

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE 26TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SESSION HELD ON 25.67 CORRESPONDING TO 22ND DAY OF 3RD MONTH OF FIRE
SHEEP YEAR**

1. MATTER RELATING TO TAXATION

As per resolution No. 1 of the 25th Assembly Session, taxes in Southern Bhutan would be raised so as to be on a par with those of interior Bhutan, thus bringing uniformity to the taxation structure. However, His Majesty the King observed that the Government would not derive much benefit from an upward revision of the tax structure, which would only inconvenience the public. Therefore, His Majesty commanded that taxes should not be raised. The public representatives expressed their heartfelt gratitude for His Majesty's interest in the welfare of the people.

2. MATTER RELATING TO BHUTAN-INDIA BORDER

Keeping in view how important it was for the country to have fixed territorial boundaries, the members requested that the Government should undertake the proper demarcation of the Southern Bhutan border with India as soon as possible. The Assembly endorsed the above.

3. MATTER RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMBASSY IN BHUTAN

Keeping in view the existing bonds of friendship between Bhutan and India, the Government of India proposed that an Indian Embassy be set up Bhutan in the Fire Horse Year. Meanwhile, the matter was also discussed during the visit of an Indian delegation led by the Indian Foreign Minister to Bhutan. During the discussion, it was stated that the Embassy was proposed to be established for the sole purpose of further strengthening the existing bonds of friendship between the two countries. The house therefore supported the proposal for the establishment of the Indian Embassy.

4. MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF CHUNIDOM FOR HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

The house made it known that the people intending to construct new houses should report to the concerned Thrimpons for exemption of chunidom. The Thrimpons for their part should

investigate the matter and on verification grant the exemption of chunidom to two persons from a family for a year.

5. MATTER RELATING TO EXEMPTION OF POTATO TAXES

Resolution No. 6 of the 25th session turned down the public request for exemption of tax on potatoes. However, the public of Mongar, Shemgang and Chapcha again requested for a reduction in the potato tax. The house therefore, decided that the existing tax rate of Nu. 5/- be reduced to Nu. 2/- per maund.

6. MATTER RELATING TO THE DOUBLE TAXATION ON GRAZING LAND

Some members informed the house that the pastures of Wangling and Pelri were lying vacant. At the same time, the people of Bumthang, Mongar and Tashigang were paying taxes for the use of pastures at Wangling and Pelri, thus, as per the survey report, subjecting them to double taxation, as they were paying to the Government also. Meanwhile, the controversy over the pastures in Dung Meta and Gaylegphug was also brought to the notice of the house. In this context, the house resolved that both the matter of double taxation and the above controversy should be investigated by the Royal Advisory Council as per sathram.

7. MATTER RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF FOREST GUARDS

The house decided that the Ministry of Development should appoint a team of forest guards within 6 months to protect the nation's forests from damages and misuse by the people.

8. MATTER RELATING TO GRANT OF GRAZING TO SHEMGANG RABDEY

It was reported that the pasture used by Mr. Sithup for grazing cattle belonging to His Majesty had been lying vacant. As such, His Majesty the King was pleased to accede to the request of the public of Shemgang that the pasture be granted to Shemgang Rabdey.

9. MATTER RELATING TO FOREIGN DAK

With a view to improving the poor postal facilities in the country, and as decided in Resolution 7 of the 8th month of the Fire Horse Year, His Majesty the King commanded that Gyelden, Geshey Tsewang, the Secretary General, and Mr. Durgadas be deputed to India.

Their visit resulted in an agreement by which postal facilities pertaining to money orders, registered letters and parcels weighing upto 2 kgs would henceforth be made available to the public.

10. MATTER RELATING TO PAYMENT OF DEATH COMPENSATION

The sum of Nu. 6,550/- which was handed over by DANTAK to the Sub-Division Officer, Gaylegphug towards the death compensation of people who died working on the Gaylegphug-Tongsa road having been misappropriated by Commissioner Rinchen of Southern Bhutan while absconding from the country, the government decided that the amount would be allocated from the Ministry of Finance.

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