

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 13TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN ON 30TH OF THE 8TH MONTH OF EARTH HOG YEAR
CORRESPONDING TO 31.10.59**

1. MATTER RELATING TO THE OBJECTIVES OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- (a) To jointly review public grievances and solve the problems faced by the people.
- (b) To maintain the sovereignty of the kingdom through economic self reliance, and to discover ways and means of developing the nation.
- (c) To review the collection of revenues and expenditure incurred during the year.

2. MATTER RELATING TO THE COUNTRY'S SECURITY

Bhutan being situated in between two powerful countries i.e. India in the South and now China in the North. As such, most of the members observed that it was necessary for the country to strengthen its security and develop the socio-economic conditions for the preservation of its sovereign independence. Therefore, it was felt necessary to construct motorable roads in the country for the purpose particularly to promote trade with third countries. Therefore, the Assembly resolved that motorable roads be constructed in all the Dzongkhag within the country.

3. MATTER RELATING TO THE GRANT OF ARMY TRAINING

It was resolved that an Army Training Centre would be set up at Wangdiphodrang and that the personnel required for border security and for various Dzongkhags would be provided from the training centre. As such, to facilitate measures to ensure the country's security it was felt necessary that all young male citizens of the country should undergo military training.

4. MATTER RELATING TO EDUCATION

Since education is vital to the development of any country, it was decided to impart modern education in the Schools of our kingdom so as to promote socio-economic self-sufficiency and lessen the dependence on foreign manpower.

5. MATTER RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS

Keeping in mind the intricate workmanship and skill of Bhutan's traditional artisans which was deeply appreciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru during his visit in 1958 and their great potential in finding good market for their products, it was decided to encourage the development of traditional handicrafts. As such, His Majesty the King took special interest in the development of painting sculpture, embroidery and carpentry in the capital. His Majesty the King was further pleased to command the promotion of these skills in the rural areas of the kingdom.

6. MATTER RELATING TO THE MONASTERIES

It was informed that all monasteries would be looked after by the Central Monk Body, which would also impart religious education in all monasteries. The education presently being imparted in the Central Monk Body such as Astrology and Grammar would be extended to other Monk Bodies also. Additionally, it was felt necessary to impart training so as to attain uniformity with the Central Monk Body in the matter of religious decorum. In this connection it was suggested that the Ven'ble Dorji Lupon, should inspect the studies of all Monk Bodies and conduct examinations as per the religious norms.

7. MATTER RELATING TO THE OPENING OF GENERAL STORES

Keeping in view the welfare of the public and as a first step in the development process, the government was planning to open a general store in each dzongkhag, and in some dzongkhags, such stores had already been opened. The capital fund for the stores was realized from the public and the profits accruing from them would also be used for the public good.

8. MATTER RELATING TO THE SIGNING OF BOND AGREEMENT

There were two ethnic groups in the kingdom under the rule of His Majesty the King. Since the Nepalese inhabiting Southern Bhutan as bona fide citizens of this country had submitted a bond agreement affirming their allegiance to the King and Country, the Assembly resolved that from this date the Nepalese would enjoy equal rights in the National Assembly, as well as in the country, like other bona fide citizens.

9. MATTER RELATING TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Ever since the establishment of the National Assembly, all members have been given equal opportunities to express their opinions and ventilate their grievances in the presence of His Majesty the King, Ministers and other members. As such, all the problems and difficulties faced by the Government and the people were discussed and solved accordingly at the National Level. However, undesirable incidents revealing the rebellious intentions of the people of Tashigang and Dungsam and the ill feeling towards the Government by the people of Paro created bewilderment among the members of the Assembly. Therefore, the Assembly unanimously objected their views.

10. MATTER RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY

His Majesty the King was pleased to state that, thanks to the blessings of his gracious father and forefathers, he would not personally face any problem even if he had to leave the throne. However, he said, a body without a head was useless, and as such he was prepared to risk even his life in striving to protect the nation and his subjects. On this issue, the Lamas and the Monks said that if such was the aspiration of His Majesty, they would also go forward to the extent of handling guns to fight with the enemies to defend the country and its religion. Therefore, the Assembly felt that the people should also ponder seriously on the matter, and should afford loyal security for the country and strive for its development.

11. MATTER RELATING TO GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE

It was brought to the notice of the Assembly that the government was in receipt of a letter from Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, addressed to the Prime Minister of Bhutan, ventilating doubts over Bhutan's relationship with other neighbouring countries. The letter also claimed that there were indications that the government of Bhutan was making diplomatic overtures with other countries in contravention of the Indo-Bhutan Treaty.

In this regard, His Majesty asked the Assembly to frame a reply to Pandit Nehru clarifying that the proposal to extend Bhutan's diplomatic relations to third countries was mooted by Mr. D.K. Sen, Adviser to His Majesty, and not by the Prime Minister of Bhutan. The reply was also to point out that, in view of Bhutan's lack of resources and manpower, it had no intention at present to strike a relationship with any 3rd country. However, in the event that

such a situation arose in the future, Bhutan would take its decision, and the government of India would be informed accordingly so as not to effect the Indo-Bhutan Treaty.

12. MATTER RELATING TO ACCOUNTAL PROCEDURE

Until now government accounts were not separated from His Majesty's personal accounts. As both revenue and expenditure were handled by His Majesty, there was considerable confusion among the public as to whether the revenue was treated as public money or formed of His Majesty's privy purse. Therefore, in the earlier sessions it was resolved to distinguish between the two. It was decided that henceforth all expenditure and maintenance costs pertaining to developmental activities would be accounted separately and verified by the National Assembly each year.

The revenues and expenditure related to his Majesty's privy purse would be marked 'private'.

13. MATTER RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF ARMY TRAINING CENTRE

As stated above all members were required to explain the policies framed in the National Assembly to the public and, accordingly, the labourers required for the construction of Army Training Centers at Wangdiphodrang and construction of motor roads from India to Bhutan, would be formed under the conscripted labour force (Dukdom). The public must be made to understand that the above work was undertaken for the benefit of both the government and the public, and the people should therefore come forward willingly to work hand in hand with the government.

The members unanimously felt that road construction would be the main infrastructure of the nation's development and security. The Assembly hoped that the construction works relating to the construction of roads and the Army Training Centers would begin immediately.

14. MATTER RELATING TO THE ACCOUNTS OF EXPENDITURE

Bringing up the issue of discrepancy between expenditure and revenue, the Assembly pointed out that the Store Officers of the districts of Thimphu, Wangdiphodrang and Tongsa were not able to meet the expenditure with the revenues of their respective districts, thus having to borrow more than 48,000 des of grain annually from His Majesty's treasury. The newly appointed Store Officer at Punakha had succeeded in collecting sufficient revenue, although the collection of revenue by the previous Store Keeper was unsatisfactory.

In this connection the Government informed the Assembly that the national revenue would not suffice for the construction of the motor road from India to Bhutan. Thus in the absence of alternatives, the Prime Minister Jigme Pelden Dorji the Chapcha Penlop and the Deputy Commissioner of Chengmari were sent to India to seek financial aid from the government of India, which agreed to provide the required aid, both in terms of finance and personnel, under the auspices of Indo-Bhutan friendship.