

**Address by Tshogpon Wangchuk Namgyel at the Closing Ceremony of the Sixth Session of
Third Parliament**

25th December 2021

1. I on behalf of all the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf would like to express our deepest gratitude and reverence to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the Closing Ceremony of the Sixth Parliamentary session.
2. I would also like to welcome Her Majesty the Gyaltshen, Members of the Royal Family, representatives of the Central Monastic Body, senior government officials, foreign dignitaries, and everyone who has come to witness this occasion.
3. Under the farsighted vision of His Majesty the King, the De-suung program was initiated in 2011. As of now the program has imparted training to 24,999 De-suups. They are working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and in service to the Nation.

As per the aspiration of His Majesty The King, the De-suups serving in the National Water Service Project have been working very hard and productively despite having to work in forest and steep terrains. Their accomplishments are commendable. As of now, about 3500 De-suups have volunteered to complete 19 projects across 20 dzongkhags with 8 other projects underway. We are hoping that the remaining projects will be completed successfully in time.

Similarly, the De-suups dedicatedly collaborated with the Armed Forces and have completed construction of several Quarantine Facilities.

His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo with deep concern for the De-suups have initiated several reskilling programs to enhance new knowledge and skills and experiences. This has enabled the De-suups to be more capable to lead a meaningful life for themselves and to be useful to the community. It has broadened the path for self-reliance in human resources for the country as whole. Several reskilling programs such as gymnasium, Diploma in Accounting, designing and videography, photography and hair cutting,

culinary and carpentry, automobile repair and machinery, ironworks such as swordmaking, ICT etc. has provided the unique opportunity to discover the wonders of work.

These opportunities are a precious gift from His Majesty the King to the youth of our country.

The De-suups on their part have served with pride and dedication to bring benefits to the people and to fulfill the aspiration of His Majesty the King. The process has not only enhanced service delivery to the community, but they have also themselves benefitted from the world of experience.

Therefore, I, Speaker on behalf of the Parliament, would like to offer our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

4. I do not have to remind you all of the great concerns His Majesty has for the country and the people. For instance, a month ago, just a day after gracing the Opening Ceremony of the Sixth Session, His Majesty left for a southern tour, visiting Tencholing on the way. His Majesty visited Jigmeling and Pelrithang in Sarpang, Tendruk and Tashicholing in Samtse and met with the trainees of the 47th Batch De-suung Training Programme. His Majesty also met with De-suups working on the National Service Water Projects in Semjong and Paedtsheling in Tsirang and Lingtey in Samtse.

In Phuntsholing, His Majesty graced audiences to the Southern COVID-19 Taskforce and the Incident Management Team, and also to several groups of frontline workers. They were reminded that they should be prepared for any eventuality as the Covid situation is still uncertain. His Majesty also commanded that every effort should be made to minimise the impact of COVID-19 related restrictions on the lives and livelihoods of the people. Therefore, we hope that the COVID-19 Taskforce members will bear in mind the concerns and guidance of His Majesty the King and serve the people and country. I would like to request everyone to be vigilant as the emergence of a new variant “Omicron” is causing concern in other countries.

5. One of the most important occasions celebrated from amongst the National Celebrations is the commemoration of National Day of Bhutan. Everyone is aware of the importance of the National Day of Bhutan.

This year, due to the situation with the global pandemic, and with the Command from His Majesty the King, the 114th National Day was celebrated in Trashichhodzong.

The celebration was made possible with splendid preparations by the Government under the guidance of His Majesty the King. I am also hopeful that the people of Bhutan have taken this opportunity to express gratitude for the unprecedented development of the country and offer prayers for His Majesty the King.

His Majesty the King, in the National Day Address expressed that:

- While serving our country, one should “embrace accountability as a measure of our service” and serve with resolve and dedication;
- One should refrain from corruption;
- Re-focus, re-align our national goals and priorities and strategies in line with the changing framework of good governance and economic development;
- Prepare for the future by “inculcating a culture of lifelong learning” by skilling and reskilling to keep up with the advancement of technology.

Therefore, it is imperative that every one of us remain on our toes and persevere to keep pace with the fast changing world and serve our country with renewed dedication and fortitude.

6. For the successful completion of the Third Local Government Election, I would like to express gratitude to all the people and the officials and staff of the Election Commission of Bhutan. I hope that the elected Leaders of Local Government will serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum with commitment during their tenure.
7. I would like to report that during the Sixth Session, the National Assembly and the Joint Sitting has deliberated the followings:

- 1) Custom Duty (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan;

- 2) Tax Bill of Bhutan;
- 3) Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan;
- 4) Fiscal Incentives Bill of Bhutan.

The above bills are being prepared for submission to Druk Gyalpo for Royal Assent. I would also like to express my hope that the adoption of those bills will substantially benefit the people and the country as enshrined in the objectives of the Bill.

8. Similarly, the National Assembly has deliberated and transmitted the following bills to National Council for consideration;

- 1) Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill;
- 2) Biodiversity Bill of Bhutan;
- 3) Civil Society Organization (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan;
- 4) Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance Convention.

The Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021 has been introduced and its Third Reading will be conducted in the summer session.

9. In addition, the session had also deliberated on reports such as Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report 2020, Question Hour and Motions keeping in line with the Legislative Procedure.
10. The Joint Sitting of the Parliament deliberated on the Royal Audit Authority Annual Report 2020 and three Performance Audit Reports. The Prime Minister also presented to the Joint Sitting on the State of the Nation, including legislative plans and annual development plans and priorities of the Government.
11. The Sixth Session comes to a successful conclusion under His Majesty's Noble Vision and Guidance, the prayers of the revered monastic body, support and cooperation of all the Members of Parliament and good will of all the Bhutanese people. For this, I extend and express my deepest gratitude.
12. Lastly, let us offer our collective prayers for the continued sovereignty and security of the Country, longevity and Happiness of His Majesty the King, the Members of the Royal

Family, and other religious figures and for the peace and happiness of the people. Let us all offer our *Trashis Moenlam and Zhapton* to His Majesty the King at the seat of the Golden Throne.

Thank You