

CONCLUDING ADDRESS BY THE HON SPEAKER DURING THE 4TH SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT

As the 4th Session of the First Parliament of Bhutan concludes on this auspicious day, I, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty, the destined King, who symbolizes the embodiment of our collective merit, for gracing the occasion.

Similarly, we would also like to express our appreciation to Excellencies, Dignitaries from International Agencies, Civil Servants, Media personnel and other guests.

In the past weeks, His Majesty has not only helped in rebuilding the homes that were destroyed by the earthquake and fire in Trashigang and Trashiyangtse Dzongkhags in September this year, but also granted Kidu of exempting the cost of excess land during the re-cadastral survey for 945 households and granted excess land of 832 acres as Kidu to the people. To this, on behalf of the Parliament and the people, we would like to express unspeakable appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

In this Session, the National Assembly adopted the Bhutan Standards Bill, 2009, Royal Monetary Authority (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2009, Tobacco Control Bill of Bhutan, 2009, Civil Service Bill of Bhutan, 2009, Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2009 and Entitlement and Service Condition Bill for the Holders of Constitutional Offices of Bhutan, 2009 as Acts through substantive deliberations and check and balance which are now transmitted to the National Council for their adoption. The House also ratified the SAARC Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The developmental issues of respective constituencies submitted by the Hon Members were mostly addressed in the Question Hour sessions, where the Ministers of the relevant Ministries provided adequate responses to the queries made by the Members.

The 5th Session is scheduled to convene in May 2010. Therefore, the Government Bills should be submitted through *Lhengye Zhungtshog* and the points for agenda from Local Governments before March 2010 to the National Assembly Secretariat.

The noble vision of Gross National Happiness propounded by His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Fourth King of Bhutan has not only entailed enhanced peace and economic development in the country, but has also helped in making Bhutan an exemplary and popular country to the outside world. However, the eradication of poverty and curbing corruption remains the cause of concern for all Bhutanese people to which the government accords top priority. His Majesty pronounced “***I will not be corrupt and I will not tolerate corruption***”. Moreover, the Constitution also stipulates that “***Every person shall have the duty to uphold justice and to act against corruption***”. If every Bhutanese citizen performs his/her duties in line with the above principles, the Happiness of all Bhutanese people will definitely be realized.

Lastly, the successful conclusion of the 4th Session of the First Parliament is attributable to the blessings of Triple Gem, supremacy and merit of His Majesty the King and fortune and good wishes of the people in general and the support and co-operation rendered by the Prime Minister, Chairperson of the National Council, Opposition Leader and Hon Members of the National Council and National Assembly in particular. To this, I would like to express my appreciation and let us all offer our collective prayers for long life of His Majesty and enhanced peace and prosperity of the country. ***(25th Day of the 10th Month of the Earth Female Ox Year 11th December, 2009)***

Thank You!

