Electoral General Assembly Minutes

Meeting Overview

- **Meeting Title:** Electoral General Assembly
- **Date/Time:** 3rd April 2026. 10:30 AM
- **Location:** Bhutan Olympic Committee Headquarters
- **Prepared By:** Sherab Lhaden

Attendees

1. **Ngawang Gyeltshen** (Speaker 1)
2. **Sonam Karma Tshering** (Speaker 2)
3. **Dalston Pung** (Speaker 3)
4. **Singye Nyedup** (Speaker 4)
5. **Sherab Lhaden** (Speaker 5)
6. **Yangchen Dolkar** (Speaker 6)
7. **Tandin Wangdi** (Speaker 7)

1. Purpose & Agenda Items

The General Assembly was convened to review organizational performance, establish fiscal governance, finalize the strategy for the Bhutan Esports National Championship (BENC 2026), and conduct democratic elections for the Executive Board and Presidency.
The finalized agenda items addressed and approved by the assembly included:

- Discussion and Approval of the Annual Report
- Discussion and Approval of the Annual Financial Report (1st Sept 2025 - 1st April 2026)
- Discussion and Appointment of a Treasurer or Treasury Commission
- Discussion and Approval of the Budget for the next period
- Formal Elections of the Board and the President

2. Key Discussion & Approval Points

Item A: Review and Approval of the Annual Report (FY 2025 – 2026)

The Assembly reviewed and formally **unanimously approved** the comprehensive Annual Activity Report

prepared by the Office of the Community Development Lead. The approved milestones and data points include:

- **Foundation & Governance Milestones:**
  - **Formal Formation:** BESA was formally established in June 2025, transitioning from its predecessor (BMGA) into a structured National Sports Federation to professionalize the gaming sector and align with the nation's "Digital Dzong" philosophy.
  - **BOC Recognition:** BESA achieved official recognition from the Bhutan Olympic Committee (BOC) in August 2025, elevating esports to a nationally recognized sport under the leadership of HRH Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck.
  - **International Status:** BESA successfully secured full membership in the International Esports Federation (IESF), granting Bhutanese athletes the right to compete under the national flag at the World Esports Championships.

- **Infrastructure & Athlete Development:**
  - **Central Esports Registry (CER):** BESA launched a unified national database to track competitive integrity, manage anti-cheat compliance, and handle "Responsible Gamer" certifications. There are currently **over 2,100 registered athletes**.
  - **Capacity Building:** Mandated technical workshops provided digital broadcast production mentorship to over 30 youth under international experts Sangdup Lama and Joel.
  - **Athlete Wellness:** Implemented the *Responsible Gamer Initiative*, providing mandatory training in mental health, physical ergonomics, and digital etiquette for all national finalists.

- **Major Events & Tournaments:**
  - **BENC 2026 Scale:** The flagship Bhutan Esports National Championship featured **2,158 qualifier participants** and **138 finalists** competing across 8 game titles (including Valorant, MLBB Male/Female, Dota 2, and Chess) at the Norling Complex in Thimphu.
  - **Cultural Design:** The tournament introduced a "Digital Mandala" stage design and an event trophy blending traditional Bhutanese craftsmanship with digital aesthetics.
  - **Tencent & PMNC Pipeline:** BESA solidified its ecosystem partnership with Tencent Esports, serving as an official talent pipeline for PMNC South Asia. Highlighted the success of National Champions **Team MAKPEN**, whose official winnings now exceed **USD 9,000+**.

Item B: Review and Approval of the Annual Financial Report

The financial statements for the period of Sept 1, 2025, to April 1, 2026, were laid before the assembly and thoroughly verified against the official records:

- **Initial Setup Costs:** Initial administrative setup, infrastructure procurement, and long-term player training programs accounted for an internal allocation of Nu. 218,800.
- **Statement of Revenues (Profit & Loss):** Total revenue reached Nu. 50,50,000 ($54,892 USD), driven heavily by Government & BOC Grants (Nu. 48,50,000) and Corporate Value-in-Kind Sponsorships (Nu. 2,00,000). Membership, athlete registry fees, and media rights currently sit at Nu. 0.
- **Statement of Expenses:** Total expenses reached Nu. 50,94,900 ($55,380 USD). This included Event Production for BENC 2026 (Nu. 14,14,800), the Prize Pool (Nu. 1,000,000), Administration & the Office

Toolbox (Nu. 2,000,000), Marketing/Advocacy (Nu. 100,000), and International Travel/IESF Dues (Nu. 6,80,000).

