

**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM  
DEPARTMENT OF ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS  
GANGTOK**

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No.   3  /E.A. /91

Dated: 28.8.91.

**CIRCULAR**

This is to clarify that Duchi (Assembly of monks/sangha) of a full-fledged monastery is represented by 'Uchoes' (senior most monks/lamas) namely; Dorje Lopen (Head Lama) , Uzet lama (Conductor of the choir/ceremonies) , Chhotimpa lama (Administrator looking after the discipline within monastery) , Chikhyab Lama (over all incharge of the general affairs of the monastery) and Dungyik lama(incharge of secretarial works of the monastery), which is responsible for administration, maintenance of accounts and manage the property of the monastery accountable to the Ecclesiastical Affairs Department of the Government of Sikkim. This system is in existence in all monasteries since the inception of administrative system in monastic affairs. Of late, confusion has been created with formation of committees and other bodies where the authority of the monastery is not properly exercised.

In order to see that the monastic discipline continues and also to preserve the tradition so as to avoid any kind of complication and misunderstanding, it is hereby informed that any representation relating to affairs of the monastery in each case will be made by Duchi duly signed by all members.

All concerned are, therefore, requested to note the above contents for their guidance and reference in identifying the authorities of the monasteries. Any correspondence falling short of the above requirements will not be recognized and entertained.

Sd/-  
( PASONG NAMGYAL, IAS )  
SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF SIKKIM.