

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE HON SPEAKER DURING THE 3TH SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT

Today, the 24th of June, 2009, an auspicious day corresponding to the 4th Day of 5th Month of Earth Female Ox Year marks the beginning of the third session of the First Parliament of Bhutan.

Most respectfully, I on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, would like to welcome our destined King, His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the embodiment of our collective merit, to the inaugural ceremony of the 3rd session of the First Parliament of Bhutan.

I would also like to extend greetings and welcome to the Leader of the ruling Party Druk Phuensum Tshogpa His Excellency Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition Party, Chairman of the National Council, Hon. Members of the National Assembly and National Council for attending this ceremony.

On behalf of the Parliament of Bhutan, I would like to welcome Excellencies, Dignitaries from International Agencies, Civil Servants, Defense Officials, students, other guests and all those who are watching and listening through television and radio to this opening ceremony.

I, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, would like to express our profound gratitude to His Majesty for tirelessly touring and meeting people of Lhuntse and Mongar Dzongkhags in looking into their welfare.

The Members of Parliament of Bhutan would like to felicitate Smt. Miera Kumar from Congress party for assuming the post of the Speaker of the Lok-Sabha and becoming the first female Speaker in the history of Indian Parliament.

We would also like to express our appreciation to H.E. S.M. Krishna, the newly elected External Affairs Minister of Government of India for signing the agreements on Paro-Bagdora sector Druk Air route and the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship during his two days official visit to Bhutan.

We would like to congratulate the Chairperson and Commissioners of Royal Civil Service Commission who were appointed as per the provisions of the Constitution of Bhutan. The Civil Servants are the main agents serving the people. Therefore, it is imperative that the commission strive to enhance the capacity and welfare of Civil Servants through more equity and justice.

I on behalf of the Members of Parliament would like to express our commiseration to those victims who suffered in terms of loss of lives and properties due to the flood in May in our country. The Parliament would like to offer full support to the initiatives of government in mitigating the problem.

The main issues for deliberation in the 3rd session of the First Parliament are the agendas that were submitted through Dzongkhag Tshogdus and the Hon. Members. In addition there are six new bills and six previous bills submitted by the Ministries to the House for its endorsement, among which Local Government Bill 2009 and Civil Service Bill of Kingdom of Bhutan 2009 are to be endorsed urgently.

His Majesty, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck with the noble vision to achieve Gross National Happiness, gifted Bhutanese people with the introduction of democracy and adoption of the Constitution. Therefore, it is extremely crucial to engage in substantive deliberations in pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution in the ultimate interest of the people.

Today, youth unemployment and poverty are the pressing problems in our country. Therefore, it has not been possible to fully realize the objectives of Gross National Happiness. It is important for the government to develop

strong measures to alleviate poverty. It is felt that most of the youth resort to substance abuse due to the unemployment problem. I would like to urge government to make it possible to provide employment to all the Bhutanese people mainly the unemployed youth in the new hydro power projects like Punatsangchu and Dagachu.

Lastly, on behalf of the Members of the Parliament and on my own behalf, would like to again thank His Majesty the King, Excellencies, Dignitaries from International Agencies, Civil Servants, Defense Officials, Students and other guests for being able to grace the inaugural ceremony of the parliament. ***(4th Day of the 5th Month of Female Earth Ox Year 24th June, 2009)***

Kadinche!