- **Net Deficit & Adjustments:** The statement reflects a net deficit of Nu. 44,900. It is noted for the record that this deficit was personally covered out-of-pocket by the President, to be adjusted from future funding lines.
- **Balance Sheet Health (As of March 31, 2026):** Bank balances stand at Nu. 1,329,084.09 with Nu. 15,70,000 in receivables from sponsors. Fixed assets include Nu. 5,32,560 in broadcasting equipment/PCs and Nu. 2,70,000 in peripherals and infrastructure. Current liabilities include Nu. 2,784,150 in unpaid vendor invoices and Nu. 1,00,000 in remaining prize money payable. Retained earnings reflect an initial capital contribution of Nu. 37,500 per month from the Pelden Group.
- **Resolution:** The Annual Financial Report was **officially approved** as presented, noting total executive committee sign-off.

Item C: Appointment of a Treasurer / Treasury Commission

- To maintain strict accounting integrity and manage the incoming capital contributions from corporate donors like Pelden Group alongside upcoming global grants, the assembly confirmed the need for a dedicated finance lead.
- **Resolution: Dalston Pung** (Speaker 3) was designated to lead the Treasury and financial compliance transition. To ensure formal guidelines are established for audit-readiness regarding corporate contributions and seconded staff.

Item D: Approval of the Budget for the Next Period

- The General Assembly evaluated the operational expenditures required to drive national events while scaling long-term digital infrastructure (such as proposed esports arenas and academies).
- Particular emphasis was placed on the strategic impact of BENC 2026, which required a massive portion of the annual budget to ensure world-class standards in Bhutan.
- **Resolution:** The Assembly **approved the flexible Nu. 4M–6M budget framework for the next cycle**, allowing the secretariat to scale operations depending on finalized government grants and incoming EWC foundation ecosystem fund applications.
- **Prize Pool Note:** The Nu. 1,000,000 prize pool across 8 game titles was formally locked. All winnings will be disbursed directly to verified athletes via the BESA Central Registry only after a formal player pledge is signed by the winning athletes.

3. Elections of the Board and the President

The General Assembly transition into the electoral phase was held in full compliance with constitutional democratic standards, ensuring fairness, transparency, and a clean mandate for the incoming leadership.

- **Electoral Protocols & Conduct:** The session was called to order specifically to address the three-year governance cycle. To ensure total transparency and avoid conflict of interest, the secretariat laid out strict

oversight rules. Votes were cast and tallied rigorously, documenting consensus from all voting delegates present.

- **Presidential Mandate & Acceptance Speech:**
  Following the official vote, the newly appointed President-elect formally accepted the mandate and presented his definitive operational vision for the immediate future. In his initial address, the President laid out a practical, phased plan:
  - **Online Transition & Immediate Events:** The President explicitly emphasized starting operations via online mechanisms right away, highlighting that rolling out tournaments immediately is vital for building organizational momentum.
  - **Q1 Game Selection:** He proposed targeting a mobile gaming title within the first quarter, noting that the selection must be collectively discussed, agreed upon, and verified by the federation before kickoff.
  - **Strategic Restraint:** Adopting an explicit "no over-commitment" policy, the President stated he will not commit to milestones where clear resource visibility is lacking.
  - **Accountability Metrics:** Leadership committed to presenting a formal transparency and progress report at the conclusion of Year 1 to review achievements before locking in plans for 2027 and 2028.
  - **International and Strategic Positioning:**
    The President emphasized securing an official solution from the National Esports Federation. He highlighted that within the global ecosystem, the **Asian Esports Federation (AESF)** remains the optimal partner due to its strong positioning within the Olympic movement.
  - **Critical 2026 Targets:** The President-elect designated the remaining months of 2026 as foundational, directing the executive team to prioritize two massive impending global milestones:
    - **The Asian Games**
    - **The Esports World Cup (EWC / Saudi Initiative)**

The 2026 Electoral General Assembly successfully marked a foundational transition for the Bhutan Esports Association (BESA), solidifying both its democratic leadership structure and its fiscal governance framework. The assembly established total operational transparency and demonstrated a strong, compliant foundation to future global partners and funding bodies.

Closing Remark: As BESA enters this three-year governance cycle, the assembly reaffirms its collective commitment to professionalizing the competitive gaming landscape in Bhutan, fostering athletic excellence under the Olympic movement, and creating sustainable, regulated pathways for youth development in the digital age.