

CONCLUDING ADDRESS BY THE HON SPEAKER DURING THE 6TH SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT

1. *Kuzu Zangpo!* The 6th Session concludes today on this very auspicious day. I, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, would like to offer sincere gratitude and appreciation to our King of Destiny, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the concluding ceremony of the 6th Session.
2. Likewise, we would like to welcome **Members of the Royal Family (*In the event Members of the Royal Family graces the ceremony*)**, senior government officials, representatives of the international agencies, foreign dignitaries, media and the general public to the closing ceremony.
3. During the current session, the House extensively deliberated on 3 new Bills and 9 Amendment Bills. However, only Income Tax (Amendment) Bill has been duly endorsed in both the Houses.
4. With regard to the other Bills, despite having been adequately deliberated in both the Houses during the 5th and 6th sessions, it has been deferred to be endorsed in the next session due to differences on some provisions of the Bills.
5. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the House, during the current session, endorsed to establish Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund which would immensely benefit to address the *kidu* of the people during urgent and unforeseen humanitarian relief.
6. Under the guidance of His Majesty, the people working in the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon and Royal Bhutan Army have rendered timely assistance and support to the people during the time of natural calamities. To this the Parliament would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation.

7. The country achieved unprecedented peace and prosperity under the overarching development philosophy of Gross National Happiness which was propounded under the wise and magnanimous leadership of our most grateful parent, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. Even so, 23 percent of our Bhutanese population is living under poverty line. The Government has been giving top priority to alleviating poverty in the country and it is hoped that the Government will continue to undertake dedicated efforts towards fully achieving this noble goal within 4 to 5 years from now.
8. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo has granted generous land *kidu* to the common people in several Dzongkhags and this has immensely benefited the people. His Majesty would also be granting similar land *kidu* to the people in the remaining Dzongkhags. Therefore, we would like to offer profound gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.
9. The salary of the Members of Parliament, civil servants and Local Government functionaries has been increased twice within the last 2 years. Therefore, it is expected that the Members of Parliament, civil servants and Local Government functionaries would continue to deliver their services with added motivation and loyalty for the greater benefit of the general public by not only exercising their power but also by embracing their responsibility and accountability.
10. The *Lhengye Zhungtshog* decided not to propose any pay increase for the Hon Prime Minister and Minister level positions keeping in mind the financial situation of the country. Likewise, it is of paramount importance that the heads of Government Corporations and Agencies embrace such exemplary initiative.
11. It is vital for the Constitutional Offices to meet the interest of the country and the people in line with the provisions of the Constitution. However, it is necessary for some of the Constitutional Offices to not only accentuate on the powers but also bear in mind their responsibility and accountability in order to meet the interest of the people on time. It would be possible to fulfill the needs of the people and ensure peace and security if we endeavor to the achieve results as per the policies and

priorities set by the government in consonance to the **One Nation-One Vision** philosophy of our Druk Gyalpo.

12. Lastly, the successful conclusion of the Sixth Session of the First Parliament is attributable to the blessings of triple gem, grace of His Majesty and collective merit of the Bhutanese people. The success is also chiefly due to the support and co-operation rendered by Members of the Parliament during the deliberations according top priority to the ultimate interest of country and the people under the able leadership of His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

To this, as I express my profound gratitude, let us all join in offering *Tashi Lekmoen* for the long life of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Members of the Royal Family and to ensure continued peace and security in the country for all times to come. ***(5th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year 10th December, 2010)***

Kadinche!

