

**Address by Wangchuk Namgyel Speaker of National Assembly at the Closing
Ceremony of the Seventh Session of the Third Parliament (July 5, 2022)**

1. Graced by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the current Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan concludes today.

It is a great honour to welcome His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, on behalf of the Members of Parliament, and on my own behalf to the concluding ceremony. I would also like to express deep gratitude to His Majesty the King for gracing the concluding ceremony of the Seventh Session.

2. I would also like to welcome Her Majesty the Queen and the Members of the Royal Family (*if it pleases Her Majesty the Queen to attend the ceremony*). Similarly, I would like to welcome the senior government officials and foreign dignitaries to the concluding ceremony.
3. His Royal Highness the Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck at a very tender age in His First Royal assignment as the Chief Guest graced and inaugurated the Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck Super FabLab at the TechPark and the FabLab network in Bhutan.

This extraordinary and historic occasion and the immense pride and joy felt by the Bhutanese people can be confirmed from the video of His Majesty the Gyalsey going viral on social media platforms shared with love and prayers.

We Bhutanese have been enjoying peace and prosperity under the dynamic rule of the Wangchuck Dynasty and under the wise leadership of His Majesty the King.

In a similar way, with the spectacular display of His Royal Highness the Prince, we are confident that we will continue to enjoy peace and prosperity.

Therefore, I, Speaker on behalf of the people of Bhutan and the Parliament, would like to offer our sincerest prayers for the good health and long life of His Royal Highness the Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck.

4. His Majesty the King, concerned for the well being of the people, has been tirelessly touring the south and west even during the rainy season. During the tour, His Majesty

granted audience to the DeSuup trainees and met with the DeSuups engaged with multiple De-suung initiatives providing them with golden words of advice. This has enabled the youths to build self-confidence and inspired them to serve the Nation and the society and lead an independent life. We express our deep gratitude to His Majesty for these selfless acts.

5. With His Majesty's Royal initiative to resolve people's land issue once and for all, land kidu has been granted to a total of 150,000 beneficiaries in all 205 Gewogs of 20 Dzongkhags in the country. Recently, almost 113,000 beneficiaries of Tsirang and Sarpang Dzongkhags were granted land kidu along with refunds and reprieve of fines, which will enable the people to lead a peaceful and independent life. Therefore, I on behalf of the Parliament, would like to offer our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.
6. His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth King of Bhutan was conferred the 2022 Blue Planet Prize. We the people of Bhutan, and in particular, the Parliament of Bhutan would like to offer our congratulatory wishes with our sincere prayers for the long life of His Majesty the Fourth King of Bhutan.
7. Under the Royal Command of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty Gyalyum Tshering Yangdoen Wangchuck, His Holiness the Je Khenpo ordained the nuns and conferred the Gelongma vows. The Gelongma vow is being conferred for the first time for nuns although Nun Dratsangs have been existing for a long time. The ordination ceremony was attended by nuns from Bhutan and neighbouring countries. On behalf of the Parliament of Bhutan, we would like to offer our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo.
8. I would like to report the deliberation of the National Assembly and the Joint Sitting during the current Session. The National Assembly deliberated on :
 - The Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2022 and also adopted it;
 - The Fiscal Incentives (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022;
 - The Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022;

- The Tourism Levy Bill of Bhutan 2022, three of them have been adopted as Money Bills and is being prepared for submission to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for Royal Assent;
 - The Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021;
 - The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol) has been deliberated in the National Assembly and is now transmitted to the National Council of Bhutan.
9. Even though the country's economy has been hampered by the global pandemic, the Government proposed the Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2022-2023 amounting to Nu. 81,827.311 million and the Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2021-2022 amounting to the Supplementary appropriation of Nu.3,866.933 million, which has been granted Royal Assent and is ready for implementation.
10. The Joint Sitting of the Parliament deliberated the following:
- Royal Audit Authority's Annual Audit Report 2020-21;
 - The Disputed Bills between the two Houses, the Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021;
 - The Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021;
 - The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) (Amendment) has been adopted and is being prepared for submission for Royal Assent.
11. The Seventh Session comes to a successful conclusion under His Majesty's noble vision and guidance, the prayers of the monastic body, support and cooperation of all the Members of Parliament and good will of all the Bhutanese people. For this, I extend and express my deepest gratitude.
12. Lastly, let us offer our collective prayers for the continued sovereignty and security of the country, longevity and happiness of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the Members of the Royal Family, and other religious figures and for the peace and happiness of the people. Let us all offer our Trashi Moenlam and Zhapton to His Majesty the King at the seat of the Golden Throne.

Thank you