

CHILDREN'S DAY MESSAGE from the Minister.

Dear Children

I have just arrived back at Thimphu after one of my most memorable round of visits to our schools. And every time I meet you, you fill my heart with hope. Whether you are in Dungkar or in Peljorling, Udzarong or Norbuling, you all share one thing in common – dream. You carry too the goodness and idealism of our country.

In the many interactions I have had with you, I have met our future doctors, engineers, educators, administrators, parliamentarians, diplomats, lawyers, soldiers, and a galaxy of other professionals in the making. I remember the glitter in your eyes and the glow on the face.

On Children's Day, which so happily coincides with the birthday of our king of destiny, I offer this prayer to the Almighty: May our beloved Drukgyal Zhipa Jigme Singye Wangchuck live long, live healthy, and live happy; and may all the children of our country be the dream that they dream – may you rise, may you rejoice, may you grow wise.

The celebration of Children's Day on the 11th of November is significant in more ways than one. Being called upon to grow old overnight, our fourth Druk Gyalpo had to forego the felicities of youth himself. The observance of Children's Day on the same day as the royal birthday is to acknowledge the need to celebrate children and youth that Drukgyal Zhipa so values as our leaders of tomorrow. It is to underscore too the royal wish that children should not lose what our beloved king himself had to do without.

Today, we also celebrate 11th November as Constitution Day, the mother of all laws being the gift of Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck. A written constitution is one of the fundamental elements of democracy, which, in our case, is the fulfilment of a royal wish for Bhutan and for the people of Bhutan.

On Children's Day, I would like to offer, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Women and Children, and on my own behalf, our heartiest greetings of prayers and good wishes for the good health, well-being and happiness of all our children.

May you live your lives in the light of His Majesty our beloved King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and do your part in the making of our nation, such as you are, such as you can be.

HAPPY CHILDREN'S DAY! From all of us to all of you, children.

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