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Royal Government of Bhutan

CHIEF ADVISOR

C-IG/1037

22/8/2018

Government Order

Subject: Directives to Civil Servants

His Majesty The King commanded that “As we approach the elections, we must bear in mind the foundations of our unique and especial Bhutanese identity established by Zhabdrung Rinpoche, 54 Desis, 100 year of Monarchy and the accumulated wisdom and experience from ten years of implementing the Constitution- we must strive to prevent all ethnic, religious or political divisions in our small nation. We must participate in democracy with the spirit of harmony and fraternity.”

Furthermore, to ensure neutrality of civil servants in ensuring free and fair elections, the Interim Government underscores the importance of civil servants to remain apolitical. This is also in keeping with Article 19(i) and Article 26(i) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan; Section 38 of the Civil Service Act of Bhutan 2010, and Section 3.3.5, 3.3.5.1 and 3.3.5.2 of Bhutan Civil Service Rules & Regulations (BCSR) 2018. Accordingly, civil servants are expected to observe the following:

1. Civil servants must ensure smooth delivery of public services while at the same time avoid unnecessary travel;
2. In case of unavoidable official travel to Dzongkhags, civil servants must inform the local government;
3. The Government Secretaries shall obtain prior approval from the Interim Government for travel outside the country;
4. The Government Secretaries are responsible for the day-to-day governance of their Ministries and hence, should avoid absence from the Ministry;
5. Ensure responsible use of social media in line with BCSR 2018; and
6. While maintaining its apolitical position in their conduct, civil servants are encouraged to fully exercise their right to vote.

