রব্বুদাশীষ্ট্রীর্কুদাশনার্থপ্রমানা কুদাশন্ত্রহন্ধ:হ্রদানা

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF BHUTAN

6TH SESSION





র্ক্রবাধারেরি:ন্র:ইঅ:ব্দর্শ্রম:র্ক্রব্যবস্তুব্যবস্থুঝা

20th Day of the 10th Month to 21st Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year

(November 24 – December 25, 2021)

क्र्यंत्रः रेतरद्वेगः इसः मुण

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SUMMARY RESOLUTION OF THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT

1. Proceedings of the Opening Ceremony

The Sixth Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan commenced on the 20th day of the 10th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, corresponding to November 24, 2021. The opening ceremony was graced by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo with the Zhugdrel Phunsum Tshogpai Tendrel ceremony.

In the Opening Ceremony the Speaker welcomed and expressed gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyelpo for gracing the Opening Ceremony of Parliament. He also informed on the order of business of Parliament for the Sixth Session.

2. Introduction and Adoption of Bills and Conventions

2.1. Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021

On November 25, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Chairperson of the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee, Member from Bartsham_Shongphu Constituency) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on the Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021, which was received from the National Council of Bhutan. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

भ तञ्जमानी श्रु र्हेमायामाश्रुयायाः हैमायाचेत्याञ्चनायतः यहंदारीयाद्याः र्मेयार्हेदाचञ्चदानश्रुया

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The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Subsequently, the Bill was referred to the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee for review and was instructed to report to the Parliament. Following the presentation of the report by the Committee on December 7, 2021, the House conducted the third reading on the Bill. On December 9, 2021, the Bill was adopted with 38 "Yes" votes from all the 38 members present and voting and the Bill was referred to the National Council for re-deliberation.

2.2. Customs Duty (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021

On November 25, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Finance) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on the Customs Duty (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Following the deliberation, the House declared the Bill as a Money Bill and was referred to the Legislative Committee for review and was instructed to report to the Parliament. Following the presentation of the review report by the Committee

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on December 2, 2021, the House carried out the third reading of the Bill. On December 3, 2021, the Bill was adopted with 43 "Yes" votes from all the 43 members present and voting.

During the re-deliberation on the Customs Duty (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021 on December 13, 2021, the Minister for Finance submitted that the recommendations of the National Council and National Assembly on Section 2 regarding the commencement date has no change in its meaning, however, the Minister submitted that the recommendation made by the National Assembly has more clarity. The House, with a show of hands, retained Section 2 as adopted by the National Assembly.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs submitted that, the two Houses of the Parliament is still not clear on the usage of the words "Bill" and "Act" while drafting the Bill and raised the need for a consultation between the two Houses to resolve anomalies on the usage of the terminologies. The House, however, resolved that the word "Bill" would be written on the cover page and the word "Act" would be used in the main text of the Bill.

While the Section 2 was retained as adopted by the National Assembly, the House adopted the rest of the recommendations of the National Council on the Bill with majority support of 38 "Yes"

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votes, and 1 "No" vote from the total of 39 members present and voting.

2.3. Tax Bill of Bhutan 2021

On November 25, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Finance) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on the Tax Bill of Bhutan 2021. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Following the deliberation, the House adopted the Bill as Money Bill and the Bill was referred to the Legislative Committee for review and was asked to report to the Parliament. On December 2, 2021, following the presentation of the review report by the Committee, the House carried out the third reading of the Bill. On December 3, 2021, the Bill was adopted with majority support of 43 "Yes" votes from all the 43 members present and voting.

During the re-deliberation on the Tax Bill of Bhutan 2021 on December 13, 2021, while the House endorsed the National Council's recommendation to replace the word 'Bill' with 'Act', the title and commencement date of the Bill were retained as

चीलाली. वसीराम्सानी. वीस्पानियानपु. क्षूचीसामिष्टान्ती। २८. पर्वसाम्भा १ वीसासानियानपु. क्षूचीसामिष्टानर्थ्यासामे. कार्यहूची.चीवानपु.

