

ANNUAL REPORT (2016-2017)



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
THIMPHU: BHUTAN**

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**His Royal Highness The Gyalsey,
Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck**

Foreword

In view of reflecting and celebrating our achievements in the service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum with great honour, the National Assembly of Bhutan brings out the Annual Report 2016-17. The significant achievements drawn from the Second Parliament's Strategic Development Plan 2014-18 aims at effectively carrying out the legislative, oversight, and representational functions to fulfill the aspirations of the people and hence contribute in achieving the country's overarching goal of Gross National Happiness as enshrined in the Constitution through an inclusive and a vibrant democracy. This report is a reflection of the institution's effort in its attempt to discharge its mandates in the best of its ways and it embarks the activities that were constructive and also identifies the activities on which the institute must put more effort in achieving it. As we release this annual report on HRH the Gyalsey's second birth anniversary, the National Assembly of Bhutan solemnly affirms to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of Bhutan faithfully and discharge our duties in the service of the Tsawa-sum conscientiously.

In the legislative role alone, the Parliament has enacted five legislations and ratified two international conventions during the eighth and ninth session of the National Assembly with 122 total Parliamentary Committee sittings and 57 consultative meetings. While coming to the oversight role, leaving aside the policy reviews and question hours held every Tuesdays and Fridays during the session, the Public Accounts Committee alone has convened six public hearings to scrutinize the state functions. The Members of Parliament fulfil their representational role by making frequent visits to their constituencies through which informed decision is being made vis-à-vis producing laws after having the citizens engaged more closely.

This year also marked the strategic strengthening of the Parliament's institutional relations with numerous visits to various international gatherings and Parliaments outside, and inside, the procedural and parliamentary mechanism is strengthened

by publishing number of dynamic documents such as: Public Hearing Manual and Legislative Drafting Manual among others and by conducting relevant workshops and seminars.

The National Assembly debated on various important issues such as the motions on the policies and programmes to support the Highlanders to enhance the sustainability of their livelihoods, monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals and Healthy Ageing submitted by various committees. The Parliament of Bhutan also had the privilege of hosting Asian Parliamentary Assembly's standing committee meeting on social and cultural affairs in Thimphu. The international meeting was attended by some 100 parliamentarians from 20 member parliaments.

While it is yet another proud moment to present this report, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Secretary General and the Parliamentary Staff of the National Assembly for supporting the Parliamentarians tirelessly with full dedication. I would also like to convey my appreciation to the stakeholders including the Civil Society Organizations and the general public who worked hand to hand with us for the past one year and contributed in the achievements that we are proudly presenting now.

I acknowledge all those who worked hard and contributed to the success of this valuable report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jigme Zangpo', written in a cursive style.

(JIGME ZANGPO)

SPEAKER

Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Objective 1: Strengthen the Institutional Capacity of the National Assembly Secretariat.....	1
2.1	Improving Human Resource Capacity	1
2.2	Delinking process of the National Assembly Secretariat from the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC).....	3
2.3	Provide Conducive Work Environment and Adequate Facility	4
2.4	Strengthening Secretariat Library	6
2.5	Enhancing Collaboration with International Parliamentary Institutions.....	6
3	Objective 2. Improving the Legislative Capacity and process of the National Assembly.....	10
3.1	Strengthening Parliamentary Committees.....	10
3.2	National Assembly Sessions Conducted	10
4	Objective 3: Enhance Oversight Capacity of the National Assembly.....	12
4.1	Strengthening the existing oversight mechanisms and training Members on oversight functions	12
4.2	Strengthening Parliamentary Standing Committees for oversight role.....	12
4.3	Collaborating with the government on oversight functions.....	16
5	Objective 4: Strengthen the capacity of the National Assembly to play an effective representational role	18
5.1	Creating a culture of informed public decision making in legislative process ..	18
5.2	Empowering Women National Assembly Members	20
5.3	Liaising with Media to represent constituents.....	20
5.4	Collaborating and engaging with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).....	21
6	Overview of Budget for the FY 2016-17 and its utilization.....	22
7	Conclusion.....	23

List of Figures

1	Total duration and Frequency of in-country Workshops, Trainings and Seminars attended by staff in 2016-17	2
2	Duration and Frequency of Ex-Country travel by staff in 2016-17	3
3	Duration and Frequency of Ex Country travel made by Members of National Assembly in 2016-17.....	7
4	Standing Committees and number of meetings held in 2016-17	13
5	Duration and Frequency of visits made by the members to their constituencies in 2016-17.....	19
6	Map of Virtual Zomdue connected gewogs by Dzongkhags (Source: UNDP, Thimphu).....	18
7	Total Budget and Expenditure for National Assembly, Members and Staff	22

List of Annexures

1	List of Hon Members in 2016-2017	24
2	(a). List of National Assembly Secretariat Staff in 2016-2017.....	26
	(b). List of National Assembly Secretariat Contract Staff in 2016-2017	28
3	Foreign delegates received by National Assembly in 2016- 17	30
4	Budget and Expenditure Report of National Assembly in 2016-17 FY.....	31
5	Information with respect to the Second Parliament (2 August 2013 to 8 December 2017.....	33

National Assembly of Bhutan: Annual Report 2016-2017

1. Introduction

The National Assembly of Bhutan was instituted in line with Article 12 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan as one of the two Houses of Parliament, the highest legislative making body in the country. The National Assembly Secretariat, to work towards the vision and goals of the National Assembly, which is to achieve the Kingdom of Bhutan's overarching goal of Gross National Happiness enshrined in the Constitution through an inclusive and a vibrant democracy and to effectively carry out legislative, scrutiny, oversight and representational functions to fulfill the aspirations of the Bhutanese people, a strategic plan document for 2014-18 was developed with the objectives outlined.

The four main strategic objectives identified are, (i) to strengthen the institutional capacity of the National Assembly Secretariat, (ii) to improve the legislative capacity and processes of the National Assembly, (iii) to enhance the oversight capacity of the National Assembly, and (iv) to strengthen the capacity of the National Assembly to play an effective representational role.

The past year had outlined total of about 51 activities to meet these main strategic objectives.

This is the report of activities implemented during the 2016-17 FY in keeping with the above strategic objectives. The Members and staff who were involved and present in carrying out those activities are in **Annexure 1** and **2 (a & b)** respectively.

