

**PRESS STATEMENT REGARDING SOME MISSING ANSWER SCRIPTS FOR THE BHUTAN
HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (BHSEC) EXAMINATION FROM
TRASHITSE HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, TRASHIGANG**

January 15, 2023

The 2022 BHSEC examination was completed on 31 December 2022. The assessment of all the answer scripts of 84 schools began on 6 January 2023 and is being conducted by the Bhutan Council for School Examinations and Assessment (BCSEA) at Losel Gyatsho Academy in Sarpang.

On 13 January 2023, while preparing for the distribution of answer scripts for evaluation, BCSEA officials upon opening the consignment of Trashitse HSS discovered that four BCSEA examination envelopes containing answer scripts for the subjects English II, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics were missing, which affects 40 students of Class 12.

BCSEA immediately contacted the Supervising Examiner and school authority regarding the matter. An internal investigation was also immediately conducted to assess if all necessary security protocols and standard operating procedures were adhered to with regard to the answer scripts being securely packed, stored and handed over to Bhutan Post for secure delivery to the BCSEA marking venue. It was found that the secured boxes had been intentionally tampered with and specific examination envelopes for certain subjects had been removed.

An emergency meeting was held on 14 January 2023 chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister, and attended by Minister, senior officials of Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), BCSEA and the Principal of Trashitse HSS, to assess the incident.

The meeting decided that the incident needed a thorough investigation by the police due to criminal intent as the secure boxes had been tampered with, and a case has been filed by BCSEA with the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) in Gelephu. It was decided that for the affected students, a re-examination will be conducted based on standby question papers. The assessment for the students appearing for the re-examination will also take into account their performance during the course of the school year so that they are fairly assessed.

The students and parents have been contacted by the school authority. All arrangements for re-examination have been made and full support is being extended to the affected students in terms of transportation, accommodation, meals and other logistics. The students will also be briefed and given some time to mentally prepare for the re-examination. Counselling support is also being made available.

The Ministry deeply regrets this incident. A thorough investigation is underway by the RBP, BCSEA and the school authority, and all necessary measures will be undertaken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.