Bhutan votes for change, gives DNT a 30-seat win

Sherub Dorji, Thimphu / BBS Oct 19, 2018

The people of Bhutan have handed the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT), a party headed by surgeon Lotay Tshering, the mandate to form the next government with a 30-seat win in yesterday’s general election.

DNT shared this picture of PM Elect Lotay Tshering interacting with voters at Wangsisina PS, Thimphu on its Facebook Page yesterday

This is the first time in Bhutan’s decade-old parliamentary democracy that a new party has been chosen to form the government.

The past two elections saw the Bhutanese electorate stick with the two old parties DPT and PDP.

The DNT vowed to narrow the gap and take health care services to doorsteps of the people across the country.

It secured more than 166,000 votes against DPT’s over 137,000 votes, which accounts for close to 55 per cent of the total votes, according to official results declared by the election commission earlier today.

In a news release shared on its Facebook page, the DNT writes, it is honored to be the choice of the people of Bhutan.

“That Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa gets to be your choice of representative brings us immense honour and motivation to serve you with utmost humility and live up to our shared hopes and aspirations for this blessed nation,” read the statement.

The party said this election outcome is a result of the country’s collective wisdom and prayers to realize a better, happier Bhutan.

“This shall be achieved through our many commitments that are targeted toward improving the lives and prospects of the people of Bhutan under the broad theme of Narrowing the Gap.”

The party says in the next few weeks, it looks forward to sitting down with all political parties to sketch out a roadmap, Vision 2045, and discuss how they can work together to take the nation forward.
The DNT also congratulated the DPT on a hard fought campaign and BKP and PDP for their participation in offering a choice to the Bhutanese electorate.

The party swept all constituencies in the south, central and west.

DNT’s campaign promise to give ministerial portfolio to some candidates in the east did not yield result. However, it managed to snatch a few DPT stronghold constituencies in the east, namely Radhi_Sakteng and Thrimshing in Trashigang, Monggar constituency, and Gangzur_Minjay in Lhuentse.

DNT also secured the highest votes in the nine constituencies that previously were PDP strongholds.
NOTIFICATION

Subject: Declaration of the Results of the Third Parliamentary Elections 2018: General Election to the National Assembly

The Election Commission of Bhutan under Section 443 of the Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 has the honour to hereby notify the names of the Candidates elected from the 47 National Assembly Demkhongs in the Third Parliamentary Election 2018: General Election to National Assembly 2018 with the Poll Day on 18th October 2018 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Demkhong</th>
<th>Name of Elected Candidates</th>
<th>Name of Party of the Elected Candidates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chhoekhor_ Tang</td>
<td>Pema Gyamtsho</td>
<td>DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chhumig_ Ura</td>
<td>Karma Wangchuk</td>
<td>DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Bongo_ Chapchha</td>
<td>Tshewang Lhamo</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Phuentshogling</td>
<td>Jai Bir Rai</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Drukjeygang_ Tseza</td>
<td>Jurmi Wangchuk</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lhamoi Dzingkha_ Tashiding</td>
<td>Hemant Gurung</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Khamaed_ Lunana</td>
<td>Yeashey Dem</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Khatoed_Laya</td>
<td>Tenzin</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bji_Kar-Tshog_Uesu</td>
<td>Ugen Tenzin</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sangbaykha</td>
<td>Dorjee Wangmo</td>
<td>DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gangzur_ Minjey</td>
<td>Kinga Penjor</td>
<td>DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Designation</td>
<td>Qualification</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maenbi_ Tsaenkhar</td>
<td>Choki</td>
<td>Gyeltshen DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Dramedtse_ Ngatsang</td>
<td>Ugyen</td>
<td>Wangdi DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kengkhar_ Weringla</td>
<td>Rinzin</td>
<td>Jamtsho DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Monggar</td>
<td>Sherub</td>
<td>Gyeltshen DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dokar_Sharpa</td>
<td>Namgay</td>
<td>Tshering DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lamgong_ Wangchang</td>
<td>Ugyen</td>
<td>Tshering DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Khar_Yurung</td>
<td>Tshering</td>
<td>Chhoden DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nanong_ Shumar</td>
<td>Lungten</td>
<td>Namgyel DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nganglam</td>
<td>Choida</td>
<td>Jamtsho DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Kabisa_Talog</td>
<td>Tshencho</td>
<td>Wangdi DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Lingmukha_ Toedwang</td>
<td>Tandi</td>
<td>Dorji DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Dewathang_Gomdar</td>
<td>Ugyen</td>
<td>Dorji DPT</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Jomotshangkha_Martshala</td>
<td>Norbu</td>
<td>Wangzom DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Dophuchen_ Tading</td>
<td>Loknath</td>
<td>Sharma DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Phuentshogpelri_Samtse</td>
<td>Ganesh</td>
<td>Ghimiray DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Tashichhoeling</td>
<td>Dil</td>
<td>Maya Rai DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ugyentse_ Yoeseltse</td>
<td>Dinesh</td>
<td>Kumar Pradhan DNT</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Gelegphu</td>
<td>Karma</td>
<td>Donnen Wangdi DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Shompangkha</td>
<td>Tek</td>
<td>Bahadur Rai DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>North Thimphu Thromde_Kawang_Lingzhi_Naro_Soe</td>
<td>Dechen</td>
<td>Wangmo DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>South Thimphu Thromde_Chang_Darkarla_Ge-nyen_Maedwang</td>
<td>Lotay</td>
<td>Tshering DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Bartsham_Shongphu</td>
<td>Passang</td>
<td>Dorji DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Kanglung_Samkhar_Udzorong</td>
<td>Samdroup</td>
<td>R Wangchuck DPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Radhi_Sagteng</td>
<td>Dorji</td>
<td>Tshering DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Thrimshing</td>
<td>Ugyen</td>
<td>Dorji DNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Wamrong</td>
<td>Karma</td>
<td>Thinley DPT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As per Section 8 of Article 15 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan the **Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa**, having secured a Majority of Seats with 30 elected Candidates in the National Assembly, is elected as the Ruling Party and **Druk Phuensum Tshogpa**, with 17 National Assembly Seats, is elected as the Opposition Party by the People of Bhutan.

