



འབྲུག་རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་དམངས་གཙོའི་ཚོགས་པ།

Druk National Congress Democratic

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(DNC-D)

Demand for major modifications and amendments of constitution.

Good constitution is only a mechanism to store durable peace and protection for the people of Bhutan collectively. Nevertheless, at the completion of first elected DPT government and in the process of second Assembly Election in 2013, people misused their powers and rights infringing the clauses of the constitution and placed the nation in the state of unruly. That has happened due to the so-called constitution, drafted for the sheer protection of the palace, which has thrown the nation into disruption today. Therefore, we committed to protest until and unless major modifications and amendments are given to the under mentioned clauses of the constitution.

**Of the Law, that harms others for one's benefit,
People never either respect or refuge in that Law.
Just like, from the dried trunk,
Never fulfill an expectation of fruits.**

**If, prior articles built under royal wish,
Constitution will be a subject to lead all in misery.
Consisting people's expectation, the Constitution if promulgated,
For the nation, only bring peace and prosperity.**

**Harmonically, the people when emerge,
Even for the monarch hard to endure.
As myriad of ants, reduce the mountain into dust,
This said, known to everyone.**

**Improvement of the constitution is,
The Lhawang Jajin does not do.
Alternatively, never plunge down from sky too,
So, refer under clauses for modification, you had better do.**

- A- In clause 15 of article 2 stated Druk Gyalpo, being the refined one and shall do no wrong. If commits also, monarch is beyond the suing in any court at any cost.**
The inconsistencies aroused within the people during the second assembly election were all due to the above clause. In the universal democratic rule, there is no one set above the law and Bhutan too shall be the democratic constitutional monarchy. Thus, immediate nullification of the above clause, we rashly demand.

B- Regarding the clause 6 of article 2, Druk Gyalpo shall abdicate the throne in his age of 65 years for heir apparent:

In 1907, our ancestors tendered the letter to the first King requesting for hereditary King not as rotation of King within the prince and princesses. Therefore, Druk Gyalpo shall stay-put lifelong on the throne and shall not abdicate the throne in the favour of heir apparent. Thus, we will protest until and unless a suitable modification has not given to this clause.

C- In clause 16 (e) of article 2, Druk Gyalpo shall exercise Royal Prerogative powers relating to matters, which are not provided under this constitution or other laws.

If this type of powers kept in Royal Prerogative then no use of promulgating the two lower and upper houses. Therefore, we will protest until and unless not given the power to the houses to exercise power to tackle and endorse this type of matters.

D- Clause 18 of Article 2 said, Druk Gyalpo shall protect and uphold this constitution in the best interest and welfare of the people of Bhutan.

It has obviously mentioned on the salutation of the letter of 1907, the “first King Ugyen Wangchuk described as the guardian of the law to protect and uphold” but Druk Gyalpo should remain under the constitution and shall be the impartially ceremonial head of the country. Otherwise, it is upon heredity whether can be remain under the law or not.

2. **In clause 1 to 23 of article 7 stated about fundamental rights:** those are indeed, obviously provided under this constitution. However, in practical for an instance among the many: national bulletin, Kuensel can publish news for normal people and if any fact of mischief-doing of royalist highlights in Kuensel, then directly or indirectly the responsible is punishing. Therefore, we protest until and unless the clauses of article 7 and 9 must, brought into practice.
3. **For article 23, clause 4 from B, C, D, F and G about disqualification:** actually in politics, candidate shall be not eligible to participate in contest, if he who directly or indirectly involved in criminal activities, that too after elaborately proven. Because in this absolute monarchy rule, many people might have compelled to committing the minor offences resulted to conviction. Therefore, we urge to nullify this articles and clauses until and unless clearly defined the nature and root-cause of offence.
4. **In clauses 2s of articles 24, 25, 26, and article 27 stated that Prime minister, Chief Justice, Speaker, Chairman of National Council and Opposition leader shall submit the nomination list for constitutional posts and out of the nominees Druk Gyalpo shall select one and appoint in the appropriate post.**
For this clause, need to modify as - the above high-levels shall directly select an eligible candidate and shall submit list of a candidate for each constitutional posts and Druk Gyalpo shall only grant a ceremonial proceedings (*khaddar*) to the appointee or appointees.
5. **Regarding the candidate’s qualification as per the Election Commission, one should be holding bachelor’s degree from a recognized university.** English is indeed an international language it is however un-substitutable language in exercising the external affairs but simultaneously, we should make best use of our traditional and national scrip and language in national chores. Unluckily, the Government of Bhutan is choosing only modern educated candidates and humiliating the traditional and cultural rich people. It is likely to be lead to the peasantry adage: “could not speak foreign language and lost mother tongue eventually.” (This issue is however did not reflecting from any clauses of the constitution.) Therefore, we want the rights for traditional intellectual a par to the modern educationist.
6. **Another contentious policy of election commission, a politician cannot contest the vote for MP when his or her age crosses the 65 years,** (this too not reflecting from the constitution clauses). Anyone with able body, speech and mind or physically, mentally, and socially fitted noble person should have given opportunity to serve the people without limiting by age. Therefore, we protest until and unless wipe up this baseless policy of election commission.

(Druk National Congress-Democratic)