**SOP for security**

**Background:**

The Indo- Bhutan border under Samdrup jongkhar dzongkhag stretches from Chowki (BP- 231/4) - in the west to Tshothang (BP-297) in the East under Jomotshangkha dungkhag. There are three formal routes and twenty six main illegal routes along the international boundary. All law enforcing agencies including RBA are deployed to enforce strict border sealing.

**Objectives:**

1. To prevent and deter entry of illegal immigrants
2. To Prevent and deter cross border illegal activities
3. To Prevent Bhutanese nationals from crossing the border

For the smooth and effective implementation of border sealing along Indo-Bhutan border in Samdrup Jongkhar sector, the following standard operating procedures (SOP) shall be followed:

* There shall be properly defined timeline for duties to all concern agencies with specific Area of Responsibility (AoR):

* Day duty - 0600 Hr-1800 Hr
* Night duty -1800 Hr- 0600 Hr
* RBA and Forest personnel will carry their authorized arms and ammunition. For the RBP personnel, it will be subjected to need basis.

* All personnel to be briefed by their respective superior officers on exact roles and responsibilities.
* The respective agencies will monitor their personnel, De-Suups and village volunteers deployed in their respective area of responsibility.
* All duties shall adopt safety measures and Personal Protective Equipment’s (PPEs) such as face mask, hand gloves, hand washing and hand sanitizing at the time of interaction. The duties shall also observe strict social distancing.
* No undue harassment (physical/verbal) and posting of recorded video clips/pictures in social media shall be prohibited.
* While encountering foreigners, they will be sensitized on the risk of **COVID-19** and sent back across the border.

* If the team establishes evidence of foreigner’s contact with Bhutanese, the matter shall be reported to CMO immediately.

* Personnel on duty will not cross international boundaries and also duties will not pursue intruders across international boundaries except in our own area of responsibility.
* If any Bhutanese is found involved in cross border illegal activities, the team shall inform RBP and CMO for legal action and quarantine protocols respectively.
* Teams should be equipped with safety gears like knives, canes, torches, etc.
* Exchanging goods across the border is strictly prohibited.
* Any confiscated forest products/smuggled goods shall be set on fire after proper verification and documentation.
* If any team comes across armed personnel in our area or a large number of intruders unwilling to go back to their area, the matter should be immediately reported to the control room for necessary reinforcement. The patrol team shall not leave the location until the situation gets stabilized.

* The security control room shall be set up at S/Jongkhar Police Station for compilation of reports and shall be manned for 24x7 hours with dedicated duty officers and supporting staff.

* The two sub sectors in Jomotshangkha and Samdrupcholing Dungkhag shall have their own control room and submit the reports to the sector control room in Samdrup Jongkhar on a daily basis not later than 2100 Hr.

* The Mode of communication shall be through cell phone, fix line, toll free, handset, base set, email and other means of social media which understands the situation with the same wavelength. Watsapp group chat has been created for communication among the members of the sector committee.
* Sector Coordinator and Incident Commander shall liaise with respective counterparts for strict implementation of border sealing.

* The daily report along with the course of action taken in consultation with relevant agencies shall be submitted to the control room by respective team leaders (as per the standard format). The control room will further submit to the sector coordinator. The Sector Coordinator shall further report the security related issues to the Armed Forces Command Centre, Thimphu.