

**English Translation of the Speech delivered by Hon Speaker during the
concluding ceremony of the 2nd Session of the Second Parliament (19th
February, 2014)**

1. The Second Session of the Second Parliament concludes today on this very auspicious day. His Majesty's gracious presence in this concluding session despite ongoing visit to the eastern Dzongkhags meeting with people, students and granting land Kidu is the testimony of his deep concern and support for the Parliament. Therefore, I on behalf of the Parliament and on my own behalf would like to express our deepest reverence and welcome His Majesty to this concluding ceremony. Similarly, on behalf of the House, I would like to extend warm welcome to Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, Members of the Royal Family, representative of the religious organizations, senior government officials, defense officials and international dignitaries.
2. In this session, the House deliberated on important legislations such as Right to Information Bill, National Assembly (Amendment) Bill, Local Government (Amendment) Bill and Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances & Substance Abuse (Amendment) Bill 2014. In addition, the House also ratified Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards and Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement between the Royal Government of Kingdom of Thailand and the Royal Government of Bhutan.
3. In line with decentralization policy the Local Government leaders have been shouldering their principal responsibilities in serving the interest of the people. However, the entitlements and emoluments of the Local Government leaders are not commensurate to the roles and responsibilities they shoulder. Therefore, in recognition of this matter, it was imperative to deliberate the Local Government Entitlement Bill. However, the Local Government leaders have been rendering effective services to the people. In order to further motivate the Local Government leaders and to attract experienced and qualified candidates in the Local Government elections, the House has extensively deliberated on the Bill and transmitted to the National Council and Legislative Committee. It is hoped that this Bill would be endorsed in the next session.
4. Recognizing the problems of public servants, the government formed the Pay Commission and directed it to review not only the pay and allowances but also to study the housing allowance, difficulty allowance, teaching allowance, foreign allowance, pool vehicle system, vehicle import quota in conjunction with the general economic conditions of the country. Since the Pay Commission in their exercise has to study host of other related issues and country is going through unfavorable economic situation, it was imperative for the Pay Commission to take longer period in their review and finalizing

the report. The Pay Commission is hereby urged to expedite their review. Therefore, it is hoped that the pay and allowances of the public servants would be revised during third session of the Parliament. It is hoped that the government develop a pay and allowances revision mechanism or system without having to depend on the political parties.

5. Since there was no Rules of Procedure for the conduct and business of the House, the National Assembly after extensive deliberations in this session adopted its Rules of Procedure. It is hoped that this Rules of Procedure would not only contribute to the effective conduct of its business but also help in ensuring efficient enforcement of Ethics and Code of Conduct of the Members.
6. With the endorsement of new legislations and amendments of the Acts, it is imperative for the ministries, departments and agencies to enhance the capacity of the existing human resources through trainings and new initiatives rather than establishing new departments to execute the mandates of the new legislations.
7. His Majesty's noble initiative in establishing Desung cadre is a great example to emulate. This initiative has enabled more than thousand youth and civil servants to participate in the Desung training and render their services in addition to their regular jobs during the public gathering for religious activities. The Desung has also been able to assist armed forces and civilians in the emergency situation during natural disasters. Similarly, the civil service could emulate this noble initiative in maintaining small, compact and efficient civil service in shouldering important responsibilities in the service of the nation.
8. Our country has witnessed sustained socio-economic development based on the profound philosophy and policy of Gross National Happiness propounded by His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. Therefore, the international community recognizing the profundity of this philosophy has adopted the Gross National Happiness as the 9th Millennium Development Goal and declared 20th March as the International Day for Happiness.
9. The profound philosophy of Gross National Happiness emanated from the mind treasure of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The House adopted the resolution to observe 11th November the birthday of His Majesty as the Gross National Happiness Day in the country in order to pay tribute to His Majesty. Therefore, it is crucial for the government to make arrangements to celebrate the day.
10. The Parliament would like to express sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo and other religious masters for organizing Kurims, Moenlam Chenmos, empowerments and oral transmissions for the well being of the country and the people.

11. His Excellency the Prime Minister submitted that the friendly countries such as India, Japan, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, Netherlands, Norway and international organizations including the International Banks and Financial institutions in total has provided grant of about Nu. 71 billion. The House would like to express its appreciation to these countries and institutions.
12. The generous grants and aids received from our development partners is firstly attributable to the guidance and leadership of His Majesty and secondly to the excellent performance of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, Civil Servants and the Ambassadors. Therefore, the Parliament would like to express its appreciation for mobilizing such grants from various countries and the international organizations.
13. Further, the House approved supplementary budget of Nu. 4,200.00 million as a part of the Economic Stimulus Plan of the government. It is hoped that this plan would benefit the people. The National Assembly also engaged in extensive deliberations on the four important recommendations made by the National Council pertaining to the Supplementary Bill expressing their concerns on the security and sovereignty of the country and happiness of the Bhutanese people.
14. Despite unfavorable economic condition in the country, the government has continued to strive in addressing youth unemployment problem and embrace austerity measures by cutting wasteful expenditures. Gauging by the report on these matters, it felt that such initiatives would greatly benefit the country and the people. To this, the Parliament would like to express its appreciation to the government.
15. One of the important issues is to recognize that only four years and six months are left for the 11th Five Year Plan to be completed. Therefore, it is of paramount importance for the Members of Parliament and people working in the Local Government to collaborate in implementing the plans and achieve substantive outcomes for the interest and benefit of the people.
16. The successful conclusion of the Second Session of the Second Parliament is primarily attributable to the noble guidance of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. We are immensely grateful to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen for gracing this closing ceremony upon the request of the Parliament despite Their Majesties' ongoing visit to the eastern Dzongkhags. It is also due to the hard work and dedication of Prime Minister and the Members of Parliament in conducting substantive deliberation with the strong spirit of checks and balances in the interest of the country and the people. I would like to express my appreciation for the support and cooperation rendered during the session. Further, I would also like to express my appreciation to the Secretary General of

the House and his dedicated and hard working Secretariat staff for their unflinching service to the House.

17. Lastly, from the feet of the glorious golden throne, let us all together offer our prayers for the long life of His Majesty and the holders of Buddha Dharma. May the teachings of peerless Buddha flourish for eternity and the Bhutanese people be showered with peace, happiness and prosperity!

Kadinche!!!
