

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT THIMPHU:BHUTAN

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT THIMPHU: BHUTAN



Foreword

The National Assembly of Bhutan (NAB) is pleased to produce the Annual Report 2018-19. The report features achievements of the NAB in working towards achieving the country's overarching goal of Gross National Happiness through inclusive and vibrant democracy and effectively carrying out legislative, oversight, and representational functions.

During this period, there were two assembly sessions. A total of seven legislations were passed, out of which four were amendments. These legislations were debated and amended in consonance with the Constitution for the benefit of the people. In order to have productive outcomes and promote the vibrancy of the assembly, a total of sixty seven Parliamentary Committee Meetings were conducted to review Acts and Laws. To make parliamentar y affairs more inclusive, fifty three consultative meetings were conducted with various stakeholders. In addition, eighty five questions were asked to the government on various issues concerning the people. Four petitions from the local governments were discussed in the House. Ten motions for the larger benefit of the public have been moved and debated. The Member of Parliament have made frequent visits to their constituencies to connect and understand and listen to the people.

The NAB in collaboration with UNDP and National Council launched the first ever Bhutan National Human Development Report "*Ten Years of Democracy in Bhutan, 2019*" looking back at achievements and way forward for a more vibrant democracy.

While presenting the report, I would like to urge all our Members of Parliament to continue their dedicated service to *Tsawa Sum*. I also would like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretary General and the Staff for their dedicated and professional support to the Parliamentarians. My sincere appreciation also goes to the stakeholders and the people of Bhutan for their valuable contribution and trust in the Parliament.

I acknowledge all those who worked hard and contributed to this report.

Tashi Delek!

(Wangchuk Namgyel) SPEAKER



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National Assembly of Bhutan

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1. Introduction

The report highlights the achievements and the major events of the National Assembly of Bhutan in the past one year. The report also takes stock of the efforts made by the National Assembly to fulfill its vision and goals to effectively carry out its legislative, scrutiny, oversight and representational function. An overview of the Budget and its utilization in the FY 2018-2019 has also been highlighted.

A significant event in this reporting year is the transition to the Third National Assembly with the end of term of the Second Parliament. The Report highlights the main events of the transition with an analysis of the composition and details of the Third Parliament. The report then shifts focus to the achievements and activities carried out by the National Assembly to fulfill its vision and mission, such as development of human resource capacity, strengthening of the National Assembly's Legislative, Oversight and Representational functions and the overall Assembly budget and its utilization.



2. Transition to the Third Parliament

17 AUGUST 2018

Election Commission calls election to the National Assembly of the Third Parliament

18 OCTOBER 2018

General election Poll Day, Counting of Results

30 OCTOBER 2018

The Member-Elects to the National Assembly of the Third Parliament, led by Dr. Lotay Tshering, presents certificates of election to the Secretary General of the National Assembly

07 NOVEMBER 2018

His Majesty the DrukGyalpo confers Dakyen to the Speaker of the National Assembly, and Orange Kabney to the Leader of the Opposition Party, at the Tashichhodzong.

01-24 JANUARY 2019

First Session of the Third Parliament

01 AUGUST 2018

Dissolution of the Second Parliament, Speaker read out and signed the Term- End Order, officially declaring the End-Of-Term of the Second National Assembly. Members change their Kabney/Rachu

15 SEPTEMBER 2018

Primary Round Poll Day, Counting of Results

19 OCTOBER 2018

Declaration of Results

31 OCTOBER 2018

The Third National Assembly officially formed, First Sitting held, Speaker and Deputy Speaker elected, Secretary General reads out Kasho from His Majesty the King, Members change their Kabney/ Rachu and put on Patang/ Gyengtag. Members take the Oath or Affirmation of Office administered by the Chief Justice of Bhutan

09 NOVEMBER 2018

Members of the National Assembly officially assume their respective offices after a Marchang ceremony presided over by the Speaker

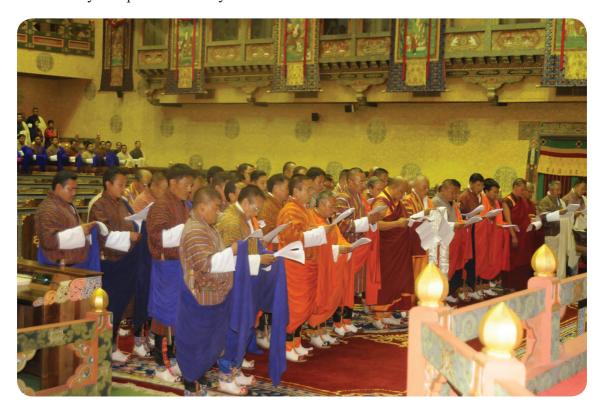
22 MAY - 27 JUNE 2019

Second Session of the Third Parliament



2.1. Dissolution of the Second Parliament

The National Assembly of the Second Parliament dissolved on 1st August 2018 after it successfully completed its five-year term.



The term-end sitting of the National Assembly of the Second Parliament saw the receiving of the "*Ku-Sung-Thukten*" of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo from Trashichodzong to the Parliament Hall by Tshogpon Jigme Zangpo. The Speaker read out and signed the Term-End Order, officially declaring the End-Of-Term of the Second National Assembly. The Speaker and the Members led by Ven. Dorji Lopen offered *Gyalpoi Zhapten* and *Tashi Moenlam*.

The Term-End sitting was a historic and solemn one. The Members, after the *Tashi Moenlam* ceremony, changed their *Kabney/Rachu* relinquishing their roles as Members of Parliament. The Term-End Order is annexed in *Annexure I*





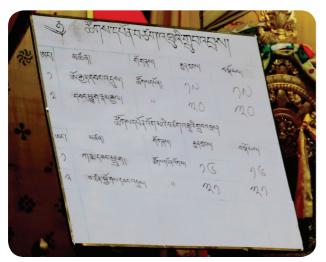
2.2 The Third Parliament

Following the declaration of the National Parliamentary Elections 2018 results by the Election Commission of Bhutan, the Member-Elects to the National Assembly of the Third Parliament, led by Dr. Lotay Tshering, presented their certificates of election to the Secretary General of the National Assembly on 30th October 2019 as per Section 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2014. The Secretary General gave a briefing on the First Sitting of the Third National Assembly to the Member-Elects. The list of Members of the Third Parliament are Annexed in *Annexure II*.