2. Objective 1: Strengthen the Institutional Capacity of the National Assembly Secretariat

2.1. Improving Human Resource Capacity

A number of trainings were conducted to enhance the skills of the staff and the Parliament. As most of the officials appointed were fresh graduates, the need to equip and enhance their capacity was crucial as they were to assist Hon'ble Speaker and Members of Parliament in discharging their functions.

The National Assembly Secretariat provided various capacity development trainings to the staff under the Government of India financing of Human

Resource Development project initiated by the Royal Civil Servant Commission. Training on various areas like leadership training to Officers (14 officers), digital office management to Personal Assistants (5 Personal Assistants), training on the use of printing machines for the Technician (1 Technician), basic and advance auto maintenance training for drivers (1 driver) were provided. In addition, staff availed trainings on the operation of Danish Interpretation System installed in the Assembly Hall (1 ICT Technical Associate), basic principles to interpretation of statutes

(13 officers), Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer training (1 Admin. Officer), Mobile Apps Development training (1 ICT Officer), Classification of Library and Cataloguing system (7 staff) conducted by various agencies like Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Gross National Happiness Commission, National Commission for Women and Children, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Science of Bhutan, Department of Information and Media, Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Bhutan Standards Bureau, National Library,

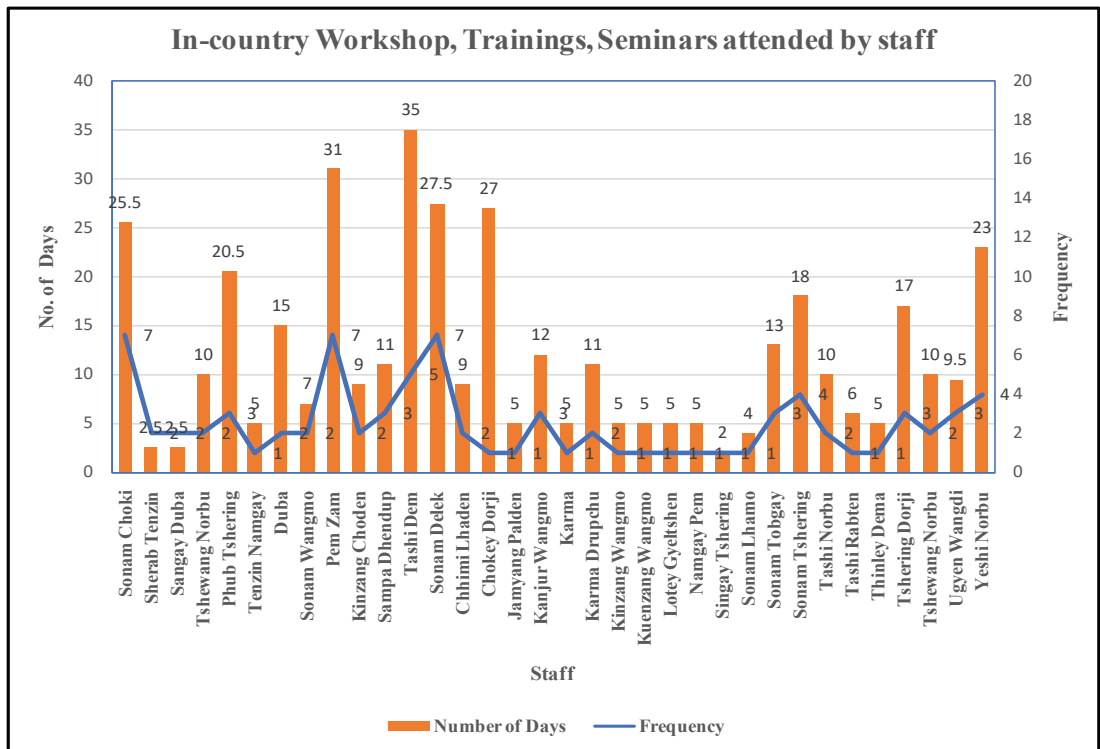


Fig.1: Duration and Frequency of in-country Workshops, Trainings and Seminars attended by staff in 2016-17

Royal Civil Service Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, National Environment Commission, UNICEF, UNDP, Royal Education Council, Center for Bhutan Studies and Bhutan National Legal Institute.

Some trainings like Inventory and Procurement Skills and Government Accounting and Financial Management, website development and management

could not be provided by the local training providers due to limited number of participants and also due to coinciding with the sessions and some due to non-availability of funds. (Fig.1 and Fig.2) shows the total duration (days) and frequency of in-country training, workshops and seminars attended by staff and the number and frequency of travels made outside the country respectively in the past one year. The figures show that

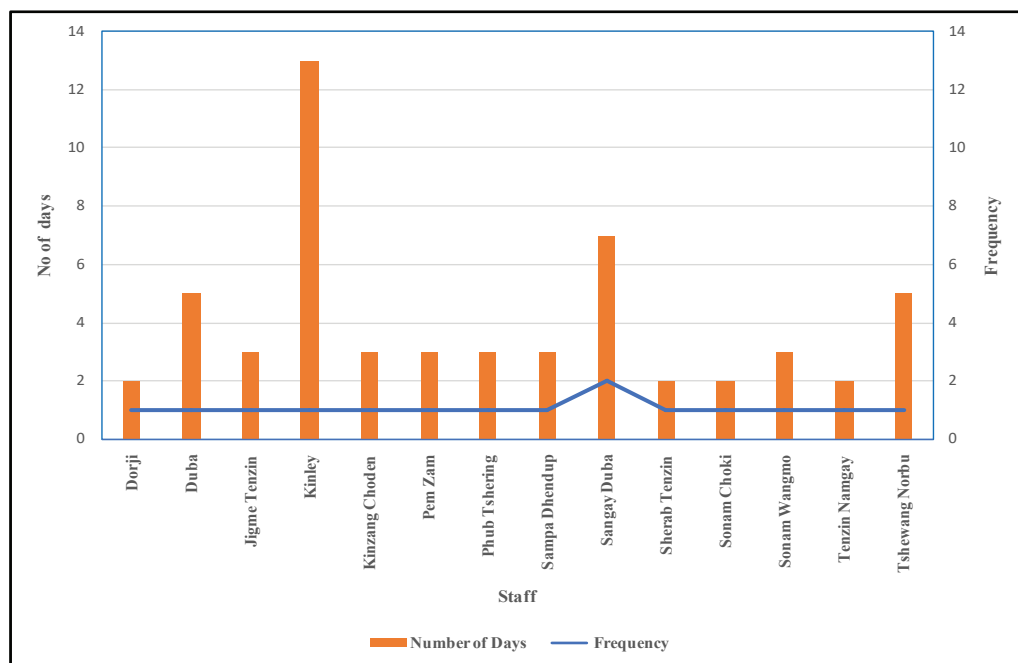


Fig.2: Duration and Frequency of Ex-Country travel by staff in 2016-17

out of the total of 54 staff (excluding the Assistant Research Officers), 34 staff (63%) have attended various conferences and workshops held in the country while 14 staff (25.9%) have travelled outside the country.

