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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



7th November 2022

## PRESS RELEASE

### Gyalsung Bill of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2022

In an unprecedented and historic occasion, the Gyalsung Bill of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2022 was introduced to the National Assembly today. His Majesty the King commanded the drafting of the Bill to the National Service Core Working Group led by Dasho Sonam Kinga (Ph.D.) former Member of Parliament. Preceding the introduction of the Bill to the National Assembly by Dasho Sonam Kinga, the Hon'ble Speaker read out the Royal Kasho on the Gyalsung Bill.

The Gyalsung Bill of the Kingdom of Bhutan is His Majesty's vision to institutionalize the Gyalsung to empower all Bhutanese youth to participate in the process of nation-building to further enhance the security, peace, unity, harmony, and sovereignty of our nation. The Gyalsung program aims to realize the above vision by enabling each and every Bhutanese youth to actualize their innate potential and become productive and worthy citizens in the service of the Tsawa-Sum. The National Service is also a Fundamental Duty required of all Bhutanese citizens as enshrined in Article 8.1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Introducing the Bill to the House, Dasho Sonam Kinga (Ph.D.), submitted that the main objectives of the National Service Program (Gyalsung) are to:

- a. Endow the youth of Bhutan with the knowledge, skills, and values to actualize their potential in this rapidly changing world and contribute to realizing the national goals and aspirations;
- b. Empower the youth with the capabilities and attributes needed to succeed academically and professionally;
- c. Enhance the awareness of the youth about the challenges that our country faces and meaningfully engage them in finding and implementing collective solutions;
- d. Encourage volunteerism among our citizens to foster the spirit of selfless service in enhancing the well-being of our people;
- e. Ensure that we prepare the future generations to fully shoulder their sacred responsibilities of upholding and promoting the unity, peace, security, and sovereignty of our nation for all times to come.



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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN

The Gyalsung training program is envisioned as a one-year integrated training program mandatory for all youths attaining the age of 18 and if in school – upon completion of grade twelve. The one-year training will include three months of basic military training followed by nine months of specialized training in various fields ranging from home construction technologies, computing, and entrepreneurship to focused development of skills in agriculture.

The National Service shall comprise of the following three phases:

- a. **National Service Training:** National Service (NS) Cadets shall undergo a one-year integrated training program which shall include three months of Basic Military Training. This will be followed by specialized skills training in various areas that are critical for personal self-development as well as enhancement of self-reliance and national security.
- b. **National Service Duty:** Upon completion of the one-year training program, Gyalsups may be called for both Mandatory Duty and Voluntary Duty until the age of 35 years.
- c. **National Service Reserve:** Upon completion of NS Duty, NS Personnel shall remain as Reservists until they attain the age of 45 years at which point they complete the National Service obligations. Thereafter, they may volunteer to join De-suung.

It was also submitted that the enactment of the Gyalsung Act will be followed by the establishment of the institutions, systems, Rules, and Regulations and the activation of processes that have to necessarily precede the launch of Gyalsung Training. The first batch of Gyalsung is expected to commence in 2024.

The House deliberated the Bills comprehensively after which the National Assembly passed the Bill unanimously with the support of all the 45 members present and voting. The Bill will be forwarded to the National Council of Bhutan. The National Assembly members offered prayers and reverence for the realization of the noble vision of His Majesty the King.