Dr. Lotay Tshering signing the Roll of Members

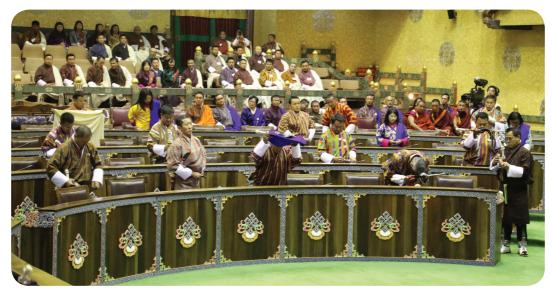




The First Sitting of the National Assembly of the Third Parliament was held on 31st October 2018 with 30 Members from the Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (Ruling) and 17 Members from the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (Opposition). The First Sitting of the National Assembly witnessed the election of Mr. Wangchuk Namgyel, member-elect of Nyishog-Saephu constituency as the Speaker and Mr. Tshencho Wangdi, member-elect of Kabisa-Talog constituency as the

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly. However, unlike in the past two parliaments, the Third National Assembly saw contenders from the opposition members for the posts of Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The Inaugural Ceremony of the First Sitting of the National Assembly began with the ushering of *Ku-Sung-Thukten*, a symbolic representation of His Majesty the King, into the Assembly Hall. After the Secretary General read out the *Kasho* received from His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the Member-Elects put on Patang/Gyentag and changed their *Kabney/Rachu*. The Members then took the Oath or Affirmation of Office administered by the Chief Justice of Bhutan as per the Third Schedule of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.







Member- elects taking Oath of Office



Members of the Third National Assembly of Bhutan after the First Sitting



On 7th November 2018, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo conferred *Dakyen* to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon'ble Wangchuk Namgyel, and also awarded Orange *Kabney* to the Leader of the Opposition Party, Hon'ble Dr. Pema Gyamtsho at the Tashichhodzong. After the *Dakyen* Ceremony, Hon'ble Speaker and Hon'ble Opposition Leader were received by the Secretary General and the staff of the National Assembly to the Gyalyong Tshogkhang. Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Opposition Leader and Hon'ble Deputy Speaker officially assumed office on 7th November, 2018 after a traditional *Zhugdrel Phuensum Tshogpai* ceremony. Hon'ble Members of the National Assembly officially assumed their respective offices on 9th November, 2018 after a *Marchang* Ceremony presided by Hon'ble Speaker.



Hon'ble Speaker's Tendrel Ceremony



Marchang Ceremony at the MPs' office



2.3 Induction Program for Parliamentarians

A five-day induction program for the new Parliamentarians was organized by the National Assembly Secretariat. The Induction Program was organized to induct the Members on the roles and functions of Parliament, to equip the Members with the basic knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures to facilitate effective participation in the legislative process and to prepare the new members to the services that contribute to the parliament's effective discharge of its constitutional mandate.



Presentation on 12th Five Year Plan

The program covered parliamentary roles, privileges, legislative process, entitlements, support system, business procedures and code of conduct, *Driglam Namzha* course, session on Foreign Policy, diplomatic protocol, voting system and Danish Interpretation System (DIS) in the National Assembly Hall, international dining etiquette, sensitization on the Sustainable Development Goals, GNH Index, National Assembly's Strategic Development plan (2019-23) and the Bhutanese Parliament's membership to International/Regional Organizations.

The program helped to promote deeper understanding and appreciation of the constitutional role and position as the supreme legislative institution.





Course on National Etiquette



Dining Etiquette Session



2.4 Profile of the Members of the National Assembly

Out of the 30 Ruling Members, 25 (83%) are newly elected members, while 8 (47%) out of 17 members are newly elected in the Opposition. Overall, the Third National Assembly saw 33 (70.21%) newly elected members out of total 47 members.

Ru ∾₀.	ling Percentage	Opposition No. Percentage		
25	53 %	15	32%	
05	11%	02	4%	

Members of the National Assembly by Gender and Party

The Third Parliament witnessed an increase in the number of women representatives in the National Assembly to seven (15%) as compared to four in the second National Assembly. The National Assembly also has one cabinet woman minister. The Ruling has five Women representative while the opposition has two women members. Although there is an increase in the women representative as compared to the past the increase is not significant and efforts are still required to have more women in the Parliament.

According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Young Parliamentarians are Members between the ages of 25-45 years. The National Assembly of Bhutan is a fairly young Parliament with 25 (53%) Members falling in the age range of 25 - 45 years and 22 Members above 46 years of age.

Parliament	Youngest Age	Oldest Age	No of Members between 25-45 years	No of Members above 46 years
First Parliament	26	60	27	20
Second Parliament	27	63	24	23
Third Parliament	25	63	25	22



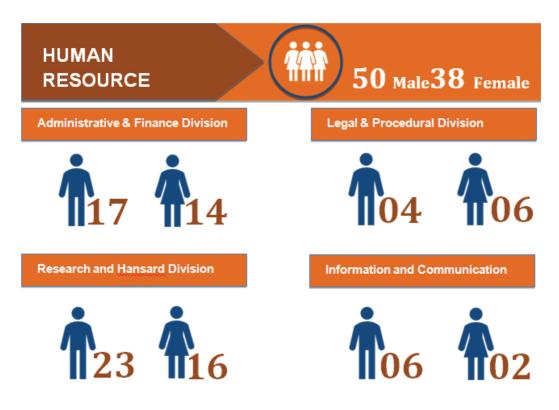
In case of education, while all the Members have Bachelor's Degree, almost 61% of the Members of Third National Assembly have a Master or PhD degrees. 34 % of the Members have worked in the government before joining politics while the rest have work experience in the private and corporate sector. The Parliament is therefore composed of qualified and experienced members with diverse work knowledge.

3. Human Resource Development

The Key to achieve the goals and objectives and fulfill the vision of the National Assembly is a capable and competent human resource. The National Assembly is committed to developing the capabilities of all individuals working in the organization in relation to their present and future roles.

3.1 The Secretariat

The Secretariat has a total of 88 staff comprising of 38 (43%) females and 50 (57%) males. In this Financial Year, a total of 14 new staff joined while 3 staff resigned/transferred. The distribution of staff by division is reflected in following figure. The list of staff is also provided in *Annexure III*.