2.2. Delinking process of the National Assembly Secretariat from the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC)

It is imperative for any Parliament to

have certain amount of resources be it financial, human and organizational to carry out its functions effectively and efficiently. Although there is a clear legal demarcation of powers between the legislative and the executive branch of the government, the legislative branch is not independent with regard to parliamentary administration and self-organization. The National Assembly does not have adequate professional staff to provide impartial support to the Parliamentarians. The staffing pattern and number of professionals are dependent upon the RCSC.

Considering its importance, the National Assembly had envisioned delinking of the NA Secretariat from the RCSC in the National Assembly's Strategic Development Plan for 2014 - 2018. However, considering the fact that the Parliament is fairly new and a small organization in size, the career opportunity of staff both in terms of vertical as well as horizontal growth will be very limiting. In addition, Article 26 (1) of Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan ensures for an independent and apolitical civil service to discharge its

public duties in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner. Therefore, it is felt that this should be pursued at an appropriate time in future.

2.3. Provide Conducive Work Environment and Adequate Facility

2.3.1. Relocation of Member's Office to the Gyelyong Tshogkhang

Another important activity towards achieving the objective of strengthening the institutional capacity of the National Assembly is to relocate the Members of Parliament Office to the Gyelyong Tshogkhang building. The Members of National Assembly continue to work from a three-storied privately-owned building hired by the National Assembly Secretariat. Two members share an office in the building.

Having considered the importance of having individual office space for members, facilities and easy access to technical and research support, the office has initiated the process of relocation of the office of the Members. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Prime Minister, which are currently housed in the parliamentary building,

have been communicated formally to look for office spaces elsewhere and vacate the Parliament Building. Pursuant to the request, the Prime Minister has instructed the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) Secretariat to prioritize allocation of budget for the construction of Foreign Ministry's building in 12 FYP. The Foreign Ministry is exploring possible sites for construction of its office during the 12 FYP.

The National Assembly of Bhutan is anticipating to fully occupy the Parliament building from the Third Parliament.

2.3.2. Enhance Security System at the National Assembly Building

Under the RGOB financing, the security system in the National Assembly has been improved drastically. In the FY 2016-17, equipment like metal detector door frames and hand-held metal detectors (HHMD), x-ray machine for checking carry bags, CCTV and Boom Barrier Gates were procured and installed. This equipment will enhance the security system and help reduce criminal cases like larceny, burglary, etc. in the premises. After installation of these equipment/gadgets, number of security personnel has been reduced. It has also improved traffic

control activities a lot. For the Financial Year 2016-17, a total of Nu 1.990 million was budgeted for further enhancing the security system in the building.



Metal Detector Door Frames and X-Ray Machine

2.3.3 Provide uninterrupted communication and information services

To enable the Members and the staff to communicate, take timely decisions and stay up to date with the current affairs, it is imperative to have uninterrupted communication and information services. This has been possible with the advancement in communication and technology and the National Assembly has been taking full advantage of the Information and Communication technology (ICT) to support its functions and developing its institution. The Secretariat continues to provide technical support to the Members of the Parliament and the staff and monitors the internet

services. 34 laptops have been provided to the Assistant Research Officers and new UTM and access points have been purchased and installed.

2.4. Strengthening Secretariat Library

Recognizing the need to provide easy access, reliable and relevant information to the Parliamentarians and Parliamentary staff, the Secretariat has initiated a catalogued system of library. Subsequent to the training on Cataloging of Library and Classification in KOHA System from 12-16 December 2016, over 8,000 books were catalogued in the KOHA System. KOHA is an open source integrated library system (ILS) with features like keyword and advanced searching, search by title, author, ISBN, availability of library materials, list of current and past checkouts, account history (payment and fines) and many more. Cataloging and Classification is a simple way of organizing library materials in such a way that it becomes convenient and easy for the library users while searching the required material. Under this system, anyone can access the library and check online for books available in the library by searching Title of the book or the Author. The exercise was carried out with

support from the UNICEF, Thimphu.

The books are now more systematically arranged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification 23 (DDC 23) system. In this, the arrangement is in ascending order of their call numbers and classified into 10 classes namely; computer science, information and general works, philosophy and psychology, religion, social sciences, language, science, technology, arts and recreation, literature, and history and geography. While there is a general stack for foreign laws and general books, there are also corners for domestic Acts, Verbatim, Resolutions, Newspapers, etc. The National Assembly Secretariat has also formulated Library Rules and Regulations to regulate and maintain the library. Additionally, the library has subscribed to Time Magazine covering the 10 April 2017 issue to the 16 April 2018 issues and the Economist.

2.5. Enhancing Collaboration with International Parliamentary Institutions.

2.5.1. Delegation to International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and other Conferences

A Joint 10-Member Parliamentary

delegation led by Speaker, Tshogpon Jigme Zangpo attended the 135th IPU Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland while the 136th IPU Assembly held in Dhaka, Bangladesh was led by the Chairman of National Council, Dasho (Dr.) Sonam Kinga. In addition, the members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) made a maiden visit to Singapore Parliament and met with the Public Accounts Committee members of Parliament of Singapore. Tshogpon Jigme Zangpo also led a 5-member delegation to the 2017 South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Goals held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh, India in February 2017.

Several ex-country conferences were attended by Members to some 14 countries on areas of Economic and Sustainable Development, International Leadership, Peace and Development, Active Ageing, Women in Politics, LGBT forum, Sustainable Development Goals, Environment, human trafficking, gender equality, etc. In-country programs attended by Members include gender sensitization, media ethics, LDCs graduation, women in governance, leadership and politics. On an average, approximately 31 programs were availed by the Members, out of which some were funded by host country or organizers for meetings like Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA),

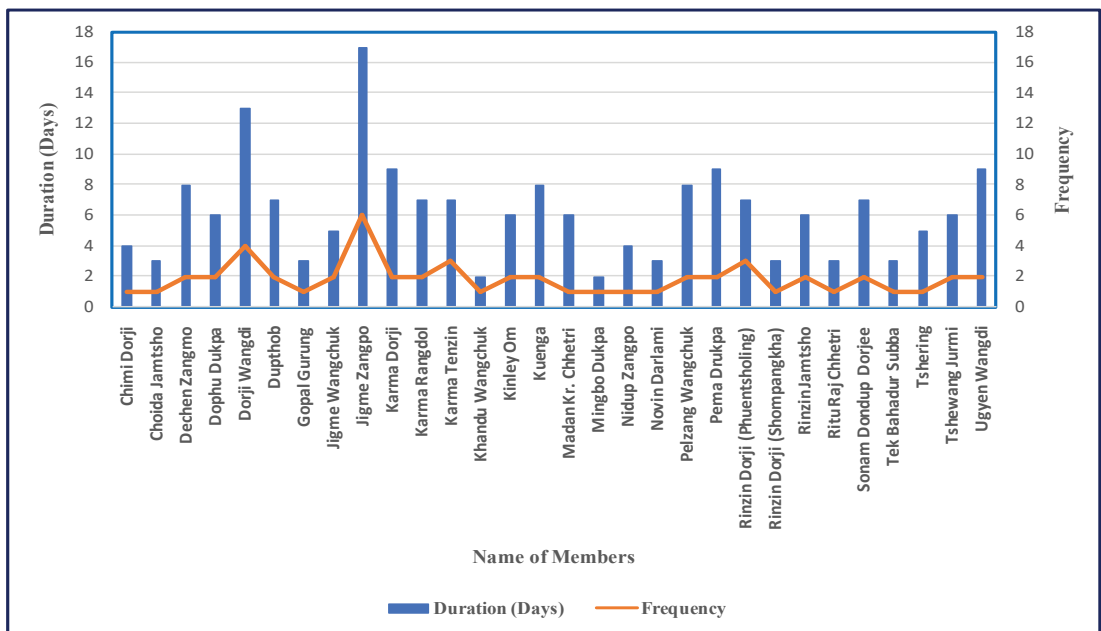


Fig.3: Duration and Frequency of Ex Country travel made by Members of National Assembly in 2016-17

Asian Forum for Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), LOGIN-Asia, Universal Peace Federation, Danish Institute for Parliamentarians and Democracy (DIPD), BAOWE, UNDP, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR, UNICEF, etc.). Members' attendance to international meetings is seen as an important avenue for capacity building of the Members, enhance their knowledge and gain more exposure and exchange experiences with their counterparts from other parliaments. A total of 31 ex-country travels were undertaken by 30 Members out of the total of 36 Members excluding the Cabinet Ministers. Six members

have not travelled outside the country. The frequency of travel ranges between one to six while the total duration ranges between two to seventeen days in 2016-17 (**Fig.3**).

2.5.2. Foreign Delegations Received by the National Assembly

The National Assembly received a total of 20 delegations from various international organizations in the FY 2016-2017. This has further strengthened the cooperation and existing friendly parliamentary ties and also forged new relations. **Annexure 3** provides details of visits.



Speaker, Mr. Jigme Zangpo with the European parliamentary delegation



Deputy Speaker, Mr. Chhimi Dorji with the Mongolian delegation



Chairman Mr. Dopphu Dukpa (front row, third from left) and Members of the Public Accounts Committee with Prof. Chaisit Trachoetham (front row, fourth from the left) Chairman of the State Audit Commission and his delegation from the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand

3. Objective 2. Improving the Legislative Capacity and process of the National Assembly.

3.1. Strengthening Parliamentary Committees

The National Assembly has 10 Standing Committees. To assist the committees to effectively and efficiently carry out their functions, the Secretariat has one legislative officer, four dedicated committee secretaries and five legal assistants working for the matters involving legal and committee works.

During the year, to strengthen the committee secretaries' roles, a training on Basic Legal Principles and Interpretation of Statutes was conducted for the Committee Secretaries. Thirteen Committee Secretaries attended the training from 15-20 February 2017 facilitated by resource persons from Bhutan Legal Eagles, a private legal firm in Phuentsholing. The course covered a range of issues such as roles and responsibilities of the committee secretaries, Bhutanese legal system, characteristics of democracy, law review process, drafting of laws and technical aspects, legal principles, translation techniques and legislative research techniques among others. The

participants got a better understanding of the legal principles and doctrine of proof beyond reasonable doubt, parliamentary enactments and delegated legislation and have proved useful while carrying out their duties in their respective committees.

3.2. National Assembly Sessions conducted

The two sessions of the National Assembly – the Eighth and the Ninth Sessions have been held successfully where the proceedings, debate verbatim and Question Hour debates of both the sessions have been transcribed, compiled, printed and documented. The resolutions of both the Assembly Sessions have been produced in both Dzongkha and English. These resolutions were distributed to relevant agencies, Dzongkhags, Gewogs, MPs and copies are maintained in the National Assembly Library for reference and documentation.



The Eighth Session welcomed the newly elected Member of Parliament from North Thimphu constituency, Tshering who succeeded Kinga Tshering, the former Member of Parliament from the same constituency.

The Ninth Session adopted a new motion to ensure meaningful engagement of the National Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was adopted mainly to better engage the Standing Committees of the House to strategize in mainstreaming the SDGs within the parliamentary proceedings. It emphasized the importance of sustainable development which had long been implemented in the country owing to the noble vision of Gross National Happiness. Thus, with the adoption of the motion, each of the standing committees were assigned with one or more SDG goals relevant to the committee for oversight and one day during every parliamentary session shall be allotted for deliberation on SDGs among others.

This FY 2016-17, during the Seventh and Eighth Session passed, the following Bills:

A. Bills and Agreements passed and

referred to the National Council:

1. Information, Communications & Media Bill of Bhutan 2017
2. Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Bill 2017
3. Multilateral Agreement on the Establishment of Think Tank for Landlocked Countries

B. Laws Assented

1. Customs Act of Bhutan 2017
2. Bhutan Red Cross Society Act 2016
3. Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016
4. Fiscal Incentives Act of Bhutan 2017
5. Local Government Pay Revision Act of Bhutan 2017

C. Deferred Ratification of Agreements:

1. Motor Vehicles Agreement for the Regulation of Passenger, Personnel and Cargo Vehicular Traffic Between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN)

D. Bill deferred:

1. Marriage (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2016

E. International Treaties and Conventions Ratified:

1. Paris Agreement, 2016
2. Agreement on Trade, Commerce & Transit between Bhutan and India, 2016

4. Objective 3: Enhance Oversight Capacity of the National Assembly

4.1. Strengthening the existing oversight mechanisms and training Members on oversight functions

A one-day workshop was also conducted for the Members by the Royal Audit Authority to better understand the audit process and reports. To improve internal transparency and integrity, Members and staff have been informed on the Asset Declaration Rules and invited for compliance. As for the compliance to gift rule, a gift register has been opened and maintained.

