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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

NATION'S CONSCIENCE  
THIMPHU, BHUTAN

ACC/COORDINATION-09/2006/ 453

20 November 2006

Secretary,  
Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs,  
Tashichhodzong

**Sub: Strengthening of Local Governance**

Dear *Dasho*,

You will agree that if decentralization policy of the Royal Government has to be effective in reality and now for smooth and effective introduction of parliamentary democracy, it is critical that our people are educated and sensitized of their rights and responsibilities – in particular the local leaders. An important strategy towards this is capacitating the Dzongkhag and Geog Administration adequately.

*Dasho*, as you are aware, our office receives frequent complaints against Geog Administration and local leaders, which is a cause for serious concern. It is imperative that Dzongdag and Dzongkhag Administration play a more proactive role in preventing bad local governance. An expert once said that getting good governance is not the whole answer, but of all ethos that kills the poor, none is as lethal as bad governance. About 40% of the complaints are related to Dzongkhag and Geog Administration and the local leaders. **We urge the Ministry to ensure stringent enforcement of financial rules, procurement procedures, personnel management rules, code of conduct and conflicts of interest rules by the local leaders. Enforcement needs to be closely monitored. Effective check and balance instruments and mechanisms, if not in place already, need to be put in place urgently.**

Further, while we will continue to share the complaints against Dzongkhag and Geog Administration with the Ministry/Dzongkhag, we would very much **DESIRE** the Dzongkhag Administration to heed to people's grievances and act impartially and as warranted. Public confidence and trust in our institutions are critical. People should not come to the ACC directly particularly if grievances can and should be addressed by the concerned administrative agency. Combating corruption is everybody's responsibility and particularly the onus resides with senior officials. We look forward to your continued support in taking preventive and punitive action in fulfilling our common objective of curbing corruption.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Neten Zangmo)

**Chairperson**

**Copy to:**

- 1) Hon'ble Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretariat, Tashichhodzong
- 2) Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs, Tashichhodzong
- 3) Hon'ble Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance, Tashichhodzong
- 4) Secretary to His Majesty the King, Tashichhodzong