

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE 6TH
SESSION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT OF BHUTAN**

9:50

I. INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The 6th Session of the First Parliament commenced on the auspicious 13th Day of 10th Month of Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to November 19, 2010 with *Zhugdrel Phuensum Tshogpai* ceremony. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo was escorted to the Assembly Hall with the elaborate *Serdang* and *Chipdrel* ceremony.

II. INAUGURAL SPEECH BY THE HON SPEAKER

The Hon Speaker on behalf of the Members of Parliament and on his own behalf extended a very warm welcome to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the inaugural ceremony. He also extended heartiest welcome and greetings to the Members of the Royal Family, government officials, international dignitaries, media and the general public witnessing the session on television and radio.

He said that the House shall deliberate and endorse 3 Bills which were deliberated at length in both the Houses during the 5th Session. He informed that four (Amendment) Bills presented from the National Council and four (Amendment) Bills submitted by the government including the SAARC Agreement

on Trade in Services (SATIS) would also be tabled in the current session. He said that the pay revision of the civil servants, Zhabto Lemi and Constituency Development Grant would also be deliberated.

On behalf of the Parliament of Bhutan, the Hon Speaker expressed profound gratitude and appreciation to our most grateful parent, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo who on behalf of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, proceeded to Bumthang on the very day of the fire disaster which struck Chamkhar town on the 26th of October 2010. The Hon Speaker also expressed the gratitude of the Parliament to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Government for providing prompt and timely support to the people during the disaster.

The Hon Speaker expressed hopes and prayers that the collective support and merit by each and everyone would ensure successful conclusion of the 6th Session. The Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Parliament and on his own behalf, expressed his sincere appreciation to all the people who were present at the inaugural ceremony.

(A copy of the Inaugural address is annexed in Annexure I)

III. ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY THE DRUK GYALPO

Today when we are all gathered here, I would like to inform that since assuming Kingship in December 2006, I have travelled outside Bhutan four times - each time it has been to India. Indo-Bhutan Friendship is of paramount importance and something we hold dear. We must always work to further strengthen and deepen it.

In October this year, I visited Kolkata and New Delhi. I found in my meetings with the President, Prime Minister, Chairperson of the UPA, ministers, government officials and Leader of the Opposition, a common heartfelt appreciation for Bhutan's achievements as a nation, and a steadfast commitment and pledge to strengthen even further what they feel is a model partnership and bond between countries.

We are presently undertaking the mid-term review of the 10th Five Year Plan. India's assistance has been wholehearted and generous to the first development plan under our new democracy. On behalf of the people of Bhutan, I convey my deep appreciation to the Government and People of India.

Upon my return from India, I went directly to Bumthang to the site of the tragic fire in Chamkhar town. Already deeply saddened since hearing the news, it was even more painful to

see that the fire had completely destroyed homes and belongings of over 79 families. Yet, in my absence, my father His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo accompanied by Members of the Royal Family, Minister for Works and Human Settlement, Members of Parliament and senior government officials visited the people from the very day of the fire, delivering *semso* and bringing much needed hope and reassurance to the people. On behalf of the people, I offer gratitude to my father, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

During my own stay in Bumthang I worked closely with the Prime Minister, Home Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Members of Parliament, and government officials to plan Kidu activities, the reconstruction of homes and setting up of a temporary township to help the people rebuild their lives. Upon returning to Thimphu to attend the winter session of Parliament, I asked the Agriculture Minister, Members of Parliament of Bumthang, the Dzongkhag administration and the Armed Forces to continue the reconstruction work. I thank all of these people and institutions as well as the Zhung Dratshang, Goende, Lams, students of Chumey Institute of Civil Engineering, Motion Picture Association of Bhutan, NGOs and individuals for their time and effort.

I have found that this spirit of volunteerism and concern for each others' welfare is an age old quality common among the people of our 20 Dzongkhags. As King, this gives me even greater optimism and confidence about the future of our nation.

Now, as natural disasters become more frequent, and we continue to deliver Kidu so effectively and comprehensively to the people-not just today in Bumthang but in the past in Wamrong and in certain Dzongkhags following the earthquake - there may be some people who will be concerned.

They might be concerned that due to the strength of the welfare and social support system, our people may become spoiled. I do not understand how people could be spoiled while seeking refuge in Kidu during times of immense suffering. To make people happy, to help them during times of distress, and to ensure that they do not suffer greatly- these are qualities of a country where there is genuine concern for the people on the part of the King and government; and where people share everything, happiness and sorrow. What should concern us is if there are people being bullied, mistreated and made victims of injustice. We should be concerned if instead of good deeds, the examples leaders set are of corruption and abuse of power -if our nation is without values and ethics.

Some people may say everyone has hardships in life. Why should some be given Kidu? To this I say, that life is filled with its share of hardships. Whether we are rich or poor, no one can escape life's challenges. However, there is a great difference between facing life's challenges and completely losing hope. As we journey through life, we overcome hardships in the knowledge that one day we may fulfill our hopes and aspirations. We know these hardships cannot be removed from our lives-so we seek to rise above them. However, for some people, there may come moments when inspite of all their efforts, their problems become insurmountable-when they reach the end of the road and see no options ahead. At such times, if we do not step in to help them find their way forward, they will despair and lose hope. This is something we must never tolerate in Bhutan. As King it is my duty to ensure that our people will always have hope.

Lastly, others may be concerned by the sustainability of such a strong system of Kidu-of providing comprehensive welfare to those who need it - as the population rises. Let me tell you what I said to our people in Chamkhar. I told them that there was nothing we could do about the fact that the fire had destroyed their homes and livelihoods. That we must accept the hardships, emotional turmoil and sadness for months to come. Yet, I pledged that even though our nation may be a small, landlocked country without the great wealth of others, in their moment of

great suffering, the King and government would do everything to find the resources needed to alleviate their pain and restore happiness to their lives.

I have always said that Bhutanese are a unique people. When a neighbour, friend or even stranger is in need we share their suffering and take it as our duty to help them. We must preserve these age-old values and our unity and harmony as a people. Thus, it is the duty of the King and those in positions of responsibility to set the right examples of compassion and care. In other nations, with changing times, these precious qualities and values have been eroded and replaced by a self-centered outlook to life with little concern for those less fortunate. We must not allow this to happen in Bhutan.

In conclusion, I want to remind you, the Members of Parliament, that our People and I have placed our complete faith in you. As King, I have seen that you have served the nation with dedication and commitment from the very first session of Parliament till today. During this session you will be deliberating many important Bills and Acts. In doing so, I must remind you that in focusing on the words and details of the laws and the needs of the present do not be blinded to the future of our country and people - and the long-term objectives and priorities of our nation. Let us all, in doing our duties, keep the interest of our people and our future generations above all else.

