



ལྷ་ལྷིམས་ཆེན་མོའི་ དགོངས་དོན་དང་འབྲེལ་ ཚོགས་རྒྱུན་ བསྐྱར་ནི་འདི་  
 འབྲུག་མི་ རང་སོའི་ གཞི་རྒྱུན་ཐོབ་དབང་ཡིན་མ་ལས་ ཐོབ་དབང་འདི་ མི་  
 སེར་ཚུ་གྱིས་ རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ སྤྱི་ཚོགས་ཀྱི་ བཅག་འཐུ་ ཐབས་<sup>2</sup> ཀྱི་སྐབས་  
 དངོས་སུ་སློེ་ ལེགས་ཤོམ་སློེ་ ལག་ལེན་འཐབ་ཚུགས་མི་དེ་ གཅག་འཐུའི་  
 ལྷན་འཛིན་སྤྱི་བྱུང་དང་ ལྷན་འཛིན་<sup>2</sup> ཀྱི་གཙོ་སྤེལ་པའི་ རྒྱེད་ གཅག་འཐུ་  
 ལྷན་ཚོགས་ནང་ རྒྱལ་ལྷིམ་གི་ གར་གིས་ རང་སོའི་ རིག་ཅུལ་དང་ ལྷོགས་  
 ལྷིམ་ བཏོན་ཏེ་ འགན་འཁུར་ཚུ་ འཐུས་ཤོར་མེད་པར་ རྒྱལ་ལེགས་ཤོམ་སློེ་  
 ལྷིམ་ལས་བརྟེན་ ཡིན་མ་ལས་ ངལ་རང་ཡོད། ལྷ་ལས་ཕར་ཡང་ ལྷ་བ་  
 གསུམ་ལུ་ ཐ་དམ་ཚོགས་བཏོན་ཏེ་ རྒྱལ་ལྷིམ་གིའི་ སེམས་སྤྱུགས་བསྐྱེད་འོང་  
 མཚོ་བའི་ རེ་བསྐྱེལ་ཡོད།

Keynote Address by Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck at  
the Eighth Anniversary of the Establishment of the Office of the Election  
Commission of Bhutan

January 16, 2013

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Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Nine years ago, if I may take you back, and refresh our memories. In the summer of 2005, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo took the Constitution to the people to be discussed and endorsed. Later that year at the National Day in Tashi Yangtse, he spoke of the changes ahead; he would hand over the golden throne to His Majesty the Fifth King, which happened less than a year later on December 9 2006; and the first national election under a system of parliamentary democracy would take place in 2008. Consequently, the Election Commission of Bhutan was set up on January 16. 2006.

When we look back and reflect upon our recent years, now part of our great history, we see obvious patterns. These patterns have been weaved together over years of planning and patience- a design of no accident.

Democracy came to us over a period of three decades and in phases, with a cycle of approximately 10 years for each transformation.

I often think of this analogy when thinking of our democracy and transformation. Think of a seed, and then think of a tree.

The seeds of democracy had been planted in our minds and in our psyche, and its roots were taking hold and growing stronger with leaders being trained and nurtured, and institutions being strengthened. With the Constitution as our guide, and under the leadership of a most capable and worthy heir as our symbol of unity and stability, and in a time of great peace and prosperity- the grounds had been set, and we had all the conditions for the best possible outcome. This is when the tree we had long anticipated and awaited for finally emerged. Now what we have today, is a product of years of nurture, planning and hope. We are all responsible and must play our parts in preserving what we have inherited, and we have the duty to ensure this.

There are so many lessons we can draw from our past, but the point I want to make here today is that our **successes are neither luck ~~or~~ accidental**, and that without sacrifice, great patience, and understanding of the nature of our people and country we

cannot move ahead, or lay claim to having achieved anything. It is the accumulation of wise decisions, and the people who must value and love the country enough to do what is necessary to make this happen.

In this light, the ECB shouldered the responsibility of ensuring that the final transition to democracy was well executed, and with two successful national elections, the ECB have proven themselves, and gained not only our respect as a vital and credible institution, but also an example for others.

The Election Commission of Bhutan and its family headed by our Chief Election Commissioner Dasho Kunzang Wangdi has done a tremendous job in putting a strong system in place. On this auspicious day, I would like to congratulate and thank the Election Commission of Bhutan for your dedicated service and achievements, and the <sup>fine</sup> fine example you have set.

I pray that we all work together in unity and harmony with the objective of serving the Tsa-Wa-Sum to the best of our abilities.

**Tashi Delek**