

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED IN THE 61ST SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN**

1. **MATTERS RELATING TO REVENUE EARNED THROUGH THE SALE OF FORESTS PRODUCTS**

The Chimi of Samkhar, Tashigang stated that the forests have been considered as a valuable resource of the Country. Both the Government and Public were exercising a great deal of restraint in felling the trees even for purpose of fencing trying to preserve the forests to the greatest extent possible. He requested that the Assembly be briefed on the amount of the revenue being earned annually.

In response, the Director of Forests, appreciated the interest of the public in the preservation of forests and informed the Assembly that 64% of the land was under forests. He explained that in order for the trees to become fully mature and economically useful, it took about 40-50 years, therefore it was necessary to be cautious in the exploitation of forests. Further, due to the development of the country, the requirement of timber was increasing year by year. In this connection he stated that in the 5th plan to date, the number of trees granted to the public free of royalty came to 1,16,000 valued at Nu.190 million and the quantity of timber granted to the military forces was estimated at Nu.1.2 million. The requirements of Government organizations for development activities was also increasing steadily.

The Director stated that due to the growing requirements increasing difficulties were being faced to implement the Government policy to maintain 60% of the land under forests. Therefore, except for the forest based industries which have already been established or initiated, no new industries were expected to be launched in the future. Attempts were also being made to use overaged and lessor valuable species of trees to supply to the forests-based industries and to generate more revenues for the Royal Government. Forests cleared of such trees would be replanted with more useful species so as to prevent soil erosion, floods and to ensure ecological balance.

As regards the forests revenue, the Director of Forests informed the Assembly that the amount earned from the sale of timber, from 1981 to date, worked out to Nu.22.3 million, and an additional Nu.2.8 million was earned from the sale of other forest products.

On this issue, the Chimi of Sibsoo observed that inspite of the recognition that forests are an important national asset, the military forces based in different parts of the country were found causing damage to the forests by felling trees indiscriminately for firewood and other purposes. He suggested that in addition to restriction of such undesirable practices, the Royal Government should explore other alternative like coal so that the use of firewood could be reduced and the country's forests protected.

2. MATTERS RELATED TO THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A PAPER FACTORY

The Chimi of Bhangtar, Samdrupjongkhar stated that paper was an essential commodity in the country and that there was potential to establish a paper factory in Dalim in Samdrupjongkhar. He suggested that initiative be taken in this regard with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. Once a factory was established, the country could be self-sufficient in paper and if there was any surplus, it could be exported to generate more revenues to the country

In response, to the above request the Joint Secretary, Trade, Industry and Mines stated that he appreciated the people's interest in increasing the Government revenues. However, he informed the Assembly that the Royal Government was facing problems in meeting the timber requirements of the existing forest based industries. Furthermore, the establishment of more industries based on forests was not in keeping with the new Forest Policy. He also pointed out that the forests in the Southern region of the country were already in a depleted condition and that the establishment of a paper factory would further aggravate the situation. The benefits expected from such an initiative would be less as compared to the damages inflicted on the forests. Considering the above facts, he stated that it would be wiser if such proposals are kept in abeyance. He, suggested that if there were possibilities for starting industries not based on forest resources these should be brought to the notice of the Government. The Royal Government would support such proposals as long they were viable.

The Joint Secretary stated that other avenues to generate more revenues were being explored. He informed the House that in pursuance of His Majesty's command to identify between 16 to 20 non-forest based industries, feasibility studies were being carried out in different Dzongkhags. After receiving the feasibility reports and scrutinizing them, the Royal Government would take steps to set up industries in Dzongkhags where they are suitable and economically viable.

With regard to the proposal to establish paper factory in Dalim Block, the Assembly endorsed the views expressed by the Joint Secretary.