IV. EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO HIS MAJESTY THE DRUK GYALPO

The Minister for Works and Human Settlement, on behalf of the Government, Sombeykha Constituency Member, on behalf of the Opposition Party, the Chairperson of the National Council and Member from Bumthang Dzongkhag offered gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. Members said that His Majesty gracing the inaugural ceremony of every session of the Parliament ever since parliamentary democracy was established in the country was reflective of the high regard for the Parliamentary institution and full support towards strengthening the roots of democracy. Other countries of the world have also expressed commendation and appreciation to His Majesty for His full support to the Parliament. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and the People, Members offered profound gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

Members reiterated that the unprecedented development and prosperity, peace and harmony enjoyed by the Bhutanese people were all attributable to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. Recently, during the unfortunate fire disaster at Chamkhar in Bumthang, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo on behalf of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo immediately proceeded to Chamkhar to share the grief of the affected families who lost their homes and entire belongings. His Majesty has been kind and compassionate to his people throughout his life and as

always, granted *semso* and filled the hearts and minds of the affected families with much needed hope and reassurance. Members offered profound gratitude to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo for bringing hope and comfort to the affected business community and for his love and care for the people.

Members said that although the country suffered from numerous disasters, its' extent have been fortunately of a lesser degree. This was due to the continuous prayers and *Kurims* performed by the *Zhung Dratshang* and other religious community. Therefore, Members offered profound gratitude to His Holiness the *Je Khenpo*, the *Zhung Dratshang* and other religious community of the country.

Members offered sincere gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for the words of wisdom and advice to the Members of Parliament from the Golden Throne. Addressing the people during 2008, His Majesty said that he would look after his people as a parent and as a brother and that everything that belonged to him were for his people. True to his words, these have clearly been reflected today in the noble deeds of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. Towards this, Members offered heartfelt gratitude and appreciation. The Opposition Leader expressed gratitude to His Majesty for bearing in mind the *kidu* of the Armed Forces of the country and granting their salary raise. Members expressed every confidence that the

Armed Forces will safeguard the security and sovereignty of the country with utmost dedication than ever before.

The tragic fire disaster in Chamkhar town, Bumthang on 26th October 2010 had completely destroyed homes and belongings of over 79 families. When the affected families were going through immense grief and hopelessness, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and the Prime Minister delivered *semso* and support to the extent possible and undertook numerous restoration works to bring normalcy in the lives of the affected people. For this, Members offered heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Their Majesties the Kings and the Prime Minister. Further, on behalf of the entire people of Bumthang Dzongkhag, Members expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Bumthang Dzongkhag officials, the Armed Forces and all the volunteers for their help and support to the affected families during such hard times.

(10th Day of the 13th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 19th November, 2010)

11:30

V. MOTION

5.1. Motion on the amendment of the Election Act of Bhutan, 2008 (1P6/M1)

The Member from Mongar constituency submitted that in order to strengthen the institution of democracy, it was imperative to

have state funding of political parties. Therefore, to address the issue the motion was moved to amend the provisions pertaining to the funding of political parties and other relevant provisions of the Election Act of Bhutan, 2008. Consequently, it was resolved to amend the Act after 34 out of 36 members supported the motion with the show of hands.

(18th Day of the 10th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 24th November 2010)

10:05

VI. PETITIONS FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

6.1. Drayang and Entertainment centers (1P6/GR1)

The Hon Member from Dogar-Shari constituency on behalf of the people of Paro Dzongkhag submitted that due to the establishment of Drayang and entertainment places in the towns, social problems in the communities were created. It was further submitted that the number of existing Drayang and entertainment places should be reduced, their licenses be reviewed and stringent rules be formulated.

During the deliberation some members were of the view that Drayang and entertainment places provide employment

opportunities to the youth and further helped preserve and promote our culture. However, some submitted that it was a cause of inconvenience and problem for the people living in the urban areas. Some of the views expressed are as follows:

1. Young girls are at risk of being exploited by the owners and customers of the Drayangs and entertainment places as most of the young girls are not permanently employed.
2. Many of the girls working in Drayangs do not have proper accommodation and sometimes five girls share a single room.
3. The practice of girls requesting for money from male customers should be prohibited.
4. Youth below the age of 18 years are employed in Drayangs although there are rules prohibiting it.
5. The establishments of Drayangs should be carefully looked into because it is a source of disturbance to the people living in the area.
6. There is a need to review the levy of 30 percent entertainment tax and its implementation by the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority.

7. While some Members submitted that Drayangas should be closed others said that it was important that the Government formulate stringent rules and policies. It was also submitted that issue of new license should be studied.

As per Section 122/123 of the Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act, 2006, the responsibility of licensing of entertainment places has been given to the concerned authority. It was reported that the permission and license granted to the Drayangas are temporary and rules and regulations in accordance to the Act are still being formulated and needs to be finalized. Since the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs is also involved, it is carrying out studies and will soon submit a report thereof to the Cabinet.

After extensive deliberation, the House recommended the following:

Employment opportunities as guaranteed by the Labour and Human Resources Minister are provided to the employed youth of Drayangas and entertainment places in the event that such places are closed.

As per the devolution of power and responsibility the Local Government be given the authority to issue licenses for Drayangs.

A limit on the number of bar licenses issued should also be set while formulating the rules and regulations.

Drayangs and entertainment places should be established on the outskirts of towns wherever possible. However, if they are located within the town area it is important to make such places sound proof.

Drayangs and entertainment places should be closed at 12 midnight instead of 2 am.

Lastly, the Ministry of Information and Communications should continue to monitor the working of Drayangs and entertainment places in accordance with its responsibilities. However, as reported, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs while conducting a study on it should study if the Ministry of Information and Communications have carried out awareness on Section 122/123 of the Bhutan Information, Communications and Media Act, 2006 and rules regarding Drayangs and entertainment places. The concerned Authority should also carry out its responsibilities and if it hasn't, then the

concerned authorities should be penalized in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

(27th Day of the 10th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 2nd December, 2010)

14:30

VII. THE DRUK GYALPO'S RELIEF FUND (1P6/GR2)

Article 14 Section 12 of the Constitution states that,“ Parliament shall establish a relief fund and the Druk Gyalpo shall have the prerogative to use this fund for urgent and unforeseen humanitarian relief. The Finance Minister in his report submitted seven points on the operations of the Fund as follows:

1. The office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon shall open an account with a bank in the country titled, “The Druk Gyalpo’s Relief Fund.”
2. The Ministry of Finance shall deposit an initial amount of Nu. 20 million into this Fund account.
3. The Fund shall be increased annually by Nu. 20 million until the balance reaches Nu. 100 million
4. Further increase of the account to be maintained in the Fund shall be on approval of the Parliament
5. Any expenditure from the Fund shall be replenished by an equal amount in the following financial year immediately upon the approval of the budget.

6. The Fund shall be used upon the command of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for urgent and unforeseen humanitarian relief.
7. The Fund account shall be maintained and operated by the Office of the Gyalpoi Zimpon.

