

ELECTION COMMISSION OF BHUTAN



Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012

Table of Contents

1.	Short Title, Extent, Application and Commencement	1
2.	Definition	1
3.	Security and Safety in Elections	3
4.	Royal Bhutan Police	4
5.	Election Security Personnel	5
6.	Conflict of Interests.....	5
7.	Role of Security Officers during Elections	5
8.	Election Security Cell	6
9.	Functions of the Election Security Cell	7
10.	Gradation of Sensitivity of Polling Stations	7
11.	Issue of Arms	8
12.	Submission of Reports	8
13.	Pre-Poll Preventive Security Measures.....	8
14.	Preventive Police Actions	10
15.	Prohibition of Campaign.....	10
16.	Election Offences.....	10
17.	Use of Vehicles by Political Parties and Candidates	11
18.	Use of Loud Speaker.....	11
19.	Security Arrangements for Observers.....	11
20.	Boycotts and Bans.....	11
21.	Security on Day of Poll.....	11
22.	Security at the Counting Centre	12
23.	Code of Conduct for Election Security Personnel on Election Duty.....	13
24.	Traffic Control on the Day of Poll	13
25.	Quick Reaction Team	14

26.	Requisitioning Additional Force.....	14
27.	Security of EVMs or Ballot Boxes	14
28.	Registry of Cases	15
29.	Post Poll Period.....	15
30.	Technical Support	16
31.	Liability.....	16
32.	Penalties	16
33.	Power of the Commission to Issue Instructions and Directions	16
34.	Authority of Interpretation and Amendment	16

Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012

In keeping with the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 to conduct safe, free and fair elections, the Election Commission of Bhutan hereby adopts and promulgates the *Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.

1. Short Title, Extent, Application and Commencement

1.1 These Rules shall:

- 1.1.1 Be called the *Election Security Rules and Regulations of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2012*.
- 1.1.2 Extend to the whole of the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- 1.1.3 Apply for security during elections and the deployment and role of election security personnel detailed from the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), Royal Bhutan Army (RBA) or other security agencies to ensure safe, free and fair elections.
- 1.1.4 Come into force with effect from 19th of October 2012 corresponding to 4th Day of the 9th Month of the Water Male Dragon Year of the Bhutanese Calendar.

2. Definition

2.1 In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 2.1.1 “Assistant Election Security Officer” means an Officer In-Charge of the Police Station and Officers detailed from the RBP, RBA or other security agencies to assist the Election Security Officer;
- 2.1.2 “Candidate” means a person whose nomination has been duly accepted by the concerned Returning Officer as per the provisions of the Election Act;
- 2.1.3 “Campaigning” means the activities conducted by Candidates and/ or Political Parties aimed at soliciting votes by reaching out and convincing Voters;
- 2.1.4 “Chief Election Security Coordinator” means an officer appointed by the Chiefs of RBA, RBP or respective security agencies to coordinate election security;

- 2.1.5 “Commission” means the Election Commission of Bhutan formed in accordance with the Article 24 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
- 2.1.6 “Election Period” means the period beginning on the day of issue of notification and ending with the declaration of results;
- 2.1.7 “Election Representative” means the person appointed by a Political Party or Candidate in each *Demkhong* to represent the Political Party or Candidate at various stages of the electoral process so as to satisfy themselves that the election is free and fair;
- 2.1.8 “Electoral Laws” means the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008, Public Election Fund Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 and National Referendum Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008 and all Rules and Regulations made there-under;
- 2.1.9 “Election Security Liaison Officer” means a senior officer of the Royal Bhutan Police nominated under these Rules to liaise with the Election Commission, RBP, RBA and any other security agencies;
- 2.1.10 “Election Security Officer” means a Superintendent of Police, Commander of RBA or Focal Officers appointed by the RBP or RBA as Election Security Officers and detailed on election security duty in the respective Dzongkhags;
- 2.1.11 “Election Security Personnel” means the personnel of RBP, RBA and any other election security agencies deployed on election security duty under these Rules;
- 2.1.12 “Electronic Voting Machines” or “(EVM)” means the machine or apparatus used for recording votes as defined in the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008;
- 2.1.13 “Nomination” means the process wherein the person desirous of contesting election files his/her papers as a Candidate;
- 2.1.14 “Observer” means a National Observer or an International Observer who is duly appointed by the Commission to observe the various stages of the electoral processes to ensure free and fair elections;

