



EXECUTIVE GUIDE TO PROMOTING DZONGKHA

“*The National Language is the foundation of our identity, unity and sovereignty.*”



Capacity Development & Advocacy
for the National Language

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Constitutional Mandate for Dzongkha

Article 1, Clause 8:
"Dzongkha is the National Language of Bhutan."

As a public leader, executives have a constitutional responsibility to promote and implement the use of Dzongkha as a service language in delivering public services.

THIS INCLUDES:



Using Dzongkha in official meetings, formal gatherings, and institutional communications.



Promoting Dzongkha in official correspondences such as letters, circulars, and notifications.



Encouraging the use of Dzongkha in interactions with Dzongkhags, Local Governments, and the public.



Ensuring the use of Dzongkha in signages and public information within their jurisdictions.



Providing interpretation support for international participants when meetings are conducted in Dzongkha.



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Royal Commands

The successive Royal Kashos of His Majesty the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Druk Gyalpos have consistently emphasized preserving, promoting, and advancing Dzongkha as a cornerstone of Bhutan's sovereignty, identity, and cultural heritage.



Executive Order issued by Prime Minister

All government offices shall conduct meetings and discussions in Dzongkha within the country, correspond as much as possible in Dzongkha, and provide interpretation and written translations for foreign participants.



Constitutional Mandate for Other Languages

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Article 4, Clause 1:

“The State shall endeavour to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the country, including monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest, Dzongs, Lhakhangs, Goendeys, Ten-sum, Nyes, language, literature, music, visual arts and religion to enrich society and the cultural life of the citizens.”

Languages survive through use. Citizens therefore share a responsibility to preserve and transmit their native languages by using them within families and communities, particularly with their children.

Access to Dzongkha Resources and Tools

A wide range of Dzongkha resources, including dictionaries, grammar books, terminology references, letter-writing guides, and learning materials, is available at www.dzongkha.gov.bt.

Installation guides for Dzongkha fonts, keyboards, and digital tools for computers and mobile devices are available at www.dzongkha.gov.bt.



Access to Dzongkha Resources and Tools (Continued)

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Advanced language technologies, including machine translation, speech-to-text, and text-to-speech, are available through the

- GovTech NLP Platform <https://nlp.tech.gov.bt/>
- CST NLP Platform <https://nlp.cst.edu.bt/>
- Write Dzongkha faster with DzoNexT <https://dzonext.cst.edu.bt/>
- Dzongkha is supported by Google Translate and Google Gemini

Dzongkha learning materials are available on the DCDD YouTube Channel

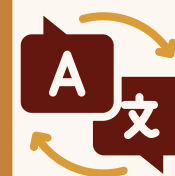
<https://www.youtube.com/@dzongkhadevelopmentcommiss4578>

Dzongkha content is increasingly available on Dzongkha Wikipedia.

Language Development Officers (LDOs)

The Royal Civil Service Commission provides for the appointment of Language Development Officers (LDOs) to support ministries and agencies in Dzongkha development and implementation initiatives.

Similarly, Cultural Officers in Dzongkhags are mandated to promote and strengthen Dzongkha usage at the Dzongkhag level.



Translation Services

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Private translation firms have been identified for large document translation. A Term of Reference[ToR] and pricing can be downloaded or viewed from our website <https://www.dzongkha.gov.bt/>



Public Service

The department provides short translation, editing and validation services.

This includes;

- signages,
- office names,
- business names,
- film credits and
- position names.

The service can be availed by filling an online form from <https://www.dzongkha.gov.bt/>

“Change your language and you change your thoughts” - Karl Albrecht

