initiate a detailed study to evaluate the impacts of climate change in Bhutan. We will then revise the National Adaptation Plan of Action and come up with appropriate adaptation and mitigation plans to fight the impacts of climate change in Bhutan.*
- *We will promote introduction of eco-friendly public transport buses and taxis. Tax incentives will be given for import of all green vehicles including taxis.*





6. ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

PDP believes that our traditional values, languages and cultural institutions have defined the Bhutanese identity this far. In a world that understands culture as a mere commodity, we need to preserve our traditions bequeathed to us, celebrate our distinct identity that has protected us from some of the negative aspects of modernization, and encourage young people who reinterpret our traditions creatively.

We will promote the use of Dzongkha and encourage other languages.

- *We will launch programs to make Dzongkha IT friendly and promote its use across social media platforms.*
- *Modules on dying languages and arts will be planned in school and college syllabus.*
- *A national online library will be established with data on our culture and heritage and it will be freely accessible to all education institutions.*
- *Our monastic institutions have played an important role in contributing to the national identity. They have been the custodians of our heritage. Our monks, anims and religious institutions are very much part of our living culture.*
- *Monastic education will be recognized along with mainstream education so that monks anims can play a bigger social role.*
- *While our monks and anims serve the rest of the community spiritually, we will enable monastic education to equally equip them for the job market.*
- *The physical facilities at the monastic schools will be improved.*

In Bhutan, our traditional architecture, arts, crafts and music are not remnants of a bygone era. They are practiced and celebrated in our everyday lives because they hold great significance in preserving our heritage. While preserving the arts in its traditional forms, we need to acknowledge the importance of movies, modern art and literature that helps in promotion of our unique identity.

- *We will launch documentation of our oral traditions.*





- We will recognize our artists and writers who work with modern mediums and encourage their initiatives with the help of civil society organizations.
- Traditional arts and crafts will be promoted and revitalized.
- We will create centers of excellence in arts, crafts, and vocational training.
- We will introduce Art Education in schools.
- The movie and entertainment industry will receive full support for professionalization.
- We will draft a National Film Policy.
- A film studio of international standard will be constructed.



Monastic education will be recognized along with mainstream education so that monks and nuns can play a bigger social role.

- We will launch a fast-track mechanism for the preservation of all heritage sites and initiate geo-hazard assessment of all major historical monuments.
- We will increase the number of traditional bazams.
- Heritage sites will be preserved and we will improve the accessibility to important sites of historic religious and architectural importance.
- We will encourage architects who use local resources and adapt traditional forms of architecture such as rammed-mud housing.



7. ENDOWMENTS

PDP will initiate endowments to encourage projects related to art, culture, education and research in various Bhutan-specific fields. The endowments, free of bureaucratic trappings, will encourage creativity and the spirit of enquiry and scholarship.

The Endowment Funds will be created to promote and encourage interested individuals or groups who lack institutional and financial support. We will initiate three endowment funds:

- *Art and culture Endowment: The Fund will aim to support all kinds of projects that will promote, preserve or further Bhutanese arts and culture.*
- *Education Endowment: The Fund will support needy students to pursue their education.*
- *Research Endowment: The Fund will support research initiatives based on Bhutan.*





8. RISING EAST

Though balanced regional development has been promised in the past, developmental activities continued to be concentrated in the West. The East requires special attention from the government to achieve its full

economic potential. In the past five years, enough efforts have not been made to spread out economic activities to the East. The region is home to a culturally active and educationally advanced population but it has not been able to reap the fruits of our social and economic progress. The region with the highest population has been left behind. Therefore, the development of the East is essential to fulfil our nation's aspiration of Prosperity for All.

Similarly, we also have specific plans for Southern Bhutan. Most of the industrial estates and special economic zones will be built in the south to take advantage of the proximity with India. We will encourage sustainable mining in the south. We will establish a theme and amusement park in the south and it will also target to attract tourists. We will prioritize all South-North National Highways and we will build the Samtse-Haa national highway. We will prioritise to double lane the Gelephu-Tsirang-Thimphu and Gelephu-Zhemgang-Trongsa Highways. The construction of Nganglam-Gyalpozhing highway will be fast-tracked.

Under the Rising East program, it will be our priority to take development to the east. We will do it by encouraging business through various incentives. We will build tertiary institutes including three degree colleges. We will explore the economic potential in eastern Bhutan and use it to develop the region.

The PDP government promises to frame a special economic package for the Eastern districts to achieve our development goal. While the east will be prioritised, we will also ensure that no other region is neglected in the developmental process.

- *We will fast-track all tourism projects in the East and promote a special international marketing package to ensure that atleast 20% of the tourists go to the East. Accessibility to sites of historic, religious and*





PDP will start a Social Media Wing. This wing will use social media platforms like Google Hangouts, Facebook and Twitter to keep Bhutanese across the globe connected with the government through regular meetings with members of the cabinet.

architectural importance will be enhanced and tourism facilities at places of natural attractions will be increased.

- *We will introduce special subsidies and tax incentives for potential business plans that can provide jobs in the region.*
- *We will plan specific industrial estates, like export-oriented food processing parks, that tap into the region's niche potentials. We will also open an animal feed plant.*
- *The hydropower power projects in the East will be speedened and mini-hydel projects will be planned.*
- *We will institute an Eastern Bhutan Development Committee to ini-*

tiate an economic package for the East and also identify viable FDI projects and other business ventures in the region.