- 2.1.15 “Polling” means the process of casting votes at the Polling Booth;
- 2.1.16 “Polling Booth” means an enclosure made for voters to enable them to cast their vote in secrecy at any elections to Parliament or Local Governments or National Referendums;
- 2.1.17 “Polling Officer” means the election officer designated to assist the Presiding Officer in conducting the polls;
- 2.1.18 “Polling Personnel” means the Presiding Officer and the Polling Officers designated to assist him/her during the day of poll;
- 2.1.19 “Polling Representative” means a person appointed by a Political Party or Candidate to represent the party or Candidate during polling;
- 2.1.20 “Polling Station” means the area where polling takes place and a Polling Station can have one or more Polling Booths;
- 2.1.21 “Presiding Officer” means the person in charge of the Polling Station with authority to take decisions for the Polling Station within his/her jurisdiction;
- 2.1.22 “Returning Officer” means the person, appointed by the Commission, responsible for accepting and scrutinizing nomination papers, conducting, supervising and declaring the result of an election for the *Demkhong* or *Demkhongs* under his/her jurisdiction;
- 2.1.23 “Scrutiny” means the process by which the Returning Officer examines the nomination papers filed to see if the Candidates are eligible to contest the election; and
- 2.1.24 The words importing the singular number shall include the plural number and *vice versa*.

3. Security and Safety in Elections

- 3.1 These Rules shall provide for security and safety during elections by ensuring that:
 - 3.1.1 the system and procedures are safe and secure for efficient and effective organisation of elections including the nomination process;
 - 3.1.2 the timings for campaigning by all Parties and Candidates and the conduct of the Common Forum for Parties and Candidates are free, fair, lawful and safe;

- 3.1.3 there is no intimidation of voters, election officers and Candidates;
- 3.1.4 security and property of citizens during the campaign and polling are not at risk;
- 3.1.5 security coverage for Candidates as approved by the Chief Election Commissioner during the election period, is provided;
- 3.1.6 security coverage to Electoral Officers including Polling Personnel during election is provided;
- 3.1.7 peace, law and order around the Polling Stations and Counting Centres is maintained;
- 3.1.8 election materials are guarded against theft, destruction or fraud at Polling Stations and Counting Centres and during their transportation;
- 3.1.9 any Restraining Order issued by the Commission is enforced; and
- 3.1.10 the lawful directives of the Election Authorities at Dzongkhag, Constituencies and Polling Stations levels requiring the Election Security personnel to detain or arrest any person are carried out.
- 3.2 The Political Parties or Candidates shall conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a contestant for leadership position and refrain from causing any incidence of lawlessness and disruption of peace during elections, deliberately and intentionally.
- 3.3 The Political Parties or Candidates shall mandatorily brief and remind their members, supporters, workers and representatives to abide by the laws and refrain from causing any incidence of lawlessness and disruption of peace during elections, deliberately and intentionally.

4. Royal Bhutan Police

- 4.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall be fully responsible for ensuring the safety and security of all elections conducted in Bhutan under the Election Act.
- 4.2 The Royal Bhutan Police shall designate one senior officer at the Royal Bhutan Police Headquarters as the Chief Election Security Coordinator responsible for coordination and provision of security during elections held under the Election Act.
- 4.3 All officers and personnel on election security duty shall be governed by these Rules and the Election Act.

- 4.4 The Chief Election Security Coordinator and Election Security Liaison Officer shall work in close consultation with the Commission and any other security agencies to ensure safe elections.
- 4.5 All acts of the Superintendents of Police of Dzongkhags shall, during an election, be coordinated by the Chief Election Security Coordinator.

5. Election Security Personnel

- 5.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that adequate number of personnel is deployed on election duty to prevent and manage any election related security incidences, threats and situations at any place and time.
- 5.2 The Commission, in order to supplement the shortage of personnel for election security, may requisition the services of the Royal Bhutan Army.
- 5.3 The RBA, in case of Section 5.2, shall designate one senior officer at the RBA Headquarters as the Chief Election Security Coordinator (RBA) to be responsible for coordination and provision of security in the designated areas during elections held under the Election Act.
- 5.4 The direct command and control of personnel deployed on election duty shall, under the general superintendence of the Chief Election Security Coordinator, rest with the respective RBA Commanders and Superintendents of Police.

