

ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ. ପାନ୍ଦିତ୍ ନାଥାନ୍ତିକ ମହାଶ୍ରୀ ପାତ୍ର  
ପାଞ୍ଜାବ ପାଞ୍ଜାବ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଶ୍ରୀ ପାତ୍ର ନାଥାନ୍ତିକ  
୨୦୨୨ ତାରିଖ



POLICY GUIDELINE  
ON  
MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS 2022

June 2022



ក្រុម.សាខ្ស.អិន.ជីវ.នាគ.នាមីរ.សិ.សាខ.សាខ្ស.សាខ្ស.

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**ROYAL AUDIT AUTHORITY'S  
POLICY GUIDELINE ON MEDIA  
COMMUNICATIONS 2022**

Royal Audit Authority

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Royal Audit Authority

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The highest probable risk to development that I foresee is corruption. Our national development efforts will be hindered by unchecked corruption.

- His Majesty The King

## **Foreword**

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In our continuous effort to actualizing the Royal Visions and Constitutional values in RAA's everyday affairs, we are pleased to publish the revised Policy Guideline on Media Communications 2022.

Invoking Section 60 of the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018 to make rules, this Policy aims to consolidate and improve the existing systems of information sharing, a policy founded on democratic principles and at the same time not compromising on the national interests and priorities.

The Policy defines what information are publicly available, what information or classes of information are restricted and the procedures for obtaining them and classes of information which are not available to public.

Warm regards

  
(Tashi)

**Auditor General of Bhutan**

କେନ୍ଦ୍ର

ਮੈਂ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਸੁਖ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੈਂਦਾ ਹਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੈਂਦਾ। ਮੈਂ ਆਪਣੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਵਿਚ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਨਹੀਂ ਪੈਂਦਾ।

শ্রীদ্বুদ্ধিমূলকাণ্ড পরম্পরাগত শাস্তি প্রযোগে কৃষ্ণ প্রভুর অনুসরণে এই প্রকার পরম্পরাগত শাস্তি দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

શ્રીરક્તે

✓

(ସାହିତ୍ୟ)

ରୂପାଶିକ୍ଷିତାବିଦୀର୍ଥନାଭୁବନା

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## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

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### **Background**

1.1 The Royal Audit Authority derives its mandates from the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018 to audit and report on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public resources. The RAA intends to provide values and benefits to its stakeholders through its reports and recommendations. To enhance the impact of audit services and infuse greater sense of transparency and accountability across the public sector, there is a need to have a formal communication strategy in place to provide for meaningful engagement and interaction through dissemination of audit results and disclosure of information to the stakeholders.

While much of information is already available through website, this policy guideline consolidates the existing practices and procedures and provides a formalized system in sharing of information and obliges the RAA and its officials to share and disseminate relevant information to the stakeholders through the established media protocols. It is intended that the information sharing will add value and benefits to the citizens at large. The RAA hopes that this guideline will provide for uniform and easy access to information that the Authority deemed it proper to be shared to media. Adherence to this guideline is intended to provide an effective and efficient framework to facilitate timely, comprehensive, authoritative and accurate dissemination of information relevant to all aspects of Authority's functioning.

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## **Supersession**

1.2 This Guideline hereby supersedes the Royal Audit Authority's Policy Guideline on Media Communications 2016.

## **Scope and extent of Application**

1.3 This policy guideline applies to all employees of the Royal Audit Authority and extends to all who seek information under this policy guideline.

The availability of information to the public pursuant to this policy guideline shall not be construed as an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities available to the RAA pursuant to the provisions of the laws of the country.

## **Objective of the Policy**

1.4 This policy guideline is intended to ensure formal protocols for sharing of information sought on the results of RAA's work or otherwise on its operations and conducts that are deemed appropriate to be shared in the spirit of promoting transparency and accountability consistent with the principles of this policy.

