

**10th Session Closing Ceremony submission by Speaker Wangchuk Namgyel on 20 October, 2023**

1. On behalf of the Members of Parliament, I humbly extend our sincere welcome and express our profound gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the closing ceremony of the 10th Session of the Third Parliament.
2. I would further like to extend our warmest welcome to Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, esteemed Members of the Royal Family, distinguished government officials, former executives, foreign dignitaries and students attending the closing ceremony.
3. On behalf of the Parliament, I wish to express our deepest appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for gracing the Opening and Closing ceremonies of all the parliamentary sessions. This kind gesture underscores the considerable regard His Majesty holds for the functioning of the Parliament, prioritizing it above other regal responsibilities. His Majesty's continued bestowal of wisdom and guidance has been an instrumental source of inspiration for us.
4. The citizens of the nation are keenly cognizant and eternally grateful to His Majesty's unwavering and extensive undertakings in safeguarding the country, the advancement of its economic landscape, and the augmentation of bilateral relationships with other nations through diplomatic endeavors abroad.
5. Moreover, the Parliament holds profound gratitude towards His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for personally undertaking visits to Dzongkhags, Gewogs, Chiwogs, and Villages, and for compassionately addressing the myriad challenges faced by the populace in efforts to elevate their standard of living and prosperity, concurrently bolstering their self-sufficiency and independence through benevolent initiatives such as granting of land and citizenships. Furthermore, even in times of natural calamities, His Majesty has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the welfare of the people, ensuring that their well-being is not unduly compromised. For this and more, the Parliament is indebted beyond our words.
6. I would also like to extend our deepest gratitude to His Majesty for the benevolent provision of free healthcare, and educational support to our youth. Additionally, His Majesty's establishment of the Integrated Desuung Programme, complementing the three armed forces for the promotion of security and

sovereignty, is profoundly appreciated. Similarly, we offer our humble prayers for the success of the “Gyalsung - National Service” which will not only strengthen the nation but also equip our youth with invaluable life skills and technical expertise, ensuring a wholesome and prosperous future for them.

7. The Bhutanese people will forever be indebted to His Majesty for his tireless efforts during the time of the pandemic. While the rest of the world suffered significant loss of lives, our His Majesty, without concern for personal well-being and well-being of His family, visited every nook and corner of the country including the borders. His Majesty undertook measures to prevent the spread of the virus and provided invaluable healthcare measures. Additionally, His Majesty initiated numerous rituals for which the Parliament would like to express our heartfelt gratitude.
8. The Parliament would also like to express our profound gratitude to His Majesty for setting a vision for the civil service reform and, in line with that, significantly raising the pay of the civil servants and the armed force personnel. This has notably enhanced their livelihoods and renewed their perseverance in service.
9. The Parliament extends its heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty for overseeing not only spiritual matters, including the preservation of Dzongs, Lhakhangs, and Goendheys, which are the cornerstones of culture and dharma preservation—but also for the recent consecration of the Druk Mi-gyur Dechen Dzong in Pemagatshel.
10. Moreover, the Parliament would like to not only offer our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty for consistently granting audience to former government executives, civil servants, public servants, and the private sector to apprise them about the country's developmental endeavors, but also express our sincere prayers for the successful execution of the highly anticipated Gelephu Mega City Project.
11. The Parliament also wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo and all members of the Zhung Dratshang for their unwavering commitment to performing rituals for the well-being of the world, with particular emphasis on the welfare of our nation and its people. Additionally, during the pandemic, their efforts in conducting various sacred rituals to appease deities and mitigate the spread of the disease are profoundly appreciated.

12. Likewise, the Parliament would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the Royal Family, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers, civil servants, the three armed forces, Desuups, local government leaders, the private sector, institutes, and media houses for their unwavering dedication in serving the people during the pandemic.
13. The Parliament also wishes to extend our gratitude to all our friendliest neighboring countries and international organizations for their invaluable budgetary support, which has been instrumental in the successful execution of the 12th Five-Year Plan.
14. I, on behalf of the Parliament, would like to congratulate our Bhutanese peacekeeping military contingent serving in the Central African Republic for receiving the UN Peace Medal for their unflinching service and significant role to peace and stabilization efforts in the country and for contributing to peace and harmony in the world.
15. With the gracious permission of the Golden Throne, I would like to present a concise summary of the outcomes achieved by the legislative body:
  - a. Under the sagacious leadership of His Majesty, the Third Parliament of Bhutan, in strict adherence to the Constitution of Bhutan, has convened for a total of ten sessions, culminating with the most recent session which concludes today;
  - b. During the 10 sessions, a total of 38 legislations have either been drafted, arbitrated or amended and a total of 13 International Instruments have been adopted by the National Assembly and the Parliament. Apart from that, usual agenda such as motions and questions hours have been scheduled in line with the Rule of Procedure of the House.
16. If I may be permitted to add, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the constituents of Nyishog-Saephu constituency under Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag for bestowing their trust in me as their representative. I am also deeply appreciative of Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa for recognizing me as a candidate for the position of Speaker, and subsequently, I am grateful to all the members of the National Assembly for electing me to the office of the Speaker.

17. As a presiding officer of the legislative body, while discharging my duties in overseeing the affairs of the Parliament, I believe I have acted in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Constitution, the National Assembly Act and the Rules of Procedures. However, if I have inadvertently erred, I humbly request forbearance and understanding.
18. To consistently fulfill my responsibilities as the Speaker in this revered Hall at the foot of the Golden Throne is entirely attributable to His Majesty's benevolent guidance and counsel. For this, I convey my deepest and heartfelt gratitude.
19. Furthermore, I wish to extend my gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition Party, the Members of the National Assembly, the Chairperson(s) and Members of the National Council, of both immediate past and the current, for their steadfast support and cooperation in the successful conduct of the ten sessions of the Third Parliament.
20. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Maintenance Unit of the Department of Procurement and Properties for their diligent preparations carried out during the term of the Third Parliament, the Royal Bhutan Police for their dedicated efforts in ensuring security and additionally, the Media fraternity for their effective coverage of the deliberations of the House to the people, and express my gratitude to the National Assembly Secretariat for their fullest unwavering support.
21. Finally, we would like to conclude with Tashi Moenlam and Zhabten, offering our heartfelt prayers for the long life and peaceful reign of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, for good health of the esteemed Royal Family, His Holiness the Je Khenpo, and the entire monastic community.

Tashi Delek!