

MECHANISM TO REGISTER A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN HIS MAJESTY THE DRUK GYALPO, 1999

Preamble

Whereas, on 17th December 1907, the whole body of the Clergy, the State Councillors, the Penlops and Dzongpons of all the regions and Dzongkhags, and the representatives of the people, in order to promote peace, progress, prosperity and stability in the country, and to strengthen the security and sovereignty of the Land of the Glorious Palden Drukpa, unanimously elected Trongsa Penlop, Gongsar Ugyen Wangchuck as the first hereditary Monarch of Bhutan;

Whereas, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, in order to ensure the sovereignty and security of the nation, has graciously commanded the National Assembly during its 76th session to prepare a mechanism to register a vote of confidence in the Druk Gyalpo.

Whereas, all the members of the National Assembly unanimously appealed to His Majesty the King to rescind His directive on a mechanism for a confidence vote in the Druk Gyalpo which may undermine the cherished institution of hereditary monarchy.

Whereas, His Majesty the King, keeping in view the present well-being and future interest of the country, repeatedly emphasized the need for a mechanism to move a vote of confidence in the Druk Gyalpo and called upon the Assembly members to endorse this directive;

Now, therefore, the National Assembly in its 77th Session do hereby resolve to endorse the Mechanism to Register a Vote of Confidence in His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo on this 13th day of the 6th Month of the Female Earth Hare Year corresponding to 26th July, 1999.

The Druk Gyalpo

1. The title to the Golden Throne of Bhutan which is hereditary vests in the descendants of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo as provided in the historic Gyenja of 1907 which is inviolable.

2. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo is the sole authority to determine the order of succession to the Golden Throne.
3. No laws in the Kingdom shall ever affect the custom and tradition relating to the order of succession to the Golden Throne by the descendants of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.
4. The appointment of the Crown Prince or the Heir to the Throne is the prerogative of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

Vote of confidence in the Druk Gyalpo

5. A measure to register a vote of confidence in the Druk Gyalpo shall be included in the agenda for discussion in the National Assembly only if one-third of the members of the National Assembly submit such a motion through the Gewog Yargey Tshogchungs and Dzongkhag Yargey Tshogchungs.
6. All members of the National Assembly shall attend the proceedings on the vote of confidence. The full procedures on the motion can be deemed to have been duly completed only if all the members are present throughout the proceedings.
7. A two-thirds vote of no confidence by the Tshogdu Chhenmo shall require His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo to abdicate in favour of the Crown Prince or the next-in-line of succession to the Golden Throne.
8. Upon the proclamation of the Druk Gyalpo, after receiving the “Dhar” from sacred presence of the “Machhen” at the Punadechen Phodrang Dzong, the members of the National Assembly shall take an oath of loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

N.B. This Mechanism to Register a Vote of Confidence in the Druk Gyalpo has been translated from the Dzongkha. In case of differences between the Dzongkha and the English texts, the Dzongkha text shall prevail.