During the deliberation by the House on the seven points regarding the operation of the Relief Fund, a Member pointed out that His Majesty's Relief Fund should be in consistence with the Constitution and should therefore be titled as Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund. The Opposition Leader expressed his appreciation to the Government for reporting on the operation of the Relief Fund after careful consideration as per the provisions of the Constitution. He also reminded that it would be in the best interest if the establishment of the Relief Fund was approved in the Joint Sitting of the Parliament and not only by the National Assembly. The Members expressed their appreciation and support for the establishment of the Relief Fund.

As per the provisions of the Constitution. They hoped that the Fund would greatly benefit the Bhutanese people in times of emergency and disaster. Further it is hoped that under the grace of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the Fund would help solve the

problems of poverty and achieve Gross National Happiness. The House voted in favour on the establishment of the Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund by show of hands with 100 percent of the members present during the voting.

(2nd Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 7th December, 2010)

VIII. REPORT ON PAY REVISION (1P6/GR3)

The Hon Speaker informed the House that the Hon Prime Minister had promised another revision after one and half years during the pay revision for the civil servants in 2009. Accordingly the Government has been requested to make a report on the same.

Pursuant to the resolution of the 5th Session of the First Parliament, the Finance Minister reported on the pay revision of the civil servants. It was reported that due to the substantial rise in the cost of living in recent years and the hardships faced by the civil servants, the government felt the need to rectify the situation. Following which, the government initiated the review of the pay and allowance immediately upon assuming office with the establishment of the Pay Commission.

The Pay Commission submitted its Report to the Government in August, 2008. The government could not raise the pay as

proposed by the Pay Commission due to the global financial crisis which began at the same time posing great risk to our economy.

If the Government carried out the recommendations of the Pay Commission in full, a wider gap would be felt in the pay amongst the civil servants. Further, if housing, transport and telephone allowances for the higher level was granted it would have more implications on the financial sustainability. Accordingly, the pay was increased by 35 % across-the-board for the civil servants. The Parliament approved the increase and a first time increment of 35 percent was implemented.

Although the Pay Commission recommended an increase in pay for the Prime Minister, Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader and the National Council Chairperson, given the financial situation, it was not implemented and their salary scale remained the same. However, their annual discretionary grant was increased.

Further, the Pay Commission's recommendations for the Constitutional Post Holders/Members, Judiciary, Members of the Parliament, Local Government Functionaries, Elementary Service Personnel and Non-formal Education instructors, performing artistes of Royal Academy of Performing Arts (RAPA) have been implemented in full.

Economy and Gross Domestic Product

It was reported that, Bhutan's economy has grown by 6.7% in 2009 as against 6.2% in 2008-2009 and growth for FY 2010-11 and beyond have been projected to be higher because of the start of several hydro-power projects.

Fiscal Position

The fiscal outcome of the past two financial years have been positive with the fiscal year 2008-09 closing with a surplus equivalent to 1.8% of GDP and FY 2009-10 showing a surplus of 2.5 % of GDP. Although, a deficit of 6.28% of GDP was estimated for the FY 2010-11, the situation is expected to improve with cost effective procurement system and efficient public expenditure management.

Macro-economic factors

It was reported that, the foreign exchange reserve has grown from US \$ 772.8 million in FY 2008-09 to US \$ 827.7 million in FY 2009-10.

Global economic scenario

It was reported that Bhutan has been fortunate that the global economic crisis have had minimal impact on Bhutan although

some European Union countries have been hit. Some of the issues under consideration are as follows:

1. The implementation of tax harmonization and broadening measures
2. Realization of outcomes from the various initiatives in accelerating socio-economic development (especially in tourism)
3. More intense implementation of cost-cutting measures including centralized procurement
4. Intensification of activities associated with the accelerated development of hydropower.
5. Growth of financial services sector

Considering the financial implications, the Government submitted the proposal on the pay increase.

The House approved section 3.1 of the report on the pay revision for the civil servants, which proposed a salary increase of another 20% over the pre-2009 pay in the form of lump sum allowance to curtail financial implications in the future. The House also supported the proposal to increase the pay with effect from 1st January, 2011.

On Section 3.2 regarding Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries to the Government the House resolved that it should be in accordance with the Civil Service Act.

The House also approved the proposal on Section 3.3, 3.4, 3.5,3.6, 3.7 3.8 including proposals on Thrompons as per the report.

Although it was proposed that the Cabinet should fix the Daily Allowance and Travel Allowance, Overtime Payment. Sitting fees and other allowances from time to time as the civil servants did not receive such benefits regularly; the House resolved that it should be carried out as per Article 30, Section 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The House also supported section 4.5.6.

Some of the issues raised during the deliberation on the pay revision by the Members are as follows:

The report clearly mentioned the entitlements of Secretaries to the Government and Cabinet Secretary but did not reflect the entitlements of the Secretaries General of the two Houses.

Some Members reiterated that during the deliberation of Civil Service Bill it was raised that that the Secretary Generals of the two Houses were to be treated at par with the Cabinet Secretary and the Secretaries to the Government.

The Minister for Economic Affairs submitted that the difference between Secretaries to the Government and the Secretaries General of the two Houses was that their office term was not fixed. However, it would be imperative to fix their term if they are to be regarded at par with the Secretaries to the Government.

The Members also submitted that, the sitting fee for the members was not accepted while the House was in Session to set an example for other Government Departments, Commissions and Agencies. However, it has been noticed that the others have not followed suit. Similarly, the pay for the Chief Executive Officer and the employees of the Druk Holding and Investments should also be proposed by the Pay Commission to the Government for approval.

Some of the Members insisted the Prime Minister, Speaker, Chief Justice, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader, National Council Chairperson should accept the pay revision and if they decided not to benefit from the hike the members too would not accept the pay increase.

In response, the Hon Prime Minister said that the civil servants pay increase was granted in recognition of their hard work and the Prime Minister, Speaker, Chief Justice, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader, National Council Chairperson had decided not to benefit from the hike considering the financial

implications. Further, he expressed his regret for not having had the time to consult the Speaker and Ministers other than the Cabinet Ministers but hoped that they would also agree with their decision.

It was also reported that the sitting fee was not proposed as the Hon Members had earlier foregone it. However, it is imperative that the Members accept the pay increase proposed in order to attract capable members from the constituencies and leaders in the future.

The Minister for Works and Human Settlement and Economic Affairs submitted that although civil servants deserved more only 20 % could be offered given the financial constraints. The Hon Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers choose not to benefit from the pay increase because there is not enough revenue generation. However, they reiterated that the Hon Members should accept the pay increase now so as to attract capable Members in the future. It was proposed that it was imperative that the new salary structure for the Prime Minister, Speaker, Chief Justice, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader, National Council Chairperson of the future elected Government be proposed in 2013 as per the recommendation of the Pay Commission.

Hon Prime Minister said that the pay for the civil servants was increased in recognition of their hard work and concerns of His

Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, who felt that their pay was very low. He added the Government had never considered such salary hikes in the past as they had done this time although civil servants deserved more. It is hoped that the pay increase will encourage the civil servants and the people working for the Local Government to continue to serve the government with renewed dedication to the *Tsa-Wa-Sum* and also hope that capable candidates will be attracted to the Parliament.

