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ELECTION COMMISSION



Dated: 7th October 2025

Press Release

Announcement of Schedule for the 2025-26 Elections of Sikyong and 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Central Tibetan Administration (CTA)

The Election Commission, CTA, would like to extend its warm greetings to the Tibetan people and supporters of the Tibetan cause across the world, and members of media, who have gathered here at today's press conference.

As per the relevant provisions of the Charter and the Electoral Rules and Regulations of CTA, the Election Commission today announce the Schedule for Elections of Sikyong and 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. The Election Commission is firmly committed to conduct the elections in a free, fair, inclusive and peaceful manner.

Accordingly, the Election Commission today announce the following points related to the electoral process:

1. In accordance with the Article 97(2-A) of the Charter of Tibetans-in-Exile and Article 5(3) of the Election Rules and Regulations, which stipulate that “As and when the elections of Sikyong and Members of the Tibetan Parliament are to be conducted, two Additional Election Commissioners shall be required and their tenure shall be from the announcement of the start of the electoral process until the declaration of final election results...”, Mrs. Tsering Youdon, former member of Parliament and Mrs. Nangsa Choedon, former Secretary of CTA, have been elected as the two Additional Election Commissioners. They took the oath of office from the Supreme Justice Commissioner on 1st October 2025. Taking this opportunity, the Election Commission would like to extend its warm greetings to the two Additional Election Commissioners.
2. **Announcement of Schedule for Elections of Sikyong and 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, 2025-26**
 - 2.1 As per relevant provisions of the Charter and the Electoral Rules and Regulations, the Election Commission, CTA, hereby announce the schedule for Elections of Sikyong and the 18th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, 2025-26, today, on 7th October 2025. The **Preliminary Election** for Sikyong and 18th Tibetan Parliament in Exile is scheduled on **Sunday, 1st February 2026**, and the **Final Election** on **Sunday, 26th April 2026**.
 - 2.2 The Election Commission highly appreciates the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile for its immense consideration in ending its tenure earlier, which enabled us to conduct the two upcoming elections simultaneously.

- 2.3 The official slogan for the 2025-26 Tibetan Elections will be '**I AM TIBET, I VOTE FOR TIBET**', signifying unity and strength of the Tibetan people.
- 2.4 With the Election Commission firmly committed to conduct the election in a time-bound manner, it is essential that the Tibetan public fulfill their responsibilities by diligently complying with the electoral rules and observing proper conduct. As this election holds great significance for the Tibetan cause, it is of utmost importance that Tibetans in the diaspora participate in the electoral process in a spirit of unity.
- 2.5 In accordance with Articles 17, 18, 20, and 21 of the Election Rules and Regulations regarding the voter registration, all Regional Election Commissioners are required to verify and review the existing voters' lists in their respective regions. **The voter's registration shall begin on 8th October and must conclude by 8th November 2025.**
- 2.6 As per the Article 18 (4) of the Election Rules and Regulations, Tibetans who have attained the age of 18 years on 23rd November 2025 are eligible for voter registration. All registered voters must have paid their Green Book dues up to 31st March 2026. The voters must carry their Green Book with them wherever they may be, in order to exercise their voting rights.
- 2.7 In accordance with Article 67 (4) of the Election Rules and Regulations, which states: "...a minimum of two candidates for the final election of Sikyong must be announced...", the Election Commission has decided to shortlist top two candidates for the final election from the results of preliminary election, which is in accordance with the established procedure and precedence.
- 2.8 The Article 37 of the Election Rules and Regulations stipulates the Composition and Strength of Tibetan Parliament with 10 members including at least 2 women each elected from the three provinces of Tibet; 2 members each from Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, Gelug and Bon religion; 2 members elected by Tibetan community in North and South Americas; 2 members elected by Tibetan community in Europe and Africa; 1 member elected by Tibetan community in Asia (excluding India, Nepal & Bhutan) and Australasia. The total strength of Tibetan Parliament is thus fixed at 45 members.
- 2.9 The general public and the candidates must pay special attention to the election rules and regulations. Particularly, special attention must be paid to Articles 24 and 25.
- 2.10 In addition to the Election Rules and Regulations, the general public must pay careful attention and strictly adhere to the Code of Conduct comprising 14 point formulated by the Election Commission.
- 2.11 One of the major challenges facing our society today is the dissemination of false information through misuse of social media, which threatens social harmony and unity among Tibetans. Therefore, the Tibetan public must be vigilant against online rumor mongering and disinformation.
- 2.12 To ensure that the elections are conducted smoothly in accordance with the Election Rules and Regulations, the Election Commission will organise training for the Regional Election Commissioners on 16 November 2025. Concurrently, the Chief Election Commissioner and Additional Election Commissioners will pay official

visits to various Tibetan communities to introduce and explain the electoral rules and guidelines to the general public.

- 2.13 The media, recognised as the fourth pillar of democracy, has the responsibility to convey factual information to the public in a timely manner. We hope that the media will disseminate necessary information to the public during the elections.
- 2.14 Despite the global COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-21 Sikyong and Tibetan Parliament elections were successfully completed through the dedicated efforts of central and regional election commissions across 58 offices in 26 countries, supported by 2,014 members, observers, and staff, along with the resilient participation of the Tibetan public. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in this success.
- 2.15 We earnestly appeal to the general public to extend their wholehearted support and cooperation to ensure that the Elections of Sikyong and 18th Tibetan Parliament in Exile, 2025-26, are conducted successfully.

In conclusion, we fervently pray for the long life of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and fulfillment of His noble wishes. May the truth of the Tibetan cause prevail soon! As the Central Tibetan Administration observes this year as the 'Year of Compassion' in celebration of His Holiness's birthday and gratitude, may the forthcoming election proceed smoothly and strengthen Tibetan democracy, gifted to us by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

(NB: This is the English translation of the Tibetan original. In case of any discrepancy, please treat the Tibetan as final and authoritative)

