

**PROCEEDING AND RESOLUTION ADOPTED DURING THE 36TH SESSION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON 27TH DAY OF 3RD MONTH OF WATER  
RAT YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 7.6.1972**

1.     **MATTER RELATING TO LAND TAX EXEMPTION**

It was reported that since the appointment of HRH Ashi Sonam Chhoden Wangchuck as Representative of His Majesty in the Ministry of Finance, taxes on land and cattle had been exempted to some extent in view of the problems being faced by the public. The Assembly turned down the request of some members that amalgamated dry and wet lands also be exempted from land tax to the extent of 8 langdos.

Accordingly, it resolved that the Kashos granted earlier by HRH Ashi Sonam in this regard would remain valid.

2.     **MATTER RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF CROWN PRINCE AS TONGSA PENLOP**

All the members noted with great appreciation the Royal Advisory Council's proposal to appoint the Crown Prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who had attained the age of 18 and had matured enough to hold some important post as Tongsa Penlop. When the matter was put to vote, only 4 members out of 150 rejected the proposed appointment.

Therefore, the Assembly decided that the Crown Prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck would be appointed as Tongsa Penlop.

3.     **MATTER RELATING TO CONTRACT WORKS**

It was decided that all the Government contract works of the different Ministries being undertaken by nationals should be forwarded, along with their maps and estimates, to the Royal Advisory Council. The Royal Advisory Council would call for tenders through the concerned Dzongkhag authorities. The names and addresses of the lowest bidders would be submitted to the cabinet for scrutiny and approval . It was also decided that the contract works of the Dzongkhags would be awarded to people of the respective Dzongkhags if they were found capable of undertaking the works.

4.     **MATTER RELATING TO DECISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

His Majesty the King had already issued a Kasho to the Royal Advisory Council relating to the monitoring of the implementation of Assembly decisions. In this regard the Assembly decided that henceforth the Royal Advisory Council would be assigned the task of monitoring the implementation of Assembly decisions.

5. MATTER RELATING TO RENOVATION OF DAGA AND LHUNTSHI DZONG

The Assembly felt that the people of these Dzongkhags were overloaded with the renovation works of the Dzongs. As such, though there was no system of wages in Shaptolayme, it was decided to pay the labourers for the time being at half the government rate of daily wages, i.e. Nu. 3/- per male and Nu. 2.50 per female. However, the labourers would be paid wages at the full government rate when the country's revenue was sufficient enough to meet its expenditure.

6. MATTER RELATING TO REVISION OF TAX ON THE BASIS OF INCOME

The Shaptolayme being provided earlier on a voluntary basis was brought under payment of wages as per Assembly decision. In view of the shortage of government revenue, the Assembly decided to levy taxes on certain income-generating sources. Therefore it was proposed that the various business quotas apportioned to private parties should henceforth be brought under government control. The Cabinet was asked to prepare a detailed report on this matter and submit it to the next session of the Assembly.

7. MATTER RELATING TO BUDGETARY PLAN FOR 1972-73

The statement of the income and expenditure of the civilian budgetary plan submitted by the Ministry of Finance was verified and duly approved by the Assembly.

8. MATTER RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF LYONPO DAWA TSERING AS FOREIGN MINISTER

The house observed that the country being in the initial stage of development, it was found necessary to establish a Ministry for Foreign Affairs so as to strengthen relations with Foreign Countries. As such, His Majesty the King proposed the nomination of Lyonpo Dawa Tsering of the Development Ministry to the post. In the ensuing vote, Lyonpo Dawa Tsering secured a majority of 63.7%. As such, the Assembly endorsed the appointment of Lyonpo Dawa Tsering as Foreign Minister.

9. MATTER RELATING TO VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON HIS MAJESTY

During the 32nd session of the National Assembly corresponding to 4th month of the 25th day of Iron Dog Year specifies relating to the vote of confidence on His Majesty the King were discussed. It was decided that if two thirds of the Assembly voted against His Majesty, he would abdicate. In the current session, His Majesty proposed that the decisive majority be amended to above 50%. However, considering the welfare of the public and the need to ensure continuance of the hereditary monarchy in the country, the Assembly resolved that the proposal put forth by His Majesty was not acceptable.

As such, the earlier resolution in this regard was kept unchanged.

10. MATTER RELATING TO PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

The Royal Advisory Council had issued a circular directing all schools in the country to hold prayers for one hour in the evening for the well-being of the country. However, it was observed that some of the schools had not followed the same. Therefore, the Assembly decided that the circular issued by the Royal Advisory Council earlier should be strictly enforced.

