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# ANNUAL REPORT

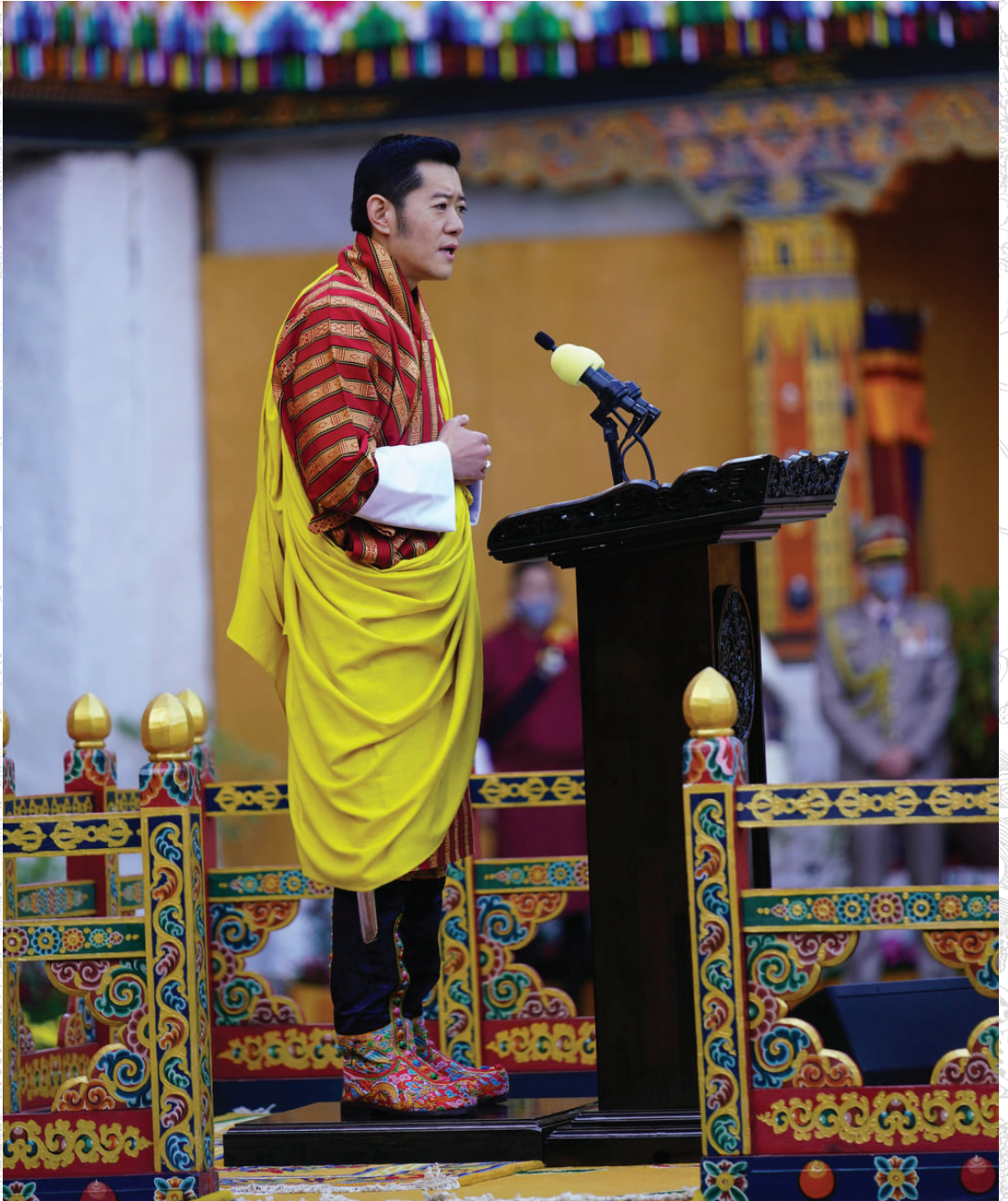
## JULY 2021- JUNE 2022

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**  
**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**





*“The civil service has to be grounded as a robust organisation that is apolitical, meritorious, innovative, resilient, and driven by a culture of research and state-of-the-art technology, enabling legislations and indeed the highest ethical standards of its leaders and personnel.”*

113 National Day, 17 December, 2020.





## FOREWORD

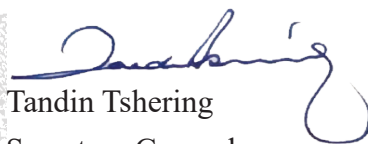
The National Assembly of Bhutan (NAB) is pleased to present the Annual Report 2021-2022. This report presents the overall achievements of NAB for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. It brings into focus the effort and initiatives of the NAB and the Secretariat towards fulfilling the country's overarching goal of Gross National Happiness enshrined in the Constitution through an inclusive and a vibrant democracy by effectively carrying out legislative, scrutiny, oversight, and representational functions as mandated.

During this reporting period, the Sixth and the Seventh Sessions of the Third Parliament have been held successfully. A total of 42 sittings were held which includes 11 days of parliamentary joint sittings. A total of 13 laws were adopted and 2 laws were referred to the National Council for deliberations. These legislations were deliberated extensively and amended in keeping with the needs and relevance of the emerging situations of the country to lay a strong foundation of rule of law in cementing the long-term interest of the country and her people. The Sessions had also been enriched with a total of 117 questions asked to Government agencies on various issues concerning people and of national importance.

In spite of the global pandemic imposed restrictions, members of Parliament (MPs) had made frequent visits to their constituencies to connect, understand, and listen to the people during the challenging period. As a part of the e-Parliament initiative, virtual plenaries for the members of Parliament were organised during lockdowns to discuss national issues and also facilitated members participation in international fora. And during the sessions, leveraging ICT, printings and distributions of documents had been curtailed to the extent possible.

The Secretariat endeavoured to serve the Speaker and the Members of Parliament with dedication and utmost sincerity. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for their unwavering, dedicated and professional support provided during the period for the successful and fruitful Fiscal Year 2021-2022 in the service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum.

Tashi Delek!



Tandin Tshering  
Secretary General



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This 2021-2022 Annual Report highlights the major activities and achievements, plans and programs, and challenges of the National Assembly of Bhutan. The report also celebrates the efforts and the initiatives shouldered by the members of National Assembly and the Secretariat Staff in working towards the achievement of mandates of the NAB and the show of solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. It also highlights the efforts of the Secretariat for the uninterrupted functioning of the NAB and support to the members even during the Covid pandemic times.