The House expressed their deep appreciation to the Prime Minister, Speaker, Chief Justice, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader, National Council Chairperson for having declined the pay increase. They also expressed their hopes that with the current pay revision the civil servants and the people working for the Local Government will carry out their responsibilities with renewed interest and dedication. Further, the House recommended that the pay for the future elected Prime Minister, Speaker, Cabinet Ministers, Opposition Leader, National Council Chairperson and the Chief Justice of Bhutan be fixed as follows :

1. Prime Minister	180,000-3600-198,000
2. Cabinet Ministers	130,000-2600-143,000
3. Speaker, Chairperson and Opposition Leader	130,000-2600-143,000
4. Chief Justice of Bhutan	130,000-2600-143,000

The details of the pay revision as proposed in the Pay Revision Report are shown in the table below:

3.1 Civil Service

Position Level	Pay scale pre 2009	PC's Recmndtn.		Revised pay scale (effective January 2009)	20% on pre 2009 pay as lumpsum allowance		Total Pay 2010 (35%+20%)	%of PC's recommendation implemented
		Nu	% increase		Nu	Cumulative increase		
EX/E S-1	33,970	60,030	77%	45,860	6,794	55%	52,654	88%
EX/E S-2	28,500	46,175	62	38,475	5,700	55	44,175	96%
EX/E S-3	24,090	38,480	60%	32,520	4,818	55%	37,338	97%
P-1	18,970	29,600	56%	25,610	3,794	55%	29,404	99%
p-2	16,755	25,740	54%	22,620	3,351	55%	25,971	101%
p-3	14,690	22,380	52%	19,830	2,938	55%	22,768	102%
P-4	13,080	19,460	49%	17,660	2,616	55%	20,276	104%
P-5	10,710	16,924	58%	14,460	2,142	55%	16,602	98%
S-1	9,855	14,715	49%	13,305	1,971	55%	15,276	104%
S-2	8,930	13,380	50%	12,055	1,786	55%	13,841	103%
S-3	8,160	12,160	49%	11,015	1,632	55%	12,647	104
S-4	7,240	11,055	52%	9,775	1,448	55%	11,223	102%
S-5	6,700	10,050	40%	9,045	1,340	55%	10,385	103%

0-1	6,355	9,140	44%	8,580	1,271	55%	9,851	108%
O-2	5,970	8,385	40%	8,060	1,194	55%	9,254	110%
0-3	5,425	7,690	42%	7,325	1,085	55%	8,410	109%
O-4	5,040	7,055	40%	6,805	1,008	55%	7,813	111%
GSC I	4,790	6,705	40%	6,465	948	55%	7,423	111%
GSC II	4,560	6,385	40%	6,155	912	55%	7,067	111%

3.2 Secretaries to the Government

Position Level	Pay Scale (prior to 2009 revision)	PC Recomm	Present Pay	Proposed			% of PC re-comm. implmnt d
				Pay	Allo-wance	Total Pay	
Cabinet Secretary	-	-	45,860	63,000	-	63,000	
Secretaries to Govt.	33,970	60,030	45,860	50,445	5,045	55,490	92%

3.3 Constitutional Offices (other than Judiciary)

Position Level	Pay Scale (prior to 2009 revision)	PC Recomm	Present Pay	Proposed			
				Pay	Allowance	Total Pay	% of PC recomm. implmtd
Chiefs of Constitutional Offices		70,000	63,000	63,000	-	63,000	92%
Commissioners of EC, RCSC, ACC	28,500	55,000	50,445	50,445	-	50,445	92%

3.4 Members of Parliament (MP)

Position Level	Pay Scale (prior to 2009 revision)	PC Recomm	Present Pay	Pay	Proposed		
					Allowance	Total Pay	% of PC recomm. implmtd
Dy. Speaker/ Dy. Chairperson	33,000	65,000	42,900	63,000	-	61,039	97%
Member of Parliament	30,000	60,000	36,000	50,445	5,045	55,490	92%
<i>Note:</i> Parliamentary Committee Chairpersons	An honorarium of Nu. 5,000 per month.						

3.5 Judiciary

Position Level	Pay Scale (prior to 2009 revision)	PC's Recomm	Present Pay	Pay	Proposed		% of PC recomm. implmtd
					Allo-wance	Total Pay	
SC Drangpon/ Chief Justice, HC		70,000	63,000	63,000	-	63,000	90%
HC Drangpon		65,000	50,445	50,445	5,045	55,490	85%

3.6 Local Governments:

Position	Pay (pre-2009)	PC's Recmndtn	Present Pay	Proposed	
				Pay	% of PC recomm. Implmtd
Gup	8,700	13,050	12,615	14,355	110%
Mangmi	6,525	9,800	9,460	10,765	110%
Gedrung	5,800	8,700	8,410	9,570	110%
Tshogpa	1,000	1,500	1,450	2,000	133%

3.7 Prime Minister/Cabinet Ministers and other similar positions

Position Level	Pay Scale (Pre-2009)	PC's Recmndtn	Present Pay	Proposed			% of PC <i>recomm. Implmnt d</i>
				Pay	Allo- wance	Total Pay	
Prime Minister	-	180,000	78,000	No increase proposed			0%
Cabinet Ministers & other positions	78,000	130,000	78,000				0%

Financial Implication:

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
<i>Finalcial Implications</i>	307.53	627.36	639.91	652.71
Total Exp. On P & A	6,322.23	6,743.14	6,875.36	7,007.58
Total Current Exp.	15,557.56	17,726.28	19,889.72	21,396.77
Domestic Revenue	16,715.67	18,315.46	19,969.11	21,756.77
Current Exp./Rev.	93.07%	96.78%	99.60%	98.35%
P & A/Current Exp.	40.64%	38.04%	34.57%	32.75%

IX. CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT GRANT (1P6/GR4)

The Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs under the direction of the National Assembly collected feedbacks/comments on the impact of Constituency Development Grant (CDG) from all the Dzongkhag Tshogdu and Gewog Tshogde. He reported that the CDG has greatly benefitted the community especially in procurement of agricultural machineries, renovation of Lhakhangs, restoration of infrastructure damaged by natural disasters, procurement of pure live stock breeds for cross breeding purposes etc. It was reported that due to its benefits CDG should be continued in the future as well. While majority of the Dzongkhags and Gewogs supported the continuation of the CDG a few however raised their reservation with the procedure involved in the implementation of CDG.

While deliberating the issue, Hon the Prime Minister said that although doubts have been raised on the CDG claiming that it was unconstitutional, it has been unanimously approved in the Joint Sitting of the Parliament. However, it was felt that the public should be consulted on the impact of the CDG before the Government passed a decision to either continue or discontinue the practice. Therefore, the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs carried out a study and collected comments and feed backs. The results show that the CDG has greatly benefitted the

people. Accordingly, the Cabinet has decided to continue providing CDG.

The Opposition Leader also supported the report submitted by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs on the feedback received from the Local Government Leaders.

Some members supported the current practice of implementation of the CDG which has benefitted the people. Since the CDG has been approved in the Joint Sitting of the Parliament based on the recently received feedback from the people in the 20 Dzongkhags and 205 Gewogs, the Cabinet decided to continue the grant of CDG for the benefit of the people. The House resolved to continue the grant of CDG.

X. REPORT ON CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (1P6/GR5)

The Hon Member from Menjay-Gangzur constituency submitted the report on the Consultative meeting held between the National Assembly Members and the Local Governments. He reported that this was carried out in accordance with Article 10 (2) of the Constitution and Chapter 7, Section 46 and Section 47 of the National Assembly Act to review the implementation and achievements of the 10th Five Year Development Plans. The main objective of the meeting was to understand the problems

faced by the Dzongkhag administration and Local Governments in the implementation of the planned activities. Further, it is imperative that not less than 50 % of the 10th Five Year Plan development activities be completed at this stage to ensure a 100 % result. The meeting was also held to further Good Governance by enhancing the interactions and relations between the Members of the Parliament, Local Government and the Dzongkhag administration.

Some of the recommendations submitted during the consultative meeting held between the National Assembly Members and the Local Governments are as follows:

1. As the Local Government Act has already been passed, it is recommended that the Local Governments election be held as soon as possible for the benefit of the people.
2. Problems are faced due to lack of experienced and qualified engineers. Although the Government cannot provide such engineers, it would be appreciated if it could permit the employment of foreign or private engineers on contract.
3. It is imperative that the time taken to tender activities be reduced and plans be formulated to ensure that planned activities are carried out on schedule.

4. Time taken for approval of traditional architectural design for the renovation of Lhakhangs and Goendays from the Ministries is reduced.
5. Some of the problems faced in the Eastern region in huge construction are the lack of explosives. Therefore, possibilities of establishing an explosive center in the east should be considered if there are no security issues.
6. The Government should look into immediately transferring substitute for the Dzongkhag civil servants who are transferred, on long term leave and on long term studies. Further, the Government should also carefully consider transferring employees who have gained experience on transfer and transferring employees immediately after they come back from their studies because this is a cause of great inconvenience for the Dzongkhag administration.

He expressed his hopes that the six point recommendations submitted to the Government through the Hon'ble Speaker would receive full support. Further, he expressed his appreciation and commended the heads and employees of the Royal Audit Authority and the Anti-Corruption Commission for their hard work.

The House resolved that it was imperative for the Cabinet to especially direct the Royal Civil Service Commission to solve

the human resource problems faced by the Dzongkhag administrations.

(2nd Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 7th December, 2010)

14:30

XI. COMMEMORATION OF THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (SAARC)

In the opening address of the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Hon Speaker, said that SAARC was established on December 8, 1985 with the objective of strengthening regional cooperation within their respective political and economic system and cultural traditions among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He said that the hosting of the Sixteenth SAARC Summit and the celebration of the Silver Jubilee year of SAARC in the same Grand Assembly Hall was a special honour for Bhutan. He extended his warm welcome to the SAARC Secretary General Dr. Sheel Kant Sharma who was present for the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee on the SAARC Charter Day.

The Chairperson for the Foreign Relations Committee presented the draft resolution to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the SAARC. He said that His Majesty the Fourth King was also present during the formal adoption and signing of the SAARC Charter on December 8, 1985 in Dhaka by the leaders of the eight countries, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The Silver Jubilee is celebrated on the SAARC Charter Day to commemorate and promote the understanding on some of the important commitments and priorities made by the Government of SAARC countries. A six point draft resolution was presented to the National Assembly for consideration and adoption.

The National Assembly endorsed the six point resolution in commemoration of the silver jubilee of the SAARC Charter Day.

XII. REPORT BY THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE (1P6/GR7)

The Hon Member of the Women and Children Committee presented a report on the Maternity leave and Breast Feeding Policy in Bhutan. She reported that, malnutrition among under-five children is a major health problem and 150 million children are underweight and 182 million are stunted, of which 70% are in Asia. Stunting continues to be a major public health problem

in Bhutan. The member expressed her hope that the House would support the following ten recommendations:

Recommendation

1. Enhance the maternity leave to 4 months in both Government and private sectors
2. Enhance feeding time/break for working nursing mothers to two hours
3. Ensure proper implementation of Labour and Employment Act 2007 and its rules and regulations pertaining to maternity and leave and service conditions of working nursing mothers.
4. Review Labour and Employment Act 2007
5. Creation of crèches/ feeding room at work place
6. Enhance Paternity Leave to 10 days from 5 days
7. Create Maternity Welfare Fund to fund the Maternity Leave and other benefits for the working nursing mothers in informal sectors.
8. Provision of other forms of leave like Child Care Leave with or without pay other than existing forms of leave.
9. Review the Breast Feeding Policy, 2003
10. Harmonize the present domestic breastfeeding policy with the International Conventions.

During the deliberation on the report, some of the members said that the maternity leave should be increased to either six or four months if the child needs to be exclusively breastfed. It is also important to carefully study the recommendations before implementation. Further, implications on employment of women should be studied if the maternity leave is increased from three to four months. Therefore, concerned agencies and women should be consulted before a decision is passed. Moreover, many women live in the rural areas and work in the agricultural sector and such circumstances should also be considered.

The House resolved that the maternity leave for women civil servants should be implemented in accordance with the Civil Service Act while the leave for women working in the private sector should be as per the Labour Act. As recommended the report should be consulted with the concerned agencies and women.

XIII. REPORT ON ZHAPTO LEMI (1P6/GR8)

The Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs submitted that the 2nd Session of the First Parliament resolved to repeal the Zhapto Lemi Act, 1996. However, when the resolution was forwarded to the National Council, they maintained that the Act cannot be repealed if the three principles of the Act are retained. Following which the National Assembly intimated to the

National Council that the three principles are also repealed. The National Assembly further re-deliberated on the Zhapto Lemi Repeal Bill on the basis of the concerns raised by some Dzongkhags and directed the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs to consult the Local Governments on the issue.

The Minister of Home and Cultural Affairs in his report tabled in the current session submitted some of the advantages and disadvantages of the present system of Zhapto Lemi voiced by the people as follows:

Advantages

1. Helps in up-keeping of community infrastructure and other rural amenities that directly benefit rural communities within Gewog.
2. Useful for maintenance of development projects in rural communities.
3. It helps in saving huge budget for the Government which otherwise have to pay as wage or for the contract in maintenance of rural infrastructure.
4. It provides sense of responsibility and ownership to the users.
5. It promotes people's participation and partnership in developmental activities.