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## **CHAPTER 2: POLICY PRINCIPLES**

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Following are the principles of this policy guideline:

- a. To provide reasonable access of information to media and establish procedures relating thereto.
- b. To have the mass media contribute in creating the right impact from the audit results.
- c. To reaffirm the commitment to the Authority's core values of transparency and accountability in its operations and conducts.
- d. Information will be made available only on bona fide requests on a "need-to-know" basis. Bona fide requests are defined as those which are of contextual and circumstantial relevance and do not adversely affect Authority's activities and national interest;
- e. Information provided to the media shall be made available in a form and contents that enhances the transparency and accountability thereby promoting good governance.

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## **CHAPTER 3: THE CATEGORIES OF MEDIA**

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3.1 For the purpose of application of the Policy Guideline, the categories of media are as follows:

- ⦿ Nation-wide Television
- ⦿ Nation-wide Radio
- ⦿ Nation-wide Print media
- ⦿ Any other media as deemed appropriate by the Authority

### **3.2 Communication Channels with Media**

The Auditor General may exercise his discretion to provide information through any of the following means:

- ⦿ Disseminating through press/news releases;
- ⦿ Participating in broadcast interviews on radio or television;
- ⦿ Disseminate through print media,
- ⦿ Disseminate through website,
- ⦿ Any other medium that Auditor General may think appropriate to facilitate information dissemination.

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- ④ ສູນ-ເໝັນສາ-ບູລຸ-ຖຸສ-ພຕີ- ສູນ-ມຂບົດ-|
  - ⑤ ສູນ-ເໝັນສາ-ບູລຸ-ຖຸສ-ພຕີ- ສູນ-ມຂບົດສາ-ວສາ-ຊີມາ-(ຮ-ຕິຕິຕິ)|
  - ⑥ ສູນ-ເໝັນສາ-ບູລຸ-ຖຸສ-ພຕີ- ສາສັກ-ເປົ້າ-ວສາ-ໄກດ-|
  - ⑦ ດັກ-ດັກ-ບົງ-ບູລຸ-ມ-ສະ-ບຸນ-ວສ- ດັກ-ດັກ-ສ-ມຂບົດ-ເກີດ- ວັດ-ມຫຼຸດ-ການ-ໂຄດ-|

୩.୨ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ-ଦ୍ୱାରା ଉପରେ ଏହି କାହାର ଜାଗରଣ କାହାର ଜାଗରଣ

- དྲଙ୍କିର୍ତ୍ତନା ଯଦିକେ କୁନ୍ତିତ ପରିମାଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ
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  - ଶରୀରକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ
  - ଶରୀରକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ
  - ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ
  - ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ କରିବାକୁ

## **CHAPTER 4: INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM THE RAA**

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Following are the documents, records, reports or other information in the custody or possession of RAA shall be made accessible and available in the manner provided herein:

### **4.1 Annual Audit Reports**

- a. The Annual Audit Report is submitted to the Druk Gyalpo, Prime Minister and the Parliament within fourth quarter of the financial year on the audits carried out for the financial year ended.
- b. The draft Annual Audit Report shall not be shared to the media while in the process of compilation.
- c. After the Annual Audit Report is tabled in the Joint Sitting of the Parliament, press release will be issued to the media soon after its tabling. The Annual Audit Report shall be in the public domain only upon its tabling, and the report shall be uploaded on the RAA's website on the same day.

### **4.2 Performance Audit Reports and other Reports tabled in the Parliament**

- a. In line with Section 114 of the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018, the Auditor General may submit to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the Prime Minister and the Parliament, any other report including Performance Audit Reports, Auditor General's Advisory Series and Occasional Papers covering specific or range of issues intended towards promoting accountability, transparency, integrity and value for money in public operations.
- b. Such reports shall construe to be in the public domain only upon tabling in the Parliament. It shall be the discretion of the Auditor General to hold a press release on such audit reports.

