

**Inaugural Address by Tshogpon Wangchuk Namgyel at the Opening  
Ceremony of the Second Session of Third Parliament of Bhutan  
(May 23, 2019)**

1. The Second Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan commences with effect from today on the most auspicious day graced by the presence of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

On behalf of the Parliament, it is my honour to welcome His Majesty the DrukGyalpo with immense gratitude for gracing the opening ceremony of the Second Session, leaving aside numerous royal engagements for the welfare of the people and the country.

2. I would also like to welcome Her Majesty the Gyaltshuen, Members of Parliament, representatives from the Monastic Body, foreign dignitaries, senior government officials, and the public who have come to witness the occasion.
3. On March 13, 2019, the United Nations Development Programme presented a Special Award of Recognition to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo to honour His Majesty's wise leadership in advancing human development, well-being and happiness of the people of Bhutan. Therefore, the Parliament would like to express our heartfelt TashiDelek and deep admiration to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo, and for accepting the award.

4. To ensure equitable community development and harmonious living, His Majesty the DrukGyalpo graced the Fifth Royal Flower Exhibition held in SamdrupJongkhar this year.

This year's flower exhibition was indeed a joyous occasion for the people of Bhutan and the local community to dedicate the event to commemorate the His Majesty's 39<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary, before the presence of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo, His Majesty the Fourth DrukGyalpo, His Royal Highness the Gyalsey, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, and the Members of the Royal Family. The Parliament is hopeful that the people would have been very blessed and happy, and therefore, would like to express gratitude and deep respect to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

5. Similarly, His Majesty the DrukGyalpo has always shown deep compassion for the people, and granted citizenship to 359 people on 13<sup>th</sup> March. His Majesty has also granted numerous benevolent support to the victims affected by the natural disasters across the nation. Furthermore, His Majesty has personally been to the site and met with the victims of recent Thimphu-Tsirang bus accident. The bereaved families remain deeply grateful for having received the most compassionate love and support from His Majesty. Therefore, the Parliament would like to offer our deepest respect to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

Likewise, His Majesty has granted undergraduate scholarships to 144 students, who have completed class 12 in various fields of future national human resource requirements. The Parliament would like to express immense gratitude to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

6. The Parliament would also like to offer gratitude to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo for appointing new Chairperson and the Commissioners of the Royal Civil Service Commission.

We are hopeful that the Chairperson and the Commissioners would serve with full dedication and loyalty keeping in mind the wise aspirations of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo, provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Civil Service Act and seek judicious measures for strengthening the civil servants as well.

7. His Majesty the DrukGyalpo also has offered prayers and offered a thousand butter lamps, in memory of those who lost their lives in a series of recent bomb attacks in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the Parliament would like to offer our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.
8. Under His Majesty's profound vision, dynamism and leadership, His Majesty has granted opportunity for Parliamentarians to attend Leadership Program at the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies, and also granted opportunity to undergo *Dessung*programme at Tencholing. Hence, the Parliament would like to offer immense gratitude to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

Similarly, under the wise guidance and benevolent leadership of His Majesty, the first batch of graduates from KhesarGyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan graduated successfully. Therefore, the Parliament offers its deep gratitude to His Majesty the DrukGyalpo.

9. The Parliament also would like to offer our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the JeKhenpo for presiding over numerous religious initiatives for the benefit of the world and the nation, and for presiding over prayers for the victims in Sri Lanka as well.
10. Upon the invitation of Bangladesh, Lyonchen Dr. Lotey Tshering paid a State Visit to Bangladesh and strengthened the existing bilateral ties and cooperation, trade, investment and health services between the two countries. Furthermore, Bangladesh has agreed to send about 23 specialists to Bhutan and has also increased the quota for Bhutanese students from 10 to 15 every year. Thus, the Parliament would like to thank Lyonchen for the successful outcomes.
11. I would like to inform the people that I have led a group of delegation to the 140<sup>th</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly at Doha, Qatar and attended the General Assembly; and came up with numerous successful parliamentary exchanges. I would like to further inform that Bhutan being the member to the IPU is also preparing to implement the resolutions of the IPU.
12. May I now inform the House that following agenda will be discussed during the Second Session:

The National Assembly will discuss on the:

1. Mines and Minerals Bill of Bhutan 2019 and adoption of harmonizing and amendment of four bills.
2. Deliberation and Adoption of the Annual Budget (2019-2020);
3. Deliberation on Government's Pay Revision Report;

4. Anti-Corruption Report 2018;
  5. Deliberation on Two Priority National Key Result Areas on Health and Education towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals in 12<sup>th</sup> FYP. Deliberation on SDGs will continue to receive importance in the National Assembly.
  6. Deliberation of the Report on the Status of Implementation of Resolutions of the First Session;
  7. Conduct Motions and Question Hour Sessions as per the procedures;
13. Likewise, the Joint Sitting of the Parliament will discuss the following:
1. Performance Audit Report of the Royal Audit Authority (RAA); and
  2. Presentation of Annual Report on the State of the Nation, including Legislative Plans and Annual Plans and Priorities of the Government, by the Prime Minister of Bhutan.
14. Before I end my speech, I would like to reiterate one most significant area. It has been 11 years of parliamentary democracy system of government ever since His Majesty the DrukGyalpo gifted the responsibility to our people. It has been going on successfully with the blessings of the Triple gem, noble guidance of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo and prayers of our beloved people.

However, I feel that we need to continue working hard to fulfill the aspirations of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo and hopes of the people. And it is possible as we have experience from the previous two parliaments and if

we continue building and adding values. Towards this, I am hopeful that the Members of Parliament would continue serving with full dedication.

15. In conclusion, with the blessings of the Triple Gem, wise leadership and guidance of His Majesty the DrukGyalpo and the Members of the Royal Family, prayers from the Monastic Body, collective merits of the Bhutanese people, support and cooperation from Members of Parliament, I would like to offer prayers for the successful conclusion of the Second Session of the Third Parliament.

THANK YOU

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