3. **MATTERS RELATING TO INCREASE IN PORTERAGE CHARGES**

The Chimi of Gyon, Gasa stated that the Gasa Dzongkhag still remained unconnected by motorable road and that the people living there were isolated because the Dzongkhag is located in a remote region of the country. The people also faced considerable hardship as they are required to provide porters to transport Government goods and materials for projects. In view of the difficulties being faced by the people and the high cost of living in the area he requested that the present rate of portage charges be increased to appropriate levels.

In response, the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance stated that any changes brought about as a result of this request would affect other Dzongkhags and areas which are not connected by motorable roads and facing similar problems. Further financial entitlements on account of portage granted to the officials of the Royal Government on tour would also have to be increased accordingly. All these together could add up to a substantial expenditure which was beyond the present financial means of the Government. However, he stated that the proposal would be studied not only in the context of Gasa Dzongkhag, but for areas facing similar problems.

The Deputy Minister added that the Government was aware of the problems faced by the public of Gasa in carrying loads from Punakha. It was for this reason that the Royal Government had undertaken the task to construct a motorable road from Punakha to Gasa. The road upto Tashithang is expected to be completed by next year. The benefits that the people will derive from the completion of the road in the long run would be more than that derived from increasing in portage charges.

The Assembly endorsed the statement of the Deputy Minister for Finance.

4. **MATTERS REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF AIRFIELD AT BUMTHANG.**

The Chimi of Chhokhor, Bumthang reported that the proposal to construct an airfield at Bumthang had been raised on several occasions. However, no firm decision had been taken on the location of the proposed airfield. He, therefore, requested that a decision in this regard be taken soon in the interest of the public.

On this issue, the Hon'ble Minister for Communications and Tourism reported the House that it had just been 1 1/2 years since the Druk Air Corporation has established at the command of His Majesty the King. The airline was presently operating only between Paro and Calcutta. In time, it was proposed to gradually construct airfields in various Dzongkhags, including one in Bumthang. He explained that before the airfields could be constructed, the topography of the land, climatic and meteorological conditions at the sites would have to be studied. As consultancy services have to be sought from outside to do such studies, it would take lengthy period of time and involve heavy expenditure. Therefore, it was not possible to immediately decide on where the airfields will be constructed in the country. As such, the airline would concentrate on the development of the existing air link between Paro and Calcutta.

The Hon'ble Minister also reported that a separate Civil Aviation Department had been created under the Ministry of Communications. This organization would be responsible to survey and investigation sites for airfields in the various Dzongkhags. Presently the Department was being run with the assistance of an aviation expert from India. He stated that as and when viable and suitable sites for the construction of airfields in Dzongkhags were identified by the Department, it would be reported to the Assembly.

The Assembly endorsed the statement of the Hon'ble Minister for Communication & Tourism.

5. MATTERS RELATING TO BORDER TALKS BETWEEN BHUTAN AND CHINA

The Chimi of Chhokhor, Bumthang stated that the Assembly on various occasions in the past discussed matters related to the border talks between Bhutan and the People's Republic of China. Accordingly the Royal Government had initiated talks this year and further talks were to be held in the two capitals alternatively. This initiative had fulfilled the wishes of the people and was a testimony to the sovereign independent status of Bhutan. He added that the people took pride in this and thanked the Royal Government for the initiative.

Regarding the demarcation of Bhutan's northern border with China, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister acknowledged that the issue had been voiced several times in previous sessions of the National Assembly. This year, in pursuance of the command of His Majesty the King, preliminary talks were initiated between Bhutan and the People's Republic of China. As regards the actual boundary demarcation, he informed the House that it would take time as

the matter was important to both the countries, and it was necessary to have proper understanding and accommodation of each others views. Therefore, it would not be possible to reach final decisions at this stage when preliminary talks have just been initiated. In order to ensure that the desired results are achieved, the matter should not be dealt within haste. He added that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would endeavour to carry on the talks smoothly and in a desired manner.

