

# Tendrel For a Prosperous Bhutan

## *Bhutan Tendrel Party*

Bhutan Tendrel Party (BTP) is the fifth registered political party that will contest in the 2023 National Assembly elections. After submitting its party name, symbol, charter, and membership list in January, 2022, the Election Commission of Bhutan formally accorded its approval to form the party.

As one of the newest parties joining the political fray just one year ahead of the elections, Bhutan Tendrel Party began its familiarisation meeting – a platform for new political parties to share their name, ideology, vision, philosophy, and slogan with the people – in February, 2022.

The party adopted the name Tendrel, a profound term that has relevance to the natural law of cause and effect; and conveying the fundamental idea that individuals alone can bring about changes in their lives as well as in society by initiating desired action (cause) to yield desired result (effect). The idea of Tendrel very much suits the ideals of the party that emphasises right outcome (effect) through right action (cause).

The name Tendrel also connotes auspiciousness, wellness, and harmony; besides, it unifies and strengthens all the positive energy, thereby consecrating the way ahead for a good cause. For a country that is at an inflection point, Tendrel is relevant and heralds the beginning of a new era – an era of brave and prosperous Bhutan. BTP will, therefore, respond to this call and work very closely with the people, creating an enabling condition for them by correcting systemic flaws and removing structural barriers to unleash their full potential in attaining inclusive prosperity and well-being.

The positive attributes of Tendrel are further elevated with the party's symbol of an Elephant which is an icon of strength, richness, and prosperity. The symbol also represents character, stability, and wisdom, an attribute that is vital in restoring public trust and confidence in democracy, which has been deteriorating over the years.

Bearing in mind the importance of citizens' opinions in fostering a vibrant democracy, we have **“Your Voice; Your Hope”** as our slogan to empower

citizens to express themselves with responsibility in fulfilling their hopes and aspirations of living a meaningful and prosperous life.

Bhutan so far has fared well under the guidance and wisdom of successive Monarchs but - with the emerging uncertainties in the face of pandemics, global economic recessions, climate change, food insecurity, unemployment, and mass exodus of people - the current economy, which is mostly reliant on hydropower and tourism, appear fragile and uncertain. Thus, there is an obvious need to set a greater and nobler vision that is resilient and futuristic and founded on a broad-based economy.

Heeding to the urgency, a historical transformation and reform is underway, guided by His Majesty the Druk Gyaplo, to catapult our country into a high-income category. To realise that vision, BTP aspires to position itself as a bold and confident political party that can drive transformation initiatives to bring changes to all households and individuals. Besides, BTP recognises every household as the foundation of a robust national economy and would facilitate their engagement in the development process by promoting viable and sustainable rural and urban enterprises. BTP is determined and committed to bringing about the much-needed change presided over by the right party leader and capable team.

To realise the dream of a high-income nation, a radical shift in pursuing development from the administrative mode to the corporate mode is necessary wherein citizens will carry out the role of shareholders to gain developmental dividends and the Prime Minister shall serve as CEO under the Chairmanship of His Majesty the Druk Gyaplo. With this new template of governance, it is expected to yield efficient outcomes driven by evidence-based and informed decision-making, and financial prudence.

However, it is not just the approach of development that requires a change of course, but equally the adjustment of policies and legislations is necessary to enhance service delivery to the public. In fact, His Majesty has emphasised the urgency of removing redundant rules and regulations that have long constrained public services. Therefore, *mimang zhapto*, or public service with good governance, is one of BTP's primary priorities to provide an enabling environment for people and businesses to thrive and exercise their rights. In doing so, BTP will strive to provide a deeper meaning and understanding of democracy while redefining the narrative of politics and

political parties in Bhutan.

At this critical period of economic uncertainty and recession of public trust and confidence in democracy, the need for inspiring and action-oriented leaders to lead the nation is most desired. And we feel that Bhutan Tendrel Party (BTP), is rightly placed as one of the choices that the people might want to consider in the forthcoming election under the leadership of Dasho Pema Chewang.

BTP's president, Dasho Pema Chewang, is a luminary, an exemplar, and a servant leader. He is a man of few words with a proven record of being a doer. He is the former secretary of the National Land Commission and served for 32 years in the civil service. He has a Master's degree in Development Economics from the Australian National University. Dasho Pema Chewang is an outstanding Bhutanese citizen with an extraordinary list of achievements and contributions to his name.

As the secretary of the National Land Commission, Dasho Pema Chewang was instrumental in resolving and improving all land-related issues and services across the country. A technology enthusiast, Dasho Pema Chewang initiated the Infotech lab, a lab for drone technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning, satellite navigation, and geo programming in the commission. He also formulated land exchange rules and regulations and developed an ICT policy. He is responsible for using the latest technology to streamline public services. These are but a few of his contributions in his last office.

Despite his illustrious career, Dasho Pema Chewang opted for politics for a cause - to streamline and enhance service delivery across all sectors. He believes that streamlining the system is just a matter of tweaking without much requirement of resources but it could contribute to making the lives of citizens much better.

With a sense of humour, wit, humility, and grace, Dasho Pema Chewang has all the desirable qualities of a leader. He inspires the party to make every Bhutanese prosperous, financially independent, and happy, thus fulfilling the dreams and aspirations of our Monarchs.

To support Dasho in realising his aspiration, BTP has a team of qualified,

skilled, versatile candidates from diverse professional backgrounds constituting agriculture and livestock experts, engineers, educators, economists, sociologists, administrators, legal experts, IT specialists, athletes, and geologists. All 47 candidates are movers and shakers in their respective sectors.

To guide in carrying out the task mandated by the public, BTP has developed the manifesto and submitted it to the Election Commission of Bhutan. The overarching theme of our manifesto is to create a prosperous Bhutan by empowering our citizens to unleash their full potential and contribute towards national development. The economy, therefore, is one of the major focuses of our manifesto with a broad range of plans and programmes. Besides, the correction of systemic flaws and removal of structural barriers are equally emphasised in our manifesto.

Our manifesto genuinely reflects people's hopes and aspirations of achieving economic prosperity to live a meaningful life. The outcomes and outputs of our interventions are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound for the greater good of the people and the nation as a whole.

Upholding the Constitutional provision of promoting conditions that will enable our citizens to pursue Gross National Happiness, our manifesto is laid out along four broad themes:

1. Clean and Responsive Governance – From Regulator to Facilitator
2. Economy Transformation and Jobs – Prosperity for All
3. The People – Our Social Wealth
4. The Environment – Our Gift

These broad themes cover the entire aspects of development necessary to provide a dignified life and livelihood; BTP pledges to fulfill our commitment unconditionally.

As you know, we are at a momentous point in time that could reshape the course of our democratic path. With Your Voice, Your Hope, let us move forward together to give a deeper meaning and understanding to democracy while redefining the narrative of politics and political parties in Bhutan.

Make your vote count by counting on us! Together we can make a difference!