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GYALSUNG

Press Release: Gyalsung 2024 Announcement

The Gyalsung Headquarters is pleased to announce, in accordance with Chapter 4, Section 25 of the Gyalsung Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2022, that Gyalsung, Bhutan's National Service, shall commence in September 2024.

Gyalsung is a fundamental duty required of every Bhutanese citizen as enshrined in Article 8.1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. His Majesty The King announced the launch of Gyalsung (during the 112th National Day of Bhutan on 17th December 2019) with a vision to empower all Bhutanese youth to participate in the process of nation-building to further enhance the security, peace, unity, harmony and sovereignty of our nation. The Gyalsung Act was adopted by the Parliament on 11th November 2022.

Gyalsung will become an important rite of passage for all Bhutanese youth irrespective of their educational status, social, economic, regional or linguistic backgrounds. The Gyalsung journey begins with a year-long full-time training that will bring youth, who have attained the age of 18, from all across the country to one of the four Gyalsung Academies. During this phase, young citizens will undergo basic military training and attend courses in national education and develop important life skills that will prepare them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The training phase is followed by the Gyalsung Duty up to the age of 35 followed by Gyalsung Reserve phase till the age of 45. During these phases, they may be called upon to render voluntary or mandatory services. Upon completion of the Gyalsung obligations, a Bhutanese citizen may volunteer to join De-Suong and continue to serve the nation.

In line with His Majesty's vision, Gyalsung will endeavor to shape Bhutan's youth to become more capable, committed and confident citizens with the strength of character and discipline that fosters integrity, excellence, accountability and loyalty to the Tsawa-Sum.

The first batch of Cadets for inaugural Gyalsung Training will undergo training on 1st September 2024 to 15th January 2025. The training duration for the inaugural batch will be four and half months. In view of the shorter duration, the cadets will undergo Basic Military Training followed by courses in National Education, Leadership Development, Life Skills and other activities.

All Bhutanese youth born in 2005, (attaining age 18 in 2023) are eligible to participate in the training in September 2024. These youth are required to sign-up through the Gyalsung portal <https://portal.gyalsung.bt> and then register within 100 days of the announcement for 2024 registration. Those youth born before 2005, irrespective of education status are not eligible for Gyalsung due to capacity constraints and may volunteer to join De-suung instead.

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The Gyalsung Governing Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Gyalsung Act 2022, will, as a one-time measure, exempt those eligible students who are in class 12 in 2023 and want to pursue full-time further education in 2024, from attending the inaugural training program. However, they shall be required to register and apply for the exemption. From 2025 onwards, such exemptions for purposes of further education shall not be granted.

The students born in 2005 but in or below Class 11 in 2023, intending to continue with their studies, shall be required to register on the Gyalsung portal and then apply for deferment so that they can attend Gyalsung after completion of Class 12.

As a collective national endeavor to uphold the Constitution and realize the Royal vision of His Majesty The King, we look forward to the firm commitment and support of all Bhutanese to help the Gyalsung program in achieving the national objectives.

For more information on the Gyalsung program, kindly visit www.gyalsung.bt or call the toll free Gyalsung Helpline 2024.

