

Final case on court anvil

KINGA DEMA, P/LING

Having dismissed two of the three post-election complaints, the Samtse dzongkhag court has formally registered a case against the gup elect of Tendruk gewog for alleged violation of election rules.

SAMTSE

The case was registered on June 8, three days after it was filed and the first hearing was on Monday.

Gup candidate of Tendruk gewog, Phub Nidup, and mangmi candidate, Yeshey, submitted to the court that gup elect, Pema Wangchuk, had hired a Bolero taxi that made six trips to ferry voters to two polling stations of D Bindu and N Bindu on poll day.

They also claimed that Pema Wangchuk was accompanied by his uncle, former Samtse chimi Sangay Khandu, during the door-to-door campaigns, and that Sangay Khandu, being a



It (the case) is for a fair election in the future”

Phub Nidup
Gup candidate
Tendruk gewog

DPT party coordinator, his involvement was against election rules.

Phub Nidup said that he is looking forward to justice, so that such practices do not set a precedence. “It’s for a fair election in the future,” he said.

Pema Wangchuk said, if they were genuinely concerned about free and fair elections, they should have complained to the dzongkhag dispute settlement committee and settled the issue, instead of and wait-

ing until the winner was announced.

“If they’d won, they would have kept shut,” he said. “It’s disheartening as I haven’t done anything wrong.”

The Samtse drangpon, Pemba Wangchuk, said the case has been registered as a civil case, while the other two cases had to be dismissed, since they did not have substantial reasons to undergo trial.

One of the complaints dismissed was filed by the former Namgaychoeling gup, Dorji, against the gup elect, alleging that the latter had spread a rumour, saying that Dorji and his wife had cried all night after losing the election. Dorji had also alleged that the gup elect had bribed a few people, when he went campaigning from door to door.

The Tendruk gewog case, according to the drangpon, will be dealt in accordance with the election Act, and the verdict would be out in a month.