6. It promotes community self reliance and strengthen decentralized management.

Disadvantages:

1. It causes inconveniences to the people, especially during the agriculture seasons, and hampers their other daily works.
2. Since there is no fixed duration of days for contribution of labour, it becomes a burden for the people and consumes most of their time which they could have used for some other economic purposes.
3. There is no concession or payment system for time-consuming works.
4. There is no uniformity in implementation procedures or rules.
5. There is no prescribed rule to address non-participation by people in the Zhabto Lemi. In other words, there is no proper rule or system for rewards and punishment for participation and non-participation.
6. There is no rule to mobilise manpower from “Gungtongs/Khangtongs”.

Accordingly from the feed back received from 19 Dzongkhags comprising of 163 Gewogs, 146 Gewogs (**89%**) have expressed the need to continue with system of Zhabto Lemi (however, on

wage-based system) since it upholds the principles of people's participation and promote a sense of responsibility and ownership of community development and management, fostering local self reliance and decentralized decision-making. Moreover, it helps the Government to implement petty community activities of direct benefits to the communities without Government having to spend extra budget.

The Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs recommended that since the analysis of feedbacks indicates that while the people's participation with some essence of Zhabto Lemi system is essential and is still required to be continued, it has to be in a modified form with different nomenclature and with clear identification of areas of participation. The system should take care of the principles of people's participation, local self-reliance and decentralized decision-making. Therefore, it was proposed that:

- a) The nomenclature of the system should be either called "Midhey Zhabto" which can be termed as "Community Contribution" or "Midhey Lemi" which can be termed as "Community Labour". "Midhey Zhabto" is namely carried out with free labour contribution and "Midhey Lemi" with payment at national wage rate.
- b) The Department of Local Governance, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs is in the process of drafting

Dzongkhag Tshogdu and Gewog Tshogde Rules and Regulations in line with section 207 under chapter 14 of the Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009. Provisions of the essence of Zhabto Lemi system could be included in the rules and regulations.

- c) The Gross National Happiness Commission and the Department of Local Governance are in the process of introducing a system of “Community Contract Protocol” under which a group of local residents from that community is identified and supported by the members of the community to be the contractor for the execution of developmental activities such as construction or maintenance of the local infrastructure that provide direct benefits to the community.

During the deliberation on the issue some of the concerns raised by the Members were as follows:

1. The system of Zhapto Lemi was one of the reasons for the increase in rural-urban migration.
2. Involvements of people in Zhabto Lemi activities, especially those that require longer days, interfered with their daily works. Lack of clear-cut rules on number of days for contribution, lack of uniformity of procedures and rules for non-participation hamper implementation of Zhabto Lemi contribution effectively.

3. A ceiling for labour contribution on the number of days of Zhapto Lemi needs to be prescribed and activities that should be executed departmentally should be clearly mentioned.
4. The Members further said that, the people should provide labour without any remuneration with the provision of necessary materials by the Government in community services in the construction of community school, farm road and drinking water supply. It was suggested that a report on rules of procedure framed by a committee composed of members from the Parliament and the Local Government be submitted in the next session.
5. Members also opined that the retention of the system of Zhapto Lemi system would not only contribute to realize the policy of self sufficiency but would also benefit in preserving our culture and tradition conforming to one of the pillars of Gross National Happiness. Considering the importance of Zhato Lemi system, most of the members seconded the proposal to retain it by formulating a comprehensive rules of procedure.

The system of Zhapto Lemi was established following His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo's address to the Nation on 2nd June, 1974 wherein He said, "A small contribution made by

every citizen has more impact than an enormous task undertaken by the Government alone.”

The House resolved to uphold the decision passed in the past session to repeal the Zhatpo Lemi Act, 1996 along with its principles. The concerned Ministry should consider and work on changing the nomenclature of Zhatpo Lemi and a Committee led by the Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs comprising members from the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Gross National Happiness Commission and Members of Parliament should conduct a detailed study and formulate comprehensive rules of procedure in line with the Local Government Act to be implemented by 1st July 2011.

XIV. REPORT ON NATIONAL WORK FORCE WAGE AND NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE RATE (1P6/GR9)

The Minister for Labour and Human Resources presented a report on the National Minimum Wage rate in accordance with resolution 4 of the Budget Report in the 5th Session of the First Parliament. It was reported that a revision of the National Work Force wage rate was due as it was last revised in 2002. Moreover, a national minimum wage rate is also required to be fixed as per the Labour Act 2007. Therefore, a tripartite committee consisting of representatives from the Government, employers and employees with two Secretaries and two Directors was formed to work on the national minimum wage

rate. While working on the formulation of the national minimum wage framework, it was observed that there were 15 demerits as against 3 merits. Further, the fixation of a minimum wage rate tends to aggravate the problem of youth unemployment besides being more advantageous to expatriate workers and demand for import of expatriate workers in the hydro projects will increase. Therefore, the fixation of national minimum wage rate would apply across the board and would mainly accrue benefit to the expatriate workers. Therefore, it is imperative that such circumstances be carefully studied.

It is also to be noted that, the total National Work Force is about 1272 out of which 1,182 work in Public Works Division while others are employed in the National Housing Development Corporation and Department of National Properties. Only 34 expatriate labourers are employed in the National Work Force. Therefore, considering the circumstances it is imperative that the National Work Force wage be increased.

In this regard, it was reported that the National Work Force wage fixed by the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement would be jointly reviewed by the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources.

During the deliberation on the issue some of the Members led by the Minister for Works and Human Settlement and the Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs submitted that:

1. Although the people working for the national work force are volunteers who are free to leave the job for their wellbeing, the Government provides them with facilities such as housing, schooling and health and transportation services.
2. There are problems in recruiting workers for the restoration and renovations of Dzongs with the existing minimum wage offered and if such works are contracted out the resulting works are not up to standard. Therefore, some measures should be considered to address the situation.
3. There is severe scarcity in finding the labourers with traditional skills. In this context, the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources should consider incorporating training courses for traditional skills in the syllabus of the vocational training institutes.
4. It was suggested that the nomenclature Zhaptog Lemi should be changed in order to increase the wage rate and clearly categorize the different kinds of works involved. Similarly, the Government should consider the fixation

of the wage rate weigh the adverse effect that it would have on the private sector.

5. It may also be imperative for the concerned ministries to fix the National Minimum Wage rate taking into consideration the local circumstances.
6. His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo established the National Work Force with the noble vision of making the people self sufficient and self reliant. It was proposed that an allowance be granted temporarily if a pay increase could not be immediately granted.

The House resolved that a thorough study should be carried out on the impacts of fixation of minimum wage rate before a decision is passed. The concerned Ministries should increase the National Wage rate considering the local circumstances.

XV. MOTION TO CHANGE THE MEMBER OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (1P6/M2)

The Deputy Chairperson of the Private Sector Development Committee moved the motion to elect a new member to the Committee. The Hon Member from Bardo-Trong constituency had submitted his resignation citing old age as the reason for his resignation despite his wishes to continue serving the committee. The Committee recommended the Hon Member

from Kengkhar-Weringla to be elected as the new committee member. As recommended, the House endorsed the proposal.