In addition, for the purpose of promoting a uniform legislation drafting style and to create awareness to the general public on the stages of the bill and processes it goes through until reaching Parliament, the National Assembly launched the Legislative Drafting Manual 2016 on 31st October 2016. The National Assembly also published the Public Hearing Manual 2016 on 5th February 2017. It is an important tool for oversight and this step was taken to fulfill the mandate of the Parliament obliged by Section 2 Article 10 of the Constitution in reviewing public policies, important

issues and scrutiny of state functions, as well as to establish a standard procedure of conducting public hearings among the Committees in Parliament and strengthen the oversight functions of the Parliament.



Acts Assented in the Eighth and Ninth Session

4.2. Strengthening Parliamentary Standing Committees for oversight role

Parliamentary Standing Committees play a crucial role in fulfilling the oversight mandate of a parliament. This year the 10 Parliamentary Committees of the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Joint Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee conducted 122 committee meetings for the purpose of discharging parliamentary functions with the maximum of 28 sittings by the Women, Children and Youth Committee (WCYC)

followed by the House Committee with 25 sittings and minimum of 4 sittings by Environment and Urban Development Committee followed by the Human Rights Committee and Public Accounts Committee with 5 sittings. The Committees also conducted a total of 57 consultative meetings with various stakeholders and representatives from different sections of society to seek views and comments on the sections of draft bills with the maximum of 19 meetings by the Public Accounts Committee with no consultative meeting organized by Women, Children and Youth Committee and Foreign Relations Committee.

The Public Accounts Committee alone has conducted 6 Public Hearings in review of public policies and scrutiny of the state function. Five out of 11 committees have conducted less than 15 meetings in one year. Based on the above facts, the number of committees may have to be reviewed and reduced to enable more serving member to each committee to strengthen the committees functions. **Fig. 4** shows the details of committee meetings and hearings conducted.

Table 1, depicts the number of committees each member serve in and the number of times they have attended the meetings conducted.

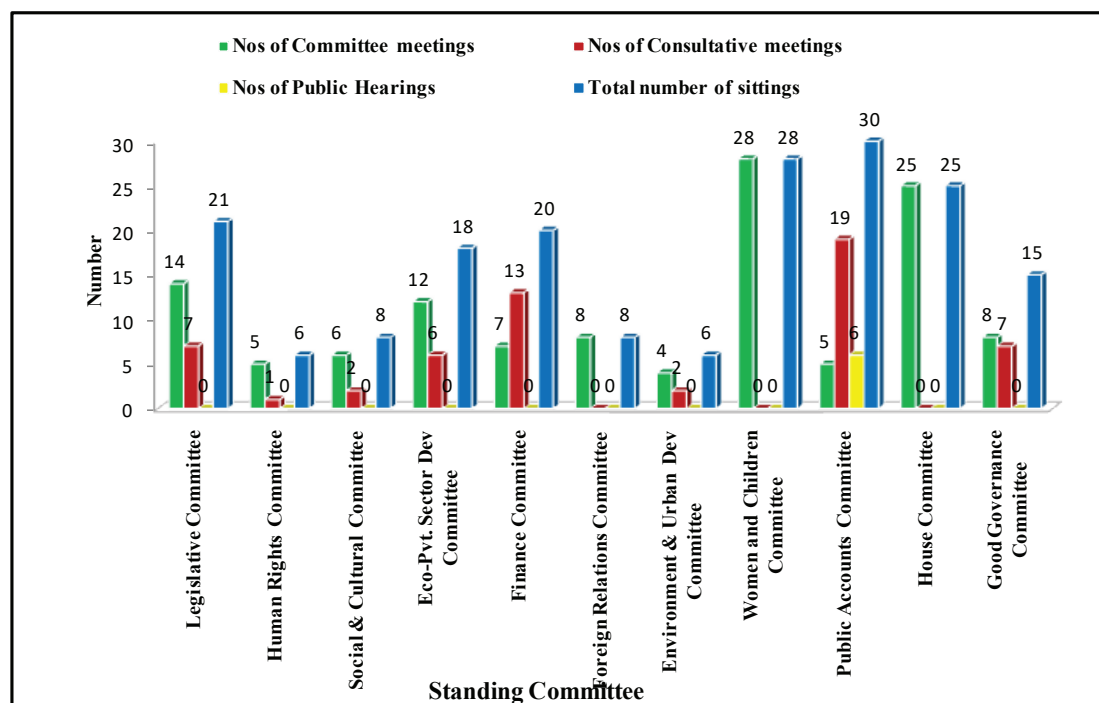


Fig.4: Standing Committees and number of meetings held in 2016-17.

According to Section 314, Rules of Procedure (Amendment) of the National Assembly 2015, a member shall serve in minimum of two and maximum of three committees. Total number of serving members to a committee ranged from 5-12, majority with seven members. Seventeen members have served in two committees and only Honorable Chimi Dorji is a member of one committee considering his other responsibilities as the Deputy Speaker. If all 33 members serve in

three committees, then a committee would have had 11 members each, thus giving critical mass of membership to a committee. The percentage of attendance to committee meeting by the members ranges from as low as 39% to as high as 92% with the median of 72.41%. The attendance of 16 members are below the median percentage, of which 9 are from the Ruling and 7 are from the Opposition.