Several members expressed the views that the demarcation of the country's boundary was of immediate urgency. On being informed that it would not be possible to decide the matter in a short time, they nevertheless expressed their gratitude to the Government for this initiative which would safeguard the interests of the country in the years to come. They hoped that the Government would continue with its efforts and make the initiative a success.

Several other members stated that Bhutan is a sovereign country and since time immemorial has never been under foreign rule. This fact was widely known to the outside world and the borders of the country which have existed for centuries should not be subjected to dispute or discussion. However, as there was no fixed boundary between the two countries, it was necessary to negotiate the matter. This would be of great benefit to the peoples of both Bhutan and China. They hoped that the Royal Government would be able to resolve the matter without encountering problems.

In response, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister reiterated that the issue to be settled once and for all would take time. Firstly, because it was a matter concerning two countries and, secondly, the boundary between Bhutan and the People's Republic of China to be demarcated was about 500 km long. He informed the Assembly that a Chinese delegation would be visiting Bhutan around April next year for talks on the boundary issue. An independent committee had been formed at the command of His Majesty the King to deal with matters related to the boundary talks. The Hon'ble Minister requested the members not to feel undue apprehension with regard to the settlement of the matter.

6. MATTER RELATING TO EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE

The Chimi of Chhokhor, Bumthang has stated that the country was steadily achieving progress in all aspects of social and economic life under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King. With the launching of the Vth Plan, separate Dzongkhag Plans had been initiated with a view to achieving economic self-reliance at the Dzongkhag level.

The various developmental activities undertaken under the Dzongkhag Plans, he stated, were doing very well and contributing immeasurably towards the development of the country. Similarly, the block level development scheme being planned for the VIth Plan was expected to benefit every household. In the process of the development of the country, the Royal Government of Bhutan had gradually expanded relations with other countries. These initiatives taken by the Royal Government, under the wise guidance of His Majesty the King, had enabled the country to get financial and technical assistance needed to execute the various development plans. The people were extremely grateful to His Majesty the King and the Royal Government for such initiatives.

In response, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister informed that under the farsighted leadership of His Majesty the King, the country had become members of the major international development financial institutions such as Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. The country was also receiving assistance from the Kuwait Fund. He also informed the Assembly of the Royal Government's other efforts to obtain more financial assistance from these and other institutions for the sixth plan.

The Hon'ble Minister informed the Assembly that in pursuance of the Royal Government's policy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was making arrangements to establish a Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the United Nations at Geneva, Switzerland. He explained that a Mission was decided to be set up in Geneva because many United Nations agencies were based there. Moreover, besides enabling the Royal Government to meet and hold talks frequently with UN agencies, Geneva was centrally located in Europe and many other countries could be contacted to seek economic and technical assistance. He stated that the status of the Mission would be the same as that of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. It was expected that the Mission would be opened in a few months' time.

With regard to the establishment of diplomatic relations with other countries, the Hon'ble Minister reminded the Assembly of the statement he had made in previous sessions pointing out the manpower and financial constraints prevailing in the country. However, notwithstanding these problems, the Royal Government had decided to open the Mission in Geneva. Firstly, because it would be of great benefit to the country as a whole and secondly, because the Mission would be used to mobilize financial resources for the Sixth Plan.

The members of the National Assembly expressed their deep gratitude for the various measure being taken by the Government under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King to realize the country's cherished goal of economic self-reliance.

7. MATTERS REGARDING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Chimi of Sibsoo, Samchi reminded the National Assembly that in accordance with Resolution No.26 of the 59th session, the Rules and Regulations of the Assembly was required to be drafted and presented during the 60th session of the National Assembly. As it had not been done, the Chimi requested that the rules be positively presented during the 61st session.

