

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING THE 28TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON 24TH DAY OF THE 3RD MONTH OF THE EARTH
MONKEY YEAR CORRESPONDING TO 20TH MAY, 1968**

1. MATTER RELATING TO THE CHANGE OF DESIGNATION OF PARO PENLOP

The paucity of internal revenue made it extremely difficult to meet the developmental expenditure. As such the Assembly unanimously resolved to appoint Paro Penlop Namgyel Wangchuck as Tengyel Lyonpo with a view to generating more revenue through the exploitation of the Kingdom's substantial natural resources.

2. MATTER RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTERS

Owing to the increasing developmental activities taking place in our Kingdom, it was felt necessary to form a Council of Ministers. As such the Chief Secretary (Gyalden) Dasho Tamji Jagar was appointed the Home Minister (Kidu Lyonpo) and Dasho Chhogyel the Finance Minister (Tsilon).

3. MATTER RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW ROYAL ADVISORY COUNCILLORS

The following Royal Advisory Councillors were retiring on completion of their three year term.

1. Geshey Chewang and Lam Dorji, Representatives of the Central and District Monk Bodies.
2. Dasho Nedup and Chewang Gyeltshen, Representatives of the people.

Accordingly, they had been replaced by the following new Royal Advisory Councillors :-

- a. Sharp Kinzang, Representative of the Central Monk Body.
- b. Dogapa, Representative of Punakha and Paro Monk Body.
- c. Chang Thinley Zampo, people's representative from Wangdiphodrang & Thrimpon.

- d. Dasho Sonam Tobgyel, people's representative from Haa and Paro.
- e. Jarey Kelzang Sherab, people's representative from Kurtey, Tashigang and Mongar.

4. MATTER RELATING TO THE UPGRADATION OF RANK IN THE ARMY

During the previous National Assembly Session, it had been decided that the senior most rank in the Royal Bhutan Army should be that of a Lieutenant-Colonel. This decision was necessitated because of the misdeeds of the previous army officers. Reconsidered the matter in the context of changed circumstances, the Assembly recommended to the King that the seniormost rank be upgraded from Lieutenant Colonel to Brigadier.

5. MATTER RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Regarding the proposal to depute a People's Representative in the Council of Ministers, the members of the Assembly asserted that since the Royal Advisory Council included representatives of the Monk Bodies, the government and the people, there was no reason to depute a separate people's representative in the Council of Ministers. However, if necessary, the matter would be referred to the Royal Advisory Council.

6. MATTER RELATING TO HIS MAJESTY'S PRIVY PURSE

The prevailing peace and tranquility in the country could be attributed to the dynamic leadership of His Majesty. Although His Majesty was vested with sovereign powers, all governmental revenues were kept in the Ministry of Finance. During the earlier session of the National Assembly, a sum of Nu. 1,00,000/- was earmarked for the privy purse of His Majesty. However, keeping in view the heavy governmental expenditure on developmental activities, His Majesty had graciously volunteered to accept a sum of Nu. 3,000/- per month only from the government towards his privy purse.

7. MATTER RELATING TO THE SALARY OF MINISTER

In view of the nation's limited resources, and the heavy expenditure that it incurred on developmental activities, it was decided to pay the Ministers a monthly salary of Nu. 2,200/- only.

8. MATTER RELATING TO DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

In view of the increased cost of living in the country, the government employees were granted Dearness Allowance at the following rates with effect from 1st July, 1968.

- i) Red Scarf Officers Nu. 100 per month
- ii) Ramjams and Class II
Officers Nu. 50/- per month
- iii) Other Employees Nu. 30/- per month.

9. MATTER RELATING TO THE ENTITLEMENT OF SERVANTS TO THE MINISTERS

Owing to the opening of motorable roads in the country, travelling had been made comfortable and easy. As such, Ministers were henceforth entitled to only 10 servants who were exempted from Dudom.

10. MATTER RELATING TO THE ENTITLEMENT OF ORDERLIES TO NYERCHENS

Hitherto, the Nyerchens were entitled to 12 orderlies. With taxes now being collected in cash and not in kind as earlier, they would henceforth be entitled to 6 orderlies each only, as in the case of Thrimpons.