PAC Standing Committee Meeting

Table 1: Members serving in various committees and their attendance to the committee meetings during 2016-17

Member/ Committee	HC	FRC	FinCom	WCYC	HRC	Eco & Pvt C	Env& urban C	Social & Cult C	GGC	Legis Com	PAC	W	X	Y	Z
Hon Karma Tenzin	*		*								*	3	71	13	81.69
Hon Rinzin Jamtsho	*		*	*								3	70	22	68.57
Hon Ritu Raj Chettri	*						*			*		3	52	3	94.23
Hon Tshewang Jurmi	*	*		*								3	60	9	85.00
Hon Kuenga	*							*	*			3	46	10	78.26
Hon Pelzang Wangchuk	*		*		*							3	50	7	86.00
Hon Yogesh Tamang	*								*	*		3	40	23	42.50
Hon Sonam D Dorjee	*		*			*						3	63	19	69.84
Hon Dorji Wangdi	*				*	*						3	45	5	88.89
Hon Rinzin Dorji (P/ling)	*	*				*						3	45	12	73.33
Hon Doplu Dukpa	*						*				*	3	57	2	96.49
Hon Pema Drukpa			*				*					2	26	9	65.38
Hon Wangdi Norbu							*		*			2	15	2	86.67
Hon Yeshe Zimba							*	*				2	8	3	62.50
Hon Gopal Gurung							*		*			2	19	6	68.42
Hon Madan K Chettri		*					*					2	14	1	92.86
Hon Duptho		*				*						2	23	8	65.22
Hon Khandu Wangchuk		*				*						2	23	8	65.22
Hon Karma Rangdol		*								*		2	23	14	39.13
Hon Karma Dorji				*				*				2	30	8	73.33
Hon Mingbo Dukpa		*			*					*		3	29	8	72.41
Hon Dechen Zangmo				*						*		2	49	28	42.86
Hon Novin Darlami				*		*				*		3	66	12	81.82
Hon Kezang Wangmo				*				*				2	30	15	50.00
Hon Rinzin Dorji (Shompangkha)			*			*			*			3	51	22	56.86
Hon Tek Bdr Subha			*					*				2	28	8	71.43
Hon Choida Jamtsho	*		*								*	3	73	13	82.19
Hon Jigme Wangchuk			*	*								2	48	14	70.83
Hon Zangley Dukpa								*	*			2	21	4	80.95
Hon Nidup Zangpo								*	*			2	21	5	76.19
Hon Kinley Om					*					*		2	27	8	70.37
Hon Chimi Dorji										*		1	21	11	47.62
Hon Ugyen Wangdi					*					*		2	27	5	81.48
Total member per committee	12	7	9	7	5	7	7	7	7	9	3+2#				

Note: w=No. of Committees; X=Total committees meetings conducted; Y= Total number of absent from meetings;

Z= Percentage of attendance to committee meetings, # =National Council Member

4.3. Collaborating with the government on oversight functions

As part of collaboration with the government in carrying out its oversight roles, 47 Members and 25 staff of the National Assembly led by the Speaker Mr. Jigme Zangpo made a three-day industrial visit to the Mangdechhu and Tangsibjee Hydroelectric Projects from 1-3 December 2016. The members visited the Diversion tunnel of Tangsibjee Hydroelectric Project located at Tangsibji (under Tangsibjee Gewog) and Damsite of Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project (MHPA) located at Chunjupang (under Nubi Gewog), surge shaft site located at Samchoeling (under Drakten Gewog), the underground power house site located at Yurmoo (under Drakten Gewog) and the MHPA model at the main project office located at Dangdung (under DraktenGewog). The Members were also briefed and updated on the actual implementation status of the Nikachhu Hydroelectric Project, the double-laning of the Northern East-West Highway and the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project.

Rabten-tse Dzong, and offered prayers for continued peace, prosperity and happiness of our people.

The visit enabled the Members to get first-hand information on the progress of the projects and also interact with the project staff. The visit was supported and arranged by the project management of MHPA, the Dzongkhag Administration and Rabdhey of Trongsa, the project management of Tangsibji Hydro Energy Limited, the project management of PHPA-I & II.



Diversion Tunnel of the Tangsibjee Hydroelectric Project

En-route the members also visited the Royal Heritage Museum housed in the Taa-Dzong of Trongsa and Choekhor



Visit to Mangdechu Hydropower Dam Site



Dam Site

5. Objective 4: Strengthen the capacity of the National Assembly to play an effective representational role

5.1 Creating a culture of informed public decision making in legislative process

5.1.1. Virtual Zomdue

In the second phase, full set of upgraded and advanced virtual zomdue equipment has been installed in the Community Centres of 43 constituencies. They are now provided with 40 inch television

screen, Dell PC with HDMI cables to connect to television screens, advanced set of HD camera, Desktops and Software. Installation in Community Centres of four constituencies is yet to be completed. Once this installation is completed, 92 Gewog Community Centres would be covered out of 205 gewogs (**Fig. 5**).

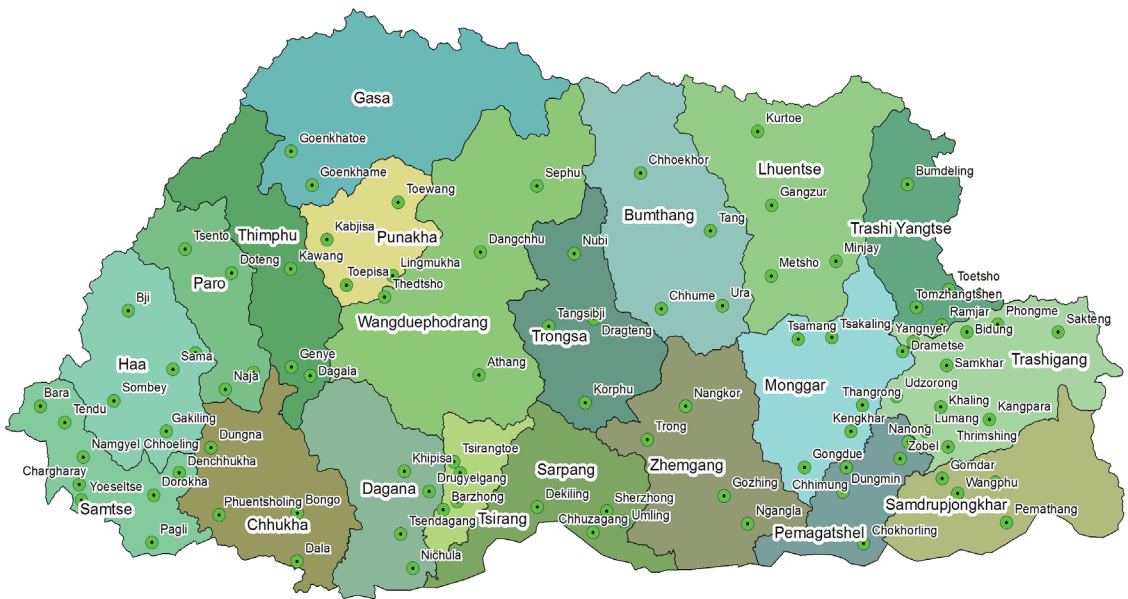


Fig.5. Map of Virtual Zomdue connected gewogs by Dzongkhags (Source: UNDP, Thimphu)

5.1.2 Constituency Visits by Members

As per the Rules of Procedure, the members visit their constituencies at least twice a year after every session to meet the people of their constituencies and discuss the issues faced by the people and to inform them about the plans and activities of the Parliament and the

Government. In 2016-17, almost all the members made constituency visits (**Fig 6**). The duration of the visit ranges from 6 to 136 days with the median 48 days and the frequency as high as 5 times. Twenty members have visited their constituencies only once in the year.