In response, the Chairman of the Royal Advisory Council informed the Assembly that the Rules and Regulations of the National Assembly had been drafted and was ready for presentation to the House. However, in accordance with Resolution No.14 of the 60th session of the National Assembly, the draft was required to be scrutinized by the Cabinet. The draft was presently being studied by the Cabinet and therefore, it could not be presented to the Assembly during this session. As soon as it was finalized, the draft would be distributed among the Assembly Members and any suggestion for amendments or changes to be made in the draft could be brought up for discussion in the coming session of the National Assembly.

The Assembly endorsed the statement made by the Chairman, Royal Advisory Council.

8. MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATION POLICY.

The Chimi of Sibsoo, Samchi, requested to be informed when the revised education policy was likely to be enforced.

In response, the Director of Education stated that in framing an education policy, the changing situation of the country and economic needs of the people had to be taken into account. Realizing the importance of education in Bhutan, a Board of Education was formed and charged with a task of formulating the education policy. They had submitted a draft policy on which His Majesty was pleased to command that it be examined in detail. In accordance with the command of His Majesty the King and in view of the importance of formulating a proper education policy the services of experts from outside had also been sought. While on the subject of the new education policy, he reminded the Assembly that

the department already had a policy which it would follow till the end of the Vth Plan. The new policy, he stated would be implemented from the beginning of the VIth plan. He assured the members that the draft policy would be presented to the Assembly atleast one year before the launching of the next Plan.

The Assembly endorsed the statement of the Director of Education.

9. MATTER REGARDING THE SHORTAGE OF MANPOWER

The Chimi of Bjimey and Tewang, Thimphu pointed out that although over the years there have been a large number of children studying in various schools throughout the country, it had been repeatedly reported in the Assembly that the country is still in want of efficient and educated people. The Chimi therefore, requested to be informed on whether the shortage of manpower was caused by carelessness on the part of students or ineffective methods of teaching or due to some other negligence on the part of the Government.

In response, the Director of Education while acknowledging that the country was still in short of manpower, clarified that it was not the fault of the Government, Students or teachers, but that it was caused due to the rapid pace of development and the changing circumstances in the country. He explained that this problem was a result of acute shortage of educated people required immediately and that it was not the case that the country was lagging behind in educating people. He pointed out that in order for students to complete their studies, it took between 17-20 years and that too if there were no interruptions. He reminded the Assembly that it had been just over 23 years since planned development efforts were launched in the country. During this period, the Royal Government had given the education sector a high priority. The Government continues to give emphasis to the education and training of nationals, in fact about 1/3rd of the assistance from abroad was being received in the form of training and education. He informed the Assembly that when the modern education programme was first launched, 99% of the teachers were non-nationals. Today 50% of the teachers working in various schools in Bhutan are now nationals. Similarly, the Royal Civil Service Commission was endeavouring to replace the non-national staffs by an increasing nationals pace each year. These steps, the Education Director stated were indicators which prove that the education system of the country was sound and productive.

10. MATTERS REGARDING PROMOTION OF THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE, TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS

The Chimi of Chang, Thimphu stated that the national language, traditions and customs are important aspects of the country's sovereignty and independence. He pointed out that it was important that the cultural heritage is preserved and developed to keep abreast with the progress in the country. This issue had already been discussed in the Assembly on various occasions. He suggested that some legal measures be initiated so that all the Bhutanese would be compelled to make use of the national language and observe the traditions and customs of the country.

On this issue, the Director of Education while appreciating the views expressed by the Members stated that the country's future in respect of its cultural heritage would depend on the younger generation. Accordingly, arrangements had been made to teach children the national language, traditions & customs not only within the country but also in the different institutions in India where Bhutanese students were receiving their education. He stated that with understanding of the heads of such institutions, language teachers had been posted from here. He further added that in pursuance of His Majesty's command, sufficient emphasis has been given to the preservation of the national customs and traditions in the new education policy which would be presented to the Assembly in the near future. Several members who also made interventions on the issue of preserving the national language, customs and traditions stated that there had already been lengthy discussions on several occasions. They felt that further deliberations could be held when the new education policy was presented to the Assembly. Finally the Assembly resolved that an appropriate set of rules should be framed in order that the national language, customs and traditions are preserved and adhered to by all.