- *We will start three colleges in the East.*
- *We will review the viability of Yongphula Airport and study whether the facilities need to be increased or a new site has to be identified.*
- *We will develop agriculture as a viable business option with proper storage facilities and marketing schemes.*
- *The East-West National Highway will be double-laned to decrease the time of travel and also to improve the movement of goods.*
- *Samdrup Jongkhar will be developed as a port of entry for the whole of Eastern Bhutan.*





9. PDP PLEDGES FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

- PDP will initiate a **Meet-the-People** program: We will start this program where all cabinet ministers including the prime minister will dedicate at least one day during weekend to meet the people without appointment.
- We will start a **Social Media Wing**. This wing will use social media platforms like Google Hangouts, Facebook and Twitter to keep Bhutanese across the globe connected with the government through regular meetings with members of the cabinet.

- We will call the Pay Commission to revise the pay and allowances of the civil service and the local government leaders. We will introduce the 20% house rent for civil service and revise entitlements of local leaders.
- We will also revise the Tenancy Act to make it more practical and implementable.
- We will revise the National Minimum Wage Rate.
- We will table the Right to Information (RTI) Bill.
- We will do away with the Pedestrian Day rule.
- Solving the census issue will be prioritized.
- We will initiate an annual grant of Nu 20,00,000 (Nu 2 million or Nu 20 lakhs) for every gewog. The gewog will have full discretion to use the grant for developmental projects or any other related expenses.
- We will offer student discounts for public transport including air travel.
- We will extend maternity leave for working mothers. In addition to the existing leave of three months, we will introduce an additional nine months of flexi time for mothers where the work load for them would be halved.
- Do away with preliminary exams before the Civil Service Board exams for entry to the civil service for university graduates
- We will do away with taxes for small and rural businesses
- We will start the ground work to build homes for the elderly near monasteries around the country .
- We will initiate a Poverty Census.
- We will launch an allowance for senior citizens above 70 years of age.
- Will establish three endowment funds - Art and culture Endowment;





Education Endowment; Research Endowment.

- *Designated seats in public transport will be provided for senior citizens, pregnant women, mothers with toddlers and people with special needs.*
- *We will draft a National Film Policy.*
- *We will initiate rural posting allowance for civil servants, particularly teachers, posted in rural areas.*
- *We will give free electricity to rural households*
- *We will introduce government subsidized loan schemes for students to pursue higher studies.*
- *The PDP government will not increase government ministries. The prime minister will also assume the portfolio of at least one ministry to ensure that there is no need to have too many ministers.*
- *We will initiate a nationwide poverty census within the first 100 days of our governance to identify the poor people living under the poverty line in the country. We will then initiate a special poverty alleviation program to help all the identified poor in the country.*
- *We will review the present proposal to increase electricity tariff in the country and try our best to ensure not to increase the tariff.*
- *We will come up with a comprehensive private sector development plan in consultation with the private sector.*
- *We will study the possibilities of introducing a cap on taxi numbers in the country. We will introduce business licenses to run taxi services in the country which will be a prerequisite to get into the business.*
- *We will lift the vehicle import ban for rural businesses and farmers to let them buy utility vehicles to facilitate rural development.*
- *We will also start negotiating with the relevant state governments of*

India to restart the Bhutan lottery business.

- *PDP will guarantee full employment for our youth. Towards the end, we will initiate a youth employment policy to ensure that all young people in the country get a job if they choose to have one.*
- *We will draft legislation to ensure 20% quota for women in all elected offices.*
- *To promote meritocracy in the civil service, the PDP government will initiate scholarships in prestigious universities around the world which will be given to civil servants based on accomplishment, performance and potential.*
- *We will also revise the Tenancy Act to make it more practical and implementable.*
- *We will review the nutrition level of food given to students in boarding schools and appropriately improve it to meet the required nutrition levels.*





OUR VISION

A Country with secured sovereignty that is economically vibrant, environmentally rich, socio-culturally just and harmonious, politically united that enables the pursuit of happiness by every Bhutanese.

OUR MISSION

Provide equal opportunity for everyone to develop his/her full potential, to contribute to nation building, and to live a happy and meaningful life. Good governance and listening to the masses are our focus so that no Bhutanese is ignored to enjoy security, welfare and prosperity. To fulfill the above, the Party shall strive to to:

- Guard and strengthen sovereignty, national security, unity and integrity of the Kingdom;
- Preserve and promote social and family values, tradition and culture, religion and spirituality for enriching the life of every Bhutanese;
- Conserve the pristine environment in harmony with socio-economic development;
- Accelerate regionally balanced and equitable socio-economic growth across the Kingdom;
- Provide transparent, accountable, professional and consistent conviction with compassion to good governance and institute systemic cure for corruption;
- Expand and improve the quality of services to health and education and to public amenities and infrastructure;
- Encourage active participation of women in political, social and economic affairs;
- Empower the youth through requisite knowledge and skills with values for employment opportunities;
- Build a fair and just society with equal opportunities to all Bhutanese; and
- Promote goodwill and cooperation with other nations, including the time-tested friendship with India, and respect for international laws and obligations.



THE SYMBOL

PDP's election symbol is a white horse trotting forward confidently. It represents PDP's resolve to serve all people equally, regardless of economic, social, regional, cultural and religious differences. The color white signifies clear vision, transparency and our uncompromising stance against all forms of corruption.





MANIFESTO

Wangtse Chhirpel : Prosperity for All

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY

