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**CHATHRIM FOR THE SPEAKER OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 1996**

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ཐོན་པུ།

National Assembly Secretariat
Thimphu

CHATHRIM FOR THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 1996

1. Preliminary:

Title:

- 1.1. These Rules and Regulations shall be called the **Chathrim for the office of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 1996.**

Applicability:

- 1.2. It shall come into force on the 4th day of the 6th month of the Male Fire Mouse Year corresponding to 19th July, 1996.
- 1.3. This Chathrim shall supersede all previous rules and regulations pertaining to the office of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

Amendment Procedure:

- 1.4. The Chathrim may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members of the National Assembly, present and voting.

2. Election of the Speaker:

- 2.1. The National Assembly shall elect a Speaker from amongst its members by consensus.
- 2.2. If a Speaker cannot be elected by consensus, the Speaker shall be elected by secret ballot.

Eligibility:

- 2.3. The Speaker should be a person who is well-versed in traditional knowledge and culture, and is fit to represent the National Assembly in international meetings.
- 2.4. The Speaker shall acquire thorough knowledge and full understanding of all past resolutions of the National Assembly, Laws of the Nation and policies of the various Ministries and Departments.

3. Oath of Office and Code of Conduct:

- 3.1. The Speaker shall take an Oath of Allegiance to the Tsa-Wa-Sum and append name in writing thereto as per appendix 'A'.
- 3.2. The Code of conduct of the Speaker shall be in conformity with the Appendix – 'B'.

4. Functions of the Speaker:

- 4.1. The Speaker shall preside over the National Assembly Session and shall conduct the proceedings fairly and impartially.
- 4.2. The Speaker shall fix the dates for each National Assembly Session after receiving the assent of His Majesty the King.
- 4.3. The Speaker shall be responsible for finalizing the agenda of National Assembly sessions.
- 4.4. The Speaker shall issue notices for the election of Members and issue Letter of Acceptance after their admission as a member of the National Assembly.

5. Authority of the Speaker:

- 5.1. The Speaker shall conduct sessions of the National Assembly as per agenda which shall be circulated to all the members.
- 5.2. The Speaker may at his/her discretion permit discussion of issues not included in the agenda if these pertain to matters of national importance.
- 5.3. The Speaker shall be responsible for upholding the dignity and decorum of the National Assembly.
- 5.4. The Speaker in the exercise of his/her disciplinary power may suspend a member for a period ranging from a day to the entire duration of the Session.
- 5.5. The Speaker may adjourn the Assembly for a suitable period of time in the event of disorder or other grounds.

6. Term of Office of the Speaker:

- 6.1. The Speaker shall serve a term of three years and be eligible for re-election.
- 6.2. The Speaker may resign due to ill-health or other grounds, and the resignation of a Speaker shall become effective from the day it is accepted by His Majesty the King.
- 6.3. The Speaker may be removed by a two-thirds majority of the member of the National Assembly, present and voting if he/she fails to perform his/her functions and responsibilities satisfactorily.
- 6.4. In the future if the appointment of a Deputy Speaker becomes necessary, he/she shall be elected by the National Assembly.

The provision 1 to 7 of this Chathrim shall be applicable to the office of the Deputy Speaker.

7. Service/Retirement Benefits:

- 7.1. The Speaker elected from among the Monk Body (Dratshang and Rabdey) or the Government representatives or people's Representatives shall receive pay and allowances, and enjoy other service conditions and retirement benefits as per entitlement of the Speaker.
- 7.2. A Speaker elected from among Monk Body (Dratshang and Rabdey), Government Representatives or the public shall wear the Kabney as per his/her entitlement.
- 7.3. In the case of a Minister of Deputy minister elected to the post of Speaker, he/she will continue to receive pay and allowances as per his/her entitlement.
- 7.4. If a civil servant, on completion of the term as Speaker desires to continue in service, the person shall revert back to his/her actual grade and shall be entitled to all benefits as admissible to his/her grade under the BCSR.

N.B. : These rules and regulations pertaining to the office of the Speaker of the National Assembly has been translated from Dzongkha. The Dzongkha text shall be considered the authoritative text in case of differences between the Dzongkha and English texts.

(See Article 3.1)

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I,do solemnly swear as follows:

1. I pledge my full allegiance to serve the TSA-WA-SUM (King, Country and People) with unwavering devotion and loyalty;
2. I shall faithfully observe all the Laws of the Kingdom of Bhutan;
3. I shall make every effort to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage and Lam-Lugsoe of Bhutan;
4. I shall faithfully perform my duties as the Speaker in accordance with the Chathrim of the Tshogdu Chenpo.

In testimony of having sworn this Oath of Allegiance, I hereby affix my seal and signature on the date and place mentioned hereunder.

(Signature)

Date:.....

Place:.....

(See Article 3.2)

THE CODE OF CONDUCT OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Code of Conduct of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan is as follows;

1. The Chair of the Speaker is the most important position in the National Assembly of Bhutan and, therefore, the Speaker must conduct himself/ her with utmost integrity in a fair and noble manner befitting his/her position.
2. In the course of performing his/her duties, the Speaker shall be completely impartial and have no regard for personal interests. He/She shall not initiate, advise or inform the Chimis to engage in activities which are for personal gain and not in the interests of the nation.
3. The Speaker shall not support or approve any submissions made by a Chimi which are of personal interest only and not in the larger interests of the nation.
4. No submission or applications which are to be submitted to the Assembly shall be discussed with the Speaker outside the Assembly Hall.
5. The Speaker shall not withhold or alter any application or points submitted by the public for deliberation in the Assembly.
6. The Speaker shall not accept any gift or favour from the Chimis.
7. The Speaker shall engage himself/ herself in activities beneficial to the country and people, and not engage in any illegal activities.
8. It is the duty of the Speaker to maintain discipline among the members in the Assembly consistent with the Rules and Regulations of the National Assembly.
9. The Speaker is vested with the authority to overrule and give his/her decision when in the course of the Assembly proceedings a member submits any points for deliberation which are personal in nature, or not relevant to the discussion, or not in the interests of the nation.

10. The Speaker has the authority to conclude a discussion where the submissions are of such a nature that they may be decided or resolved by the concerned departments without deliberation in the Assembly.
11. In summary, it is the sacred duty of the Speaker to carry out his/her responsibilities in the best interests of the people and nation.