त्वुगानी'ख्याची'न्ध्रन्थिंगः ४०४७ ठदासदीचेंशार्केन।

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adopted by the National Assembly. The House endorsed the Bill with 39 "Yes" votes from all the 39 members present and voting.

2.4. Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021

On November 25, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Finance) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Following the deliberation, the House declared the Bill as Money Bill and the Bill was referred to the Legislative Committee for review and report to the Parliament. On December 3, 2021, following the presentation of the review report by the Committee, the House carried out the third reading of the Bill. On December 3, 2021, the Bill was adopted with majority support with 43 "Yes" votes from all the 43 members present and voting.

During the re-deliberation on the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021 on December 13, 2021, while the House endorsed the National Council's recommendation to replace the word 'Bill' with 'Act', the title and commencement

४.८ तमुगानी उक्तपान् निवास हिंगा खाया श्री (तस्त्री र्स्नूदा) न्धन्यीया ४०५७ उदासदी

णुष्ट्राचीयः विश्वत्या विष्ट्राचीयः विष्ट्राचीयः विश्वत्याचीः विश्वत्याचित

हुण.चेश.सेंग.ट्रे. २त्तेर.लुचं.यट्ट्रे. क्ष.यह्चां.चींच.चोष्ट्र्ला चर्श्वी-प्रश्चां वाजा. यर्डीश.लुचं.यट्ट्रं क्षायः पर्वेश्वां विच.स्रींयः जी. रेतिर.लुचं.यट्ट्रं क्षेयःस्रींयः चित्रःस्रेट्रं क्षेयःचर्लियःजीः क्षेयःस्रींयः चर्लियःजीः स्वा.ट्रे. क्षूच्यां प्रतिर.यट्ट्रं क्षित्रश.चूंयां प्रतिर.च्रेच्यां च्रेच्यां प्रतिर.च्रेच्यां च्रेच्यां च

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date of the Bill were retained as adopted by the National Assembly. The House endorsed the Bill with 38 "Yes" votes from all the 38 members present and voting. The Speaker informed the House that the three Money Bills will be submitted to the Druk Gyalpo for Royal Assent.

2.5. Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance

On November 25, 2021, The Member In-Charge of the Agreement (Minister for Economic Affairs) moved the motion to ratify the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Solar Alliance and the House deliberated in detail. On November 26, 2021, the House adopted the Agreement with 42 "Yes" votes and 1 member Abstaining out of 43 members present and voting. The Framework Agreement was referred to the National Council of Bhutan.

2.6. Fiscal Incentives Bill of Bhutan 2021

On November 29, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Finance) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on Fiscal Incentives Bill of Bhutan 2021. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

४.५ कुषः हुेतेः हैं ईन् अद्युद्धमा माली पर्द्यम्य छै। श्वेमा पर्मान् मादाकुते र्सेश र्केन्।

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The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Following the deliberation, the Bill was declared as Money Bill and it was referred to the Economic and Finance Committee for review and report to the Parliament. On December 3, 2021, the Committee presented its review report to the House and carried out the third reading of the Bill. On December 6, 2021, the Bill was adopted with majority support of 40 "Yes" votes and 1 member Abstaining out of 41 members present and voting.

During the re-deliberation on the Fiscal Incentives Bill of Bhutan 2021, on December 13, 2021, the Minister for Finance submitted that, while there is no issue over recommendations of the National Council on other sections of the Bill, the recommendation on Section 9(2) regarding the concessionary rate to be given to all schools and Early Child Care Development Centers required deliberation. The Minister submitted that, there are two types of fiscal incentives that are provisioned in the Bill - direct tax and indirect tax incentives. The Minister submitted that he could not support the recommendation of the National Council, as exemptions were already granted in the terms of sales tax and customs duties on school-related stationary, equipment, and machines under the indirect tax, in Section 47 of the Bill.