11. MATTER RELATING TO HA DZONG

The Indian Army Instructors who had come to train the Bhutan Army and had been temporarily housed at Ha Dzong would soon be shifted to their new residential quarters, construction work on which had been completed. As such, all necessary Dzong renovation works would have to be carried out by the public of Ha, following which the Local Administration offices would be shifted to the Dzong.

12. MATTER RELATING TO THE EXEMPTION OF CHUNIDOM

With effect from the 4th Bhutanese month of the Earth Monkey Year, women were exempted from 'Chunidom'. It was also expected that adult males too would not be required to contribute labour after two years.

13. MATTER RELATING TO THE WAGES FOR THE 3RD GRADE MASONS

The 3rd grade masons used to collect Lokyel from the public in lieu of their wages. In view of the request of the public that they be exempted from Lokyel, it was decided to abolish the collection of Lokyel and revise the government wages of the said masons.

14. MATTER RELATING TO THE FIREWOOD FOR TASHIGANG MONK BODY

Consequent upon the introduction of the tax-in-cash system, the Tashigang Monk Body was supposed to collect the required firewood by themselves. Since the collection of firewood by the monks was not practicable, it was decided that, as in other Monk Bodies, the concerned public would supply the Monk Body with the required firewood free of cost.

15. MATTER RELATING TO FIREWOOD

With a view to generating more revenue, it was decided in the previous National Assembly Session that no tree included in the scheduled list of the Forest Department could be felled for the purpose of firewood. The trees in the scheduled list were all of high quality timber. However, some Assembly members pointed out that in some parts of the country inferior quality timber not included in the list were not available. In view of this, it was decided that the Thrimpons were authorized to grant special permits for felling trees to villagers in certain areas for bonafide domestic consumption as per resolution No. 4 of the 4th month of Fire Tiger Year.

16. MATTER RELATING TO FELLING OF TREES IN SHIFTING CULTIVATION

As requested by the public regarding the felling of trees in shifting cultivation, it was decided to allow the felling of trees provided the land in question was registered in Thrams and the trees in that land had not been felled upto twelve years as per Land Act No.KA 1 - 8.

17. MATTER RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF TAXES ON TSERI LAND

As the shifting (tseri) and dry lands could not be cultivated every year, it was decided to reduce the tax on such lands from 0.75 ch to 36 ch per langdo.

18. MATTER RELATING TO OFFERING OF THOGPHOI

The present system of paying ch. 50/- per day to monks as curry allowance was not adequate as a result of the increased cost of living. As such, the people had volunteered to offer one 'de' of any agricultural produce grown on their fields during the season to the monk body of their particular Dzongs. This donation would be purely on a voluntary basis, and there would be no compulsion whatsoever.

19. MATTER RELATING TO RENOVATION OF DZONGS

As per the past decision of the National Assembly the people themselves would carry out the renovation of Dzongs without wages in their respective Dzongkhags. The Assembly decided that the people should donate free labour for this purpose as they believed that Dzongs were the centre of their spiritual and cultural heritage, besides being the seat of the civil administration.

20. MATTER RELATING TO THE RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUNAKHA BRIDGES

Although, there was a proposal to abolish Chunidom, the responsibility of making the bridges (Kangzam) at the two rivers of Punakha Dzong would fall on the people of Wangdiphodrang, Thimphu and Paro as per the earlier practice. Accordingly, the said people had agreed to make the bridges without taking wages from the government.

21. MATTER RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF IRRIGATION CHANNEL

During the 2nd Five Year Plan, a sum of Nu. 91 lakhs was earmarked for the irrigation projects. Since the irrigation channels to be constructed were numerous, it was decided that the Department of Agriculture would provide technical manpower, implements and materials like cement explosives etc, for all major irrigation projects in the country. The villagers in turn were to provide free unskilled labour to the extent required for each project.

22. MATTER RELATING TO PERMISSION TO WALK WITHIN THE PARO AIR FIELD

There was a complaint that as a result of the barbed wire fencing around the air-field at Paro, the villagers could not go to their fields without making a long detour. It was decided that a special gate would be made which would permit villagers to go directly to their fields.

However, to ensure the safety of aircraft animal traffic would have to continue to make the detour.

(Yanglop Nidup)

Speaker