The Overall Voter Turnout was **71.46 %** with a total of **313,473** voters having cast their votes out of the total of **438,663** Registered Voters. Of the total votes cast, **199,553** votes were cast in person on the Electronic Voting Machines in the **865** polling stations and **113,920** votes through Postal Ballots.


The two Political Parties and all Candidates who participated in the Primary Round and General Election 2018 are reminded that they must file the Returns of
Election Expenses to the concerned Dzongkhag Electoral Office or directly to the Public Election Fund Division in the Election Commission Head Office within thirty days of the declaration of the Results i.e. **not later than 4PM of 19th November 2018** in the prescribed Form (Public Election Fund Form No. 7D). The Expenditure Report on the conduct of the Third Parliamentary Elections 2018 will be prepared and made available for public viewing in due course of time but not later than three months.

The general public and all stakeholders are advised that the Election Petition Period of ten working days start from today and shall end at 4:00 p.m. of 6th of November 2018.

**Issued on the 10th Day of the 9th Month of the Earth Male Dog Year corresponding to 19th of October 2018.**

Chief Election Commissioner
The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) has confirmed its President Dr Lotay Tshering as the prime minister nominee. The party’s executive committee decided this today.

The DNT is, however, yet to decide on the members of the cabinet.

The DNT’s General Secretary said the cabinet members would be decided only after the prime minister nominee receives Dakyen from His Majesty The King as per the Constitution.

This will happen once the 10-day election petition period ends.

A news release from DNT says in keeping with Article 17 of the Constitution, the prime minister nominee will recommend a list of ministerial candidates only after receiving Dakyen from His Majesty The King.

Article 17 of the Constitution says the Druk Gyalpo shall confer Dakyen to the leader or nominee of the party, which wins majority of seats in the National Assembly, as the prime minister.

Section three of the same article states that the Druk Gyalpo shall appoint ministers from among the members of the National Assembly on the recommendation of the prime minister, or shall remove a minister on the advice of the prime minister.

While DNT swept the West and the South completely in the General Election, only four of its candidates won from the east: Dasho Sherab Gyeltshen from Monggar, Kinga Penjor from Gangzur_Minjey in Lhuentse, Dorji Tshering from Radhi_Sagteng and Ugyen Dorji from Thrimshing Kangpara in Trashigang.
The DNT won only one constituency in the east in the Primary Round. During the General Election campaign, DNT’s president shared concerns that if his party wins, they may not have ministers from the east if the Primary Round voting pattern continues.