Among the 88 staff, 53 (19 regular staff and 34 contract) have basic bachelor's degree while others are either with diploma or certificate holders. Again, from 88, 44 are contractual staff who are ready to leave as they get better and more stable employment which makes the management of human resources very challenging. Notwithstanding, it has been even more challenging to provide the needed critical support to Members for their effective functioning.

All staff of the secretariat are civil servants and they are governed by the Royal Civil Service Rules. Likewise, recruitment/deployment of additional staff is done by RCSC who has the mandate to maintain small and compact civil service system.

As outlined in the National Assembly strategic development plan 2019-2023, the secretariat continues to work towards the implementation of the human resource requirement projection and is in constant dialogue with the Royal Civil Service Commission. The secretariat has projected the need for an ICT Officer, Protocol officer, 2 research, 2 Media officer, a Photographer, an Accounts Assistant and a HR Assistant. During the year, the RCSC approved the media officer and a graduate in Media Studies have been recruited. However, the office still needs to fulfill the position of the IT officer, Protocol Officer and other projected vacancies in order to successfully implement the e-parliament initiatives of the Parliament and further improve the services to the members.

Further, the National Assembly continues to work towards creating a conducive work environment for both the members and the staff. Towards this, as a follow up to relocate the Members office to the Gyelyong Tshogkhang, a working committee was formed with members from Cabinet, Foreign Ministry, DNP and RBP. The committee met and a survey of the office space was carried out. The Report was then presented to all the Members. After the presentation, the cabinet agreed to take up the task to explore more on the issue and report thereof. Gyelyong Tshogkhang should house all the Members of National Assembly and this is possible only if the offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is relocated elsewhere. It is also high time that institutions like MFA and the Prime Minister's Office have separate offices built and sooner the better. Inadequate office space for Members is a genuine case and it is hoped that the government will look into this matter with priority and resolve the issue.

The NAS also upgraded the Danish Interpretation System in the Hall which was installed in 2008 which improved the quality of sound, mike and voting system inside the Assembly Hall.



The National Assembly in collaboration with the Royal Bhutan Police carried out maintenance and upgradation of the existing CCTV and other security gadgets including fire protection system on the premise of the Gyelyong Tshogkhang. This was executed as deposit work by RBP with recurrent budget of Nu. 0.350m and capital budget of Nu. 4.00m. Installation of advanced equipment will help improve the security surveillance as the earlier cameras were reported to be constantly failing and lacked quality imaging facilities.

His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo concerned about the security of Parliament commanded the construction of a wall around the Gyelyong Tshogkhang Premises. The construction of the wall was executed by HM Secretariat Office. With the benevolence of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, the security and safety of the Gyelyong Tshogkhang has now further improved.

3.2. Trainings for Staff

During the FY 2018-19, about 45 staff underwent professional training or exposure within the country while 16 staff availed the opportunity to travel ex country. Apart from the above, two separate Training Programs were planned and organized by the Secretariat especially for the Assistant Research Officers (AROs) in the country to enhance and develop their management and policy analysis skills. The other in-country trainings were organized either by parent agencies or some other agencies where Secretariat staff attended them as collaborators.

The training on policy analysis equipped the AROs with the necessary research and policy analysis skills and will help them in preparing reports and analysis of the policies while assisting the Members of Parliament. This will in turn help the Members of Parliament to make informed decision, initiate policy discussion and pass laws that serve the interest of the people and the country. Likewise, the management training helped to build capacity of AROs to prepare and organize a meeting, minuting of the discussions, and other soft skills required to assist members in the field as well as in the office.

Other trainings and workshops attended by the staff were cross-sectoral in nature, such as capacity building of the committee secretaries, workshops on law reviews, fellowship program, training on policy analysis, short course in water and environmental law, social media for empowerment, store management training, digital access to research workshop, e-payment, sampling method and basic STATA parliamentary, training of trainers, legislative research which help improve the efficiency of the staff in carrying out their



functions and also updating their skills and knowledge keeping with changing policies and technological advancement. These workshops and trainings were organized and achieved in collaboration with other government agencies. The details of in-country and ex-country training and conference attended by the staff are given in **Annexure IV** and **Annexure V** respectively.

The figure below shows the details on the frequency and duration of ex- country trainings and conferences attended by the staff by Division.

In Country	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Ex Country
13	Administration & Finance Divisio	n 4
4	Information & Communication Division	2
18	Legal Division	8
10	Research Division	2
45	TOTAL	16



4. Legislative Role and Legislations Passed

The National Assembly as a Legislature, its primary function is to enact laws. The reporting year covers two assembly sessions. The First Session of the Third National Assembly was held from 1 -24 January 2019 effectively about 17 working days. The Air Service Agreement between RGoB and the Government of the United Arab Emirates was deliberated and ratified. The First Session also introduced and passed the Budget Appropriation Bill for the FY 18-19 which was delayed by six months due to election for formation of new government.



The Second Session was held from 22 May-27 June 2019 covering about 26 working days. A total of Eight Bills were introduced in this session.

- 1. Civil and Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019
- 2. The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019
- 3. Local Government (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019
- 4. Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Act 2019
- 5. Mines and Minerals Bill of Bhutan 2019
- 6. Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2019



- 7. Budget Appropriation Bill for the FY 19-20 and
- 8. Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for the FY 18-19

The National Assembly deliberated and passed three Money Bills, namely, the Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2019, Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2019-20 and Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for the FY 2018-19. Although there has been a controversy in the Media and also between the two Houses of Parliament regarding 'whether the Pay Revision Bill is a Money Bill or not', the House declared and deliberated on the Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2019 as a Money Bill. Section 3 Article 14 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan states that "Public Money shall not be drawn from the Consolidated Fund except through appropriation in accordance with the law" and the Section 46A(b) of the Public Finance (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2012 clarifies that "A Money or a Financial Bill is a Bill which includes Government spending that is, appropriation or payment of money out of the Consolidated Fund". Hon'ble Speaker declared the Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2019 as a Money Bill based on those provisions of laws under the authority empowered by Section 46A of the Public Finance (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2019 and Section 238 of the National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008.

The House also deliberated and passed the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019 and the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019 and transferred it to the National Council. The Third reading of the Mines and Minerals Bill of Bhutan 2019 is scheduled for the Third Session. The discussion on the Local Government (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019, and the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2019 is scheduled to be deliberated during the Third and Fourth sessions respectively.

The Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was also re-deliberated and ratified during the second session

The number of sitting days, questions, motions and petitions discussed in the past two sessions are shown below.