The Sixth and the Seventh Session of the Third Parliament were held during this period. The two Sessions included a total of 42 sittings which includes 11 days of parliamentary joint sittings. A total of 8 amendment laws were passed including 2 almost new Acts, 1 International Agreement and 2022 -23 Budget. 2 bills have been referred to the National Council for consideration.

These legislations were deliberated and amended in consonance with the Constitution for the benefit of the people and the country. The Sessions had also been enriched with question hours which saw a total of 113 oral and 4 written questions on various issues concerning people and the country.

The Secretariat also saw a change in leadership during the year, with the appointment of the new Secretary General, Mr. Tandin Tshering after the former Secretary General, Mr. Karma Weezir superannuated. The Secretariat also welcomed the new Director, Mr. Kinzang Tshering.

The Secretariat has always prioritised the development of the human resource. In this reporting year, 68 staff had participated in professional development programs and workshops. They are meant to equip and upgrade with the necessary knowledge and skills for efficiency and effectiveness in providing support to the parliament.

## 2. THE SECRETARIAT

The National Assembly Secretariat led by the Secretary General is an independent and non-partisan institution. It has four divisions - Legislative and Procedural Division, Research and Hansard Division, Information and Communications Division, and Secretariat Services providing professional, technical and support services to the Members of Parliament to fulfil the mandates.

There are a total of 80 staff, of whom 39% are regular and 61% on contract carrying out the supporting roles and responsibilities for the better performance of the Secretariat. In 2021-2022, twelve new staff joined the office while six staff resigned, four were either transferred or sent on secondment and one each is on study leave and extraordinary leave. The female to male ratio of the Secretariat staff still remains at 40:60.

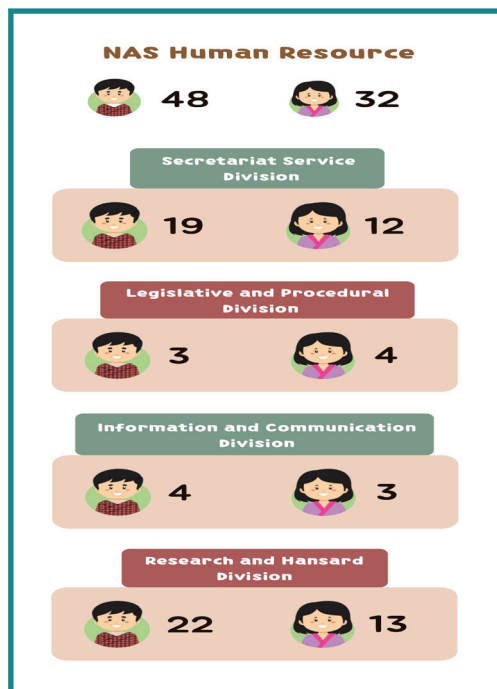


Figure 1: National Assembly Secretariat Human Resource Strength

Aligning with the Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, one ICT Officer has joined the Secretariat. Yet, the projected need for Program/Planning Officer, Research Officers, and a Photographer still needs to be fulfilled.

### 2.1 New Secretariat Heads joined National Assembly

Mr. Tandin Tshering was appointed as the Secretary General on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 to replace Secretary General Mr. Karma Weezir who superannuated. Prior to the appointment, he was serving as Director General of the Department of Cottage and Small Industry in the Ministry of Economic Affairs.



Figure 2: The New Secretary General, Tandin Tshering

Mr. Kinzang Tshering who was serving as the Chief Program Officer under the Department of Law and Order, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs also joined NAB as the new Director.

The Speaker, members, and staff of the National Assembly welcomed the new Secretariat leaders with prayers that the National Assembly of Bhutan would reach further heights under their dynamic leadership.

## 2.2 Human Resource Development

The Secretariat is of the view that the high morale of its staff is an essential prerequisite for their better performance and overall optimum of the Secretariat. Therefore, the Secretariat prioritises human resources development plans enabling training and providing opportunities for the staff to improve, learn, and grow. Even though several trainings and capacity building programs were hindered by the restrictions due to the global pandemic, the Secretariat abiding by the Covid-19 protocol had some of the staff undergo several important trainings and workshops.

During the FY 2021-2022, 68 staff underwent training and workshops within the country for capacity building as elaborated in *annexure I*. The trainings/conferences availed by the staff were on various fields ranging from media, research method, data analysis and reporting, competency based training, pre and post legislative scrutiny workshop, research, content development for e-learning courses in ethics and integrity, news literacy in the age of infodemic, data analysis and communication, public hearing, and leaders program on cyber security among others.

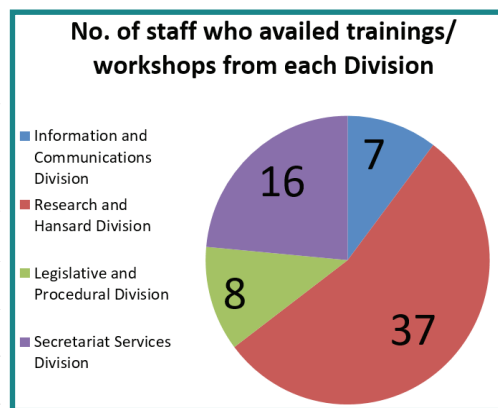


Figure 3: In-country training/ conferences under respective Divisions

In a first of its kind, about 51 staff of the Secretariat took part in a two-day program on Building Emotional Intelligence. It was conducted in two batches from 21-22<sup>nd</sup> and 27-28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021. The program was conducted by the Royal

Civil Service Commission (RCSC) in collaboration with Search Inside Yourself Leadership Institute to “focus on development of soft skills for the civil servants so as to drive a happier and productive organization culture” by building Neuroscience-based mindfulness and Emotional Intelligence in the Civil Service.

The National Assembly values the achievement of each of the staff and celebrates their every step. During the reporting year, ten staff were promoted and a befitting ceremony was held in presence of the Hon’ble Speaker and the Secretary General. Mr. Lotey Gyeltshen who served as the offtg. Chief Research Officer with the Secretariat has been promoted as the Language Specialist of the National Assembly whereas Mr. Karma, Dy. Chief ICT Officer was transferred as the Chief ICT Officer to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests.