11. MATTERS RELATING TO IRRIGATION AT DALIM BLOCK

The Chimi of Bhangtar, Samdrupjongkhar reported to the Assembly that there were large areas in Dalim Block which could be used for growing various crops, if irrigation was provided. He requested that the construction of a major irrigation channel in Dalim Block be included in the National Assembly.

In response, the Director General of Agriculture explained that the Dzongkhags Plans for the Vth Plan had been prepared in consultation with the concerned people. He informed the Assembly that there were 6 spill-over irrigation schemes to be completed and 15 new schemes to be executed in Samdrup Jongkhar during the plan period for which the

Government had allocated a sum of Nu.5.946 million and releases being made periodically. He further stated that of the total of 15 new irrigation schemes planned for implementation, 7 were to be undertaken in Bhangtar Dungkha. Out of these only 3 schemes were being executed under the Dungkha. In view of this, he stated the first emphasis should be given to completing the schemes already planned. As regards the proposal for construction of a new irrigation channel at Dalim Block, he informed the Assembly that the Government had already undertaken feasibility studies and found that the source of water was insufficient for a big irrigation project.

Several members remarked that such a proposal should first be discussed in the Dzongkha Yargye Tshogchung or brought up in the National Plan Meeting. They felt it was not proper to raise such issues in the Assembly.

The Assembly resolved that the works already in hand should be completed first as suggested by the Director General. Further in future such proposals should be deliberated in the National Plan Meeting.

12. MATTERS REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIGENOUS HOSPITAL IN LHUNTSHI.

The Chimis of Lhuntshi Dzongkha stated that although the people were deriving much benefits from the medical facilities already available under the Dzongkha, there were instances where several uncommon diseases were occurring that could be treated by indigenous medicine. Therefore, the people would be extremely grateful if an indigenous hospital could be established at Lhunsi.

In this regard, the Director of Health Services stated that the Dzongkha presently had eight medical centres catering to the needs of the people. Further, the people could also avail of the facilities being extended by the Mongar Hospital which was well equipped and not far away from Lhuntshi. He also informed the House that the establishment of such a hospital had not been included in the National Plan. However, if it was felt necessary, the proposal would be considered subject to availability of funds.

The Assembly resolved that the proposal should be included in the next five year plan if it was not possible to be taken up during the current plan.

13. MATTERS RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORABLE BRIDGES ON THE PHOCHU AND MOCHU, PUNAKHA.

The Chimis of Punakha stated that the Punakha Dzong besides being a place of residence for the Central Monk Body was also an important Dzong in the country. Therefore, they requested that motorable bridges be constructed near the confluence of Phochu and Mochu. These bridges would not only benefit the local people, but also the Central Monk Body and the Government.

In response, the Director of Public Works Department agreed that the construction of motorable bridges over Phochu and Mochu would be of great benefit to the people and the Government. However, he pointed out that estimated cost of each bridge was about Nu.10 million as each had a span of 300 ft. In view of this and the fact that the Department of Agriculture has started the construction of a motorable road from Wangdiphodrang to Dawakha and Shengana the proposed bridges were not necessary.

Several Chimis emphasized that the Punakha Dzong was historically an important Dzong and a place of residence of Central Monk Body and therefore it was necessary to construct the bridges.

The Assembly resolved that the matter first be discussed in detail in the Dzongkhag Yargey Tshogchung and if they still find it necessary, then the matter should be brought up in the National Plan Meeting for inclusion in the VIth Plan.

14. MATTERS REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE MOTORABLE ROAD FROM SAMCHI TO DOROKHA

The Chimi of Dorokha, Samchi reported in the Assembly that the construction of the motorable road from Samchi to Dorokha which had been started last year had now been stopped. In order to complete the construction on target, he requested that the work on the road be resumed immediately.

In response, the Director of PWD informed the Assembly that the construction of a 60 Km motorable road between Samchi and Dorokha had been decided to be taken up during the Vth Plan considering its importance to the people. Accordingly, the survey for the road alignment had been started and completed. He further explained that the funds for the road had been

arranged from the Asian Development Bank. As the funds were not yet available, the construction of the road had to be stopped because the necessary equipment and materials could not be purchased. He, however, assured the Assembly that the road would be completed within the Vth Plan.

The Assembly endorsed the statement of the Director of Public Work Department.

15. MATTERS RELATING TO HA WANGCHUKLO DZONG

The Chimi of Ha Dzongkhag pointed out that the Dzong had been constructed by the public for the sole purpose of serving as the office of the Dzongkhag Administration and residence of monks. However now the Monk's residence and the Dzongkhag Administration Office are accommodated in different buildings causing administrative and other inconveniences to the people. They further pointed that the main Dzong (Utze) is still in the hands of the public, the buildings in the court-yard (Cham) were being occupied by the Army. They therefore, requested that the same be returned to the public.

In response, the Goongleon, RBA reminded the Assembly that the matter had been raised in the Assembly on several occasions. He further stated that the issue had been discussed at great length in the Assembly in 1980. During the discussion, it had been agreed that the matter could be settled in consultation between the public and the Army. He added that it was the intention of the Army to work in the interests of the public and not cause any inconvenience to them. He however, felt that this issue should not have been raised in the Assembly. He suggested that the question be decided between the public of Ha and the Royal Bhutan Army.

On this issue, most of the Chimis stated that the people have a great religious attachment to the Dzong because they are sacred centres where deities and holy antiquities are kept. The separation of the monks from the Dzong have proved detrimental to the interest of the public. Furthermore, the Ha Dzongkhag being one of the 18 Dzongkhags in the country, the Dzong was an important centre for the Dzongkhag Administration. They requested the Army not to avoid the issue under any pretext and make arrangement to shift their centre from the Dzong to wherever it was convenient, within this year or the next and to enable the District Monk Body and the Dzongkhag Administration to move into the Dzong.

The Assembly, however, resolved that the issue be settled in consultation between the Army and the public of Ha.

16. MATTERS REGARDING ROYAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RULES & REGULATIONS

During the 60th Session of the National Assembly, it was noted that Article No. 11 of the “Functions and Responsibilities of the Royal Advisory Council” gives special powers to the Council to report, first, to His Majesty and, if necessary, to the Cabinet and the National Assembly on the activities of any person including His Majesty the King, that are considered to be harmful to the interest of the Kingdom and People. During the discussions all the people’s representatives had pointed out that if the Royal Advisory Council was empowered to oversee and report the activities of His Majesty the King to the National Assembly, it was necessary to form a Special Committee which would in turn report to His Majesty the King and the Cabinet on the Royal Advisory Councillors suspected of carrying out their functions in the manner that might be harmful to the interest of the Government and the People. On this issue, His Majesty the King had been pleased to command that if a separate Special Committee was to be formed to oversee the activities of the Royal Advisory Councillors, it would undermine and weaken the high responsibility entrusted to the Council. Therefore, His Majesty felt that the formation of such a Committee would not be plausible, and commanded that there was no need for separate Committee. However, in pursuance of Resolution No.23 of the 60th Session of the National Assembly the matter was again brought up during the current session for final decision.

In the lengthy deliberation on the issue the Chairman of the Royal Advisory Council stated that the matter relating to the separate Special Committee to oversee the activities of the Royal Advisory Councillors was discussed in the previous sessions. The Royal Advisory Councillors had then agreed that it would abide by any decision being passed by the Assembly. He informed the Assembly that the same issue was also discussed in the Cabinet. The Cabinet on its part felt that since the Royal Advisory Council is represented by the Representatives from the Government, Monk Bodies and Public, establishment of a separate Committee was not necessary and had decided accordingly.

