

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

1. Today, as the Third Session of the First Parliament of Bhutan concludes, the Speaker in his Closing speech said that, the Members of Parliament would respectfully like to express appreciation to His Majesty for according paramount importance to the supremacy of the historic Parliament and gracing the concluding ceremony.
2. Similarly, we would also like to express our appreciation to the Excellencies, Dignitaries from International Agencies, Civil Servants, Defense Officials, media personnel and the guests.
3. The Police Bill, 2009, Prison Bill 2009, Waste Prevention and Management Bill, 2009 and Livestock (Amendment) Bill which could not be endorsed due to disagreements between the two Houses during the second session have now been passed through joint sitting during the current session of the first Parliament.
4. The Civil Service Bill and Local Government Bill which were tabled in this session as urgent Bills could not be passed despite extensive deliberation in the respective Houses and Joint Sitting due to disagreements on the Bills between the two Houses. Therefore, the Bills had to be deferred for some time. However, as per Article 10 Section 12 of the Constitution, a special joint session will be convened upon obtaining approval of His Majesty the King and it is hoped that the Bills will be endorsed. Considering the importance of the Service Conditions Bill for the Holders of Constitutional Offices of Bhutan, it will also be deliberated and passed during the special joint sitting.
5. It is important for the Government to ensure successful and effective implementation of the planned developmental activities such as

electricity, drinking water and motor roads as specified in the Tenth Five Year Plan which was endorsed after the institution of democracy in 2008 for which adequate resources are provided.

6. As earlier reminded in the Opening Ceremony about His Majesty's noble vision of Gross National Happiness, the significant difficulties in achieving this goal are poverty alleviation and youth unemployment. Therefore, the Government is further urged to initiate measures to address these problems. His Majesty is personally engaged in addressing the poverty related issues, for which the Parliament would like to express its appreciation and pledge full support to His Majesty.
7. It is important to provide unsuccessful class ten students with an opportunity to repeat in the same class in the same school. Further, as deliberated, it is important for the government to support the up-gradation of private middle higher secondary schools to colleges to provide opportunity to those students who passed class twelve but could not qualify for government colleges. Accordingly, it is crucial that the Cabinet and Ministry of Education formulate appropriate plans and implement its activities.
8. In order to enhance the capacity of Local Governments, decentralization is being pursued and it is extremely important for the Government to ensure that 50% of the planned activities of the Tenth Five Year Plan are executed by the Local Government and the required support is provided as per the principles of our democracy.
9. The Members of the Parliament would like to express their deep appreciation to the Government of India for providing a grant of Nu. 100 million to rebuild the infrastructures which were damaged by the recent flood in the country. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Government for their concerted efforts made during the flood.

10. As per Article 12 Section 5 of the Constitution, the Parliament is to convene two sessions in a year and accordingly, as per the approval of His Majesty the King, henceforth the summer session will be held in the months of May and June and winter session will be conducted in November and December, for which no separate announcement shall be made. Therefore, all the Bills and agenda from the Dzongkhag Tshogdus should be submitted to the National Assembly Secretariat, one and half months prior to the commencement of the session.

11. The Members raised the concerns of the people on the development issues pertaining to their respective constituencies which were distributed in the form of questions to which the Ministers from the relevant Ministries provided adequate response.

Lastly, the successful conclusion of Third Session of the First Parliament is attributable to the blessings of our guardian deities, merit and supremacy of His Majesty the King and support and cooperation extended by the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, National Council Chairperson, Leader of the Opposition and Members of the National Council and National Assembly for which, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. We would like to humbly offer our Tashi Moenlam for the long life of His Majesty the King and peace, prosperity and happiness of the country. (***9th Day of the 6th Month of Earth Female Ox Year 30th July, 2009***)

Kadrinche!