*Figure 4: Staffs promoted in the FY 2021-2022*

The Secretariat also celebrated the Annual Civil Service Award Ceremony for four officials of the National Assembly for their dedicated service to the Tsa-Wa-Sum. Mr. Kinzang Tshering, the then Director was awarded the silver medal for 20 years of service along with Mr. Lotey Gyeltshen, Language Specialist, and Mr. Tenzin Namgay, Offtg. Chief Research Officer. Ms. Pem Zam, Committee Secretary was awarded the Bronze medal for 10 years of service.

### **2.3 Fostering Media Relation with the Media**

To enhance media’s understanding of the parliamentary proceedings and for actual information sharing, the Information and Communications Division conducted a familiarisation program with the media houses. Presentation and discussion ensued on the procedure of Bills passing, motions, and question hour with the



reporters from various media houses. NAB plans to conduct more such sessions with the media houses to enhance collaboration and enhance the dissemination of information about the parliamentary proceedings to the general citizen.

Further, to enhance the crucial role played by the media in the flow of information from the National Assembly to the citizens, the Secretariat has been coming up with



Figure 5: Session with the Media reporter

new methods to maximize interactions with the media with quality reports. One such method is the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for collaborating with Media with the aim to set a standard procedure to share information and facilitate communications between NAB and the media personnel for correct reporting and disseminating

information. The Secretariat is also working on the media content guideline with the key objective to facilitate, encourage and guide the correct passage and sharing of information from the NAB on its Website and various social media and newer technological platforms. Some of the other upcoming planned projects aimed at enhancing communication with the citizens are Communication Strategy, Social Media guidelines and Media guidelines.

With the relaxation of the COVID-19 protocols, the NAB re-opened the Assembly sessions for interested public and students who wanted to witness the session in person. During the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Third Parliament, there were a total of 539

Visitors to National Assembly during the 7<sup>th</sup> Session of the Third Parliament

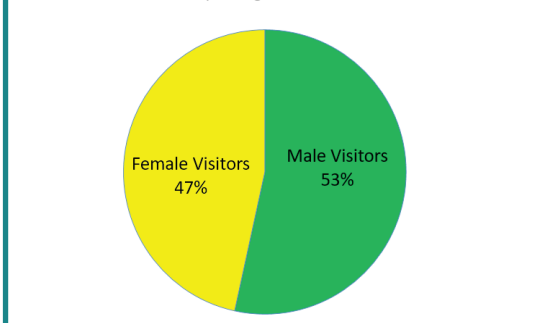


Figure 6: Visitors to the Parliament during the FY 2021-2022

visitors, which included 287 students from Yangchenphug Higher Secondary School (HSS), Nima HSS, Kelki HSS, Shari HSS, Drukgyel HSS, Tashiding HSS, Zilukha Middle Secondary School and ELC High School. The visits were also facilitated as a part of the visit to Parliament program with the objective to educate our youth on the

functioning of the Parliament and provide the students an opportunity to witness and get hands-on experience of parliamentary proceedings and at the same time the opportunity to interact with parliamentarians. During the visit, the students met with the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Speaker, Minister for education, Deputy Speaker and other members. In addition, five chief Dzongkhag education officers and seventeen school principals, officials from Government ministries, and the general public visited and witnessed the Seventh Session.

The NAB prioritises to continue enhancing the Parliament's interaction with the media and the citizen.

## 2.4 Online Systems

Focusing on e-Parliament initiatives and going paperless by leveraging the use of ICT tools and at the same time to create a conducive environment and reducing the turnaround time of work, the Secretariat has introduced easily accessible online services as follows:

### i. ICT Help Desk

In keeping with the development of technology with the changing time and the need for change in the way services are provided, digitization of services are necessary. The basic steps towards digitized services are strong ICT support and fundamentals. So, with the objective to enhance and support the ongoing ICT supports, the ICT Help Desk has been established. The ICT Help Desk aspires to provide immediate and smooth ICT support to Secretariat Staff and will also serve as a record of the ICT services provided and the history of equipment .



### ii. Attendance System

Figure 7: Online Systems

The attendance system is restricted to LAN (Local Area Networking) where it is only accessible within the internal network for the NAS staff. The system is instituted to encourage accountability and integrity of the staff. The system also serves as a digital record for future reference.

### iii. Leave System

The introduction of the online leave system is provided for the convenience of those who need to apply for leave. The online Leave System is an easy leave-seeking and approval platform where one can apply for leave from home or from wherever he/she has access to the internet. It will also provide leave records and promote accountability.

The online systems are available on the official website of the National Assembly of Bhutan.

## 3. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

### 3.1 Joining of New Members of Parliament

The seat for the Mongar constituency was declared vacant as per the National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 after former Home Minister Dasho Sherub Gyeltshen formally resigned on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and the seat for the Nganglam constituency was vacant, following the demise of the late MP Choida Jamtsho while the seat for the Khamdang-Ramjar constituency was declared vacant after the former MP Kuenga Loday from the same constituency resigned on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

The newly elected members after the bye-election, Hon'ble Karma Dorji from Nganglam Constituency and Hon'ble Karma Lhamo from Mongar constituency



officially joined the office on 20 July 2021. Whereas the member from Khamdang-Ramjar constituency, Hon'ble Karma Gyeltshen officially joined as a member on 29 March 2022. The Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath or Affirmation of Office for the member-elects.

*Figure 8: New Member during the oath of Affirmation ceremony*

The new members also attended the Induction Program aimed to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of the constitutional role and position and to enhance their contribution while delivering the sacred mandate. It was mainly to inform members about the roles and functions of Parliament as one of the three branches of the Government, an overview of the Parliament, functioning of the National Assembly, legislative procedure, and the parliamentary Committees among others.

#### 4. LEGISLATIVE ROLE AND LEGISLATIONS PASSED

The NAB convenes two Sessions every year - Winter and Summer Session. During this financial year, the Sixth and Seventh Session of the Third Parliament was conducted.