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#### **4.3 Any other Audit Reports**

- a. It shall include those reports other than Annual Audit Report, Performance Audit Reports and reports tabled in the Parliament.
- b. In line with Section 145 of the Audit Act of Bhutan 2018, the Authority may disclose, for the purposes of publication in the media, such information as it considers necessary in the public interest.
- c. Such information shall include the contents of the specific audit reports or those information acquired during the audits.
- d. Information of specific audit reports shall be uploaded on the website for public view or disseminated through media as deemed appropriate by the Auditor General.

#### **4.4 Organizational and Operations information**

To facilitate public access to official information, the RAA shall make available to the public a detailed organizational and operational information. Following information will be available from RAA's website.

- a. Audit Act of Bhutan 2018
- b. Auditor General's Standing Instructions
- c. Auditing Standards
- d. Audit Manuals
- e. Annual Audit Report upon tabling in the Parliament
- f. RAA's News Letter
- g. Annual Audit Plan
- h. Strategic Plan

୧୩ ଉଷ'କିଷ'ଶ୍ଵର'ତୁ'ଶବର'ତ୍ୟ



୧୯ ଦୁଃଖଶାସନ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧରେ ଏକ ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି

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| ପ | ବସୁଣା'ଶୀ'କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଏତର'ଫ୍ରିମ୍ବା' ୨୦୧୯ ଡକ'ବା              |
| ବ | କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଏତର'ଫ୍ରିମ୍ବା'ଗ୍ରୀ'ଏତା'ଫ୍ରେଣ୍ଟା                 |
| ଗ | କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଗ୍ରୀ'ଏତର'ହର'କ୍ରୂ                               |
| ନ | କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଗ୍ରୀ'ଏତା'ନେଟ'କ୍ରୂ                              |
| ଠ | ଶ୍ରୀ'କ୍ରେଷ'ଏତର'କ୍ରୂ'ଏତା'ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'ବ୍ରା |
| କ | କ୍ରୂ'ଏତା'ବ୍ରା'କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଏତର'ଏତର'ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'ଗ୍ରୀ'ଏତର'ଏତା'   |
| ମ | ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'ଏତର'ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଏତର'ଏତର'                 |
| ବ | ଏତର'ଏତର'ଫ୍ରେନ୍ଟା'କ୍ରେଷ'କ୍ରିଷ'ଏତର'                          |

- i. External Audit report on RAA's accounts and operations
- j. Peer Review Reports
- k. Stakeholders/client feedback survey reports,
- l. Audit Impact Assessment reports
- m. Such other reports/information which are not restricted under this policy guideline or as deemed appropriate by the Auditor General in the interest of public

୪ ମଧ୍ୟଶାସ୍ତ୍ରରେ ସମ୍ମନିତ କିମ୍ବା ଶ୍ଵର କୁଞ୍ଚିତ

၅ မြော်မြှင့်မြှုပ်မျိုးကြံ/သရာများကြံ/ပတ်သရာများကြံ/သန္တရာမျိုးကြံ

୭ କେଶ'କିଷ'ଶକ'ଶର୍କଦ'ଏହଣ'କିଷ'ଶ୍ଵର'ତୁ'ତ୍ତା

୫ ଯମ·ଶ୍ଵର·ଶିଦ·ପୁଣ୍ସ·ଦ୍ଵି·ଶି·ଦେଶ·ପୁ·ପାଶ·ଦ୍ଵା·ଶେଦ·ଶି·ଦ୍ଵା· ଯଦ·ତେବ· କେଶ·କ୍ରିସ·ଚ୍ଛଦ୍ରା·ଭ୍ରମ·ଶ୍ରୀ·ମନ·ଶି·  
ବସନ୍ତ·ଦ୍ଵା·ପୁ·ଦେଶ·ଦୟତା·ଶବ୍ଦିଷ୍ଟା·ପଦି·ଶ୍ଵର·ପୁ·ପଦ·ଦ୍ଵା·ଶବ୍ଦି·ଶ୍ଵର·ପୁ·

## **CHAPTER 5: REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION**

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- 5.1.1 A request for official information shall be made to the Auditor General or media focal person.
- 5.1.2 The request may be made in person, by post, or by any other electronic means.
- 5.1.3 The request should clearly be justified in the manner such as, it is important for the public to be aware of information. The reasons provided should enable to ascertain release of relevant and complete information.
- 5.1.4 The media personnel or his authorized representative may establish his identity by presenting any of the identification documents.