No of Sittings (Days), Voting Held & Acts Passed 16 Session Sittings in Days No of Voting Held No of ACTs 26 Session Sittings in Days No of Voting Held No of ACTs No of Questions, Motions & Petitions Session Oral Written Motion Petition



Written Motion Petition

Session

Oral

The National Assembly has seen an increase in the number of questions asked and motions moved in the House from the First session to Second Session. While the House continues to discuss Local Government, issues submitted in the form of petitions for action by the House, the number of issues discussed in the House has declined. This is because the House in the plenary meetings forwards issues of administrative nature to the concerned Ministry for immediate action. The National Assembly received 18 petitions in the First Session and 22 petitions in the Second Session from the Local Government. The parliament deliberated two petitions in the first session regarding permits for forest and timber related issues and establishment of Chamkhar Chu Hydro power project. The Second Session also discussed two petitions regarding timber permit received from the local government during the discussion of the implementation report.

5. Oversight Role of the National Assembly

5.1 Committees Meeting

Parliamentary Committees are the extensions of the House itself. With Committees in function, the House is said to be in work throughout the year. National Assembly has nine standing committees. The Parliamentary Standing Committees play a very important role in fulfilling the oversight function of the Parliament, and Section 11 Article 10 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan mandates each House of Parliament to establish Committees through the Rules of Procedure in order to carry out the business of Parliament. The standing committees focus on particular subjects and enables consultation with independent experts and stakeholders. They increase the efficiency and expertise of the parliament and their reports allow for informed debate in the Parliament. The Committees also review the Bills submitted to the House in detail and make amendments and recommendations. The National Assembly standing committees are also responsible for overseeing that the government achieves the sustainable development goals in line with the 12 FYP.

Sixty Eight Committee meetings were held in the past year. All the committees met at least once with the maximum meetings held by the Public Accounts Committee which met 6 times in the first session and 8 times in the second session. The Public Accounts committee held public hearing 15 times in the first session. No public hearing was held in the second session. All the committees combined held 47 consultative meetings on the Bills and other issues of importance. The maximum number of meetings was held by Public Accounts Committee followed by Economics and Finance Committee. The least number of meeting was held by the Environment and Climate Change Committee which only met once in the year (Fig.7)





PAC conducting Video Conferencing with Thromdes of Phuentsholing & Gelephu

The Committee members are supported by the Committee Services Unit under the Legislative and Procedural Division of the National Assembly.



Consultation Meeting by Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee



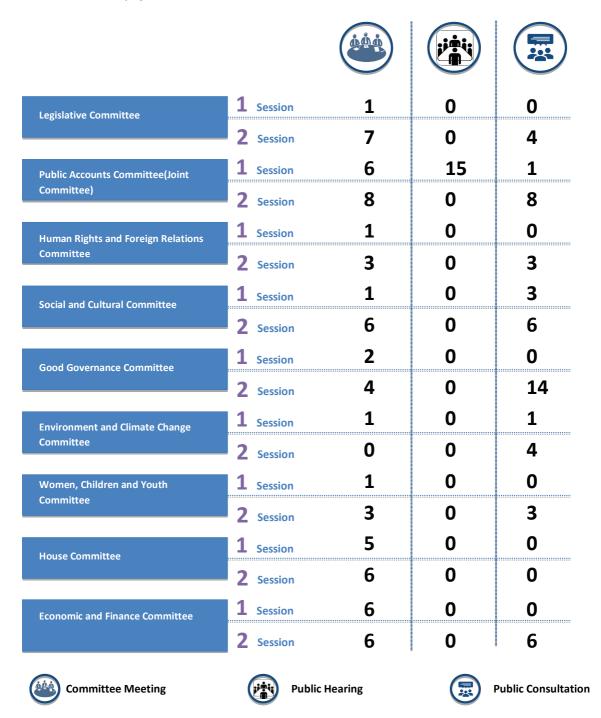


Fig. 7: Total Number of Committee meetings, Public hearing and public consultation held by Committees in the year



5.2. Collaborating with the government on oversight functions

During the second session, the Members of the National Assembly led by Hon'ble Speaker visited Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Projects I & II, and Wangdue Dzong Reconstruction site from 14 – 16 June, 2019. The objective of the visit was to facilitate Members of the National Assembly to get first-hand information for oversight on the implementation status of Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Projects I & II, and Wangdue Dzong Reconstruction project and associated challenges.



At the Wangduephodrang reconstruction site.

At Wangdue Dzong reconstruction site, the Members met with the workers and the management of the dzong construction. A presentation on the status and the conditions of the on-going construction was presented to the Members by the Project Director to apprise the Members on the updates, challenges and issues. Members were able to interact and observe the situations on real time basis. Members expressed their satisfaction on the quality and quantity of work progress at the site and offered *Tokha* to all the workforce at the site.

Visiting the Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Projects I & II, the members were presented on the the status of the projects and its updates by the project managements. The Members



also attended the inaugural ceremony of the new 40-bedded Hospital at Jatshokha, Wangduephodrang on 16th June, 2019. The new hospital was built under the project financing of PHPA.



PHPA-I Site Visit

During the interaction the, members voiced their concerns regarding the delay in the completion of the project and extension of project completion date leading to substantial increased project cost and debt burden to the people of Bhutan. Overconfidence and lack of proper site geological studies of the new dam site (PHP I) and the powerhouse (PHP II) were pointed out. The Members also expressed their concern on the impact of construction of the project to the locals regarding land compensation and other issues arising due to the project and lack of compensation and facilities thereof. Members urged the project management to expedite the work completion without further extension. Hydropower projects are always a point of discussion in the National Assembly especially during the discussion of National Budget. The visit gave the Members a clearer picture and better understanding of the status of the project and the issues involved.

The National Assembly of Bhutan extents its gratitude to the Dzongdag of Wangduephodrang and the managements of the Punatsangchhu Hydroelectric Projects I & II for their co-operation and warm hospitality extended during the visit of the Members to Wangduephodrang.



6. Representational Role of the National Assembly

6.1 Constituency Visits by the Members

In a representative democracy, members of parliament are the ears, eyes, and voice of their constituents. They articulate the thoughts and dreams of the people to the government vice versa the plans and decisions of the government to the people. The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Bhutan mandates the members to visit their constituencies at least twice a year after every session to meet the people of their constituencies. Constituency visits enhance the interaction between the people and their representatives and issues faced by the people are informally discussed while at the same time it is an opportunity for the Members to inform the people about the plans, activities, and decisions of the Parliament.

During this reporting period, each Member has visited their constituency at least once with duration varying from a low of 12 days to 196 days and frequency as many times as six times a year.

A post-constituency visit plenary meeting was initiated to take stock of issues that members have seen, faced and been informed during their visit to their constituencies. In the past year, the first such meeting was held on 25 April 2019 which was attended by all the members including the Cabinet Ministers under the Chair of Hon'ble Speaker. 15 issues related to ongoing programmes, 3 issues on capacity building, and two issues on protocol related were discussed and the concerned Ministries agreed to take it up with their respective departments. The forum helped both government and the concerned members to look at the issue objectively together. The Secretariat will continue to organize this plenary session after each constituency visit.



Plenary Session after the first constituency visit



6.2 Collaboration and engagement with Civil Society Organization CSO

Members of parliament are not experts. They need information to make better decisions and laws. The Universities, government organizations, Civil society organizations and private organizations are the main sources of information. In order to enhance the interaction between the CSOs and the Members of Parliament and to better the representational role of the Members, an interactive session with the CSO representatives was conducted at Terma Linca on 29th April 2019. The interactive session was organized to enable/expose Hon'ble Members to better understand the focus and roles played by various CSOs and gain information on the challenges and the status of the CSOs so that they can tap the strength of CSOs in Committee functions.



The interaction with the CSOs helps raise awareness of the roles and working of the CSO and paved the way for further interactions on issues of concern. The interactive session was attended by almost 30 registered CSOs and discussions on a wide range of subjects including linkage of CSO with relevant committees of the National Assembly for future collaboration and engagement was carried out. The CSOs raised the need for amendment of CSO Act, 2007 to strengthen and enhance their CSO Secretariat and also the need for CSO development fund for their financial sustainability.

The Committees of the National Assembly invites relevant CSOs in the consultative meetings to hear their views and opinions relating to amendment of any Bills or any other matter that has come to the Parliament. During the Second Session of the Third



Parliament, the concerned CSOs actively participated in the discussion of the amendment of the provisions on Unnatural sex and Age of Consent in the amendment of Penal Code of Bhutan in both the Committee Meetings and in the House. As seen in the picture below, women and LGBT groups came to show their support during the deliberation of the amendment of the Penal Code of Bhutan.



Public attendance during the Amendment on the Penal Code of Bhutan

Similarly, the committee also invited Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan (HRAB) while reviewing the issue of Fronting in the Penal Code of Bhutan and the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee invited and consulted RENEW while reviewing the section 111 of Royal Bhutan Police Act, 2019. At the same time, the Hon'ble MPs from relevant committees also attend the meetings, workshops, seminars, etc organized by the CSO to keep abreast of the issues concerning the public.



6.3 Launch of the Bhutan National Human Development Report, Ten Years of Democracy in Bhutan

The National Assembly of Bhutan, in collaboration with UNDP and National Council of Bhutan, brought out the first of its kind National Human Development Report "*Ten Years of Democracy in Bhutan*" which assesses Bhutan's ten years of Journey into Parliamentary Democracy, past achievements and future challenges. It is evident from that report that the role of parliament has improved compared to pre-democracy period. Survey shows that about 61.8% and 60.2% of the people agree that the parliament has carried out its legislative and representative functions effectively and efficiently respectively. The Parliament is also more inclusive in the decision making and 87.4 percent of the respondents to a survey for the report agreed that the legislature has been able to strengthen democratic culture, leading to deepening democracy. The past decade shows that Parliament has improved in a big way in its functioning and service delivery. One of the challenges that the Parliament need to work is the need to strengthen the independence of parliament particularly in its relation to the executive branch and civil service and the need to distinguish between national and party priorities.

Bhutan ranks 134 out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2017, climbing a step up from its 135 rank in 2016, according to the Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Bhutan's HDI value at 0.612 puts the country in the medium human development category.

The Report was launched by H.E. Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan and H.E. Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator on 12th March 2019 in the National Assembly.





6.4 Collaboration with International Parliamentary Institutions

6.4.1 Delegation to International Parliamentary Union and other Conferences.

Unlike in the past where Foreign diplomacy is the sole domain of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a nation, the parliamentary diplomacy has taken root and is seen playing a vital role. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is a global organization of national parliaments that works towards the promotion of democratic governance, institutions and values, to articulate and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people. The IPU works for peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment and sustainable development through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action. The Parliament of Bhutan as a member of the IPU, participates in the General Assembly which is held twice a year. The Secretaries General of the two Houses are also members of the Association of the Secretaries Generals of Parliaments (ASGP).

The 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly focused on education, gender equality and counterterrorism. As a member of the IPU, the National Assembly has further strengthened its collaboration and friendship with other member countries and build new ties. Apart from attending the General Assembly Debates, Bhutan also participates in the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Forum of Women Parliamentarians as well as the Standing Committee meetings on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and on Democracy and Human Rights. The IPU also provides a platform for Bhutan to showcase its achievements and initiatives in integrating the sustainable development goals with our national priorities.



Speaker addressing the 140th Inter Parliamentary Union



In the ASGP meeting, the Secretaries General of national parliaments share best practices in parliamentary affairs. Young democracy and parliament like Bhutan has the opportunity share our values and learn from other countries. Where there is no formally trained/educated staff on parliamentary affairs the participation to above meetings have come handy. Similarly, members get exposed to international affairs which has in short term or longer term bearing to our country and this helps in their debate and in decision making.

6.4.2. Other Conferences and Workshops

In the past one year around 43% of the Members of Parliament attended several ex-country conferences and as member of a delegation such as High Level Delegation to Japan, Mongolian Women Leadership Conference and interaction with the Mongolian Women Parliamentary Caucus, Parliamentary Engagement on Human Rights, Parliamentary Forum at 2019 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 3rd Parliamentarians Platform for Children Meeting, Meeting of APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs and 140th Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly etc.



PAC Member's institutional visit to Singapore



Members attendance to international meetings is seen as an important avenue for capacity development of the Members, enhancing their knowledge and gaining more exposure and experiences through peer-to-peer interactions with parliamentarians from other parliaments.

6.4.3. Foreign delegations received by the National Assembly

The National Assembly of Bhutan has received a total of 19 diplomats and delegations from various international organizations in the financial year 2018-19. The visits by the foreign dignitaries introduce new parliamentary cooperation and institutional ties while strengthening the already existing ones.

Annexure VI provide the details of foreign delegates received by the National Assembly in the FY 2018-19

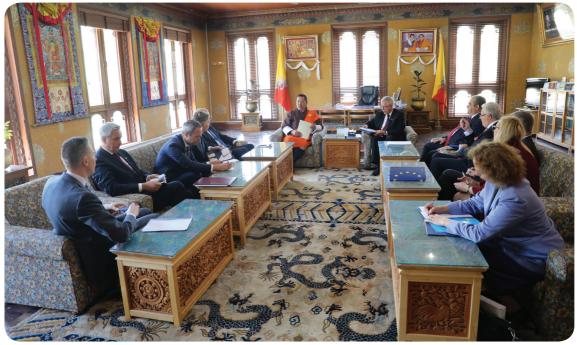


Mr. Rudolf Schwenk, UNICEF Representative





His Excellency Mr. Fadel Alhasan Charge' D'affaires .a.i, the Kuwait Ambassador to Bhutan



His Excellency, Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of European Union (EU) along with the Ambassadors of EU Member States based in New Delhi



7. Overview of the Budget and Expenditure

The approved RGOB budget for the FY 2018-19 for National Assembly of Bhutan was Nu. 133.218m with no capital budget allocation. The revised budget was Nu.180.553mwith recurrent budget of Nu.138.70m and capital budget of Nu.41.853m. The increase in revised budget mainly constituted of the Joining Allowances of the new MPs with recurrent budget of Nu.1.740m and capital budget of Nu.38.686m. The overall budget expenditure achievement was 97% with an unspent budget balance of Nu.6.182m. The reasons for the unspent budget are mainly because of officials availing Extra Ordinary Leave and exiting on voluntary resignation and also because of the transition period of the Government.

The UNDP contributed Nu.0.884m towards workshop on strengthening and integrating SDGS into 12th FYP and conducting induction programme for new MPs. UNICEF contributed Nu.1.646m for conducting induction programme for New MPs, Training of AROs on Policy Analysis and support for integrating SDGs in the 12th FYP.

8. Conclusion

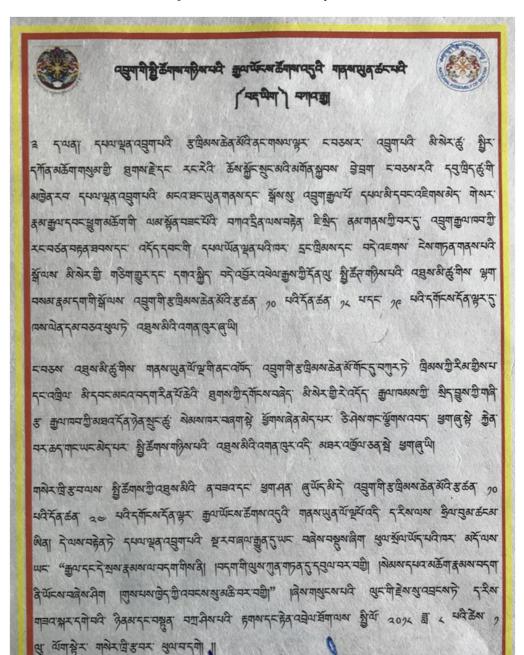
The year 2018-19 was the first financial year of the Third Parliament and it saw fruitful completion of most of the planned activities. The Secretariat without any inhibition is pleased to report that it has served the Members of the Third Parliament most efficiently and effectively during the First and Second Sessions and aspires to provide better services for the rest of the sessions.

The Report highlights the legislative roles taken up by the Parliament in terms of passing the five legislation including amendments, a total of 67 Parliamentary Committee Meetings and 53 Consultative Meetings held during the year, 85 Questions asked, 4 Petitions and 10 Motions debated.

The National Assembly Secretariat would like to thank all partners who have assisted and contributed to the successful outcome of the outputs. The Secretariat also would like to offer best wishes to the Members of the Third Parliament for the upcoming years.



Annexure I: Term-End Order of the National Assembly.





Annexure II: List of Members of the Third Parliament in 2018-19

SN	Name of Members	Gender	Constituency
1	H.E Dr. Lotay Tshering (Prime Minister)	Male	South-Thimphu
2	H.E Wangchuk Namgyel (Speaker)	Male	Nyishog-Saephu
3	H.E (Dasho) Sherub Gyeltshen, Minister (Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs)	Male	Monggar
4	H.E (Dr.) Tandi Dorji, Minister (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)	Male	Lingmukha-Toedwang
5	H.E Karma Donnen Wangdii, Minister (Ministry of Information and Communications)	Male	Gelegphu
6	H.E Jai Bir Raii, Minister (Ministry of Education)	Male	Phuentshogling
7	H.E Dechen Wangmo, Minister (Ministry of Health)	Female	North Thimphu
8	H.E Yeshey Penjori, Minister (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests)	Male	Nubi- Tangsibji
9	H.E Dorji Tsheringi, Minister (Ministry of Works and Human Settlement)	Male	Radhi- Sagteng
10	H.E Loknath Sharmai, Minister (Ministry of Economic Affairs)	Male	Dophuchen- Tading
11	H.E Namgay Tshering, Minister (Ministry of Finance)	Male	Dokar-Sharpa
12	H.E Ugyen Dorjii, Minister (Ministry of Labour and Human Resources)	Male	Thrimshing
13	H.E Pema Gyamtsho (PhD) (Opposition Leader)	Male	Chhoekhor-Tang
14	Hon'ble Tshencho Wangdi (Deputy Speaker)	Male	Kabisa-Talog
15	Hon'ble Karma Wangchuk	Male	Chumig-Ura



SN	Name of Members	Gender	Constituency
16	Hon'ble Tshewang Lhamo	Female	Bongo- Chapchha
17	Hon'ble Jurmi Wangchuk	Male	Drukjeygang-Tseza
18	Hon'ble Hemant Gurung	Male	Lhamoi Dzingkha- Tashiding
19	Hon'ble Yeshey Dem	Female	Khamaed- Lunana
20	Hon'ble Tenzin	Male	Khatoed- Laya
21	Hon'ble Ugen Tenzin	Male	Bji-Kar-tshog-Uesu
22	Hon'ble Dorjee Wangmo	Female	Sangbaykha
23	Hon'ble Kinga Penjor	Male	Gangzur- Minjey
24	Hon'ble Choki Gyeltshen	Male	Maenbi- Tsaenkhar
25	Hon'ble Ugyen Wangdi	Male	Dramedtse- Ngatshang
26	Hon'ble Rinzin Jamtsho	Male	Kengkhar- Weringla
27	Hon'ble Ugyen Tshering	Male	Lamgong- Wangchang
28	Hon'ble Tshering Chhoden	Female	Khar-Yurung
29	Hon'ble Lungten Namgyel	Male	Nanong-shumar
30	Hon'ble Choida Jamtsho	Male	Nganglam
31	Hon'ble Ugyen Dorji	Male	Dewathang- Gomdar
32	Hon'ble Norbu Wangzom	Female	Jomotshangkha- Martshala



SN	Name of Members	Gender	Constituency
33	Hon'ble Ganesh Ghimiray	Male	Phuentshogpelri- Samtse
34	Hon'ble Dil Maya Rai	Female	Tashichhoeling
35	Hon'ble Dinesh Kumar Pradhan	Male	Ugyentse-Yoeseltse
36	Hon'ble Tek Bdr.Rai	Male	Shompangkha
37	Hon'ble Passang Dorji (PhD)	Male	Bartsham-Shongphu
38	Hon'ble Dr. Samdrup R. Wangchuk	Male	Kanglung-Samkhar- Udzorong
39	Hon'ble Karma Thinley	Male	Wamrong
40	Hon'ble Dupthob	Male	Boomdeling- Jamkhar
41	Hon'ble Kuenga Loday	Male	Khamdang- Ramjar
42	Hon'ble Gyem Dorji	Male	Draagteng- Langthil
43	Hon'ble Bimal Thapa	Male	Kilkhorthang- Mendrelgang
44	Hon'ble Garja Man Rai	Male	Sergithang- Tsirang Toed
45	Hon'ble Kinley Wangchuk	Male	Athang-Thedtsho
46	Hon'ble Gyembo Tshering	Male	Bardo-Trong
47	Hon'ble Dorji Wangdi	Male	Panbang



Annexure III: List of Staff of National Assembly Secretariat in 2018-19

Sl.no	Name	Position Title	Remarks
1	Sangay Duba	Secretary General	
2	Duba	Director	
3	Rinzin	Sungkhop	
4	Sonam Lhamo	Chief Information & Media Officer	
5	Lotey Gyeltshen	Dy. Chief Research Officer	
6	Tenzin Namgay	Dy. Chief Research Officer	
7	Ngawang Norbu	Dy. Chief Admin. Officer	
8	Yeshey Xangmo	Sr. Finance Officer	
9	Sonam Delek	Legislative Officer	
10	Kanjur Wangmo	Committee Secretary IV	
11	Pem Zam	Committee Secretary IV	
12	Kuenzang Wangmo	Personal Secretary I	
13	Kunzang Dema	Accounts Asst. II	
14	Tshewang Norbu	Research Officer	
15	Sonam Choki	Committee Secretary V	
16	Karma Drupchu	Committee Secretary V	
17	Sonam Wangmo	Human Resource Officer	
18	Tashi Zangmo	Asst. Research Officer	
19	Tshering Yangzom	Committee Secretary V	
20	Sonam Yangki	Asst. Info & Media Officer	
21	Sampa Dhendup	Sr. ICT Technical Associate III	
22	Tshering Dorji	Personal Secretary II	
23	Jigme Tenzin	Legal Asst. II	
24	Tashi Rabten	Legal Asst. II	
25	Chimi Lhaden	Legal Asst. II	
26	Kinzang Choden	Legal Asst. II	
27	Singay Tshering	ICT Technical Associate I	On EOL
28	Tshering Dorji	ICT Technical Associate I	Resigned
29	Ugyen Wangdi	Research Asst. II	



Sl.no	Name	Position Title	Remarks
30	Dorji	Sr. Store Keeper IV	
31	Kinley	Technician II	
32	Wangdi Tshering	Technician II	
33	Dhendup Pem	Admin. Asst. II	
34	Tashi Norbu	Admin. Asst. III	
35	Tashi Wangdi	Admin. Asst. III	
36	Namgay Pem	Admin. Asst. III	
37	Karma	Sr. Personal Asst. V	
38	Thinley Dema	Personal Asst. I	
39	Ngawang Phuntsho	Personal Asst. II	
40	Jamyang Palden	Personal Asst. II	
41	Kinzang Wangmo	Personal Asst. II	
42	Pema Dorji	Driver	
43	Ngawang Samdrup	Driver	
44	Chokey Dorji	Driver I	
45	Ugyen Dorji	Driver	Contract
46	Ugyen Palden	Driver III	Contract
47	Tashi Dorji	Messenger	Contract
48	Tshokey Dorji	Messenger	Contract
49	Lobzang Dorji	Night Guard	Contract
50	Yeshi Norbu	Dispatcher	Contract
51	Pema Choki	Messenger	Contract
52	Ugyen Dolma	Sweeper	Contract
53	Neten Choden	Sweeper	Contract
54	Tenzin Deki	Sweeper	Contract
55	Chencho Om	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
56	Chimi Rinzin	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
57	Dawa Pemo	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
58	Dorji Gyeltshen	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
59	Dorji Phuntsho	Asst. Research Officer	Contract



Sl.no	Name	Position Title	Remarks
60	Jigme Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	Resigned
61	Jurme Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
62	Karma	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
63	Kencho Yenten	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
64	Kezang Dema	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
65	Kinley Om	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
66	Kinzang Tshering	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
67	Kinzang Wangdi	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
68	Namgay Lhamo	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
69	Passang Lhamo	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
70	Phuntsho Wangdi A	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
71	Phuntsho Wangdi B	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
72	Phuntsho Wangmo	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
73	Sangay Norbu	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
74	Sonam Choden A	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
75	Sonam Choden B	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
76	Sonam Eden	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
77	Sonam Wangmo	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
78	Tandin Gyeltshen	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
79	Tashi Phuntsho	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
80	Tashi Tobgay A	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
81	Tashi Tobgay B	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
82	Tshering Choden	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
83	Tshering Jamtsho	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
84	Tshering Yangki	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
85	Tshewang Choki	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
86	Ugyen Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
87	Ugyen Tshering	Asst. Research Officer	Contract
88	Zeko Lham	Asst. Research Officer	Contract