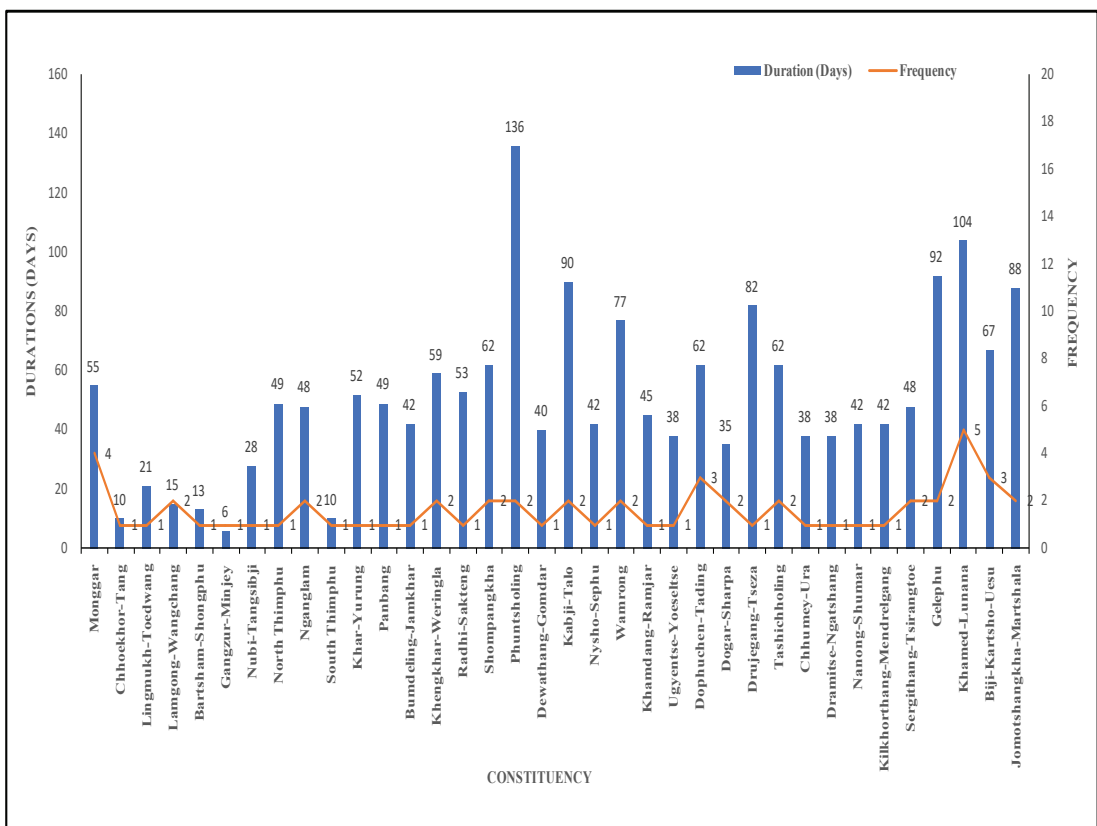


Fig. 6. Duration and Frequency of visits made by the members to their constituencies in 2016-17

5.2. Empowering Women National Assembly Members

Women members, especially being at the highest decision making level, play a vital role in promoting and understanding women issues. It is, therefore, very important to train the National Assembly Members. Two activities were identified in the year towards this which was to create awareness among the people on the importance of women leadership and representation training for women members of Parliament.

To fulfill the above objective, Members were encouraged to attend leadership training organized by different institutions within the country. Members attended the Second National Conference in Women in Governance, Leadership and Politics from March 8-10, 2017, High Level Gender Sensitization Workshop organized by the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) on August 4, 2016 and Regional Seminar for Women in Power held in Myanmar, March 5-6, 2016. Women Members also attended the Women's Political Empowerment Experience Sharing Workshop organized by LOGIN-Asia in Bangkok in July 2016, Regional Seminar for Women in

Parliament held in Katmandu, Nepal in September 2016.

5.3. Liaising with Media to represent constituents

With only nine years into Democracy and considering the factors of low literacy level and country's geographical remoteness, many people are still not aware of the existing system of governance. To educate the public on different elements and institutions of democracy, the Parliament of Bhutan with financial support from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) developed a radio and TV talk show series titled "Gyalong Tshokhang" in the Bhutan Broadcasting Service in 2016.

Keeping in mind that radio and TV are still the most preferred modes of getting information and news for a large majority of the population, Parliament and the IIDEA chose to use the suitable media house (BBS) to air the series of program which educated the public on the works of the Parliament, the differences between its two chambers, its roles and functions, structure, etc.

The series went on air weekly between July and November 2016. Members from both Houses resourced the series. In total, about 22 programs, each of 30-minute duration, were produced and aired: 10 on BBS Radio in Dzongkha, 10 on BBS TV in English and 8 on BBS TV in Dzongkha. The initiative was generally appreciated

by the parliamentarians and the public. The series was found to be useful in improving their outreach efforts, as well as their confidence in facing the media. A total of 31 members of parliament appeared on different episodes of the show which incurred a cost of about Nu. 875, 248.64.



Talk show with Hon. Rinzin Jamtsho, Hon. Kinley Om and H.E Ganchig GANBOLD, Mongolian Ambassador

5.4. Collaborating and engaging with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Currently the Parliament's engagement with CSOs is mostly at the committee level where the committees interact with

relevant CSOs while reviewing the Bills. While the Parliamentary committees have met with various Government Ministries, Corporations, and Media houses, the Civil Society Organizations that have taken part in such meetings are Bhutan

Film Association (BFA), Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI), Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women (RENEW), Bhutan Network for Empowering Women (BNEW), Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan Centre for Media and Democracy (BCMD), DRAKTSHO, Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), Disabled Person Association of Bhutan, Loden Foundation, Bhutan Association of Women Entrepreneurs (BAOWE), Association

of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO), Construction Association of Bhutan (CAB), Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan (HRAB), Contractor Association of Bhutan (CAB), Association of Bhutanese Industries (ABI), and Bhutan Exporters Association (BEA). Out of **53** currently registered CSOs in the country, the Standing Committees have met and interacted with about 16 CSOs only.

