



Terms of Reference Legislative Journal and Editorial Board

Background

Our benevolent and visionary Monarch, after a glorious reign of a century of unprecedented peace, prosperity and happiness, had willed and decreed that democracy was the best for the future well-being of Bhutan. Democracy was ushered in Bhutan with the start of the first democratically elected Parliament on May 8, 2008 and subsequently, adoption of the Constitution on July 18, 2008.

His Majesty the King in his address to the first sitting of the Parliament stated that the highest achievement of one hundred years of Monarchy had been the constant nurturing of Democracy. With the adoption of the Constitution, His Majesty placed his absolute faith and confidence in the people for its success. He also underscored that it is only in the understanding of our duties correctly that the exercise of our power would be fruitful.

The introduction of democracy bequeathed the precious gift of the blessings of liberty to the people and heralded the era of inalienable Supremacy of Parliament in national governance. Democracy works to the best when the citizenry engage in active political participation with the correct understanding of the architecture and design of democratic governance, among others, the doctrine, principles and mechanisms of sovereignty, liberty, separation of power, power-sharing, checks and balance, accountability and rights and duties.

The National Assembly of Bhutan, in view of the above, ascribes itself duty bound to initiate and pursue any measures and actions necessary to create a greater understanding and dialogue among the people on democracy in general and parliamentary affairs in particular. An earnest hope of this is to facilitate nurturing and promoting a sound and stable democracy and electing governments that will strive to safeguard and serve the interests of the nation and fulfill the aspirations of the people.

Further, the Parliament has a sacred duty of setting directive principles of state policies and guiding the actions of the executive in the pursuit of our overarching goals of Gross National Happiness (GNH).

The Legislative Journal is one such important and useful platform it has envisioned to achieve the above vision, missions and objectives.

I. Legislative Journal

1. Scope

The Journal shall be of high quality publication bringing in analytical views, opinions and reflections from a broad section of democratic, legislative and legal fraternity from professionals and academics both within and outside the country.

2. Objectives

- i. To serve as a conduit or mechanism among the Parliament, parliamentarians and the general public or voters for meaningful and productive interactions and dialogues on parliamentary and legislative affairs;
- ii. To provide a platform for members of parliament and legal fraternity to share their opinions, experiences and ideologies of both professional and academic in nature on democracy and parliamentary affairs;
- iii. To provide a window of opportunities for the interested voters to express their views on debates and deliberations in the Parliament in general and the performance of members in particular, in the service to *tso-wa-sum*;
- iv. To carry out comparative study of governments and politics;
- v. To deliberate and review the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Gross National Happiness (GNH); and
- vi. To obtain insightful articles that will strive to promulgate and promote sound and healthy politics and high image of parliamentarians and politicians;
- vii. To develop intellectual and leadership potentials of parliamentarians as part of their professional development in the pursuit of sound democracy.

3. Themes

Each issue of the Journal shall focus on certain thematic areas as may be decided and outlined by the Editorial Board in the 'Guidelines to Contributors' from time to time.

4. Frequency of Journal

The Journal shall be published annually or as may be determined by the Editorial Board.

5. Intended Audience

The target audience of the journal will be the whole sections of society both from within and outside the country.

6. Potential Contributors and Affiliates

The papers for the Journal shall be sourced from the public but largely from parliamentarians, judges, lawyers and scholars in legislative and legal fraternity.

7. Guideline to Contributors

The Editorial Board shall issue specific guidelines to the contributors outlining and prescribing in a reasonable detail the necessary criteria and conditions of papers from time to time.

II. Editorial Board

1. Functions and Powers

The functions of the Editorial Board shall be to:

- i. Decide on policy and editorial matters of the Journal;
- ii. Prescribe the themes for each cycle of publication;
- iii. Provide detailed guidelines to contributors of papers;
- iv. Accord any financial sanctions related to the Journal; and
- v. Undertake any administrative and management decisions related to the Journal.

2. Board Meeting and Its Frequency

The Editorial Board meetings shall be held as determined by the Chair. However, it shall be convened at least once in three months to keep the Board alive and dynamic.

3. Composition

The Board shall be composed of seven members comprising of the Members of Parliament and Secretary General of the National Assembly.

4. Chair and Deputy Chair

The Speaker shall be the Chair of the Board. A deputy Chair and other officials shall be nominated by the Board based on consensus.

5. Tenure

Except for the Chair and Secretary General, the tenure of other members shall be staggered and each member shall serve up to a maximum of two years.

6. Editors

The Board shall appoint and avail services of Editors and other professionals on terms and conditions as it may deem appropriate from time to time.

7. Calling of Papers

The Board shall make 'call for papers' for every issue of the Journal through appropriate media channels including notifications and letters accompanied by a specific 'Guidelines to Contributors'.

8. Miscellaneous

- The Board members shall serve on honorary capacity.
- The budget for publication of the journal and other expenses related to the Journal and Board shall be provided for in the annual budgets of the House.

Guidelines for Contributors

Articles for the Legislative Journal of the National Assembly, the Parliament of Bhutan, shall subscribe to the following format and style.

1. Themes for Legislative Journal 2016

The themes for the 'Legislative Journal 2016' shall be to commemorate the Birth Year of Guru Rinpoche, 400 years of arrival of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, and the Birth of HRH Gyelsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck.

The following are the suggestive topics.

- i. The Dual System (*chhoe-sid lug-nyid*): Historical significance and present day relevance.
- ii. The Changing Phase of Democracy: Review of the democratic process post-2008.
- iii. Growing Political Expertise Post-2008: How to systematically imbue political exposure in aspiring politicians?
- iv. Public Consultation in Policy Formulation: What worked well and what can be done better?
- v. Transition to Democracy: A Personal Experience (some former ministers and MPs could consider this topic).
- vi. Enactment of Tobacco Control Act: Was it a controversial Law? (former health minister may consider this topic)
- vii. Morality versus Laws (Moral Law vs. Statute Law)

2. Format and style

- i. Article type: The articles should be of research and reflective in nature.
- ii. Language – The articles can be either in Dzongkha or English.
- iii. Length - The length of an article should not be more than 3000 words.
- iv. Referencing and footnotes – References of reading materials may be given at the end. However, footnotes shall be avoided.
- v. The format of article shall be as follows:
 - a. Abstract with the main issues and conclusions of not more than 150 words.
 - b. Introduction
 - c. Actual body
 - d. Conclusion
 - e. Reference in smaller font.

3. Submission date.

The final submission date is October 31, 2016. The articles should be submitted electronically with one print copy to the Secretary General of the National Assembly.