

**Draft English translation of
Speech to be delivered by Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly
During concluding ceremony of 2nd session of the 1st Parliament of
Bhutan
(22nd January, 2009)**

1. His Majesty the King

Members of the Royal Family

Senior Government Officials

Dignitaries

Distinguish Guests

Media Personnel

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Parliament, may I extend warmest welcome to the auspicious occasion of concluding ceremony of the second session of the parliament on 22nd January, 2009 corresponding to the 27 Day of 11 Month of Earth Male Rat Year.

2. If I may reiterate His Majesty's address during the opening ceremony of this session, His Majesty said "Although, not much time has lapsed after instituting constitutional democratic system in our country, it appears that we have been practicing democratic system for many years, which is evident from the manner in which everyone shoulders their responsibilities and serves the nation. Since this is a positive sign, I am not only personally very happy but also appreciative of all the Hon'ble Members who are gathered here today".

It is very encouraging for us because it generated immense happiness and built confidence in our minds.

3. Among the significant deliberations in the interest of the country and people conducted by the Members of Parliament during the current session in the respective houses are:

- a) Waste Prevention and Management Bill of Bhutan, 2008 deliberated and endorsed by the National Assembly has been forwarded to National Council
- b) Royal Bhutan Police Bill, 2009 and
- c) Prison Bill of Bhutan, were endorsed by the National Assembly after being forwarded from the National Council.

These three Bills upon being endorsed by the National Council will be submitted to His Majesty for Royal assent as per the provision of the Constitution of Bhutan.

4. I hope that the people would have witnessed the proceedings and resolutions of both the houses conducted and resolved in the interest of people and the country in accordance with the provision of the Constitution during a month long session live coverage through radio and television.

5. The reports to be submitted during the third session by the Ministries in accordance with the Public Accounts Committee reports are:

- a) Construction rules and regulations by Ministry of Works and Human Settlement;

- b) Report on the review of rules and regulations of the mines and mining operations;
- c) Report on the problems faced by the Ministry of Economic Affairs as mentioned in the audit report to be submitted to the Lhengye Zhungtshog and Public Accounts Committee; and
- d) All the concerned ministries, departments and corporations to strive to resolve and settle all the irregularities till 2007 as reflected in the Royal Audit Authority's report.

General Issues

- a) With regards to the security guards in the Gewogs, it was resolved that Ministry of Home and Culture Affairs will discuss in the annual Dzongdag conference and submit the report thereof;
- b) It is important that Ministry of Finance should initiate actions on the rural housing insurance scheme; and
- c) Enhancement of life insurance premium.

Similarly

- a) It was resolved to remind the Chief Justice about the delay in awarding the verdict on the scam of Nu. 13 million in the Ministry of Education despite being forwarded to the Thimphu district court before one year; and
- b) I will write a separate letter to the Royal Civil Service Commission regarding the need to review the transfer and promotion rules of civil servants.

6. During the session, questions pertaining to the development issues were deliberated in detail through question hour with the provision of adequate time.
7. It is imperative that the Legislative Committee should ensure that the existing laws and legislations that need to be reviewed are made consistent with the Constitution of Bhutan.

Among these laws, it is hope that it would be possible to review and deliberate the Royal Civil Service Bill, Local Governance Act, Lhhengye Zhungtshog Act, Municipal Act in the third session.

A system of uploading and posting the draft bills, rules and regulations that need to be reviewed in the website for the public comments has been introduced. If the public embrace such opportunity, it would truly contribute to the democracy.

8. The problems of people such as poverty, youth and unemployment would be greatly addressed, if the government could achieve all the plans specified in the annual plan by the government based on the principle of Gross National Happiness.

The whole responsibility rests on the people working in government, Dzongkhags and Gewogs. Therefore, despite the lack of substantial government revenue, salary increase ranging from 35 to 61 percent has been granted.

9. The constitutional bodies and law enforcement and implementing agencies must shoulder their responsibilities of combating corruption ensuring rule of law through equity and justice. We must all pledge to strive in achieving His Majesty's vision of Gross National Happiness.
10. While submitting the agendas for the future sessions, it must be submitted through Gewog Yargye Tshogde and Dzongkhag Yargye Tshogdues as practiced in the past.
11. If I may I reiterate His Majesty's speech, it is of great importance to strive and serve to the best of abilities through outmost cooperation and collective support like family members in order to realize the ultimate interest of the people. The democracy will be successful, if the Members of Parliament conduct as per the enormity of the responsibility bestowed upon them because it is our collective responsibility.
12. I would like to express appreciation to the VIP security division for providing adequate security services during the session. I would also like to commend the Bhutan Broadcasting Service Corporation for comprehensive radio and television coverage of proceedings of both the houses to the people. This has provided opportunity to the people to understand the democratic system.
13. Lastly, I would like to conclude the second session of the first Parliament with the offering of our prayers to protective guardian deities in general and the wise and farsighted leadership of His

Majesty the King. It is due to the immense hard work and selfless leadership of our hereditary Kings that we have been able to live in unprecedented peace, happiness and prosperity and pray for greater achievements under the dynamic leadership of His Majesty the King for generations to come.

14. Kadinche!