Similarly, the Hon member from Kabji-Talo, who is a member on four committees, submitted his resignation from two committees citing time constraint. The House accepted his resignation from the Education Development Committee and Ethics and Credentials Committee.

The House also acknowledged the resignation of Hon Member from Goen-Khatoe-Laya constituency as the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee and elected the Hon Member from Lhamoizingkha constituency as the new chairperson.

XVI. MOTION ON BHUTAN-CHINA BORDER TALK (1P6/M3)

The Member from Athang-Thedtsho constituency moved the motion to present the report on 19th Bhutan -China Border talks to the House. The motion was supported by the Member from Bji-Katsho-Uesu constituency. They submitted that the unresolved boundary issue has always been a cause of concern and worry not only for those people living along the northern borders but also for all the Bhutanese people. They further informed that though there was no major problem between the two countries, there were always some skirmishes at the people's level on either side of the border due to issues

pertaining to grazing lands and harvesting of herbal medicinal plants. Therefore, they submitted that the expedient finalization of border between Bhutan and China is of paramount importance for the security and tranquility of the country

Accordingly, the Secretary of the International Boundaries presented a report on the 19th Round of Bhutan- China Border Talks held in Thimphu from 11-14 January, 2010 and the 3rd Expert Group Meeting held from 16-18 July, 2010 in Beijing. He reported that border between Bhutan and China could not be finalized due to existence of differences of views and positions on our border areas such as Doklam, Charithang, Sinchulumpa and Dramana. Verification and discussion to reach a mutually acceptable common claim line and harmonization of names and exact locations of the disputed areas were proposed from our side and the Chinese side agreed to examine the proposal for carrying out Joint Technical Field Survey. He also reported that the 3rd Expert Group Meeting observed that in order to understand the ground realities, narrow down differences and to get a clear picture of the geographical features of the areas under discussion, it was necessary to exchange maps in the scale of 1:100,000 instead of 1:500,000.

The proposal pertaining to composition of Joint Technical Field Survey Teams, function, scope and mandate of the teams, areas for Joint Field visit and timing of the visit were exchanged and

the Chinese side said that they would have to consult with their relevant organization in the Government and seek instructions before taking a decision.

He reported that upon finalization of the Terms of Reference of the Joint Technical Field Survey Team, the Expert Group Meeting will be held to exchange the larger scale map showing the adjustment line and the negotiations will be held to reach a mutually acceptable common line and report their respective leaders prior to the 20th round of border talks which will be held in Hong Kong as suggested by the Chinese side.

While deliberating the report on the 19th Round of Bhutan-China Border, the Members submitted that it is crucial to resolve the border issues for the security and peace of the country and as the border issue is an important matter, it would be of great benefit in enhancing the understanding of the subject, if the Members of the Foreign Relations Committee could also participate in the meetings related to the border. They also opined that it is imperative to educate our people on the border security and management to promote peace and security between the people of two countries living along the borders. Further, Members submitted that, it is essential to resolve the border issues during the term of the current Government based on the map signed by the Speaker and

Deputy Speaker during the 68th Session of the National Assembly in 1989.

The House reiterated the importance of abiding the principles of two earlier agreements namely, the Guiding Principles agreed upon in 1988 and the Agreement on The Maintenance of Peace and Tranquility in the Bhutan-China Border areas signed in 1998. The deliberation on Bhutan-China border concluded with the house urging the Government to expedite the finalization of the border with China for the security, sovereignty and current and future stability of the country.

(10th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to the 9th December, 2010).

XVII. CONCLUDING CEREMONY OF THE 6TH SESSION

1. Concluding Speech by the Hon Speaker

The Hon Speaker in his concluding address expressed his profound gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Members of the Royal Family and other guests for their gracious presence for the concluding ceremony of the 6th Session of the First Parliament. He said that out of the numerous Bills discussed in the 6th Session, only Income Tax (Amendment) Bill has been duly endorsed in both the Houses.

He said that the establishment of Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan would immensely benefit the people during urgent and unforeseen humanitarian disasters and help alleviate poverty.

However, 23 % of our Bhutanese population still lives under the poverty line. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government assign top priority to alleviate poverty in the country and fully eradicate poverty within 4 to 5 years from now.

He expressed his hopes that the two salary revision exercise carried out within a span 2 ½ years will help solve the problems. Further, He said that with the pay revision granted to the Members of the Parliament, Secretaries to the Government and Constitutional Post Holders, it is important that they carry out their responsibilities and serve the Tsa-wa-Sum with dedication and not only exert one's authority.

Taking into consideration the financial constraints and poverty in the country, the Cabinet Ministers led by the Hon Prime Minister choose to decline their pay revision. Similarly, it is important that the heads of Government Corporations and Agencies embrace such views.

The successful conclusion of the 6th 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.

(A copy of the concluding speech is annexed in Annexure II)

(5th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to 10th December, 2010)



10th December, 2010

(Jigme Tshultim)

SPEAKER

XVIII. DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED

1. Child Care and Protection Bill of Bhutan, 2010
2. Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2010
3. Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2010
4. Civil and Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2010
5. Sales Tax, Customs and Excise (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2010
6. Public Finance (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2010
7. SAARC Agreement of Trade in Services (SATIS)
8. Report on the 19th Round of Bhutan-China Border Talk

List of the Hon Members of the National Assembly who participated in the 6th Session of the First Parliament

1. Speaker, Jigme Tshultim, Radhi-Sakteng constituency, Trashigang Dzongkhag
2. Prime Minister, Jigme Yoezer Thinley, Nanong-Shumar constituency, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag
3. Lyonpo Yeshe Zimba, South Thimthrom constituency, Thimphu Dzongkhag
4. Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Lamgong-Wangchang constituency, Paro Dzongkhag
5. Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Bartsham-Shongphu constituency, Trashigang Dzongkhag
6. Lyonpo Zanglay Durkpa, Khar-Yurung constituency, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag
7. Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, Kanglung-Uzorong constituency, Trashigang Dzongkhag

8. Lyonpo Thakhur Singh Powdyel, Dorokha-Tading constituency, Samtse Dzongkhag
9. Lyonpo Dr.Pema Gyamtsho, Choekhor-Tang constituency, Bumthang Dzongkhag
10. Lyonpo Nandalal Rai, Shompangkha constituency, Sarpang Dzongkhag
11. Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi, Panbang constituency, Zhemgang Dzongkhag
12. Leader of Opposition, Tshering Tobgay, Sombeykha Constituency, Haa Dzongkhag
13. Deputy Speaker, Yangku Tshering Sherpa, Kilkhorthang-Mendrelgang constituency, Tsirang Dzongkhag
14. Karma Wangchuk, Chumey-Ura constituency, Bumthang Dzongkhag
15. Ugay Tshering, Bongo-Chapcha constituency, Chukha Dzongkhag
16. Chencho Dorji, Phuentsholing constituency, Chukha Dzongkhag
17. Sonam Jamtsho, Drujeygang-Tseza constituency, Dagana Dzongkhag
18. Hemant Gurung, Lhamoizingkha-Tashiding constituency, Dagana Dzongkhag
19. Kinley Dorji, Goenkhomey-Lunana constituency, Gasa Dzongkhag
20. Damchoe Dorji, Goenkhatoe-Laya constituency, Gasa Dzongkhag
21. Ugen Tenzin, Bji-Katsho-Uesu constituency, Haa Dzongkhag
22. Karma Rangdol, Minjay-Gangzur constituency, Lhuentse Dzongkhag

