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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



Date: 05.07.2022

[Translated Text]

PRESS RELEASE

RE: Seventh Session of the Third Parliament

The Seventh Session of the Third Parliament was held from 2nd June to 5th July, 2022. During the month-long session, several Bills including two international instruments were deliberated. One Motion was moved and 65 Oral Questions and 4 Written Questions were raised during the Question hours.

The Parliament adopted the following Bills and international instrument, and will be submitted for Royal Assent:

1. Tourism Levy Bill of Bhutan 2022;
2. Biodiversity Bill of Bhutan 2022;
3. Fiscal Incentives (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022;
4. Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022;
5. Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021;
6. Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021; and
7. Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

The following Bills have been granted Royal Assent and are forwarded for implementation:

1. Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2022-2023; and
2. Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2021-2022.

The House also adopted and will transmit the following Bill and convention to the National Council:

1. Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021; and



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2. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol).

The National Assembly also deliberated and adopted the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2022.

The House re-deliberated on the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021, and the disputed clauses will be submitted to the Druk Gyalpo seeking Royal Assent for Joint Sitting.

The lone Motion of the Session moved to establish a special committee or a joint committee at the earliest to carry out an in-depth study to resolve the escalation of prices of goods and services was not passed by the House.

The Joint Sitting of the Parliament deliberated and adopted the recommendations made by the Public Account Committee on:

1. Annual Audit Report (AAR) 2020-21;
2. Follow up on the Review Reports of AAR 2010-20; and
3. Review Report on the Performance Audit Report on Operations of Natural Resources Development Corporation Limited

On the Review Report on Performance Audit Report on Operations of Natural Resource Development Corporation Limited (NRDCL), the House also passed the recommendation calling for the;

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forests to review, enforce and monitor the NRPC rates and raise awareness to the consumers.
2. Review Timber Extraction and Distribution Modality (TEDM), 2017 to enable NRDCL as a sole distributor of timber (log form) in the country.



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3. The NRDC should operationalize its Corporate Strategic Plan (CSP) through annual plans and enhance robust control measures and formalize the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to optimize cost efficiency and productivity.

An implementation status on the recommendations passed by the House is to be submitted in the upcoming session by the concerned agencies.

The Performance Audit Report on Farm Road Development & Management in Bhutan and Performance Audit Report of Safe and Sustainable Road Transport System were also tabled and referred to the Public Accounts Committee for review and deliberation during the winter session.

The Joint Sitting also deliberated on the disputed clauses of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) (Amendment). However, the Joint Committee's recommendation was defeated. The resolution of the Convention will be submitted to the Druk Gyalpo.

The Question Hour witnessed questions to the government covering a wide range of social, policy, and developmental issues.

The summary and detailed resolution for the 7th Session will be available online on the National Assembly website soon.