तबिबाका है, निन्तान्न तदी, क्रिन्थन ह्वा, जाका, कर तहूं वा, बीचा, बीच क्षा क्षा विवाका है, निन्नान विद्या क्षा विद्या विद्या क्षा विद्या वि

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Subsequently, the Chairperson of the Economic and Finance Committee submitted that, though the National Council made numerous changes, there were no major changes in its meaning and hence supported it. However, the Committee did not support the recommendation on Section 9 (2) regarding the concessionary rate to be given to all schools and Early Child Care Development Centers, the Chairperson added. The Chairperson also submitted that, the word "Bill" should be used on the cover page and the word "Act" to be used in the main text.

On this, some of the members supported the National Council's recommendation on Section 9 (2), stating that the foundation for good learning should be created at a young age and that the recommendation of the National Council was important to enhance the quality of education.

The House through show of hands endorsed the recommendations of the National Council which were reported in favour by the Economic and Finance Committee, along with the submission to use the word 'Bill' on the Cover while the word 'Act' to be used in the text.

Secondly, while ascertaining support for the recommendation made by the National Council on Section 9 (2), it was adopted with

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ળી. તૈળાત્ર્યાં મુખાત્ર્વાયા મુખાત્ર્વાયા ત્રીતા સુત્રાની સૂત્રાયા મુખાત્ર્યા મુખાત્યા મુખાત્ર્યા મુખાત્ર્યા મુખાત્ર્યા મુખાત્ર્યા મુખાત્ર્ય

majority support of 37 "Yes" votes, 1 "No" vote, and 2 members abstaining out of 40 members present and voting.

2.7. Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021

On November 29, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Chairperson of the Social and Culture Committee) moved the motion for the third reading of the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021. Following three days of deliberation, on December 9, 2021, the Bill was adopted with majority support of 37 "Yes" votes and 1 member abstaining out of 38 members present and voting.

2.8. First and Second Readings of the Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021

On December 2, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Agriculture and Forests) moved the motion for the first reading to introduce and deliberate on Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021. The House, with the show of hands, supported the introduction and deliberation on the Bill.

ર્જન્યાલુધ. શ્ર-લાદ્દ્યાં - चीच-क्रें - चक्री-- ज्ञंका- श्राह्म - त्रिक्षा चित्रः क्षेत्रः चित्रः चीच-क्षेत्रः चीच-कष्ते चिव-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चिव-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चिव-कष्ते चीच-कष्ते चिव

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२.५ तमुगागी दग्रमार्क्षभायते र्शेकार्क्षन हिन्द्र प्रमाणी १००० उदास्रते सुगा विद्याप्त प्रमाणी विद्यापति । विद्या

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The Member In-charge of the Bill moved the motion for the second reading of the Bill with statement of objects and reasons, and principle of merits. Following the deliberation, the Bill was referred to the Environment and Climate Change Committee for review and report to the Parliament in the 7th Session of Parliament.

2.9. Biodiversity Bill of Bhutan 2021

On December 2, 2021, the Member In-Charge of the Bill (Chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee Member from Bardo_Trong Constituency) presented the Review Report of the Committee for the third reading of the Biodiversity Bill of Bhutan 2021, after which the Bill was deliberated. On December 3, 2021, the Bill was adopted with majority support of 41 "Yes" votes and 1 member Abstaining out of 42 members present and voting.

3. Motion

3.1. The Need for a Change in the Marketing of Agricultural Products

The Member from the Kengkhar_Weringla Constituency moved a motion on the Need for a Change in the Marketing of Agricultural Products. The Member submitted that our agricultural production faced serious limitations on account of geographical location and climatic conditions resulting in a limited and seasonal production.

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इ.७ र्श्वित्रार्द्धेन्यचेतायोग्यानर्द्ध्यायन्द्रन्वेच्यते र्वेश्वर्द्धन्त्वीयायेग्यानर्द्ध्यायन्द्रन्वे

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The small scale seasonal domestic production compounded by lack of access to market had led to surge in the import of a huge quantity of food items. In spite of such challenges, there was lack of clear policies, plans, programmes, and strategies to resolve the issues. As a result, the Member proposed the following recommendations:

- The Government should reform the current agricultural marketing system into a more productive and efficient one.
 A clear import and export policies must be strategized.
- 2. Establish market access in those countries that have existing bilateral relations with Bhutan.

After extensive deliberation on the Motion, the House endorsed the two recommendations of the Motion with simple majority support of 33 "Yes" votes, 1 "No" vote and 7 members abstaining out of 41 members present and voting. (2nd day of the 11th month of the Iron Female Ox Year, corresponding to December 6, 2021)

3.2. Motion on South-East-West and North-East-West's Highways

The Member from the Khar_Yurung Constituency submitted that road infrastructure was fundamental pillar of economic development in our country and that the Government of the day prioritized construction of new roads and maintaining the old ones. There were myriad of challenges being faced by the general public

यादी,रेट. श्रुट्रीक्षेत्रात्त्रात्त्रीयात्रः योश्चात्रम्यात्त्री, श्रुप्तात्र्यात्त्रम्यात्र्यात्त्रम्यात्र्यात्त्रम्यात्र्यात्रम्यस्यात्रम्यात्रम्यस्यात्रम्यस्यस्यस्यस्यात्रम्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्यस्

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while travelling. For example, due to the pandemic and borders being closed, people from the eastern part had to cross three dzongkhags and, moreover, face difficulty in availing medical services.

The Member stated that people from the Southern Dzongkhags of Samtse and Gelephu were facing challenges coming to Thimphu for business and seeking medical services. Besides, travelers faced numerous difficulties due to the closure of the borders.

Likewise, Member also submitted that the North-East-West Highway widening works and the weather conditions had caused landslides creating inconveniences to the commuters. Moreover, the alternative routes were falling under high-risk areas, and internal highways within the country were not dependable. Therefore, the Member submitted two recommendations:

 Immediate construction commencement of the South-East-West Highways; Nganglam to Dewathang to Gelephu to Panbang; and Lhamoizingkha to Sarpang Highways यर्ट्स्मूनःब्रैट्स्ट्रं हेट्स्रैजःस ट्यायःस्यःस्रुंसःस्रुंसः ब्रैट्स्ख्रेयःस्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्द्स्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्ट्स्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्ट्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्यः वर्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्यः वर्यः वर्द्यः वर्द्यः

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2. Complete the North-East-West highway, from Bumthang Ura to Lingmethang, to be completed by December 2022.

Following the extensive deliberation, the House passed the first recommendation of the Motion with simple majority support of 21 "Yes," votes, 15 "No," votes and 4 members abstaining out of 40 members present and voting.

While ascertaining the support for the second recommendation of the motion, 14 members voted "Yes," 23 members voted "No," and 3 members abstained from the total of 40 members present and voting. Therefore, it could not passed. (6thDay of the 10th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, Corresponding to December 9, 2021)

3.3. Motion on lifting the Ban on Bar License in Bhutan

The Member from the Athang_Thedtsho Constituency reported that for the wellbeing of the people's health, the issuance of bar licenses was banned in Bhutan in 2010. In the year 2015, Lhengye Zhungtshog approved the National Policy and Strategic Framework to Reduce Harmful Use of Alcohol 2015-2020. In spite of all the measures and interventions, the number of distribution outlets (bar and liquor retail trade) had increased. The member submitted that, as of now, about 1000 bar licenses had been issued.

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 Currently, there were about 4,500 bar licenses, 600 retail liquor shop licenses, and 195 wholesaler licenses issued in the country.

The member stated that, according to studies, the ban on the issuance of bar licenses had not resulted in fulfilling its objectives but rather there was a rise in the number of alcohol consumptions and bars in the country. It had also resulted in a rise in the illegal sale and leasing of licenses.

Furthermore, the member submitted that, one of the pledges of the Government of the day is to close the gap between haves and have-nots. The ban on the bar license have benefitted only the ones who possess the license and there was no equity or justice as disadvantaged people could not avail the opportunity to benefit. Thus, the member submitted following two recommendations:

- 1. Increase and adopt a single bar and retail license fee across the country and lift the ban on bar licenses.
- 2. Ministry of Health (MoH) and the relevant stakeholders must maximize their efforts in creating awareness of the ills of alcohol consumption.

प्यन् नृःर्कुतः करःमीःर्क्चमाः १००० नृःस्त्रमः र्स्वन्यः स्त्रम्यः करः नमामान्त्रः प्रयन्त्रः स्त्रम्यः करः नमामान्त्रः ।

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Therefore, the House endorsed both the recommendations with 37 "Yes" votes, 3 "No" votes, and 1 member abstaining out of 41 members present and voting. (6th Day of the 10th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, Corresponding to December 9, 2021)

- 4. Review Report of the Good Governance Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report 2020–2021

 In accordance with Article 27 (4) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and Section 169 (1) of the Anti-corruption Act of Bhutan 2011, the Chairperson of the Good Governance Committee (Member from Dewathang-Gomdar Constituency) presented the Good Governance Committee's Review Report on the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report 2020–2021 along with three recommendations as follows:
 - The Royal Court of Justice to create a designated and separate Bench for Corruption cases to expedite resolution of corruption cases delayed in prosecution;

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- 2. A reminder to the OAG and the ACC to expedite restitution of the outstanding amount of Nu. 412.374 million and to specify amounts restituted between now and the next reporting year; and
- 3. Royal Civil Service Commission to provide ACC with the required manpower till such time ACC is provided complete operational independence.

After an extensive deliberation, The House endorsed the three recommendations with 37 "Yes" votes with 4 members abstaining out of 41 members present and voting. (10th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, Corresponding to December 13, 2021)

5. Re-Deliberation on the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021

On the 10th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, corresponding to December 13, 2021, the Chairperson of the Good Governance Committee (Member from Dewathang_Gomdar Constituency) moved the motion to re-deliberate on the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021. In his Motion, the Member stated that during the 5th Session, the National Assembly deliberated extensively and adopted with amendments and changes on 50 sections of the Bill and it was referred to the National Council as per the legislative procedure. The National Council deliberated and made amendments and changes to 52 sections of the Bill and presented for Re-deliberation.

The House deliberated on each section of the Bill, and the National Assembly did not support 33 sections: 3 sections related to the independence of adequate human resources, 27 sections related to offences, and 3 general sections. As the two Houses could not come to a consensus on several clauses of the Bill, the Bill was submitted to Druk Gyalpo, to redeliberate on the disputed clauses in the Joint Sitting.

प् तत्त्रुग'र्मे'रद'क्ष्र्र'चगाग'र्स्थ्य'र्में (तर्क्षे'र्स्थ्र्य) १६५'प्येग' १०११ ठद'स्रदे पश्चरः पश्चरः वश्चरः वश्चरः

त्तरा, क्रूचन्ट, चार्स्ट, ट्रेलसा, चर्झैट,चर्स्स,च्रेच,चर्स्स्स,च्रेट,चर्स्त,ज्रीस, विध्यस्त,च्रिस,च्

The House adopted other sections with 37 "Yes" votes, 1 "No" vote, and 2 members abstaining out of 40 members present and voting.

6. United Nations Convention Against Corruption (Amendment) The Member In-Charge of the Bill (Minister for Foreign Affairs) moved the motion to re-deliberate on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (Amendment). The Minister submitted that the National Assembly revoked the reservation on the Article 66(2) of the Convention during its 5th Session and it was referred to the National Council. The National Council in its 28th Session deliberated on the Convention and did not agree on the revocation of the reservation of the National Assembly. The National Council recommended to deposit with reservation or

The House deliberated on the National Council's recommendation and then decided to vote on the recommendation of the latter. The House could not obtain simple majority with 38 "No" votes and 2 members abstaining out of 40 members present and voting. Since, the two Houses could not arrive at consensus, the disputed clause

denounce and re-accede to the UNCAC with reservation to uphold

the national interest.

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ए. न्द्रम्भून्गुःग्र्नेन्य्वेत्। यह्त्राम्चिन्द्र्युः व्यव्याम्चिन्द्र्युः व्यव्याम्चिन्द्र्युः (यद्धःश्रूद्र् ग्राः नक्षुन्यः (यद्धःश्रूद्र्यः) गुः नक्षुनः

च्र-खे.ली

च्राचाक्र-च्रम्टिट्ट, श्री-ज्राचा, ट्रस.श्री-प्रवन्ट्रम्म्निव, ग्र्स.वर्ट्ट्रम् स्थित्व, प्रिंत्रम् स्थित्व, प्रिंत्रम् स्थित्व, प्रिंत्रम् स्थित्व, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्व, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्व, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्व, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्व, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्य, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित्य, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित, य्राचान्त्रम्यान्त्रम् स्थित, य्राचान्त्रम् स्थित, य्राचान्त्रम्यः स्थित, य्राचान्त्रम्यः स्थित, य्राचान्त्रम्यः स्थित, य्राचान्यः स्थित, य्राच्यान्यः स्थित, य्राच्यान्त्रम्यः स्थित, य्राच्यान

ર્શ્નેમ્પ્રાયેન્ટન વર્શ્વશ્વા તે ગ્રીજા. વદ્દજ્ઞજા. વર્ષ્યા વર્શ્વશ્વાન વર્ષેમાણ, શૂર્યા ત્રાર્જી તાલું ત

was submitted to the Druk Gyalpo to deliberate in the Joint Sitting.

(12th Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year, Corresponding to December 15, 2021)

7. Report of the Public Accounts Committee

7.1. Royal Kasho on Joint Sitting

The Royal Assent is hereby granted to convene the Joint Sitting of Parliament on 14th and 15th of December, 2021 to present the Review Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Annual Audit Report 2020 and the Performance Audit Report, and on 24th December, 2021 the Prime Minister of Bhutan to present Annual Report on the State of the Nation, including legislative plans and annual plans and priorities of the Government. Granted on the 2nd Day of the 11th Month of the Iron Female Ox Year.

By warrant under His Hand **Druk Gyalpo**

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त्रिचाका मीट्यी. १० तपुरक्षा. १ जी विश्वाका मीट्याक्षा १ जी स्विक्षा मीट्यी. १० तपुरक्षा. १ जी विश्वाका मीट्याक्षा १ जी स्विक्षा मीट्याक्षा १ विश्वाका मीट्याक्षा मीट्याक्याक्षा मीट्याक्षा मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्षा मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्याक्याक्या मीट्याक्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्या मीट्याक्

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7.2. Public Accounts Committee Review Report

Upon reading the Royal Kasho by the Secretary General, the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (National Council Member from Paro Dzongkhag) presented the Review Report:

- 1. Synthesis of Annual Audit Report 2020
- 2. Follow up on Review Reports of AAR 2010-2019
- Follow-up on Review Report on Surface Collection and Dredging of Riverbed Materials (RBM)
- 4. Review Report on Performance Audit Report on Implementation and Management of National Broadband Fiber Network and Review Report on Performance Audit Report on Ex-Country Travels and Short-Term Trainings(STT)
- Follow-up on the Implementation Status of the Resolutions of the Second-Third Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan was presented with observations, loopholes, and recommendations.

While deliberating on each of the recommendations, the relevant Ministries provided clarification on the various issues and doubts

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raised by the members. The 9 recommendations of the Committee were as follows.

- 1. Section 2.1 of the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code 2001 states that "the executive shall have a duty to provide for the execution of judgments of all the courts". In this regard, PAC recommended the executive to enforce the judgements passed by the court and put in place a mechanism to hold the agency concerned accountable.
- 2. Strict implementation of the decision of the RAA that "The treatment of the cases of excess payment shall not be limited to restituting the amount but also holding individuals accountable (officials and parties) for restoring the compromised structure/infrastructure to a desired level of quality even if it may require dismantling the entire structures".
- 3. Heads of the agencies to take up the responsibility to assume the full accountability for any audit irregularities/observations.
- 4. Speed up the establishment of the third internet gateway through Bangladesh.

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- 5. Put in place adequate and state-of-the-art infrastructure to ensure e-resilience of the country.
- 6. BICMA to speed up its regulatory role and set up grievance redressal mechanism to be responsive to customer complaints.
- 7. MoIC to frame a strategy to ensure sustainability of fiber resources and put in place systems to ensure monitoring controls, diligence and oversight.
- 8. Agencies ensure strict compliance with the rules and regulations related to Ex-Country Travels (STTs).
- 9. RCSC being the central personnel agency, should conduct HR auditing of the agencies on an annual basis and rectify the deficiencies in the HR planning and system and hold the official concerned accountable.

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The House thoroughly deliberated on the recommendations and adopted with majority support of 66 "Yes" votes and 1 member abstaining out of 67 members present and voting.

Subsequently, the Speaker declared the tabling of RAA's Annual Audit Report 2020-2021 and the Performance Audit Report on Operations of Natural Resource Development Corporation Limited. The House referred the reports to the Public Accounts Committee, for review and report to the Parliament in next Parliament.

8. Presentation of Annual Report on the State of the Nation, including legislation plans, annual plans and priorities of the Government.

The Prime Minister submitted that according to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister had to present the Annual Report on the State of the Nation, including legislation plans, annual plans, and priorities of the Government, to the Parliament and His Majesty the King, hence the report was prepared as required . However, he said that after listening to the Royal Address on the 114th National Day, the format on report presentation had to be changed. He submitted that the State of the Nation could be seen in His Majesty's leadership . In His Kingship is our nation , in his body , speech and mind. His Majesty had clearly mentioned on the 114th National Day.

त्रवर्णा १८. १ मुन्नायहंशनायखेत्रान्ते. शर्म्यास्त्रांचा त्रवस्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा स्वान्त्रांचा कर्णे स्वान्त्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांच क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांचा क्षेत्रांच क्षेत्

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The Prime Minister submitted that since the celebration of National Day in the year 2006, His Majesty the Druk Gyelpo had commanded on the quality of education, importance of good governance in eradication of corruption, emphasis on the accountability. During the National Day celebration in the year 2019, His Majesty commanded that for long term economic stability and security, an economic roadmap for the 21st century to be prepared. Furthermore, His Majesty issued the Royal Kasho on Education Reform and Civil Service Reform during the National Day in the year 2020.

Likewise, he submitted that this year, His Majesty the King during the 114th National Day clearly commanded on the need to solve any problems expediently. The Prime Minister reported that there is no way to present the annual report after listening to the Royal address However, he said that in the circulated report, some of the changes were made on the future plan status.

Similarly, the Prime Minister stated that over the last 15 years, we had been receiving commands from His Majesty on good governance, discipline, and the deterioration of "nGar" in Bhutanese people. Therefore, it is very important for every Bhutanese to, for the sake of the country, to fulfill His Majesty's aspirations. It was the combined responsibility of the government, the people, and

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every institution to ensure good governance. Therefore, all must think extraordinary, get our acts together and need to work hard.

Lastly, the Prime Minister submitted that, the Government will strive to serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum with equity and dedication. He said that the next report to Parliament will be presented portraying a comprehensive scenario.(Annual Report of the State of the Nation are distributed separately)

9. **Question Hour**

During the 6th session of the third parliament, the members raised 48 oral-answer questions and didn't raise any written-answer questions to the ministries on various issues.

10. Closing Ceremony

The Sixth Session of the Third Parliament concluded on the 25th of December, corresponding to the 21st day of the 11th month of Iron Female Ox Year in the Presence of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. In accordance with the proceedings of the day, the Minister for Health on behalf of the Government, the Chairperson of the National Council, and the Opposition Leader submitted their words of gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

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The Speaker in his closing address conveyed a comprehensive summary of the deliberations of the Session, followed by the offering of Zhabten and TashiMoenlam.



(Wangchuk Namgyel)

rosefy chile

SPEAKER

स्री त्रिंगान्त्रास्त्राहे. क्रूचनान्त्राह्मा १ नायहे. स्रवस्त्राह्में सहिवानकी विष्ट त्रिंगान्त्राह्में व्यापानकी स्राह्में स्राह्में



(्रचरःस्रेगःष्टभःषेत्र)

र्क्षेण्यः दर्भेद्रा