6. Conflict of Interests

- 6.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, to avoid conflict of interests, ensure that security personnel are not deployed in the respective Dzongkhags in which they are registered as Voters.

7. Role of Security Officers during Elections

- 7.1 The role of the Election Security Liaison Officer shall be to provide security during elections through:
- 7.1.1 liaising between Commission, RBP, RBA and other security agencies;
 - 7.1.2 disseminating security related information to the Chief Election Security Coordinators; and
 - 7.1.3 reporting to the Commission on all aspects of security measures during elections.

- 7.2 The Chief Election Security Coordinator shall have overall responsibility for the respective security forces and work out the requirements for the election security as follows:
- 7.2.1 coordinate manpower, logistics, transport, communication and equipment of the Divisions of the RBP, RBA and other security agencies in the Dzongkhags;
 - 7.2.2 brief the officers on their roles and responsibilities during elections; and
 - 7.2.3 ensure that the personnel are adequately trained in personal security and election security.
- 7.3 An Election Security Officer shall be responsible to:
- 7.3.1 plan for transport and logistics in advance;
 - 7.3.2 share intelligence reports with the Chief Election Security Coordinator; and
 - 7.3.3 conduct sensitivity and threat analysis of a Polling Station with the Chief Election Security Officer.
- 7.4 An Assistant Election Security Officer shall be responsible to:
- 7.4.1 command and control all uniformed personnel under his/her command;
 - 7.4.2 brief the Election Security Officer on the law and order situation in the area of responsibility;
 - 7.4.3 share intelligence reports with the Election Security Officer;
 - 7.4.4 deploy security personnel in the Polling Stations; and
 - 7.4.5 brief and debrief all the officers and personnel under his/her command.
- 7.5 The line of command for election security shall be as graphically represented in Annexures A & B of these Rules.

8. Election Security Cell

- 8.1 The Election Security Officer shall, as deemed necessary for effective management of the election security, set up an Election Security Cell to coordinate and regulate the ground forces in every *Demkhong*.
- 8.2 The Cell shall also serve as the Control Room on the day of poll.

- 8.3 The Assistant Election Security Officer of the Cell shall report to the Election Security Officer and the Returning Officer on any untoward incidents.

9. Functions of the Election Security Cell

- 9.1 The primary function of the Election Security Cell shall be to:
- 9.1.1 compile list of sensitive Polling Stations in the *Demkhongs* under its jurisdiction;
 - 9.1.2 plan manpower requirement, arms, communication sets, financial expenditures and transportation well in advance and submit to the Election Security Coordinator;
 - 9.1.3 make deployment plans according to the sensitivity of the polling area and Polling Station;
 - 9.1.4 deploy security personnel in advance and sanitize places of polls classified as areas of high risk or threat; and
 - 9.1.5 give detailed briefing to the officers and personnel on election security duty regarding their duties and deployment.
- 9.2 The Election Security Cell during the day of poll shall:
- 9.2.1 monitor the security arrangements during the poll;
 - 9.2.2 monitor events so that occurrences of violence and electoral malpractices are prevented;
 - 9.2.3 monitor security personnel deployment; and
 - 9.2.4 send reinforcements wherever required.

10. Gradation of Sensitivity of Polling Stations

- 10.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, in consultation with the Commission, at the onset of an election, based on the information available, grade the security risk and threat levels of an area as high, low or normal.
- 10.2 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, in consultation with the Commission, determine the sensitivity of a Polling Station based on the following, among others:
- 10.2.1 past history of incidences of irregularities, violence or riots;
 - 10.2.2 prevailing law and order situation in a particular area;

- 10.2.3 degree and intensity of political rivalries;
- 10.2.4 proximity to the international borders; and
- 10.2.5 Possibility of external threats or intimidation.

10.3 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, based on the gradation of the security risk of the Polling Stations, deploy election security personnel accordingly.

11. Issue of Arms

11.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that the election security personnel on duty are appropriately armed and equipped.

12. Submission of Reports

12.1 The Election Security Officer shall submit weekly reports to the Chief Election Security Coordinator on the following:

- 12.1.1 current status of the enforcement of the prohibition on the carrying, bearing and transporting of firearm by the public; and
- 12.1.2 the law and order situation in a *Demkhong*, including existence of any hostile group, intensity of political rivalries and other circumstances that may affect the conduct of elections.

12.2 The Chief Election Security Coordinator shall submit Weekly Consolidated Reports, as in section 12.1, to the Chief Election Commissioner.