He had emphasized the importance of having ministers from all the regions.

The party had said it will give at least three to five ministerial posts to its candidates from the east if it gets to form the government.

Meanwhile, DNT’s elected members received certificates, endorsing their representation from respective constituencies to the National Assembly, today at the Election Commission of Bhutan.
DPT elects Pema Gyamtsho as OL, files nomination for speaker and deputy speaker

Kuensel, October 29, 2018

The Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) in its executive committee meeting decided that its president Pema Gyamtsho (PhD) will assume the post of the Opposition Leader for the second time.

In its two-day executive committee meeting that ended yesterday, DPT has also unanimously decided to file nomination of its two elected members to contest for the post of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.

The Opposition Party has nominated MP-elect of Drametse-Ngatshang, Ugyen Wangdi to contest for the post of speaker and MP-elect of Chhumig-Ura, Karma Wangchuk for the Deputy Speaker.

While this is the first time the Opposition is filing their nominations for these posts, the party spokesperson and MP-elect of Panbang, Dorji Wangdi said this is in accordance with the laws.

Article 12, section 3 of the Constitution states, “At the first sitting after the general election, or when necessary to fill a vacancy, the National Assembly shall elect a Speaker and Deputy Speaker among its members.” He said, this is also reiterated in the National Assembly Act.

The National Assembly rules of procedure also state that any member may submit a nomination of a member for the post of speaker in the house.

The nomination must be seconded by another member accompanied by a statement by the nominee that he or she is willing to serve as the Speaker.

Both the National Assembly Act and rules of procedure state that the Speaker shall remain non-partisan.

Given the background and experience, Dorji Wangdi said the party has decided to file the nomination of the two candidates. “It should not matter whether the candidates are from ruling party or Opposition as speakers have to be non-partisan,” he said.

“Candidate with the right attitude, qualification and experience is befitting of the roles and responsibilities as the head of one of the three branches of the government,” he said.

Ugyen Wangdi, according to DPT, is the most appropriate candidate for the post. A lawyer by profession, he served as the chief lawyer in both the home ministry and Anti-corruption Commission before joining politics. “In his two terms as MP, he has been instrumental in helping and guiding other law makers,” Dorji Wangdi said.

Karma Wangchuk, the nominee for the post of Deputy Speaker is a dungtsho by profession and has served a term in the first parliament.

In the first Parliament, Dorji Wangdi said there were only two members from the Opposition. If one is elected as Speaker, he said there wouldn’t be opposition MPs in the house. During the second Parliament, he said the Opposition didn’t get information on the nomination filing and neither did...
the ruling party offer. This time, he said the party has good number of MPs. The party also talked with the NA’s secretary general, who conveyed that it has to file the nomination before the evening of October 30.

“We are optimistic about getting full support from the elected government and its members,” Dorji Wangdi said.

Tshering Dorji
Dr Lotay Tshering appointed as Prime Minister
BBS, Oct 30, 2018

His Majesty the King issued a Kasho to the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa President, Dr Lotay Tshering, appointing him as the Prime Minister of Bhutan yesterday.

The Kasho came on the final day of the interim government’s tenure.

The news release from DNT states, “In keeping with the Constitution, the Prime Minister will now submit a list of elected members from the party based on which His Majesty will appoint the ministers.”

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister and the ministers will receive Dakyen from His Majesty on November 7.

The 10-day petition period Election Commission of Bhutan observes after the poll ends on November 6.

DNT won 30 out of the 47 seats in the general election of the third parliamentary elections earlier this month.

Nomination and Election Speaker of the National Assembly
BBS, Oct 30, 2018 / BBS, Oct 31, 2018

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly will be elected 31st of October. DNT just named Wangchuk Namgyel, the Nyishog_Saephu MP-elect, as its Speaker nominee and Tshencho Wangdi of Kabji_Talog as the Deputy Speaker nominee.

The DPT, meanwhile, has confirmed Ugyen Wangdi, the MP-elect of Dramedtse_Ngatshang as its Speaker nominee and Karma Wangchuk, the MP-elect of Chhumig_Ura, as the Deputy Speaker nominee.

Breaking News 31.10.2018
DNT’s Wangchuk Namgyel from Nyisho-Sephu is elected as Speaker by 30 votes and Tshencho Wangdi from Kabji-Talo is elected as Deputy-Speaker by 31 votes.

