

ZHAPTO-LEMI CHATHRIM
(1996)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
TRASHICHHODZONG

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1. Introduction:

One of the important objectives outlined by His Majesty the King in the Five-Year Plans since 1981 has been to promote people's participation in the process of development. The process of decentralization gave further impetus to people's participation in formulating plans, decision-making and implementation of community programmes by the people themselves. One of the means of ensuring people's involvement has been in the form of self-help system of Zhapto-Lemi. It is confined to essential rural service schemes executed in the villages.

Over the past years, Zhapto-Lemi has proved highly successful as the programmes and schemes were of direct benefit to the people and met their local priorities. They could also see results of their participation and it evolved as a process for determining local priorities based on their own capacity. Thus, the system of Zhapto-Lemi gave a fillip to people's participation, created a sense of ownership and responsibility in the process of planning, implementing rural schemes.

In view of the foregoing, His Majesty the King was pleased to abolish the Gungda Woola system with effect from the first day of the first month of the Fire Mouse Year corresponding to February 18, 1996.

The Zhapto-lemi **Chathrim** is hereby revised and the procedures simplified.

2. **Title and Extent**

- a) Title It shall be called Zhapto-lemi Chathrim
- b) Extent It shall be applicable throughout the Kingdom of Bhutan
- c) Commencement It shall come into force from the day of approval and it shall supersede the earlier Chathrim.

3. **Aims and Purposes:**

- a) **Principle of People’s Participation:** The participation in Zhapto-Lemi shall be based on benefits and welfare that accrues to the community due to construction, renovation and maintenance of community or public facilities and amenities.
- b) **Principle of local self-reliance:** Beneficiary shall maintain facilities and amenities so that community’s use of such services can increasingly sustained by local efforts and initiatives.
- c) **Principle of decentralized decision making:** The power of making decision for the development of Zhapto-Lemi to create and maintain community facilities and amenities is vested in Gewog Yargay Tshogchung, or depending on circumstances in Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung, in accordance with the principle of decentralization of decision making.

4. Project/Schemes falling within Zhapto-Lemi :

The Projects/schemes to be implemented with Zhapto-Lemi participation should be within the concerned gewog. The schemes are;

Sectors

- a) Education - Renovation and maintenance of Primary & Community Schools.
- b) Health - Renovation and maintenance of Basic Health, health sub-posts and water/Sanitation.
- c) Animal Husbandry - Renovation and maintenance of Livestock Extension Centres.
- d) Agriculture - Renovation and maintenance of Agriculture Extension Centres, storage facilities and farm roads.
- e) Irrigation - Renovation and maintenance of irrigation channels.
- f) Forestry - Renovation and maintenance of Community Training Hall and community plantation.
- g) Division of Works & housing - Renovation and maintenance of;
 - i) Rural Water Supply Schemes (RWSS)
 - ii) Suspension and traditional bridges.
 - iii) Mule Tracks and farm roads.
- h) Lhakhangs and Chortens - Restoration and maintenance of local Lhakhangs and Chortens

- i) Any new beneficiaries project/scheme may be added to the above from time to time by the Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung and Gewog Yargay Tshogchung.
- j) Any project described above which due to size or technical consideration is determined, as being beyond the capacity of the local people would be implemented with appropriate additional support of the local/central government.

5. Modalities for participation of Zhapto-Lemi :

- a) The participation shall be on the basis of Miphu/Gung/Threlkang or Sathram.
- b) The working seasons will be determined by the Gewog Yargay Tshogchung and Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung respectively.

5.1 Mobilization of Zhapto-Lemi :

- a) The DYT & GYT shall be the sole authority for requisitioning of Zhapto-Lemi for works related to facilities and amenities whose benefits are confined to a gewog.
- b) The Dzongkhag Yargay Tshogchung and Gewog Yargay Tshogchung shall be the sole authority for requisitioning of Zhapto-Lemi for works related to facilities and amenities whose benefits are shared across gewog boundaries.
- c) The gewog where a facility or amenity which benefits other gewogs shall prepare and submit to the Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung for its consideration and decision for Zhapto-Lemi requisition from other gewogs, whether in the same Dzongkhag or in other Dzongkhags.

- d) The decision on the requisition of Zhapto-Lemi shall be made in Dzongkha Yargay tshogchung or Gewog Yargay Tshogchung meetings in accordance with their respective Chathrim.

5.2 Registration of Zhapto-Lemi :

- a) The Gup shall cause the Zhapto-Lemi to be mobilized and declare the number of days of labour contribution for each specific task through written messages or through village Zomdues.
- b) In case of necessity for emergency works to be undertaken through Zhapto-Lemi, the Gup may mobilize labour by issuing written messages or through village Zomdues. The Gup would inform the Gewog Yargay Tshogchung of such Zhapto-Lemi mobilization retrospectively.
- c) Participation of Zhapto-Lemi as recorded in the register will be acknowledged by the Gup through issuance of a receipt (Jorta) to the participants.
- d) The Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung and Gewog Yargay Tshaochung may grant “Kidu” from self participation in deserving case if the applicant has no other able bodied person in his/her gung.

There shall, however, be a clear list of such “Kidu” cases with justification/reasons maintained by the Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung and Gewog Yargay Tshogchung.

- e) The Gup shall maintain permanent record on the performance of Zhapto-Lemi by each gung and this information shall be open to assessment and verification by the Dzongkha Yargay Tshogchung and Gewog Yargay Tshogchung.