11. MATTER RELATING TO SIMTOKHA RIGNEY SCHOOL

In connection with the education policy of the Royal Government that the Rigney School at Simtokha should impart education in Dzongkha, the Assembly decided that the schools in Southern Bhutan and Non-dzongkha speaking areas should impart education in Dzongkha through the textbooks supplied by the Education Department, whereas the Simtokha Rigney School should continue to impart education through the classical language.

12. MATTER RELATING TO EDUCATION POLICY

The Assembly decided that a new education policy giving top priority to the teaching of culture and tradition be drafted and submitted to the Cabinet through HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck, Representative of His Majesty in the Ministry of Development.

13. MATTER RELATING TO IODIZED SALT

In accordance with Resolution No.12 of the 32nd session of the National Assembly and with a view to preventing goiter, it was decided to import iodized salt for distribution among the public. With the improving sanitary conditions and the increasing awareness of the public about goiter, the disease seemed to have diminished. In view of this, the Assembly decided that the purchase of iodized salt be stopped forthwith.

14. MATTER RELATING TO SUSPENSION BRIDGE AT MONGAR DUNGMI RIVER

Regarding the suspension bridge at Mongar Dungmi river, it was reported that the logs holding the iron ropes had got damaged and needed to be replaced. The route through the bridge offered great benefit to the public of eastern Bhutan. Meanwhile, it was also pointed out that if the bridge was not renovated in time, the cost already involved in the construction would go in vain. Therefore, the Assembly decided that after verification HRH Ashi Dechen should take necessary action in this regard.

15. MATTER RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW IRRIGATION CHANNELS

The house was informed that all the proposals regarding construction of new irrigation channels in different places should be routed through the concerned Dzongdas and forwarded to the Hon'ble Home Minister. They should be accompanied by the letters of agreement confirming that the beneficiaries would provide labour on a voluntary basis. If found to be of great benefit to the public, the Home Ministry might detail a Lajab for supervision of the works being undertaken, whereas the payment and tools and implements would be provided by the Ministry of Development.

16. MATTER RELATING TO TIBETAN SETTLEMENT

The Assembly observed that the Tibetans were settling and grazing their own yaks as well as those belonging to others in some places in northern Bhutan. In view of the possible political implications of the issue, it was decided that their settlement in the north be restricted.

Meanwhile, the House also decided that the Tibetans should be settled in Central Bhutan jointly by the Dy. Home Minister, Dzongdas and the two Tibetans officials. Tibetan refusing to abide by this decision would be directed to leave the country for India.

17. MATTER RELATING TO HIGH COURT LAW

Owing to the problems faced by Thrimpons in handling cases, a new set of laws drafted by High Court on the basis of the main laws of the country was presented to the Assembly. As the prevailing laws had been serving their purpose, the Assembly resolved that the new draft be kept at obedience.

18. MATTER RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE IN HIGH COURT

As per Resolution No. 29 of the 35th session of the Assembly, it had been decided that Dasho Dawa, elected as Public Representative in the High Court, should first serve as Ramjam for a probationary period of three months. Observing that Dasho Dawa had scored the majority of votes and was found to be fit for the post, the current session of the Assembly decided that he be appointed Thrimpon in the High Court for the prescribed term of three years.

19. MATTER RELATING TO EVENING PRAYER BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

In view of the fact school children and army personnel were holding daily prayers in their respective places, it was decided that after office hours government servants, including the Hon'ble Ministers, should also pray for one hour daily with effect from the 10th day of the 5th month of the Water Rat Year under the supervision of the Hon'ble Home Minister.

20. MATTER RELATING TO APPROVAL OF CUSTOM ACT

As per Resolution No. 28 of the 34th session, the Cabinet had prepared a draft of rules and regulations pertaining to customs duties in the country. The Assembly approved the same after due scrutiny.

21. MATTER RELATING TO INSPECTION OF INCOMING AND OUTGOING PEOPLE

The House observed that the increasing traffic of people to and from the country afforded opportunities to mischievous elements to enter the country. As such it was resolved that all

people leaving and entering the country would be checked at specified entry points by the concerned department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

22. MATTER RELATING TO TOURISM ACT

In view of the likelihood that, despite being in its initial stage of development, Bhutan would attract a large number of tourists, the Cabinet had prepared a draft of rules governing tourism in the country. After due consideration of the same, the Assembly accorded its approval.

23. MATTER RELATING TO RULES GOVERNING ENTRY OF PRIVATE GUESTS

The Assembly approved for enforcement a rule drafted and presented to it in connection with the visits of private guests to the country.

24. MATTER RELATING TO PRIVY PURSE

The Assembly approved a draft of rules containing 12 points submitted by the Cabinet in relation to the entitlements of privy purse to His Majesty the King and members of the Royal Family.

25. MATTER RELATING TO RULES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

A draft proposal regarding medical treatment of Government servants including Ministers and members of the public, which was submitted by the Cabinet, was considered and duly approved by the Assembly.