DPT’s nominee for the Speaker’s post Ugyen Wangdi from Drametse-Ngatshang got 17 votes while DPT’s Deputy-Speaker nominee Karma Wangchuk from Chumig-Ura got 16 votes.

The voting took place today on 31st October in the National Assembly.
There are now seven women Members of Parliament (MPs) in the National Assembly of Bhutan, up from four each in 2008 and 2013. Thanks to the recent general election that saw the country elect seven out of 10 women candidates.

“Now, that’s a record number of female MPs in Bhutan’s upper house of the parliament since the first elections in 2008. When we look at numbers, seven may not be a lot. In the context of 47, seven is not much but in the context of 10, when you put the denominator as 10 and you select seven, that is 70 per cent of women winning,” DNT’s North Thimphu MP elect Dechen Wangmo said.

“This is something to be happy about and it’s very encouraging,” she added.

Except for Dechen Wangmo whose contender was a female, the rest women MP-elects won over their male contenders.

They say the general election’s results send a strong message. It’s an indication of the Bhutanese society becoming more open to not just the idea of having elected women representatives but actually embracing and accepting it by electing them.

As DNT’s Tashichhoeling MP-elect Dil Maya Rai put it, the Bhutanese voters are now, more than ever, ready to get women leaders on board.

“The mindset of our people has changed. They have started placing us on an equal footing with men,” Dil Maya Rai, the MP-elect of Tashichhoeling constituency in Samtse, said.

To ensure there’s no going back, Dil Maya Rai said, it’s important that women continue to take part in the elections.

“We just need to come forward to participate and give the voters a choice,” the Tashichhoeling MP-elect said.

The DPT’s Norbu Wangzom is the MP-elect of Jomotsangkha-Martshala constituency in Samdrup Jongkhar. It’s her comeback to the parliament of Bhutan.

She represented the constituency in the first democratically elected government from 2008-2012.
“In the past, men and women were judged based on their physical strength, but now people judge differently,” she said.

It’s no longer about only brawn but brain as well, she says.

The MP-elect of Sombaykha in Haa, Dorjee Wangmo and Gasa’s Khamaed_Lunana MP-elect Yeshey Dem are the youngest of the seven female MP-elects. This is their first stint as a member of parliament.

“People say there aren’t much support for aspiring women parliamentarians. I think it’s just a matter of time and about women coming forward. If women are forth coming and take opportunity, people are supportive,” Dorjee Wangmo said.

The MP-elect of Khamaed_Lunana, Yeshey Dem, had the same view to share.

“The reason why people voted for men in my constituency until today is because there were no women who came forward to contest. In my constituency, I’m the first female contestant and I received huge support from my people,” she said.

An increase in the number of elected women representatives, even if it is just by one or two, is a big achievement for a country like Bhutan that suffers from poor women representation in the decision making spheres.

Women leadership remains poor across sectors with the situation particularly dismal in the parliament.

Lack of trust in women leadership continues to be one of the reasons why only few women make it to the positions of importance.

Stereotypes around gender roles shape peoples’ perception about women’s ability to take on positions that deviate from their conventional role of a home maker.

While it might take some time for Bhutan, or perhaps another era, to see a more gender representative parliament, every single win is a step closer to achieving this goal.

The 2018 National Assembly Election started with 18 women candidates in the four political parties of BKP, DNT, DPT and PDP.

After BKP and PDP got ousted in the Primary Round, the 10 women, five each from DNT and DPT, were among the 94 candidates who contested for a seat in the National Assembly.
Cabinet ministers to receive Dakyen on November 7

Kuensel, October 31, 2018

Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa’s (DNT) spokesperson and MP-elect Dr Tandi Dorji, yesterday said that the DNT could not form the government on the dissolution of the interim government as was usually done in the past because the petition period is still on.

“This year has been different from the past,” he said. “We have not been able to communicate the procedures that have taken place over the last few days because we are still in the petition period, which will go on until November 6,” he said.

Officially thanking the interim government, Dr Tandi Dorji, said everything went well during the last three months. “The chief advisor’s recommendations and request to all the secretaries to work with the government is very well taken,” he said. “The PM-elect has asked me to convey that we will be consulting with the interim government to see the reports they have submitted.”