### **5.2 Dealing with media enquiries and requests**

- 5.2.1 All RAA employees who receive media enquiries/need for clarification or request for information should direct the media personnel to the media focal person[s].
- 5.2.2 On receiving the request for information, the media focal person[s] shall be guided by this guideline for any dealing with the media or media personnel.
- 5.2.3 The request made by the media specified under chapter 3 of this policy guideline including individuals with proper authority from that media should only be entertained. No requests without satisfactory identification of the person requesting should be entertained.

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- 5.2.4 The person making a request for information shall promptly be provided, normally via the same mode of communication in which they submitted the request.
- 5.2.5 The Media focal person[s] shall evaluate the “good faith” of requests. Requests shall be deemed to be made in good faith if the information sought is necessary to be publicized in order to avoid risks to the public or would be advantageous to the public at large.
- 5.2.6 The Auditor General may himself respond to the media queries or delegate with instructions the media focal person/Designated Officer to respond to the media requests.
- 5.2.7 Notwithstanding the above clauses, the RAA may deny or limit a request for official information under this policy guideline, if
- a. Compliance with the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the lawful functions of the RAA; or
  - b. If the information are exempted from this policy Guideline as set forth in Chapter 6 of this Guideline.
- 5.2.8 If a part of the information requested falls under restricted information as set forth in Chapter 6 of this policy guideline, such information may be removed while granting the remainder of the request, ~~and notify the applicant accordingly.~~



**5.3 Access to Annual Audit Conference or any such event**

- 5.3.1 The media focal person/designated officer shall make prior appropriate access arrangements for reporters during the Annual Audit Conferences or any such events so as to allow the media personnel access to the function venue.

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## **CHAPTER 6: EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION**

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While RAA is committed to have an open and transparent disclosure system in place, there are legal, operational and practical considerations that are necessary to preserve the organization's interest, as well as those of its staff and audited agencies. There is a need to preserve the integrity of the deliberative process. Accordingly, the records of the deliberations of the committees and documents prepared by them will not be made available to the media, unless there is specific approval from the Auditor General.

Besides, following information shall not be made available to the media if:

- 6.1.1 The disclosure would harm the sovereignty, integrity or security of country, or the relations of the country with foreign Government.
- 6.1.2 The Information is expressly forbidden to be published by any Court of law or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of Court.
- 6.1.3 The disclosure of such information would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;
- 6.1.4 Such information relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the media or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information;
- 6.1.5 Any information received about potential offences, in good faith and trust, under the laws of the Kingdom;

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- 6.1.6 The information has to be held confidential under national laws and accepted legal practice;
- 6.1.7 Information/document whose disclosure is likely to endanger the safety or security of any individual, and the Nation;
- 6.1.8 Commercial information where disclosure would harm the financial interest of agencies audited;
- 6.1.9 Document received by RAA which relates to a matter where the decision is yet to be taken by it and where disclosure of the document would undermine the RAA's decision making process.
- 6.1.10 The purpose of the request indicates that documents, reports or other information requested is intended to be used for evidence to file a case or for wrong and harmful purposes;
- 6.1.11 The documents/reports or other information requested are no longer in custody or possession by reasons of their having been lost or destroyed or had already been disposed of after the lapses of the period for safekeeping, in accordance with the law.
- 6.1.12 Information specifically prohibited by Audit Act of Bhutan 2018, other laws or specific undertaking/accords.



## **CHAPTER 7: RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEDIA FOCAL PERSON AND MEDIA SPOKESPERSON**

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### **7.1 Responsibility of the Media Spokesperson**

7.1.1 The Head of Departments shall be the Media Spokesperson or any specific official as designated by the Auditor General.