13. Pre-Poll Preventive Security Measures

13.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, where necessary, stage flag march or large patrol in sensitive towns and villages as a confidence building measure to reassure the voters and the public at large that they can cast their votes without fear and also to forewarn the trouble creators of the availability of adequate security arrangements for dealing with any situation.

13.2 The Royal Bhutan Police shall not allow pasting of banners, poster or other propaganda materials on public or private property except at the places approved by the Returning Officer.

13.3 The concerned Returning Officer shall inform the police of such places approved for the purpose.

- 13.4 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, either on receipt of the report from the concerned Returning Officer or if detected during the course of their duty, remove or order the withdrawal of election campaign materials pasted or distributed without the due approval of the Returning Officer.
- 13.5 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that political meetings and rallies organised by Political Parties or Candidates are peaceful.
- 13.6 The Royal Bhutan Police shall allow conduct of political meetings or rallies by Political Parties or Candidates only on production of the written approval of the Returning Officer at the places designated by the concerned Election Security Officer.
- 13.7 The Political Parties or Candidates shall be responsible to ensure that the time and venue of the meeting or the route through which the rally proceeds is intimated to the concerned Superintendent of Police at least 24 hours before the event.
- 13.8 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that restrictive orders in force at the place designated for holding meetings are strictly complied with.
- 13.9 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that no person carries any weapon in public places during the Election Period.
- 13.10 The Royal Bhutan Police shall issue notification one month in advance informing about the restriction on carrying fire arms by the public including private security personnel or any Candidate during campaigning or during the poll.
- 13.11 An election security personnel shall, if any person other than the election security personnel on election duty is found/caught carrying firearm, have full authority to confiscate the firearm and charge-sheet the offender in a court of law.
- 13.12 The Royal Bhutan Police and the respective Dzongdags shall, in the case of elections in the *Demkhongs* with international borders, seal the borders on the eve of the Poll Day with information to the counterparts across the borders.
- 13.13 The Royal Bhutan Police shall, during an election period, make it mandatory for citizens to inform the Election Security Cells of any plans for celebrating marriages or other such social gatherings which may involve hosting discourses, discussions, refreshments and meals.

Further, the organizers of such events shall refrain from eliciting support or inviting Candidates or members of political parties to such gatherings to ensure that these are

purely social gatherings and not politicized in any way.

14. Preventive Police Actions

- 14.1 The election security personnel shall be responsible to undertake the following:
 - 14.1.1 checking of vehicles, lodges and any other places where found necessary;
 - 14.1.2 enforcement of prohibition of sale of liquor on the day before the poll day, day of poll and day after; and
 - 14.1.3 enforcement of prohibition of consumption or serving of liquor in and around the Polling Station on the day before the poll day, day of poll and day after;
 - 14.1.4 checking at the barriers and at *Demkhong* borders to prevent movement of arms, unaccounted money, unauthorized campaign materials and literature, liquors, and anti-social elements, and
 - 14.1.5 Detain a person as may be required by the Commission under Section 38 of the Election Act, 2008.

15. Prohibition of Campaign

- 15.1 The concerned Returning Officer shall require the election security personnel to stop the Political Parties or Candidates or their supporters if they continue their election campaigning after the end of the Campaign Period i.e., 48 hours before the hour fixed for commencement of poll.

16. Election Offences

- 16.1 The Royal Bhutan Police Election Security personnel shall notify the Returning Officer of any violation of Election Code of Conduct discovered by them.
- 16.2 The Election Security officers and Assistant Election Security officers shall take action on section 16.1 only on the receipt of written directives of the Commission.
- 16.3 The Election Security Officers and Assistant Election Security Officers shall, notwithstanding section 16.2, have the full authority to take immediate actions in emergent situations.
- 16.4 The Election Security officers and Assistant Election Security officers shall after taking actions under section 16.2 or 16.3, immediately notify the Returning Officer.

17. Use of Vehicles by Political Parties and Candidates

- 17.1 Political Parties and/ or Candidates shall log details of vehicles to be used for election campaign and submit the same to the Returning Officer before the campaigning starts.
- 17.2 The Returning Officer shall intimate the details of the vehicles permitted for use by the Political Parties and/ or Candidates to the concerned Superintendent of Police.

18. Use of Loud Speaker

- 18.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that the order of the Commission prescribing the use of loud speaker, whether fitted on vehicles or otherwise, is fully adhered to by the Political Parties, Candidates and/ or their workers.

19. Security Arrangements for Observers

- 19.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall provide security for Observers monitoring the elections, where found necessary and based on the directives of the Commission.

20. Boycotts and Bans

- 20.1 The Election Security Personnel shall ensure that the polling personnel, election material and all those participating at the polls are protected if an election boycott is called.
- 20.2 The concerned Dzongdag shall, in the event of a ban called by a hostile/anti-national group, declare the area as disturbed and the Royal Government shall direct the Royal Bhutan Army to deal with the situation.

21. Security on Day of Poll

- 21.1 The election security personnel on election duty shall be deployed not later than 24 hours before the day of poll.
- 21.2 Security measures at a Polling Station shall include:
 - 21.2.1 sanitizing against any form of sabotage at the Polling Station before the commencement of the poll;
 - 21.2.2 maintenance of law and order;
 - 21.2.3 securing the Polling Station during the period of poll;
 - 21.2.4 providing adequate security during the transportation of the EVMs and election materials;

- 21.2.5 installing walk through metal detectors/frisking for sabotage materials including weapons at the entrance, where necessary;
- 21.2.6 assisting the polling personnel in maintaining orderly queue of the Voters, when necessary;
- 21.2.7 prohibiting the polling representatives from taking the election material outside the polling booth and Polling Station;
- 21.2.8 ensuring no canvassing takes place;
- 21.2.9 evacuating and protecting personnel and materials when there is imminent danger;
- 21.2.10 ensuring safety of Voters at the Polling Station; and
- 21.2.11 reporting immediately against a polling official who is found guilty of breaching the code of conduct.
- 21.3 The security personnel on duty shall promptly execute all lawful orders of the Presiding Officer.
- 21.4 The election security personnel shall remove intoxicated, unauthorized or suspicious persons from a polling station who refuse to move at the request of a Polling Officer.
- 21.5 The security at Polling Stations in sensitive areas shall, in addition to the other security measures, include:
 - 21.5.1 ensuring enhanced safety and security of Voters, election officials, and Candidates at the Polling Stations by deploying additional personnel;
 - 21.5.2 patrolling around the Polling Station perimeter; and
 - 21.5.3 assisting in the maintenance of effective Polling Station entrance and exit controls during elections.

22. Security at the Counting Centre

- 22.1 Security measures at the Counting Centre shall include ensuring that:
 - 22.1.1 the Secured Store Rooms where EVMs are stored are sealed, secured and guarded round the clock;
 - 22.1.2 each counting center is properly secured;
 - 22.1.3 people are not allowed to come within 100 meters of the counting centres;

- 22.1.4 Political Parties, Candidates and their supporters are allowed to gather only at places designated by the Royal Bhutan Police; and
- 22.1.5 necessary measures for fire safety are adopted.
- 22.2 The Secured Store Room must be opened in the presence of election security personnel on election security duty.
- 22.3 The election security personnel on duty at the Secured Store Room shall maintain a log book in the Election Security Form No.1, mentioning the time of its opening and closing.
- 22.4 Election security personnel on election duty shall normally not be authorised to enter a Polling Booth or counting center when the poll or counting is in progress, unless an unavoidable security situation requires his/her presence and is so directed by the Presiding Officer or the Returning Officer respectively.

23. Code of Conduct for Election Security Personnel on Election Duty

- 23.1 Election security personnel on election duty must:
 - 23.1.1 strictly abide by the laws and rules governing elections;
 - 23.1.2 refrain from indulging in intimidation or tacitly allowing electoral offences to be committed;
 - 23.1.3 be alert, approachable, professional, and impartial;
 - 23.1.4 use minimum force;
 - 23.1.5 work without fear or favour;
 - 23.1.6 not indulge in any campaigning or electioneering activities on behalf of any Candidate or Political Party; and
 - 23.1.7 perform his/her duty in such a manner that inspires confidence in voters.
- 23.2 The election security personnel of VIPs shall refrain from indulging in intimidation or tacitly allowing electoral offences to be committed.

24. Traffic Control on the Day of Poll

- 24.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall allow Candidates, election representatives and persons authorized by the Party or Candidate to move in a vehicle permitted for their use.
- 24.2 The Election Security Personnel shall ensure that the photographs of the persons with

authorization are displayed on the windscreen of the vehicle permitted for their use.

