

Speech by Speaker Wangchuk Namgyel on closing day of 8th Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan

1. Today, on the closing of the Session of the Parliament, I, on behalf of the Members of Parliament and myself, would like to welcome and express gratitude to His Majesty the King for gracing the occasion despite His Majesty's busy schedule of working for the country and the people.
2. I would also like to welcome Her Majesty the Queen, members of the Royal Family and the other guests for the closing ceremony.
3. Under the patronage of His Majesty the King and with support from the Government of India, voluntary cash and labour contributions from the people and devotees, prayers by the monastic bodies, Wangdue Phodrang Dzong, one of the oldest Dzong, has been restored to its original glory. The Parliament would like to thank His Majesty the King, His Holiness the Je Khenpo and religious heads and sponsors in the restoration and also for the grand consecration of the Wangdue Phodrang Dzong.
4. His Majesty the King, having deep care and concern for the welfare of his people, continuously grants Kidu to people. Most recently, His Majesty granted citizenship Kidu to the people. This had greatly benefited the Kidu beneficiaries. Towards this deep benevolence, the Parliament would like to express deep gratitude to His Majesty the King.
5. The Parliament also would like to thank the monastic body for the conduct of numerous religious activities for world peace and wellbeing.
6. This session has been historic and an important session:
7. 1. The session had the opportunity to receive the historic Gyalsung Bill of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2022 from His Majesty the King and deliberate on it at length. It has been very insightful. It has been an immense honour and pride for the Parliament that His Majesty the King has also granted Royal Assent to the Bill.

The historic Gyalsung Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2022 is a precious gift to the Bhutanese people at large and to the youth in particular.

As we receive this precious gift from His Majesty the King, it is an opportunity for us to rededicate ourselves in serving for the country's security and sovereignty, well being and unity in this fast changing times.

Side by side, it has also been heartening to witness Gyalsuung Projects progressing very well in coherence with the adoption of the Bill.

2. Likewise, keeping in mind the welfare of the people, the parliament deliberated and passed many bills and most importantly the Civil Service Reform Bill and the Pay Structure Reform Bill of Bhutan. It is intended to enable smooth transformation of the civil service reform. In keeping with the transformation, the Parliament has accepted and deliberated the bill as an Urgent Bill to be passed in this session itself. The deliberation and passing of the bill has been a blessing and fortunate for the Parliament to take part in the transformation.

3. One of the greatest achievements of this Parliament has also been the ability to successfully deliberate on the thirty year old property tax policy and enacted it as a Property Tax Act .

8. In this Third Parliament, the National Assembly and National Council have worked together and passed many Acts for the welfare and benefit of the people and for the governance of the country. I would like to extend my appreciation to the Chairperson and all the Members of the National Council for collaboration and hard work.
9. Lastly, due to the blessings of the Triple Gem (Kencho Sum), blessings from His Majesty the King and Royal Families, prayers by the Monastic Body, cooperation and support from the Members of Parliament and merits of people of Bhutan, the parliament session has been successfully concluded.
10. We would like to conclude by offering prayers and Tashi Moenlam for His Majesty the Kings and successful reign.

Thank you and Kadrinche