The interim government has submitted a report to His Majesty The King. “We are very much interested to look at those reports, and consult them to see how we can improve things.”

He said the government would seek the interim government’s suggestions and carry forward the issues raised.

“We would also like to congratulate DPT for electing the candidate from Chhoekhor Tang as the opposition leader,” Dr Tandi Dorji said. “We are very excited and grateful to be forming the government. We are also very happy to know that we are going to be working with an experienced opposition.”

He said there has been a miscommunication on the appointment of the cabinet ministers, which should have been taken place by yesterday.

The Prime Minister and the ministers will receive Dakyen from His Majesty The King on November 7, after the 10-day petition period that the election commission observes after the poll ends on November 6.
From the government side, Dr Tandi Dorji said it was decided that the dhar offering ceremony for the Prime Minister, the Cabinet Ministers and the members of parliament from the ruling party would be held on November 7.

“This is being done so for the convenience of the public, particularly those travelling from the districts beyond,” he said.

The first sitting of the parliament will take place today where the National Assembly speaker and deputy speaker would be elected. All 47 MPs will receive their scarfs in the house of parliament today.

On the finalisation of cabinet ministers, Dr Tandi Dorji said that DNT’s executive committee has discussed and drawn out a list. “The list, however, is not finalised.”

He said that the committee has taken into account many criteria in selecting the candidate such as the performance of the candidates, their capabilities, background and how they interact, among others. Regional balance, he said, is an important criterion.

“There has been a lot of speculation about our ministers in the social media but we would like to say that it has not been finalised,” he said.

The list of the cabinet ministers was expected to be finalised by October 29 or 30. “We were told that we have another week to work on it” Dr Tandi Dorji said.

He said that when DNT releases the list of cabinet ministers in the next few days, it would also provide reasons on why certain individuals have been chosen for a certain portfolio.

“We look forward to taking over the government and to comply with all the provisions that are in the Constitution, the acts, and to follow the procedures in place,” he said.

With the inauspicious month (dhana) starting from November 8, the date for the first session of the parliament is yet to be decided, he said.

Dechen Tshomo

Unzufriedenheit im Land des Glücksindex

Bhutans Wähler sind gnadenlos: Wer nicht liefert, fliegt raus. So bringt die dritte demokratische Wahl zum dritten Mal eine neue Partei an die Macht.


Unzufriedenheit im Land des Glücks

Beobachter werten das Ergebnis als Ausdruck einer wachsenden Unzufriedenheit in dem ehemals abgeschlossenen Land, das international für seinen nationalen Glücksindex bekannt geworden ist. Es zeigt aber auch, dass die Menschen in Bhutan die Demokratie angenommen haben und nun damit experimentieren. Das nur 800 000 Einwohner zählende buddhistische Königreich am östlichen Rand des Himalajagebirges ist erst seit 2008 eine konstitutionelle Monarchie.


Doch bereits 2013 verlor die DPT ihre Mehrheit an die Demokratische Volkspartei (PDP), die mit 32 Sitzen die Macht im Land übernahm. Nach vier Jahren an der Macht schaffte es die DPD dieses Jahr nun nicht einmal in die zweite Runde der zweistufigen Wahlen, in der sich nur zwei Parteien für die Abschlussrunde qualifizieren. Es war selbst für den neuen Premierminister Lotay Tshering eine massive Überraschung, dass bei der ersten Runde im September seine eigene Partei und die royalistische DPT weiterkamen und nicht die PDP. «Wir hatten damit gerechnet, dass die Regierungspartei gut abschneidet», sagte er.

Hohes Wachstum, hohe Arbeitslosigkeit

Bhutans Wähler sind gnadenlos: Wer nicht liefert, fliegt raus. So bringt die dritte demokratische Wahl zum dritten Mal eine neue Partei an die Macht.


Unzufriedenheit im Land des Glücksindex

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Experimentierfreudige Wähler

Mit der neuen Wahl scheint sich ein Trend fortzusetzen, der sich bereits 2013 abzeichnete: Die Wählerinnen und Wähler probieren aus, was die Parteien zu bieten haben, und lassen sich dabei wenig von Versprechen und Ideologien beeindrucken. Wie die jetzt siegreiche DNP hatte 2013 auch der damalige Premierminister versprochen, sich auf die Verbesserung der Infrastruktur und der Wirtschaft zu konzentrieren.


Stadt-Land-Graben