In view of the above and considering the fact that the Cabinet, the National Assembly and His Majesty the King, who can oversee the activities of the Royal Advisory Councillors, the Assembly resolved that a Committee would not be instituted.

17. MATTERS RELATING TO CITIZENSHIP ACT

The Chimi of Sibsoo, Samchi stated that the need to finalize the National Citizenship Act had been repeatedly brought up in previous sessions of the National Assembly. He again requested that the finalization of the Act be expedited. On the same issue, the Chimi of Tewang and Bjimey, Thimphu stated that if a draft of the Citizenship Act was not ready for presentation to the Assembly the people would at least like to be informed on whether the benefits granted to the naturalized citizens were at par with those granted citizens. If this was the case the people wanted to know under which block/Dzongkhag they had been registered and wherever they pay their taxes as citizens of the country.

On this issue, the Representative of High Court reported to the Assembly that the Citizenship Act of 1977 had been revised with necessary amendments. When the draft was submitted to His Majesty the King, he had been pleased to command that the Act be studied in detail and further simplified. He assured the Assembly that a draft would be distributed before the commencement of the next session.

As regards the benefits and the imposition of taxes on naturalized citizens, the High Court Representative stated that the non-nationals when granted Bhutanese citizenship would be treated the same as other citizens of the country. Hence, the benefits and other facilities extended and the taxes to be paid by them (naturalized citizens) are at par with the citizen of the country.

18. ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE ROYAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

In accordance with resolution No.22 of the 60th Session of the National Assembly, the election for Royal Advisory Council members was conducted on the 30.10.84 during the 61st Session of the National Assembly of Bhutan. Following are the details of the election.

a).Lopen Yonten Gyeltshen present Monk's Representative from Central Monk Body was re-nominated and Gelong Samdrup of Tashigang Rabdey was nominated by the Dratshang Lhentshog as Monk Representative of the District Monk Bodies in place of Lam Nim Tshering.

As provided in B1 & 2 of the procedure for election of Royal Advisory Councillors, casting of votes for election of Monk Representatives is not essential and accordingly, Lopen Younten Gyeltshen, the present councillor and Gelong Samdrup were declared as Representatives of Central Monk Body and District Monk Bodies respectively.

People's Representative from the Dzongkhags of Tashigang, Mongar, Kurtey and Pema Gatshel

b). Dasho Kesang the present Councillor who completed his term was re-nominated by Tashigang Dzongkhag. He was elected by a simple majority vote against Mr. Sangey Wangchuk of Mongar Dzongkhag, Lt. Jigme Thinley of Lhuntshi and Captain Sonam Norbu of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag.

Dasho Kesang was declared re-elected as the People's Representative of the above 4 Dzongkhags.

People's Representatives from the Dzongkhags of Bumthang, Tongsa and Shemgang.

c). Mr. Jamyang Gayleg, Member of the National Assembly of Chhokhor, Bumthang was elected by a simple majority vote against the present Councillor Dasho Thubchey of Tongsa Dzongkhag and Ex-Ramjam Sonam Gyeltshen of Shemgang Dzongkhag.

Mr. Jamyang Gayleg was declared as the People's Representative of the 3 Dzongkhags in place of Dasho Thubchey.

People's Representatives from the Dzongkhags of Gasa, Punakha, Wangdiphodrang and Dagana

d). Mr. Sonam Dorji, Ex-Member of the National Assembly of Dagana was elected by a simple majority vote against Mr. Rinzin of Gasa Dzongkhag, Mr. Namgye Dorji of Punakha Dzongkhag and Mr. Kinley Wangdi of Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag.

Mr. Sonam Dorji was declared as the People's Representative of the above 4 Dzongkhags in place of Dasho Rinzin Dorji.