Annexure IV: Details of In-country Training and Meetings attended by staff

Sl.no	Trainings	Names	Organized by, Funded by
1	Trainings of Election Officer for the National Assembly Election Duty in 2018	NgawangNorbu KanjurWangmo Karma Drupchu	Election Commission of Bhutan
2	Training on Policy Analysis	Kanjur Wangmo Pem Zam Tshering Yangzom Tashi Rabten Tshewang Norbu Tashi Zangmo Ugyen Wangdi	UNICEF
3	Validation Meeting for the finalization of the Report on Study on Prevalance of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)	Kanjur Wangmo	NCWC
4	Agency Disaster Management and Contingency Plan	NgawangNorbu	Department of Disaster management
5	Financial Management: Improving Public Service through enhanced fiscal decentralization	Kunzang Dema	Department of Public Accounts
6	Annual Gender and Child Focal Points (GCFPs) Meeting	Tshering Yangzom	NCWC



Sl.no	Trainings	Names	Organized by, Funded by
7	Capacity Building of Government Officials and Rural Women on Gender Mainstreaming and Empowerment of Women	Tshering Yangzom	NCWC
8	Social Media for Empowerment	Sonam Yangki	Department of Information and Media
9	Workshop on ICT trends for the Government Leaders	Tenzin Namgay	Royal Institute of Management
10	24th ICT Heads Meetings	Sonam Lhamo	DITT
11	Training on AIMs Focal person	NgawangNorbu	Department of National Properties
12	Store Management Training	Dorji	Royal Institute of Management, RCSC, PPPD, MoF
13	Training and ICDL Certificate	Yeshey Xangmo	Royal Institute of Management and International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Singapore
14	Digital Access to Research Workshop	Tashi Zangmo	Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, UN in Bhutan, Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.



Sl.no	Trainings	Names	Organized by, Funded by
15	E-payment	Tshering Yangzom Kunzang Dema Yeshey Xangmo	Department of Public Accounts
16	Training and ICDL Certificate	Tashi Zangmo	Royal Institute of Management and International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Singapore
17	Store Management Training	Tashi Wangdi	Royal Institute of Management, RCSC, PPPD, MoF
18	Sampling Methods and Basic STATA	Tshewang Norbu Tashi Zangmo Ugyen Wangdi	National Statistics Bureau
19	ADB-assisted Project End Workshop	Kanjur Wangmo	NCWC
20	Training and ICDL Certificate	Namgay Pem	Royal Institute of Management and International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Singapore
21	Consultative Meeting to Review the Draft National Review Report on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPFA)	Kanjur Wangmo	NCWC
22	GNH and the Law Conference	Sonam Delek	JSWLAW



Annexure V: Details of ex-country trainings and meetings attended by staff

Sl.no	Trainings	Names	Funded/organized by
1	34th Parliamentary Internship Programme, India	Sampa Dhendup	ITEC
2	Fellowship Program	Tshering Dorji	IDEA
3	Program Coordination Meeting, Nepal	Duba PemZam	IDEA
4	Performance and M&E for APT focal	Tshewang Norbu	RGOB
5	Parliamentary Research on public participation	Lotey Gyeltshen Kuengzang Wangmo Sonam Choki Chimi Lhaden TashiRabten	KPI, Thailand
6	Short course in water and environmental law	KanjurWangmo	NUFFIC
7	Meeting of APA Standing Committee on Social and Cultural Affairs	Ms. Sonam Lhamo	Asian Parliamentary Assembly and RGoB
8	140 th IPU Assembly and Related Meeting	SangayDuba Sonam Delek TashiWangdi	RGoB
9	Institutional Visit (Parliament of Singapore, Malaysia and KPI, Thailand)	Pem Zam Tashi Rabten	RGoB
10	Parliamentary engagement in Human Rights	Jigme Tenzin	RGoB



Annexure VI: List of Foreign delegates received by the National Assembly

Sl.no	Call on by	Date
1	UNICEF Representative His Excellency, Mr. Rudolf Schwenk	Nov 23,2018
2	The Socialist People's Party (SPP) of Denmark led by Ms. Pia Olsen Dyhr, President of SPP.	Nov 29, 2018
3	The UN Resident Coordinator His Excellency, Mr. Gerald Daly	Dec 4, 2018
4	The Israeli delegation Ms. Maya Kadosh, Charge d'affairs and interim (CDA)	Dec 11, 2018
5	H.E. Mr. Nadir Patel, Ambassador of Canada to Bhutan	Dec 11,2018
6	His Excellency Pham Sanh Chau, Vietnam Ambassador	Jan 7, 2019
7	Mr. Stefano Manservisi, Director General for International Cooperation and Development (DEVCO), European Commission and the delegation	Jan 12, 2019
8	H.E. Mr. Fadel Alhasan, Charge' d' affaires, Kuwait	Jan 17, 2019
9	Mr. Rudra Gaurav Shrestha, Dy. Chief of Mission, Indian Embassy	Mar 5, 2019
10	H. E. Mr. Sakir Ozkan Torunlar, the Ambassador of Turkey to Bhutan	March 11,2019
11	Counselor General of Consulate of India, Phuentsholing, Mr. Ashish Middha	Mar 12, 2019



Sl.no	Call on by	Date
12	The EU delegation Mrs. Paola Pampalni, Deputy Managing Director, European External Action Service, and Mr Pierre Amilhat, Director for Asia,	Mar 15, 2019
13	H.E. Mr. Balut Sarsenbayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Mar 20,2019
14	His Excellency, Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, Ambassador of European Union (EU) along with the Ambassadors of EU Member States based in New Delhi	April 3,2019
15	High Level Delegation from the Republic of Korea led by Mr. Won Yoo Chul, President of the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (KPCPE) with Dy. Speaker	Apr 10, 2019
16	Mrs. Azusa Kubota, UNDP Resident Representative	April 18,2019
17	The delegations from Austria Bhutan Society Dr. Claus Walter, the President of Austria Bhutan Society, his spouse Ulrike Walter and Dr. Erwin Kubesch, Vice-President of Austria Bhutan Society c	May 13,2019
18	Ms. Argentina Matavel Puccin, Country Director, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for Bhutan	May 22,2019
19	The UNICEF Representative Mr. Rudolf Schwenk	Jun 11, 2019