The Sixth Session of the Third Parliament was held from November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for 18 working days. Apart from Bills, the Session deliberated on 1 framework agreement, 3 motions, and 48 oral questions. The question hour witnessed a range of pertinent questions on the construction of roads and airports, the state of the economy, future of hydro power projects, youth unemployment, quality of education, shortage of doctors, easing of COVID-19 protocols, promotion of agriculture and support to farmers, connectivity to third internet gateway amongst others. Motions on enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and adequacy of agricultural marketing, lifting the ban on the bar licence in Bhutan, and the immediate commencement of South-East-West Highways; Nganglam to Dewathang to Gelephu to Panbang, Lhamoizingkha to Sarpang Highway construction were also raised in the Session.



*Figure 9: Some of the Legislations passed during the reporting year*

The Seventh Session of the Third Parliament was conducted from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022, for 24 working days. In line with the due Legislative Procedure, a follow-up implementation from the previous Session, a motion and question hour inclusive of 65 oral questions and 4 written questions were raised during the Session. The lone motion of the Session was on the need to establish a special committee or a joint committee at



the earliest to carry out an in-depth study to resolve the escalation of prices of goods and services.

During the reporting year, following Bills have been adopted and have come into effect:

1. Customs Duty (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2021;
2. Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2021;
3. Tax Act of Bhutan 2021;
4. Fiscal Incentives Act of Bhutan 2021;
5. Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2022;
6. Biodiversity Act of Bhutan 2022;
7. Budget Appropriation Act for the Financial Year 2022-2023;
8. Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2022;
9. Fiscal Incentives (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2022;
10. Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA);
11. Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2022;
12. Supplementary Budget Appropriation Act for the Financial Year 2021-2022; and
13. Tourism Levy Act of Bhutan 2022.

The Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021 and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol) have been transmitted to the National Council of Bhutan.

The Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2022 was also deliberated and adopted.

Re-deliberation on the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021 also took place in the Seventh Session. Since there has been a few disputed clauses, Royal Command have been received to deliberate and vote on the Bill in a Joint Sitting in the upcoming session.

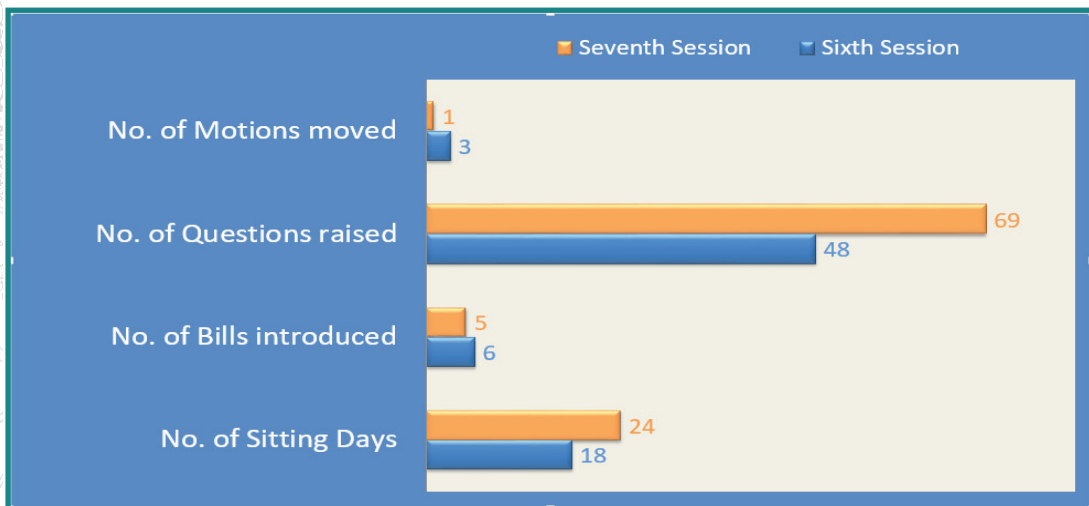


Figure 10: Comparison between Sixth and Seventh Session of the Third Parliament

The graph above shows a brief comparison between the Sixth and the Seventh Session of the Third Parliament regarding the number of sitting days, number of Bills introduced, question hours, and motions deliberated.

## 5. OVERSIGHT ROLE AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The NAB has varied, complex, and voluminous functions under its three mandates of representation, oversight, and legislative.

The visible part of the NAB's work happens in the Parliament Hall when it is delivered live to the people during its two Sessions every year and they are closely watched and followed. However, other work and responsibilities are being carried out round the clock to ensure the success of those two visible Sessions. One such among many is the work of the Parliamentary Committees. Section 11 of Article 10 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan mandates each House of Parliament to establish Committees through Rules of Procedure in order to carry out the business of Parliament. As per the Rules of Procedure, the Committees are mandated to support the functions of the Parliament and the standing Committees deliberate, inquire, investigate, review, recommend, legislate, and draw attention to any important matter of national importance to the Speaker and the House and give advice for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Committees comprise members from both ruling and opposition parties and they function throughout the year undertaking functions, such as carrying out inquiries, hearing witnesses, consulting, discussing matters in detail, and formulating reasoned conclusions. The recommendation of the Committee is then sent to the House. That is why Committees are referred to as miniature legislatures.

The NAB has 9 Standing Committees; Public Accounts Committee (joint parliamentary Committee), Legislative Committee, Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee, Social and Cultural Committee, Good Governance Committee, Environment and Climate Change Committee, Women, Children, and Youth Committee, Economic and Finance Committee, and House Committee.

During the reporting year, the Environment and Climate Change Committee reviewed Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021 and the Biodiversity Bill of Bhutan 2021 while the Fiscal Incentives Bill of Bhutan 2021, Tourism Levy Bill of Bhutan 2022, Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2022-2023 and the Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2021-2022 were reviewed by the Economic and Finance Committee. The Legislative Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing the Customs Duty (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021, Tax Bill of Bhutan 2021, Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021, Fiscal Incentives (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022, and Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2022.

Civil Society Organizations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021, United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol), and the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) were reviewed by the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee. The Social and Cultural Committee reviewed the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021 while the House Committee reviewed and worked on the Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2022. The Good Governance Committee worked on the Re-deliberation of the Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021 and also reviewed the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report 2020-2021. The Public Accounts Committee worked on

Annual Audit Report 2020, Annual Audit Report 2020-2021, follow-up on the Annual Audit Reports 2010-2020, and various Performance Audit Reports, and produced review reports on those to the Joint Sitting of the Parliament.