7.1.2 The spokesperson shall be the official source of information.

### **7.2 Responsibility of the Media Focal Person**

7.2.1 The Assistant Auditor General, Policy and Planning Division shall be the Media Focal Person or unless otherwise designated different official by the Auditor General.

7.2.2 The media focal person will be the nodal officer, to interact with the media on (i) Specific requests from the media, (ii) Dissemination of information to the media considered largely essential for mass consumption and (iii) Issuing clarifications, if any needed to remove distortions or misrepresentation of facts by the media.

7.2.3 Media focal person shall ensure that the statements are factual and are confined to what has been stated in the Audit Reports. No opinion on the government and its policies shall be given during the interview.

7.2.4 Media focal person shall arrange all press releases for the issuing of Annual Audit reports and any other report.

7.2.5 Media focal person shall ensure that the media report and interpret the news with scrupulous honesty by striving to disclose all essential facts and by not suppressing relevant, available facts or distorting by wrong or improper emphasis.

7.2.6 Ensure the correctness of information issued by the RAA.

7.2.7 Maintain all the official information released by the Authority under this policy guideline.

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## ୨.୨ ସତ୍ୟକୁଦ୍ରାଶ୍ରୀକର୍ଷଣରାଜୁମୁଖ

- ୧.୨.୧ ସତ୍ୟକୁରୁତ୍ୱାବଳୀକାରୀଙ୍କରେ ପରିଚାରକ ହାତରେ ଦିଲ୍ଲିମାରୁ ପରିଚାରକ ହାତରେ ଦିଲ୍ଲିମାରୁ ପରିଚାରକ ହାତରେ ଦିଲ୍ଲିମାରୁ

୧.୨.୨ ଏକାକ୍ରମିକ ପରିଚାରକ ହାତରେ ଦିଲ୍ଲିମାରୁ

## ୨.୨ ସତ୍ୟକୁର୍ମହାତ୍ମୀୟବିଦ୍ୟା

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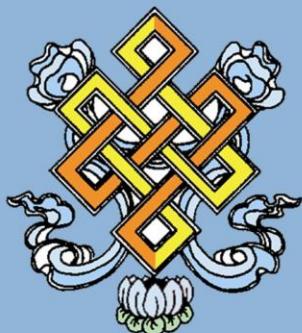
## **7.3 Responsibility of the Media**

- 7.3.1 Under no circumstances the Media shall distort the information and misrepresent the facts.
  - 7.3.2 The Media shall not indulge in obtaining information by employing illicit and inappropriate practices other than by obtaining such information by following procedures prescribed in these policy guidelines.
  - 7.3.3 Media or the media representative personnel shall observe at all times the *Code of Ethics for Journalists* prescribed by the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority, and professional conduct as may be required of them.
  - 7.3.4 Media or the media representative personnel shall be in formal dress while in the premise of the Authority.
  - 7.3.5 The RAA shall not be responsible for any loss and damages including defamation caused due to wrong or inaccurate information published/broadcast by media.
  - 7.3.6 The RAA shall not be responsible for publication/broadcasting of information pertaining to audit issues obtained from other sources.

## ୨.୩ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ

- ୨.୩.୧ ଶତାଶ୍ଲଦଶାଶ୍ଵତ୍ରିଷ୍ଠାନାତ୍ମକାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳକୁ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।
- ୨.୩.୨ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।
- ୨.୩.୩ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।
- ୨.୩.୪ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।
- ୨.୩.୫ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।
- ୨.୩.୬ ସତ୍ୟକୁଳ୍ମୁଖାନ୍ତରମଣ୍ଡଳ ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା । ଏହାର ପରିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣମାତ୍ରାଙ୍କିରଣ କରିବାକୁ ପରିଚାରିତ ହେଲା ।

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*“Every individual must strive to be principled.  
And individuals in positions of responsibility must even strive harder.”*

*-His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck*