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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



Date: 15.05.2023

[Translated Text]

PRESS RELEASE

The National Assembly of Bhutan convened its Preliminary meeting today to set the agenda for the Ninth Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan, tentatively scheduled to commence from 8th June 2023.

The Ninth Session of the Third Parliament will be deliberating on the following tentative agendas:

1. Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan;
2. BIMSTEC Charter;
3. Declaration of Biological Corridor (BC) connecting Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary and Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary;
4. National Digital Identity Bill of Bhutan 2023
5. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
6. National Budget report along with the Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2023-2024 and Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2022-23;
7. Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2023; and
8. Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2023.

The deliberation on the National Digital Identity Bill of Bhutan 2023 as an Urgent Bill will be tabled upon discussion with the National Council of Bhutan. In addition to the above Bills and international instruments, the House will be appraised on the implementation status of the resolutions passed in the previous session (8th) on the following reports:

1. Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report;
2. Royal Audit Authority's Annual Audit Report;
3. Motion to provide the Local Governments with an adequate budget for the management of the Gewog Center road.

The **Joint Sitting of the Parliament** will deliberate on the following:



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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



1. Public Accounts Committee's Review Report on:

- Annual Audit Report 2021-22;

2. Disputed provisions in the Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021

Following the disagreement between the two Houses of Parliament on 30 provisions of the Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021, a parliamentary Joint Committee was established to review the dispute clauses and to submit the report to the joint sitting.

3. Disputed provisions in the Civil Liability Bill of Bhutan 2022

Following the disagreement between the two Houses of Parliament on 81 provisions of the Civil Liability Bill of Bhutan 2022, a parliamentary Joint Committee was established to review the dispute clauses and to submit the report to the joint sitting.

Time will be allocated for Members to move Motions during the Session and Question Hour will be conducted every Tuesday and Friday.

The preliminary also discussed the two petitions received from the Local Governments from Haa Dzongkhag;

1. **Petition to allow the conversion of footpaths to power tiller trail.**
2. **Petition to retain the power tiller with the chiwongs and regulate the hiring charges of the power tillers.**

Both the petitions were referred to the *Lhengye Zhungtshog* for review and report to the Members.

The tentative agenda for the Ninth Session will be available on the National Assembly website at www.nab.gov.bt very soon. The sittings of the Ninth Session will be aired live on national television along with live streaming on National Assembly's official Facebook page and YouTube.