- 24.3 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that the roads leading to the Polling Station are free from any blockade by opposing parties or miscreants.
- 24.4 The Chief Election Coordinator of the concerned Dzongkhag shall be intimated for necessary action in case of blockade due to natural causes.
- 24.5 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure that only vehicles authorised by the Returning Officer and in the list submitted to the Election Security Officer can display party logos, symbols, posters or flags.
- 24.6 The Election Security Personnel shall ensure that restriction on outside campaigners who are not registered voter of respective Demkhong, after the deadline marking the end of the campaign period is strictly observed by the Political Parties or Candidates.
- 24.7 The Royal Bhutan Police may decide to deploy the services of the Community Police and the members of Bhutan Scouts if additional personnel are necessary for polling duties.

25. Quick Reaction Team

- 25.1 Every Election Security Cell shall have in place a Quick Reaction Team.
- 25.2 The Quick Reaction Team shall be responsible to:
 - 25.2.1 conduct mobile patrol of the area from time to time;
 - 25.2.2 rush to any area where trouble erupts within the minimum reasonable time;
and
 - 25.2.3 reinforce immediately the personnel on election duties in times of exigencies.

26. Requisitioning Additional Force

- 26.1 The Election Security Personnel at the Polling Stations, Counting Centres or Secured Store Rooms shall promptly request the Election Security Cell by the quickest available means, for backup, when necessary.

27. Security of EVMs or Ballot Boxes

- 27.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall ensure the safety and security of EVMs or Ballot Boxes in the manner laid down hereunder:

- 27.1.1 Secured Store Rooms must be guarded round the clock with sufficient number of armed security personnel;
- 27.1.2 Entry in the campus where EVMs are stored shall be allowed only on production of satisfactory identity cards or permits issued by Returning Officer;
- 27.1.3 Movement inside the campus and inside the Secured Store Rooms where EVMs are stored must be recorded; and
- 27.1.4 The security and safety of the EVMs and Ballot boxes during transit, polling and counting.

28. Registry of Cases

- 28.1 All Election Security Officers and Assistant Election Security Officers on election duty shall maintain a separate Diary in the Election Security Form No.2, wherein he/she shall record and report to the Returning Officer all complaints relating to election offences.
- 28.2 The Returning Officer shall furnish statement of facts to the Commission on electoral offences, which shall then accordingly forward them to the concerned authorities depending on the nature of cases.

29. Post Poll Period

- 29.1 The Royal Bhutan Police shall for the post poll period:
 - 29.1.1 designate specific places for each Political Party where their supporters would be authorised to assemble at the time of declaration of results;
 - 29.1.2 regulate the victory procession, having duly obtained written permission of the Commission, after the declaration of results; and
 - 29.1.3 ensure that there are no clashes between Political Parties or their supporters.
- 29.2 The concerned Dzongkhag, Thromde and Gewog Administrations, if necessary with assistance from Royal Bhutan Police, shall require the Political Party and the Candidate concerned to remove the banners, posters and stickers put up during the campaigns in the name of their Parties or Candidates, after the declaration of election results.

30. Technical Support

30.1 The Royal Government shall provide appropriate equipment and technical support to the security personnel on election security duty to enable them to fulfill their mandate.

31. Liability

31.1 The concerned Security Agencies shall be held solely responsible for arrangement and provision of security under these Rules.

32. Penalties

32.1 The Election Security Personnel of various security agencies found guilty of violation of duty or willful breach or neglect of these Rules or lawful order shall be dealt as per the respective Acts and other relevant laws.

32.2 Any person or Political Party found guilty of the violation of any of these Rules shall be dealt with in accordance with the Penal Code of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Election Act.

33. Power of the Commission to Issue Instructions and Directions

33.1 The Commission may issue instructions and directions:

33.1.1 For the clarification of any of the provisions of these Rules and Regulations;

33.1.2 For the removal of any difficulty which may arise in relation to the implementation of any such provisions; and

33.1.3 In relation to any matter with respect to Election Security, for which these Rules make insufficient provision, and clarification is necessary in the opinion of the Commission.

34. Authority of Interpretation and Amendment

34.1 The Commission shall, in case of differences in meaning, be the final authority on interpretation of these Rules.

34.2 The Commission shall have the power to amend by way of addition, variation, or repeal the provisions of these Rules.