During the reporting year, three Joint Committees were also formed as the Parliamentary Joint Committee on UNCAC (Amendment); Joint Committee on Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021; and Joint Committee on Civil Society Organisations (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2021. The Joint Committees have members from both the Houses.

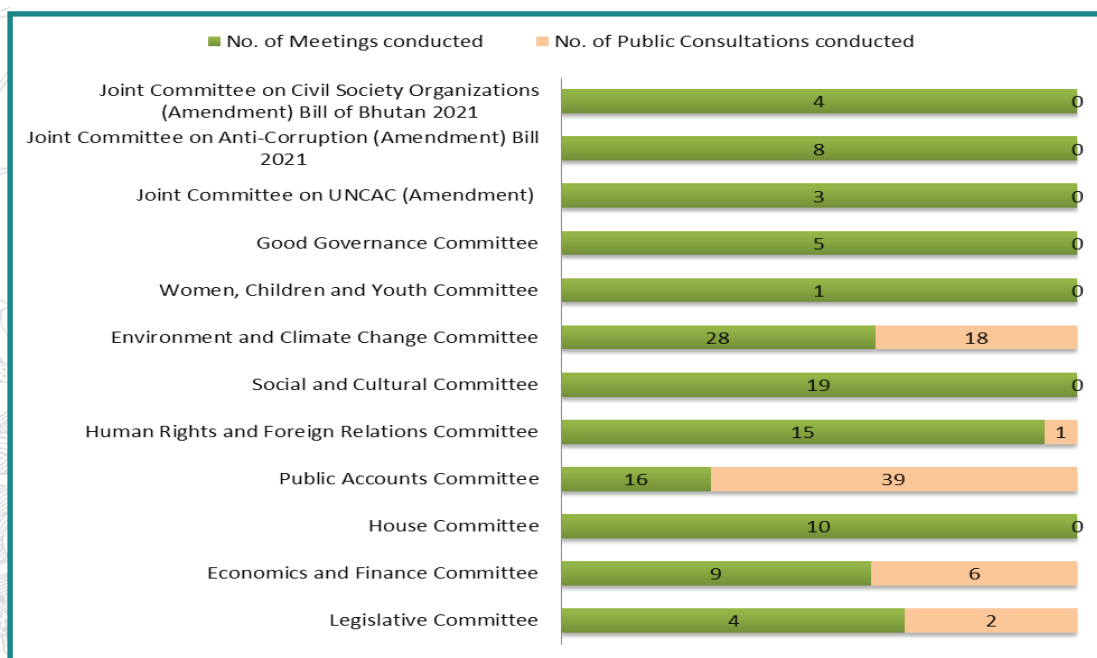


Figure 11: Details on Committee Meeting & Consultations

During 2021-2022, a total of 188 Committee meetings and consultations were held to carry out the studies and in-depth analysis on various issues. The Public Accounts Committee met for as many as 55 times, followed by the Environment and Climate Change Committee meeting for at least 46 times in the reporting year.

## 6. REPRESENTATIONAL ROLE AND CONSTITUENCY VISITS

One of the mandates of MPs is the representation mandate. Representation works in two ways, representing the constituents in the decision-making process and informing them on the decisions of the Parliament. The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2014 mandates the members to visit their constituencies at least



twice a year to meet their constituents. Constituency visits are aimed at enhancing the two-way communication between the constituents and their representative. The members are considered the bridge between people and the government and a representative to mirror the expectations of the people and help achieve them. The visits are expected to enable the members to get hands-on experiences of their people and know the reality of the hardship faced by the constituents.

During the FY 2021-2022, the restrictions on the travels from one Dzongkhag to another in the selective Dzongkhags continued for a certain duration resulting in members not being able to visit their constituencies as per their wishes. Additionally, as one of the budget rationalization initiatives, the number of days for constituency visits for which the members can claim the travel and daily allowance was reduced to 21 days from the 42 days in a year. The members who visited their constituencies for more than 21 days were either on another official visit or visiting without claiming travel allowance.

During the reporting year, seven members opted to meet their people in their constituencies virtually via zoom and other video conferencing facilities considering the COVID-19 restrictions and a limited number of days. The highest frequency of the constituency visit was as high as 6 times.

The Secretariat aiming to sensitise the general public on the works and functioning of the National Assembly when not in Session, started publishing updates on the constituency visit of the members on the official website and social media platforms of NAB. The NAS plans to continue doing it so that the constituents are aware of what their members are doing when they aren't attending the Sessions.

## **7. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND COVID-19**

The members led by the Speaker have always stood by the government and contributed however possible in the fight against the global pandemic, COVID-19. In the reporting year, there were several lockdowns all around the country. During the lockdowns, the members of the National Assembly carried out their business as usual. One such responsibility undertaken by NAB is to conduct virtual plenaries on the COVID-19 situation in the country, issues related to the economy and to discuss the way forward.

The first virtual plenary was conducted on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and the second was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The plenaries were also aimed to adequately equip the members to be prepared to inform and respond to the issues from their constituents and the public regarding the situation in the country. Therefore, the members could assist in the dissemination of information and act as the bridge between the people and the Government and at the same time, the members could help the Government in assisting with ideas and strategies in combating COVID-19.

During the first virtual plenary, members sought clarifications on several issues, especially regarding stranded passengers, the possibility of allowing multiple grocery shops to open to reduce crowding, economic and social stress caused by the blackout, board exams for classes 10 and 12, and misuse of movement cards, online application of e-movement, formalities of antigen testing for foreign workers and quarantine facilities among many others. It was reiterated that the uniqueness of our culture has been to stand together in times of need and the need of the hour this time is to take a collective approach to fight the pandemic.

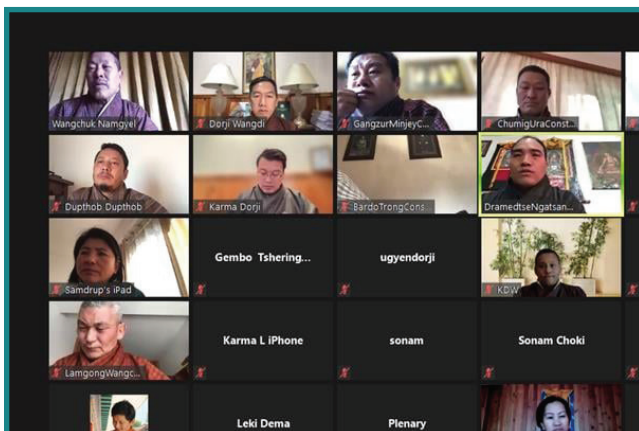


Figure 12: Members attending Plenary on COVID-19 virtually

During the second virtual plenary on COVID-19, the members sought clarifications on protocols for travel during constituency visits and issues related to e-movement pass, movement between the zones, food quality in quarantine facilities, house rent, call centre services, and the need to have a coordinated and uniform implementation of covid protocols throughout the country.

The NAB has also continued its support to De-Suups and its initiatives in combating the COVID-19 and issues related to it. On 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021, a team of ten De-Suups from the NAB led by Hon'ble Tshewang Lhamo, member from Bongo-Chapcha constituency and nine secretariat staffs volunteered to assist the Royal Bhutan Army and

others in the construction of a 400-bedded quarantine facility at Toorsa, Phuntsholing. The quarantine facility was being constructed to ease the line of people waiting for the quarantine facility to move out of the place. The team helped construct the

quarantine facility starting from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and worked on its completion for almost two months.



*Figure 13: De-Suup volunteers for the Quarantine Facility Construction with the Secretariat Leaders*

The Secretariat also took part in the combat against COVID-19 by deputing the Secretariats drivers in assistance to the Medical Surveillance Team and Road Safety & Transport Authority of Bhutan (RSTA) office during the time of need.

## 8. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTION

MPs carry vast responsibilities to ensure that every decision that they take are well-researched and well-reasoned. To do this, MPs require lots of exploration, broadening of their horizon, and interaction with various other perspectives. So, it is of paramount importance that Parliament goes beyond the primary task of debating and passing laws and gets engaged in inter-parliamentary diplomacy and exchange partnership. These collaborations enable the MPs to come forward with valuable new perspectives on the issues the Parliament is debating on.

Moreover, as international instruments duly acceded to by the Government require ratification by Government, there is all the more reason for the Parliament to engage in and have influence in international affairs. But due to the situation of the country as well as in the world, most of the international programs and conferences were held virtually.

## 8.1 Virtual International Conferences attended by Members

In the reporting year, most of the international visits, conferences, and seminars were either postponed, called off or were conducted virtually. The members also attended conferences, meetings, and seminars online.

The meetings and conferences were on issues ranging from Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs, Pre and Post Legislative Scrutiny Seminar, Celebration of the International Day of Democracy, IPU-UN Women Annual Parliamentary Meeting, Briefing on Empowerment Series for Young MPs organized by the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), IPU World e-Parliament Report-Focus Group Asian Parliaments, Virtual Parliamentarians Roundtable on Renewable Energy and Climate Change in South Asia: The role of Bhutan, Third Meeting of the Global Young MP Initiative themed



Figure 14: Members attending a virtual International Seminar

“Innovations to Eliminate Learning Poverty”, and Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) Parliamentary Forum on Research and Library Cooperation.

## 8.2 Foreign delegations received by the National Assembly

Continuing from the last reporting year, the meet and greets programs have been impacted everywhere. During the reporting year, the NAB received just one international delegation, His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, the Cuban Ambassador-designate. The visit amidst the global pandemic signifies new parliamentary cooperation and institutional ties while strengthening and enriching the already existing ones.

The details of the call on received by the National Assembly of Bhutan in the FY 2020-21 are provided in *Annexure II*.





*Figure 15: Hon'ble Speaker with His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, the Cuban Ambassador-designate*

### 8.3 Foreign Visit by Members

Due to the restrictions with the global pandemic, ex-country visits were either called off or postponed. However, during the reporting year, two Committees of the Parliament, Economic and Finance Committee (NAB) and Public Accounts Committee (Joint Committee) visited the Parliament of Singapore and Thailand from 29<sup>th</sup> April till 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

The Economic and Finance Committee visited the Parliament of Singapore and Thailand with the aim to understand: the prudent and diligent system of budget allocation and utilization, so as to develop the professional capacity of parliamentarians and officials to provide a foundation for informed and



*Figure 16: Committee Members meeting Members of Parliament of Singapore*



rigorous budget scrutiny; system for preparing and reviewing the budget reports and other related Money Bills; the existing international performance metrics drawn from the international Parliament's guidance in order to streamline effective budget allocation and utilization measures; and the public hearing system, in order to use it as a mechanism for parliamentary Committees to gather information used for analyzing and designing policies to effectively carry out oversight functions.

The Committee led by the Chairperson visited and met many inspiring individuals during the visit and came back equipped to produce better results.



Figure 17: Members of the Public Accounts Committee with the Auditor General of Singapore

The Public Accounts Committee also visited the Parliament of Singapore with the objective of enhancing the scope of budget scrutiny, and legislative procedures for budget scrutiny. It was also intended to build the capacity of the committee members and its secretariat staff. All five members of the PAC and a Committee Secretary visited the Parliament of Singapore.

## 9. OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

The NAB's approved Budget for the FY 2021-2022 was Nu. 123.095m with the current budget of Nu. 120.434m and a capital budget of Nu. 2.661m. The overall budget expenditure achievement was 99.3% with a budget balance of 0.890m. The details of the financial achievement are provided in *Annexure III*.

With the effect of the global pandemic on the economy, the NAB in its effort to reduce the burden on the Government budget has implemented several budget rationalisation initiatives. One of them is the aforementioned reduction of the number of days for constituency visits to 21 days resulting in a reduction in travel expenses for both the members and the assistant research officers. The Secretariat also implemented

rationalisation measures in the conduct of the 7th Session by doing away with meals for the staff and other stakeholders involved in the conduct of the Session while at the same time providing only working lunch for the members. The measure reduced the Session expenditure by almost 50 %. The Secretariat plans to continue such measures in the future. The reporting report also celebrates the completion of the installation of the Building Management System(BMS ) of the Heating, Ventilation and Cooling system (HVAC) inside the Grand Assembly Hall and Plenary Hall and in the main offices which was first started in the FY 2019-2020. With the installation of the BMS, the control of the heating and cooling system will aid in controlling and monitoring of the system and ensure occupant safety, whilst delivering energy efficiency and lower operating costs.

## 10. CONCLUSION

The reporting year 2021-2022 saw the fruitful success of its planned activities even with the drastic impact of the pandemic in the country. The Secretariat led by the Secretary General has served the members of the Third Parliament with full dedication and commitment and aspires to serve with integrity and humility for the years to come. This report highlights the innovative roles and participations taken by the members and the activities undertaken to fulfil the sacred mandates of the Parliament either in person or through technology virtually. It also highlights the roles carried by the members in carrying out Committee meetings/consultations, questions asked, petitions raised and motions debated.

The Secretariat would like to thank all the development partners for their assistance and contribution for the successful outcome of the activities. The Secretariat remains indebted to the guidance of the Speaker and the members in its efforts to better serve and support the Parliament.

**11. ANNEXURES****Annexure I : Details of In-country Trainings/Workshops attended by Staff**

<b>Sl. no.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Training title</b>	<b>Staff who attended</b>	<b>Organized / Funded by</b>
1	11-15th Oct 2021	Media Training	Sonam Lhamo	Project Nymadrel
			Sonam Delek	
			Tenzin Namgay	
			Leki Dema	
			Chimi Lhadren	
			Sonam Yangki	
			Sampa Dhendup	
			Karma Drupchu	
			Kanjur Wangmo	
			Tshering Wangchuk	
			Tshokey Dorji	
2	2/11/22	Finalization of Communication Plan	Sonam Lhamo	Project Nyamdrel
			sonam Yangki	
			Sampa Dhendup	
			Leki Dema	
			Tshering Wangchuk	
			Kanjur Wangmo	
3	3/11/22	Finalization of Communication Plan	Sonam Lhamo	Project Nymadrel
			Tenzin Namgay	
			Sonam Delek	
			Sampa Dhendup	
			Leki Dema	
			Tshering Wangchuk	
			Kanjur Wangmo	
			karma Drupchu	
			Ugyen Wangdi	
			Chimi Lhadren	
			Tshokey Dorji	

4	8-10th Nov, 2021	Course for Research Method, Data Analysis and Reporting	Tenzin Namgay	UNDP
			Kanjur Wangmo	
			Ugyen Wangdi	
			Dawa Gyeltshen	
			sonam choden B	
			Tashi Phuntsho	
			Sangay Norbu	
			Tandin Namgyel	
			kinley wangdi	
			Tashi Lhamo	
			Phuntsho Wangmo	
			Tshewang Choki	
			Sonam Wangmo	
			Ugyen Kelzang	
			Dorji Gyeltshen	
			Ugyen Tshering	
			Dorji Phuntsho	
			Kinzang tshering	
			Namgay Lhamo	
			Phuntsho Wangdi B	
			Sonam Eden	
			Kaka Dorji	
			Kencho Yenten	
			Phuntsho Wangdi A	
			Passang Lhamo	
			Kinzang Wangdi	
			Tshering Yangki	
			Zeko Lhamo	
			Kinley Om	
			Tashi Tobgay	
			Ugyen Norbu	
			Tandin Gyeltshen	
			Karma	
			Ugyen Tenzin	
			Ugyen Lhamo	
5	29/11-10/12/21	Competency based Training at RIM	Dechen Wangmo	MOF



6	13-15th July 2021	Pre and Post Legislative Scrutiny workshop at IMSL	Sonam Delek	Project Nyamdrel
			Kanjur Wangmo	
			Karma Drupchu	
			Tshering Wangchuk	
			Leki Dema	
			Jigme Tenzin	
			Chimi Lhaden	
			Kinzang Choden	
			Sonam Lhamo	
			Karma	
			Sonam Yangki	
			Sampa Dhendup	
7	12-15th July 2021	Research Training	All AROs	
			Lotey Gyeltshen	
			Tenzin Namgay	
			Tashi Zangmo	
			Tshewang Norbu	
			Ugyen Wangdi	
			Sonam Jamtsho	
			Dechen Wangda	
			Yonten Dhendup	
			Jamtsho	
8	2-10th May 2022	Content Development for E-learning Courses in Ethics and Integrity	Sonam Delek, Dechen Wangda	ACC

9	4-6th May 2022	Workshop on News Literacy in the age of Infodemic	AROs:	Bhutan center for media and democracy
			Ugyen Tshering	
			Tashi Lhamo	
			Ugyen Lhamo	
			kinley Wangdi	
			Tandin Namgyel	
			Phuntso Wangmo	
			Ugyen Norbu	
			Tshewang Cheki	
			Tashi Tobgay	
			Phuntsho Wangdi	
			Tika Nesor	
			Sonam Wangmo	
			Tashi Phuntsho	
			Karma Dema	
			Karma	
10	17-20th May 2022	Data Analysis and Communication	Jigme Lhamo	UNDP
11	20-22th May	Training on Public Hearing	Sonam Lhamo	Project Nyamdrel
			Sonam Delek	
			Sonam Choki	
			Karma Drupchu	
			Tshering Wangchuk	
			Sonam Yangki	
			Sampa Dhendup	
12	3-21st Jan 2022	Leaders Program on Cybersecurity	Kinzang Tshering, Sonam Lhamo	MoIC
13	27-29 Dec 2021	Consultative workshop on Bhutan Living Standard Survey (BLSS) 2022 questionnaire	Dechen Wangda	NSB
14	21-22nd and 27-28th September	Program on Building Emotional Intelligence	Chimi Lhaden	RCSC

## **Annexure II: List of Call on made to the Hon'ble Speaker from July 2021-June 2022**

<b>Sl.no</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Call on Made by</b>
1	13 August,2021	the Ambassador designate of Bhutan to Australia
2	09 June 2022	His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Simancas Marin, the Cuban Ambassador-designate

## Annexure III: Budget Report

Printed Date: 18/07/2022

## EXPENDITURE REPORT

## 4. REVISED BUDGET/EXPENDITURE

FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN  
 DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT  
 FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OBC	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
002						NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICES				
	005					NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT & SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES				
		001				NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT				
			01			PAY AND ALLOWANCES				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	16.867	16.742	0.125	0.74
					02.01	Other Personnel Emoluments	0.693	0.693	0.000	0.02
					11.01	Travel - Incountry	0.414	0.414	0.000	0.07
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.715	0.714	0.001	0.13
					12.01	Utilities - Telephones, Telex, Fax, E-mail, Internet	0.513	0.513	0.000	0.02
					12.02	Utilities - Telegram, Wireless Transmission, Postage	0.045	0.045	0.000	0.11
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.152	0.152		
					14.07	S & M - Text Books, Library Books, Stationeries & Sports Item	0.006	0.006		
					15.02	Maintenance of Property - Vehicles	0.860	0.860	0.000	0.00
					15.05	Maintenance of Property - Equipment	0.003	0.003	0.000	3.33
					15.07	Maintenance of Property - Computers	0.025	0.025		
					17.01	Op. Exp. - Advertising	0.030	0.030		
					17.02	Op. Exp. - Taxes, Duties, Royalties, Fees, Handling Charges, Bank Charges	0.003	0.003		
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	0.261	0.261		
					24.03	Contributions - Provident Fund	1.848	1.773	0.075	4.07
					25.01	Retirement Benefits	3.167	3.165	0.002	0.05
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	25.602	25.399	0.203	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	25.602	25.399	0.203	
			02			BOOMER GATE MAINTENANCE AND PROCUREMENT OF PHOTO COPY MACHINE				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					51.08	Exp. on Structure - Others	0.103	0.103	0.000	0.19
					54.01	Furniture	0.056	0.056		
					54.02	Office Equipment	0.191	0.181	0.010	5.30
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.350	0.340	0.010	
						TOTAL OF SAct 02	0.350	0.340	0.010	
			05			HONBLE SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND CONSTITUENCY VISIT				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	1.500	1.499	0.001	0.05
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	1.500	1.499	0.001	
						TOTAL OF SAct 05	1.500	1.499	0.001	
			06			HONBLE OPPOSITION LEADER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND CONSTITUENCY VISIT				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	1.500	1.500		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	1.500	1.500		
						TOTAL OF SAct 06	1.500	1.500		
			07			PROCUREMENT OF HEADPHONES				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					54.02	Office Equipment	0.100	0.100		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.100	0.100		
						TOTAL OF SAct 07	0.100	0.100		
			08			CENTRAL HEATING VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING HVAC				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					51.08	Exp. on Structure - Others				
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001				
						TOTAL OF SAct 08				
			22			ACCOMPANY MPS DURING CONSTITUENCY VISITS				



ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN  
DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT  
FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu. in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OB	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances				
					11.01	Travel - Incountry				
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)				
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001				
						TOTAL OF SAct 22				
		27				FIREWALL LICENSE RENEWAL FOR NA AND MP OFFICE				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					55.01	Professional Services				
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001				
						TOTAL OF SAct 77				
		29				RESEARCH AND HANSARD DIVISION				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	10.328	10.279	0.049	0.47
					11.01	Travel - Incountry	1.395	1.395		
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.420	0.420		
					25.01	Retirement Benefits	0.377	0.377		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	12.520	12.471	0.049	
						TOTAL OF SAct 29	12.520	12.471	0.049	
						TOTAL OF Act 001	41.572	41.309	0.263	
		002				ASSEMBLY SESSION SERVICES				
			01			GENERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.496	0.496		
					15.05	Maintenance of Property - Equipment	0.002	0.002		
					17.01	Op. Exp. - Advertising	0.087	0.087		
					17.08	Op. Exp. - Incountry Meetings and Celebrations	3.656	3.656		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	4.241	4.241		
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	4.241	4.241		
						TOTAL OF Act 002	4.241	4.241		
		003				COMMITTEE SERVICES				
			01			GENERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.050	0.050		
					17.08	Op. Exp. - Incountry Meetings and Celebrations	0.389	0.389		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.439	0.439		
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	0.439	0.439		
						TOTAL OF Act 003	0.439	0.439		
		004				PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE MP SERVICES				
			01			PAY AND ALLOWANCE				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	56.391	56.336	0.055	0.10
					02.01	Other Personnel Emoluments	0.402	0.401	0.001	0.26
					24.03	Contributions - Provident Fund	5.319	5.309	0.010	0.19
					25.01	Retirement Benefits	0.664	0.664	0.000	0.07
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	62.776	62.710	0.066	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	62.776	62.710	0.066	
			02			OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES MP				
				0001		ROGB Financing				
					11.01	Travel - Incountry	2.522	2.521	0.001	0.06
					11.02	Travel - Outside Bhutan	0.014	0.014		
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.540	0.535	0.005	0.99
					12.01	Utilities - Telephones, Telex, Fax, E-mail, Internet	0.415	0.415	0.000	0.03
					12.02	Utilities - Telegram, Wireless Transmission, Postage	0.005	0.005		
					12.03	Utilities - Electricity, Water, Sewerage	0.252	0.253	-0.001	-0.41
					13.01	Rental of Properties - Buildings	1.557	1.557		
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.150	0.150		
					14.07	S & M - Text Books, Library Books, Stationeries & Sports Item	0.001	0.001		
					15.02	Maintenance of Property - Vehicles	0.900	0.899	0.001	0.14

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN  
 DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT  
 FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu. in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OBC	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
					21.01	Current Grants - Individuals/Non-profit Orgs.	5.500	5.418	0.082	1.49
					54.03	Computers & Peripherals	0.282	0.280	0.002	0.57
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	12.138	12.047	0.091	
						TOTAL OF SAct 02	12.138	12.047	0.091	
			06			JOINING ALLOWANCE OF NEW MPS				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					53.01	Purchase of Vehicles	0.933	0.464	0.469	50.31
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.933	0.464	0.469	
						TOTAL OF SAct 06	0.933	0.464	0.469	
						TOTAL OF Act 004	75.847	75.221	0.626	
			007			UNDP SUPPORT FOR WORKSHOP ON SOP				
				01		DEVELOPMENT OF SOP AND PUBLIC HEARING				
					2999	Access to Justice				
					55.01	Professional Services	0.996	0.996	0.000	0.05
						TOTAL OF FIC 7999	0.996	0.996	0.000	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	0.996	0.996	0.000	
						TOTAL OF Act 007	0.996	0.996	0.000	
						TOTAL OF SPPr 005	123.095	122.205	0.890	
						TOTAL OF Pr 002	123.095	122.205	0.890	
						TOTAL OF FO 00	123.095	122.205	0.890	
						TOTAL OF Dent 01	123.095	122.205	0.890	
						TOTAL OF AU 103.01	123.095	122.205	0.890	
						GRAND TOTAL	123.095	122.205	0.890	

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