23. Tshering Tenzin, Menbi-Tsengkhar constituency, Lhuentse Dzongkhag
24. Ugyen Wangdi, Dremitse-Ngatshang constituency, Mongar Dzongkhag
25. Sonam Penjor, Kengkhar-Weringla constituency, Mongar Dzongkhag
26. Karma Lhamo, Mongar constituency, Mongar Dzongkhag
27. Chencho Dorji, Dogar-Shaba constituency, Paro Dzongkhag
28. Choida Jamtsho, Nganglam constituency, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag
29. Tshering Penjor, Kabji-Talo constituency, Punakha Dzongkhag
30. Namgay Wangchuk, Lingmu-Toewang constituency, Punakha Dzongkhag
31. Ugyen Dorji, Dewathang-Gomdar constituency, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag
32. Norbu Wangzom, Jomotshangkha-Martsala constituency, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag
33. Prahlad Gurung, Pugli-Samtse constituency, Samtse Dzongkhag.
34. Durga Prasad Chhetri, Sipsu constituency, Samtse Dzongkhag
35. Lila Pradhan, Ugyentse-Yoeseltse constituency, Samtse Dzongkhag
36. Prem Kumar Gurung, Gelephu constituency, Sarpang Dzongkhag
37. Lhatu, Wamrong constituency, Trashigang Dzongkhag

38. Dupthob, Bumdeling-Jamkhar constituency, Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag
39. Kesang Wangdi, Khamdang-Ramjar constituency, Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag
40. Rinchen Dorji, Drakteng-Langthel constituency, Trongsa Dzongkhag
41. Nidup Zangpo, Nubi-Tangsibji constituency, Trongsa Dzongkhag
42. Nar Bahadur Gurung, Patalay-Tsirangtoe constituency, Tsirang Dzongkhag
43. Pasang Thrinlee, Athang-Theedtsho constituency, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag
44. Gyem Dorji, Nyisho-Sephu constituency, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag
45. Tshering Dorji, Bardo-Trong constituency, Zhemgang Dzongkhag

List of Members absent during the 6th Session of the First Parliament

1. Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, Kawang, Lingshi, Soe-Naro Constituency, Thimphu Dzongkhag (Medical Leave)
2. Choeki Wangmo, Thrimshing constituency, Trashigang Dzongkhag (Maternity Leave)

Annexure 1

Speech delivered by Hon Speaker of the Parliament during the opening ceremony of the 6th Session of the First Parliament

1. The 6th Session of the First Parliament commences on this auspicious 13th Day of the 10th Month of the Iron Male Tiger Year corresponding to the 19th November 2010.
2. On behalf of the Members of the Parliament and on my own behalf, I have the privilege and honour to extend our heartiest welcome to His Majesty Druk Gyalpo, the embodiment of our collective merit for gracing this opening ceremony.
3. We would also like to welcome Members of the Royal Family, Government Officials, International Dignitaries, media and all the general public who are witnessing the session through television and radio.
4. Some of the petitions pertaining to developmental activities submitted by the local governments have been forwarded to relevant ministries.

Therefore, it is imperative for the ministries to recognize their problems and provide timely support as in the past.

5. The legislature is the apex institution where necessary policies and legislations for the benefit and interest of the people are promulgated.

Therefore, various Bill submitted by the *Lhengye Zhungtshog* to the Parliament will be prioritized, deliberated and passed as Acts. In addition, it is important that the past Acts be amended as per the needs of the changing time and provisions of the Constitution for the present and future benefits of our people.

6. The Child Care and Protection Bill which was deliberated in the National Council in its 5th Session will also be tabled in this session.
7. The Child Adoption was forwarded to the National Council during the 5th Session.
8. The Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences Bill, and Consumer Protection Bill submitted by the government have been forwarded to the National Council.
9. The Water Bill, The Financial Services Bill and Income Tax Act (Amendment) Bill which were tabled in both houses during the 5th session will be re-deliberated and hopefully passed during the 6th Session.

10. Similarly, the National Council as per the amendment procedure, proposed the Penal Code of Bhutan, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, Anti Corruption (Amendment) Bill, Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan, 2001 (Amendment) Bill.
11. The current session will also deliberate on the Public Finance Act (Amendment) Bill, Sales Tax, Excise Act (Amendment) Bill, Land Act (Amendment) Bill and Election (Amendment) Bill.
12. SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) will also be ratified in this session.
13. In addition, this session will also deliberate on the pay revision of the civil servants, Zhabtog-Lemi and Constituency Development Grant.
14. The Consultative meeting between the Members of the National Assembly and the Local Governments in all Dzongkhags were held to foster better understanding and co-operation in a democratic set up of governance. It was for the first time that such a consultative meeting took place. It was primarily aimed to ensure implementation and completion of 10th Five Year Plan programs.

It is evident from the reports submitted by the Members that the local governments have made significant progress in the last two years of the Plan. However, the Local Governments also raised some challenges in implementing the plan activities. The current session will also discuss these challenges to explore possibilities of addressing them.

15. After the conclusion of 5th Session, I led parliamentary delegation to attend the 3rd World Speakers' Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. During the conference, I met with the Speakers of other countries which provided platform to know at personal level and share the parliamentary experiences.

16. On 26th October, Chamkhar town was struck by a devastating fire disaster resulting into loss of life and properties. On the very day of the disaster, His Majesty Fourth King proceeded to Bumthang to meet the victims of the disaster and gave *semso* and consoled the affected people. Therefore, the Parliament would like to express our gratitude to Fourth Druk Gyalpo for his gracious gesture of his love and care for the people.

His Majesty the King was deeply saddened by the news of the disaster that happened while he was away in New

Delhi. Bearing the grief and sorrow of his people, His Majesty, immediately after arriving from New Delhi visited the site and personally supervised the restoration works to bring comfort and solace in the lives of the affected families. The Parliament would like to express our profound gratitude to His Majesty and government for always providing timely support to the people during the times of such disasters.

17. With the blessings of the Triple Gem, collective merit of the people, dynamic leadership and guidance of His Majesty coupled with strong co-operation and support of the Prime Minister and Member of the Parliament, it is hoped that the 6th session would be concluded very successfully.
18. Lastly, I on behalf of the Parliament thank His Majesty for his gracious presence and all those gathered here for being with us in the opening ceremony of the 6th session of the Parliament.

Kadinche!

Annexure II

Speech delivered by the Hon Speaker during the Closing Ceremony of 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 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.

Kadinche!