

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE HON SPEAKER DURING THE 5TH SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT

Today, on this auspicious day, the 5th Session of the 1st Parliament commences under the grace of His Majesty the King with Zhugdrel Phuensum Tshogpai Tendrel.

We would like to welcome Members of the Royal Family, International Dignitaries, Senior Government Officials, general public, media personnel and all those witnessing the session on television to the opening ceremony. In addition, on behalf of the Members of the Parliament of Bhutan, Bhutanese people and on my own behalf, I would like to thank Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of the Lok Sabha for kindly accepting our invitation to be with us today and would like to offer our warmest welcome to the inaugural ceremony.

Similarly, we would also like to welcome Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha and other Hon Members of the Lok Sabha.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Hon Members of our Parliament led by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan for your presence at this august gathering.

Since the Legislature, from the three branches of Government, is mainly responsible for legislating laws, it is crucial to pass the following Bills in the 5th Session that could not be endorsed in last Session;

Civil Service Bill of Bhutan, 2009

Tobacco Control Bill of Bhutan, 2009

Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan Bill, 2009

Bhutan Standards Bill, 2009

Service Conditions Bill for the Holders of Constitutional Offices of Bhutan, 2009.

Similarly, the Parliament has received the following five Bills;

Child Care & Protection Bill of Bhutan, 2010

Child Adoption Bill of Bhutan, 2010

Financial Services Bill of Bhutan, 2010

Disaster Management Bill of Bhutan, 2010

From the above Bills the following Bills will be deliberated in the National Council and rest will be tabled in the National Assembly.

Child Care & Protection Bill of Bhutan, 2010

Child Adoption Bill of Bhutan, 2010

It is hoped that the Bills could be deliberated thoroughly as per the procedures of respective Houses and be endorsed accordingly.

As per the provision of the Constitution of Bhutan The Prime Minister shall present an Annual report on the state of the nation, including legislative plans and the annual plans and priorities of the Government, to the Druk Gyalpo and to a joint sitting of Parliament

In addition, the Annual Budget report by the Finance Minister and Audit Reports will also be deliberated by according adequate time.

While some of the motions submitted by the Local Governments and the Hon Members will be tackled through Question Hour Sessions, others will be tabled as motions to be moved as per the order of business of the House.

Since most of the issues are referred to the respective relevant Ministries, it is hoped that they would take expeditious action to address the problems faced by the people.

Before, I conclude my submission, If I may submit few important issues, on behalf of the Parliament, we would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to His Majesty for tirelessly travelling and meeting with people of the most remote and inaccessible areas to look into their welfare and grant land Kidu. We hope that such a noble initiative from His Majesty would certainly reduce the problems of poverty.

The visit of His Holiness the Je Khenpo in the Dzongkhags and conduct of Wang, Lung and Thri would go a long way in realizing the overarching objectives of Gross National Happiness propounded by our benevolent

Fourth King His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck. To this, we the Members of the Parliament would like to offer our sincere appreciation to His Holiness the Je Khenpo.

The South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) was established on December, 8, 1985 with objectives of fostering good relations between the member countries and to encourage rapid economic development through mutual assistance. The successful convention of 16 th SAARC Summit in our country is attributable to the tireless efforts rendered by our Prime Minister. It not only symbolizes the development of our country but will also go down in our history as one of the events to be proud of.

The ability to host the Summit is mainly due to the leadership of His Majesty the King and excellent arrangements made under the supervision of the Prime Minister. The leaders of the SAARC member countries were fully satisfied and returned safely to their homes after the successful convention of the 16 th SAARC Summit coinciding with the Silver Jubilee of the Association.

The successful conclusion and happy returns of the delegates is attributable to the blessing of protective guardian deities of Bhutan propitiated by the Dratsang and other religious bodies. It is also due to the support and cooperation rendered by all the Ministers, defense personnel, civil servants, private sector and youth, to whom we would like to express our appreciation.

One of the responsibilities of the Members of Parliament is to fulfill the pressing needs of the people and it is important for the Members to strive hard in meeting the needs of the people.

It is hoped that the 5th Session would also conclude successfully, due to the blessings of the Triple Gem, guidance of His Majesty the King and collective merit of the Bhutanese people coupled with support and cooperation rendered by His Excellency the Prime Minister and Hon Members.

Lastly, on behalf of the Hon Members and on my own behalf, may I express our profound gratitude to His Majesty the King, Members of the Royal Family, distinguished guests and all the people watching the proceedings on television for gracing the opening ceremony of the 5th Session of the 1 st Parliament. ***(16th Day of the 4th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year 28th May, 2010)***

Kadinche !