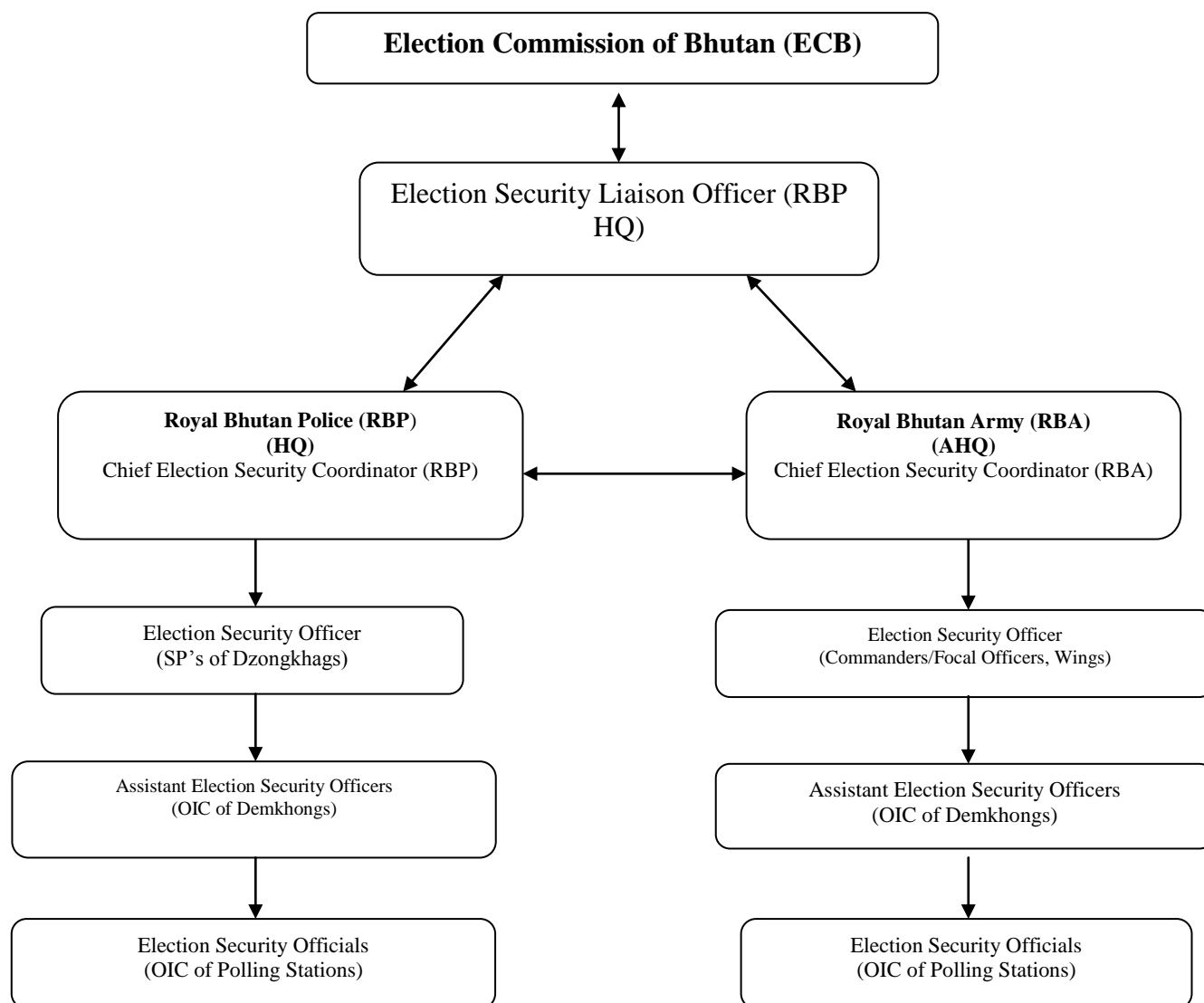
Done under the seal of the Election Commission of the Kingdom of Bhutan on this 14th Day of the 9th Month of the Year 2012 corresponding to the 28th Day of the 7th Month of the Water Male Dragon Year in the Bhutanese Calendar.

Election Commissioner

Election Commissioner

Chief Election Commissioner

Graphic Representation of Election Security Deployment and Coordination System during the Election Period



**Graphic Representation of Election Security Deployment and Coordination System on the Eve,
Poll Day and Post Elections**