26. MATTER RELATING TO NON-NATIONAL LABOURERS

In view of the risks involved in employing non-national labourers, it was decided to restrict this practice, especially in the villages. In the same connection, the Cabinet submitted a draft of rules and regulations pertaining to labourers in towns and industrial areas. After a point-by-point consideration of the same, the Assembly accorded it its approval.

27. MATTER RELATING TO ORDERLY ALLOWANCE FOR RED SCARF OFFICERS

In view of the problems faced by Red Scarf Officers, the Assembly decided that each of them be granted allowance for engaging one orderly.

28. MATTER RELATING TO NATIONAL FLAG

As the national flag is a symbol of the country's independence, and in the absence of proper procedures for holding it, the Assembly approved for enforcement the National Flag Rules drafted by the Cabinet.

**THE LETTERS OF GRATITUDE DULY PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING JIGME DORJI  
WANGCHUCK DURING 36TH SESSION**

We, the members of the National Assembly of Bhutan, are truly grateful and proud that our beloved country has been able to enjoy an uninterrupted stretch of independence under the glorious rule of the hereditary monarchs. Fortune smiled on us when, during the 15th Rabjung, corresponding to the Water Dragon Year (1952), Your Majesty was enthroned as the third hereditary King of our kingdom. Ever since then, under Your Majesty's dynamic leadership, the country has taken rapid strides towards modernization without being guilty of neglecting the traditions and laws adopted by Your illustrious forefathers.

We, the members of the Assembly are immensely impressed by the nation's dramatic achievements under Your Majesty's wise and benevolent rule: the establishment of the National Assembly a year after the coronation, increasing the strength of the Central Monk Body to 1100 monks, the establishment of new Rabdeys in certain Dzongkhags, the reduction of taxes for the welfare of the people, the erection of 10,000 golden statues, and the writing of over three hundred volumes Kanjur and Tenjur in golden letters. Bhutan, once unknown to the outside world, became a member of the Colombo Plan, the Universal Postal Union and the U.N.O., thus making its name known Internationally and re-affirming its sovereign, independent status. Another notable feat in the realm of Foreign Affairs was Bhutan's prompt recognition of the independence of the neighbouring country of Bangladesh, in the process becoming only the second nation to do so. The strengthening of Indo-Bhutan friendship and establishment of bilateral relationship with rest of the countries in the world.

It may be truly said that though Bhutan is a small country, it has surpassed even the advanced countries by the rectitude of its noble policies.

In brief, the most noteworthy features of Your Majesty's memorable reign of 21 years may be said to be the extension of foreign relations, the maintenance of law and order, and the socio-economic development of the country even empowering the National Assembly of Bhutan to

vote against the unfaithful Ruler for solving political crisis if it arises in future. For all these we, the members of the Assembly, on behalf of the people we represent our offering with sincerest felicitations and gratitude and also pray for Your Majesty's longevity and the prosperity.

Thanking you,

Yours Majesty's Most  
Loyal Subjects  
Assembly Members

**HIS LATE MAJESTY KING JIGME DORJI WANGCHUCK'S REPLY TO THE  
SUBMISSION OF GRATITUDE PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF  
BHUTAN ON 29TH MAY, 1972.**

Although I feel quite unworthy of receiving the many wonderful gifts you have so generously given to me, yet my heart fills with gratitude to the Monk Body, the government and the public for this profoundly affectionate gesture. For my part, besides simply occupying the throne, I am not conscious of having led the country forward or having contributed greatly towards the welfare of its people.

Generally speaking, the success of the kingdom in its present tasks can be attributed to the compension of the Lord Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha. More particularly, though, my success has arisen from the advice given by you, the members of this Assembly, in addition to which I have always been able to consult the Royal Advisory Council. Furthermore, the officials of the government have been able to unite harmoniously in the discharge of their responsibilities. Apart from this, being uneducated myself, I could not have been able to overcome the success for the interest of the country.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to you, the people of the country, for the great loyalty you have shown me over a period of many years during my resign. This devotion you have shown is most precious because it is quite beyond price and, for that reason, it would be extremely difficult to repay.

Speaking for myself, the fact that I have been able to enjoy my life as I have done is entirely due to the loving kindness of the kingdom, its people and all of you. It is not therefore, in the



least bit necessary for you to make further gifts to me in this way. I, more than anyone, am conscious of the fact that at present our revenues are not sufficient to meet the government's expenditure, and I would be very grateful if you allow me to return these gifts to the government. The expression of your affection for me alone is more than enough and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

I would also like to say that I myself, because of my lack of good fortune, have been unable to serve my country as well as I would have liked; and even in my dream I pray that my children, who are now growing up, will serve their country steadfastly and would fulfil my great hope in achieving the National goal.

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