

## **Concluding Speech by the Hon Speaker Jigme Zangpo at the closing of the 3rd Session of the Second Parliament**

1. As everyone is aware, the Third Session of the Second Parliament concludes today.
2. On behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the concluding ceremony of the 3rd Session of the 2nd Parliament.
3. I would also like to extend a humble welcome to the Members of the Royal Family and all other guests.
4. In this session, the National Assembly has deliberated and transmitted the following Bills to the National Council:
  - i) The Biosafety Bill of Bhutan
  - ii) The Local Government Members Entitlement Bill
  - iii) The Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Substance Abuse Bill
  - iv) The Tenancy Bill and
  - v) The Parliamentary Entitlement (Amendment) Bill
5. Similarly, I would like to inform that the National Council (Amendment) Bill and the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill received from the National Council were extensively deliberated by the National Assembly and have been retransmitted to the National Council.
6. In addition, the House could not reach consensus on some of the clauses of the Local Government (Amendment) Bill and the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill which were received for re-deliberations. Therefore, in accordance to Section 8 of Article 13 of the Constitution, the Bills will be submitted before His Majesty.
7. The Right to Information Bill was deliberated by the National Assembly in the 2nd Session and was transmitted to the National Council. However, the National Council could not deliberate on the Bill given the time constraint. As per the provisions of the Legislative Rules of Procedure, it was recommended that the Bill be withdrawn. However, the National Assembly resolved that the Bill will be submitted before His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo as per the provisions of the Constitution.
8. I would like to inform that in order to successfully implement the developmental activities in the 11th Plan, a total of Nu. 40,355.837 million has been passed towards budget appropriation for the financial year 2014-15.

9. I would also like to express my hopes that the revision of pay and benefits for the public servants, civil servants and the local government leaders would further reinforce their loyalty and dedication in delivering services.

10. Considering the Annual Anti Corruption Report and the Annual Audit Report presented for the year 2013, it is apparent that the ministries and agencies have done a good work in compliance to the laws. Further, as compared to the past, corruption cases have drastically declined mainly because of the support rendered by the people and the government. However, many cases of unresolved irregularities related to embezzlement have also been reported. Therefore, it is imperative for the relevant ministries and agencies to make concerted efforts in resolving the irregularities related to embezzlement.

11. The Hon Prime Minister presented the report on the present achievements of the government and its future policies and plans based on the philosophy of Gross National Happiness which has emanated from the hearts of Their Majesty the Kings. The report was presented for the duration of three hours encompassing good governance, sustainable socioeconomic development, cultural preservation and environmental conservation. This essence of the Gross National Happiness would immensely benefit the security, sovereignty and economic development of the country besides bringing great benefit for the peace and happiness of the people.

12. Recently, the Hon Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi was invited to the country by the Royal Government under the noble leadership of His Majesty. The Prime Minister of India along with senior Indian officials not only visited the country but also delivered a historical and valuable address to the Joint Session of Parliament. He expressed his appreciation for the Bhutanese democracy which has been strengthened in a very short span of time. He also expressed his appreciation for the developmental philosophy of Gross National Happiness and the role played by Bhutan in combating global warming. Further, the Prime Minister of India conveyed the support of the Government of India to double the scholarships to Bhutanese students and initiate E-Library in Bhutan. He also conveyed his support towards tourism which would build a network between Bhutan and North-Eastern States of India. It is a matter of great pride for Bhutan as the Prime Minister of India inaugurated the Supreme Court and laid the foundation stone for the Kholongchu Hydro Power Project. The Parliament of Bhutan would like to express its gratitude to the Hon Prime Minister of India as his visit has further strengthened the Indo-Bhutan ties and would also benefit the security and sovereignty of Bhutan.

13. Further, the Parliament of Bhutan would like to express its gratitude to the Central Monastic Body under the auspices of His Holiness the Je Khenpo for tirelessly working towards the peace and tranquility of the country and for long life and wellbeing of Their Majesties and the Members of the Royal Family. The Parliament would also like to express its gratitude to His Holiness

and the Central Monastic Body for various religious initiatives undertaken for the benefit of the people of Bhutan.

14. The 3rd Session of the 2nd Parliament comes to a successful conclusion mainly because of the blessings of the Triple Gem, noble guidance of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, support and cooperation of all the Members of Parliament and the collective merit of the Bhutanese people. For this, I would like to express my gratitude.

15. Lastly, let us all offer our prayers for the long life of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty the Gyalsuen and the Members of the Royal Family.

**THANK YOU**