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## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN



Date: 14.10.2022

### PRESS RELEASE

The National Assembly of Bhutan conducted the Preliminary today to set the agenda for the Eighth Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan, scheduled to commence from 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The Eighth Session of the Third Parliament will be deliberating on the following Bills:

#### 1. Civil Liability Bill of Bhutan 2022

The Civil Liability Bill of Bhutan 2022 was introduced as a private member's Bill in the National Council in its 29<sup>th</sup> Session and presented to the National Assembly for deliberation. The objective of the Bill is to provide a comprehensive legal framework on civil liability and guide the procedures of claiming compensation for violating individual fundamental rights. This Bill recognizes accountability and transparency in the society and in governance.

#### 2. Civil Service Reform Bill of Bhutan 2022

The Civil Service Reform Bill is a Government Bill submitted for deliberation and it is a legitimization of the ongoing Civil Service reform to revamp its system and structure for a right-sized, future-ready, efficient, and effective Civil Service that would deliver the status of developed Bhutan. This Bill provides the legal basis for restructuring and reorganization of the Civil Service and it includes restructuring of ministries and agencies.

#### 3. Three Bills related to Money or Financial matters

The Government also submitted three Bills - the Clean Wage (Pay Revision) Bill of Bhutan 2022, the Property Tax Bill of Bhutan 2022, and the Tax Bill of Bhutan 2022. Since the Bills related to Money or Financial matters are confidential in nature, the Bills will be shared with the public following their introduction in the National Assembly



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by the Finance Minister. However, the preliminary appraisal was that the Clean Wage (Pay Revision) Bill of Bhutan 2022 is part of the Civil Service reform initiative.

#### **4. Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan**

This Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan provides alternatives for Bhutan's transit trade for all third-country goods and is a framework to ensure greater connectivity with and through Bangladesh by road, rail, air, river, and coastal waterways. Along with the movement of traffic, this Agreement aims to promote, facilitate, expand, and deepen trade relations with Bangladesh. At present Bhutan has no other transit agreement except with India.

In addition to the above Bills, the following reports will be presented:

- 1. Review report of the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report 2021-2022 by the Good Governance Committee;**
- 2. Review Report on the Balance of Trade by the Economic and Finance Committee;**
- 3. Follow-up on the resolutions of the Seventh Session;**
- 4. The sittings will also be allocated to move Motions; and**
- 5. The session will give importance to Question Hours wherein the members will get opportunity to clarify issues concerning their constituency and nation. The Question Hour session will be held every Tuesday and Friday.**

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

#### **1. Report of the Public Accounts Committee's Review Report on:**

- Performance Audit Report on Farm Road Development and Management in Bhutan; and
- Performance Audit Report on Safe and Sustainable Road Transport System.



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### 2. **Disputed provisions in the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021**

Following the disagreement between the two Houses of Parliament on a few provisions of the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021, a parliamentary Joint Committee was established to review the dispute clauses and to submit the report to the joint sitting.

The preliminary meeting also discussed the three petitions received from the Local Governments as follows;

- 1. Petition to extend the duration for harvesting the cordyceps from Thimphu Dzongkhag Tshogdu:** It was noted that the petition is of administrative nature and has been referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests with the directives to inform the Ministry's stand and rationalizations of the same before the Dzongkhag Tshogdu.
- 2. Petition to amend the Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 1995 in order to increase the allotment of timber for the construction of livestock shelter from Haa Dzongkhag Tshogdu:** Considering that the Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021 was already introduced by the Government in the National Assembly and is presented to the National Council for deliberation, the issue specified in the petition is under consideration of Parliament.
- 3. Petition to have a comprehensive terms of reference for the Thromde Thuemis from Haa Dzongkhag Tshogdu:** Since the petition is directly relevant to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry informed that the work is under progress. The Ministry was directed to complete and submit a report thereof within June 2023.

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