

Election Commission of Bhutan



Guidelines for Implementation of Section 178 (d) of the Election Act of Kingdom of Bhutan relating to Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills, 2009

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ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN

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**Guidelines for Implementation of Section 178 (d) of the
Election Act of Kingdom of Bhutan relating to Functional
Literacy and Possession of Skills Adequate for Discharge of
Duties, 2009**

Introduction

The elected offices of the Local Governments have very important decision-making responsibilities that determine and impact the well-being of the communities. It is, therefore, important that the electorate has the opportunity to elect educated, capable and qualified candidates who would be able to promote and safeguard the present and future interests of the communities. As such, it is crucial that the elected offices are held and represented by the most educated, qualified and competent Registered Voters of the community.

Accordingly, in keeping with Section (3) (e) of Article 23 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Election Commission of Bhutan hereby issues this Guideline for *Implementation of Section 178 (d) of the Election Act of Kingdom of Bhutan relating to Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills Adequate for Discharge of Duties, 2009*.

1. Legal Provisions

1.1 Section 178 (d) of the Election Act of the

Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, provides that a person shall be qualified to be elected to a Local Government office, if he/she is:

“Functionally literate and possesses skills adequate to discharge his/her duties, except the candidate for the post of Thrompon must possess a formal university degree.”

2. Functional Literacy

- 2.1 “Functional literacy” means capability to read and write in Dzongkha by a Registered Voter, interested to contest in an election to a post in a Local Government, adequate for him/her to participate effectively in deliberations.

3. Possession of Skills

- 3.1 “Possession of skills” means possession of adequate computational and analytical skills, along-with managerial and leadership qualities essential to discharge the duties and responsibilities of an elected representative in a Local Government Office and be in a position to take rational and informed decisions in the said

office.

4. Filing Nomination

- 4.1 A Registered Voter interested to seek nomination to contest a Local Government election shall be required to produce, at the time of filing of the Nomination Papers with the Returning Officer, the Certificate of Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills.

5. Certificate

- 5.1 The Election Commission, for the purpose of Section 178 (d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, shall conduct a nationwide test and issue the Certificate of Functional Literacy and Possession of Required Skills (hereinafter be referred as the "Certificate) as per these *Guidelines*.

6. Tests

- 6.1 The Election Commission of Bhutan shall develop a set of standard question paper, format for the *viva* and scoring system for the purposes of conducting Tests of functional literacy and

possession of skills adequate for discharge of duties.

6.2 The Test of Functional Literacy shall consist of the following:

6.2.1 Written Test: Test of a voter on his/her abilities to write with a reasonable command of Dzongkha on a subject related to works and duties of *Midhey Gothrips*; and

6.2.2 Viva: Test the ability of a voter to read and comprehend official document on the subject of local governance and his/her ability to comprehend the subject matter and communicate effectively, adjudged from the answers given to a set of questions posed.

6.3 The Test for “possession of skills” shall consist of the following:

6.3.1 Computational skills: A voter will be required to carry out basic computations of addition, subtraction, multiplication

and division;

6.3.2 Analytical skills: A voter will be required to provide solutions based on a displayed ability to understand and assess a situation or problem; and

6.3.3 Managerial skills: A voter will be required to make sound decisions and provide viable solutions or alternatives given a set of tasks relating to managing resources, decision making and development.

6.4 The Election Commission shall administer the same standard Test irrespective of the type of Local Government Election as the common minimum requirement and as per Model Papers in Annexure.

7. Thrompon

7.1 A Registered Voter shall be eligible to contest the post of *Thrompon*, if he/she possesses a Certificate not lower than a Bachelor's Degree awarded to him/her upon completion of a formal

course of study from a University or an Institution of higher learning recognized by the Royal Government of Bhutan as per the *Guidelines for Interpretation and Implementation of Sections 176 (d), 177 (d) and 178 (d) of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2009.*

8. Test Papers

- 8.1 The Test System shall assess the possession of the necessary qualification and skills with the intrinsic leadership attributes essential for candidates intending to seek nominations to contest Local Government offices.
- 8.2 The Election Commission of Bhutan shall print a standard Test package and distribute to the Dzongkhag Electoral Authorities before the dates scheduled for the tests.

9. Test Centre

- 9.1 There shall be at least one Test Centre in every Dzongkhag.
- 9.2 A voter can register for the Test at the Centre of his/her preference.

9.3 The Dzongkhag Election Officer shall be responsible for registration of the applicants.

9.4 The Dzongkhag Election Officer shall register a voter who produces a valid VPIC to take the Test.

10. Conduct of the Tests

10.1 The schedule for the conduct of the Test shall be notified to the general public in the Notification calling the Local Government elections by the Election Commission.

10.2 The Dzongdag shall appoint a Committee responsible to administer and supervise the Tests in the respective Dzongkhag.

10.3 The respective Dzongkhag Administrations shall be responsible to provide the logistical support including space to be used for the smooth conduct of the Tests.

11. Viva-Voce

11.1 The *viva* shall be administered by the Dzongkhag Committee as per the instructions included in the standard test package and the scores as in Annexure.

- 11.2 The *viva* score-sheet shall be transmitted to the Election Commission alongwith the written answer-sheets.

12. Transmission to Election Commission

- 12.1 The Dzongkhag Committees shall immediately seal the answer-sheets and the *viva* scores and transmit the same through the most efficient and secure means to the Election Commission.
- 12.2 The Election Commission shall be responsible for marking the written answer sheets, tabulation of the total test scores and award of the Certificate based on the final results.

13. Assessment System

- 13.1 The Election Commission shall be responsible to make the results available to the examinee/interviewee, respective Dzongkhag Electoral Authorities and Returning Officers as well as to any interested member of the general public.
- 13.2 The Certificate will be awarded only to those who score 50% or more overall and 40% or more

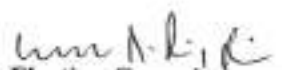
in each of the test components.

- 13.3 The Certificate shall be issued in triplicate copies in different colours: yellow to be retained by the Election Commission for record, red to the Dzongkhag Electoral Authority for cross-verification by the Returning Officer and blue copy for the candidate to file with his/her Nomination Papers.

14. Penal Provision

- 14.1 Any fraudulent act in this process shall be dealt in accordance with the Electoral Laws and the Penal Code of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Done under the seal of the Election Commission of the Kingdom of Bhutan on this 18th Day of the 8th Month of the Year 2009 corresponding to the 28th Day of the 6th Month of the Earth Female Ox Year in the Bhutanese Calendar.


Election Commissioner


Election Commissioner


Chief Election Commissioner



**Certificate of Functional Literacy and Possession of Skills
(For Election to Local Government)**

This is to certify that bearing Voter Photo Identity Card (VPIC) No..... of Gewog/Thromde of Dzongkhag has successfully passed the Test of Functionally Literacy and Possession of Skills required to discharge duties as a member of a Local Government Office.

The results for the tests taken on (date), are as follows:

Functional Literacy:

- a) *Viva:*
- b) *Written:*

Possession of Skills:

- a) *Computational:*
- b) *Analytical:*
- c) *Managerial:*

Overall Score:.....

Position/rank:.....

Scaled and Signed by:

Name

Designation.....

(Election Commission of Bhutan)

Dated:

Affix passport
size photograph
of the candidate

Note: This Certificate is issued only for the purpose of nomination to contest Local Government elections and not for any other purposes.



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