People's Representative from the Dzongkhags of Thimphu, Paro and Ha.

e). Mr. Jazig of Ha Dzongkhag was elected by simple majority vote against Mr. Namegy Rinchen of Thimphu Dzongkhag and Sonam Tshering of Paro Dzongkhag.

Mr. Jazig, Gup of Samar, Ha was declared as the People's Representative of the above 3 Dzongkhags.

People's Representatives from the Dzongkhags of Chirang and Samchi

f). Mr. Teknath Rizal, Member of the National Assembly was elected by a simple majority vote against Dasho Prithiman Ghaley the present Councillor who was re-nominated from Samchi Dzongkhag.

Mr. Teknath Rizal was declared as the People's Representative of the above two Dzongkhags in place of Dasho Prithiman Ghaley.

People's Representative from the Dzongkhags of Gaylegphug and Samdrup Jongkhar.

g). Mr. B.B. Bhandari, Ex-Member of Neoli from Samdrupjongkhar District was elected by a simple majority vote against Mr. B.K. Rai of Gaylegphug Dzongkhag.

Mr. B.B. Bhandari was declared as the People's Representative of the above 2 Dzongkhags in place of Dasho Prahlad Gurung.

All the elected members will serve as People's Representative in the Royal Advisory Council for a period of five years.

19. ELECTION OF PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES IN HIGH COURT

In accordance with resolution No.22 of the 60th Session of the National Assembly, the election of People's Representatives in High Court was conducted on the 31st October, 1984. Following are the details of the election.

a) People's Representative in High Court from the Dzongkhags of Tashigang, Mongar, Lhuntshi, Pema Gatshel, Jakar, Tongsa, Shemgang, Wangdiphodrang, Punakha, Thimphu, Paro, Gasa, Dagana and Ha.

Mr. Jigme Wangdi of Mongar was elected by a simple majority vote against Mr. Kinzang Sonam of Tashigang, Dasho Kinzang Thinley of Lhuntshi, Mr. Phurpa Tenzin of Pema Gatshel, Dasho Sangey Tshering of Shemgang, Mr. Kinzang Tobgyel of Bumthang, Lopen Chewang Rinxin of Tongsa, Lop Singye Dorji of Wangdiphodrang, Mr. Samten of Punakha, Mr. Pila of Dagana, Mr. Kado of Thimphu, Mr. Passang Dorji of Gasa, Mr. Enchu of Paro and Mr. Namgey Chewang of Ha.

Mr. Jigme Wangdi was declared as the People's Representative in the High Court from the above 14 Dzongkhags for a period of 5 years in place of Dasho Tashi Gyaltshen.

People's Representatives from the Dzongkhags of Samdrup Jongkhar, Chirang, Samchi and Gaylegphug.

b) Mr. K.B. Ghaley, Member of the National Assembly from Gaylegphug Dzongkhag was elected by a simple majority vote against Mr. Loknath Basnet of Chirang Dzongkhag, Mr. Bhim Bahadur Gurung of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag and Dasho J.B. Pradhan of Samchi Dzongkhag.

Mr. K.B. Ghaley was declared as the People's Representative in High Court for a period of 5 years in place of Dasho J.B. Pradhan.

National Assembly of Bhutan Mourns Mrs. Indira Gandhi's Death.

As a token of sorrow and mourning on hearing the tragic news on 1st November, 1984 of the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the 61st Session of the National Assembly conducted a five minute prayer service for the peace of her soul.

The National Assembly recalling the traditional ties of friendship between Bhutan and India which had been further strengthened from the day Mrs. Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister of India, and appreciating the unstinted assistance she had rendered to the Kingdom whenever necessary due to her genuine feeling for Bhutan and on hearing that a few evil persons had assassinated her, the National Assembly Members in order to express their profound grief and sorrow resolved that the deepest condolence of the National Assembly should be conveyed to her son Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and to the Government and People of India.

Dated : 1st November, 1984

sd/-
(Sangey Dorji)
Secretary
National Assembly of Bhutan