6. Overview of Budget for the FY 2016-17 and its utilization.

The total revised budget for the National Assembly for the Fiscal Year 2016-17 was Nu. 121.569 million with expenditure of Nu.118.127m (97.17%) as reflected in Fig 7. It also shows the total budget and expenditure of the National Assembly, with relative

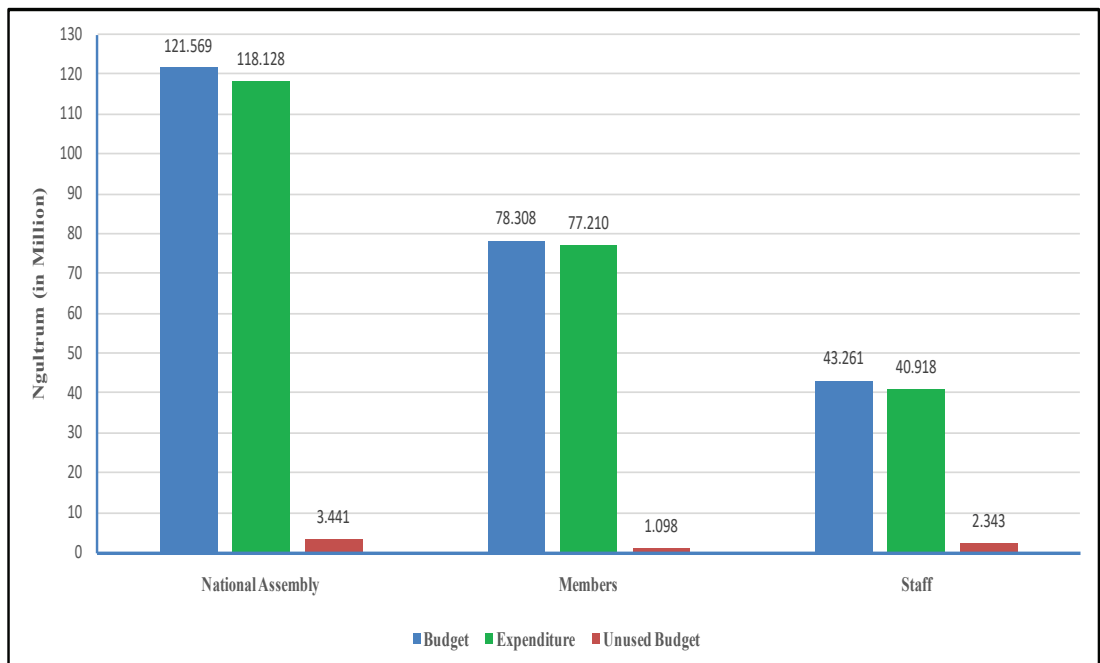


Fig. 7: Total Budget and Expenditure for National Assembly, Members and Staff

allocation, expenditure and unused budget for members and secretariat staff. Overall, in absolute figure, Nu.3.441 million was returned as un-utilized budget at the end of the fiscal year. This was mainly due to savings from staff transfer (4), resignation (2) and earned leave (3)

not availed by the staff during the year. Budget and expenditure by activities is presented in Annexure 4. The revised budget included Nu.3.303m of UN support for Parliamentary Democracy in Bhutan to National Assembly and National Council.

7. Conclusion

The Annual Report 2016-2017 is a manifestation of our achievements of the National Assembly of Bhutan. These momentous accomplishments are stimuli to successfully carrying out future legislative and representational functions to fulfill the aspirations of the people and hence contribute in achieving the country's goal of Gross National Happiness enshrined in the Constitution through inclusive and an effervescent democracy. The cumulative information on the Second Parliament is in **Annexure V**.

The Report highlights the legislative roles undertaken by the Parliament in terms of enacting five legislations and ratification of two international conventions during the Eighth and Ninth Session of the National Assembly with 122 total Parliamentary Committee sittings and 57 consultative meetings.

The report provides a brief account of the policy reviews and question hours.

This Report is an effort to silhouette the success of achieving the four main strategic objectives of the National Assembly of Bhutan. Nonetheless, the National Assembly of Bhutan in the Report have presented an insight of how it has strengthened the institutional capacity of the National Assembly Secretariat, improved the legislative capacity and processes of the National Assembly, enhanced the oversight capacity of the National Assembly and strengthened the capacity of the National Assembly to play an effective and exemplary role.

Overall, the National Assembly has witnessed a successful year with implementation of most of the planned activities and optimal utilization of its budget.

Annexure 1: List of Hon Members in 2016-2017

Sl.#	Name	Position Level	Constituency	Remark
1	Hon. Tshering Tobgay	Prime Minister	Sombaykha	
2	Hon. Jigme Zangpo	Speaker	Monggar	
3	Hon. Damcho Dorji	Minister for Foreign Affairs	Khatoed Laya	
4	Hon. Dorji Choden	Minister for Works and Human Settlement	Thrimshing	
5	Hon. Dawa Gyaltshen	Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs	Bongo Chapchha	
6	Hon. Tandin Wangchuk	Minister for Health	Athang Thedtsho	
7	Hon. Ngeema Sangay Tshempo	Minister for Labour Human Resources	Lhamoi Dzingkha Tashiding	
8	Hon. Dina Nath Dhungyel	Minister for Information and Communications	Phuentshorgpelri Samtse	
9	Hon. Namgay Dorji	Minister for Finance	Draagteng Langthil	
10	Hon. Norbu Wangchuk	Minister for Education	Kanglung Samkhar Udzorong	
11	Hon. Yeshey Dorji	Minister for Agriculture and Forest	Maenbi Tsaenkha	
12	Hon. Lekey Dorji	Minister for Economic Affairs	Bardo Trong	
13	Hon. Pema Jamtsho	Opposition Leader	Chhoekhor Tang	
14	Hon. Chimi Dorji	Dy. Speaker	Lingmukha Toedwang	
15	Hon. Tshewang Jurmi	Member of Parliament	Chhumig Ura	
16	Hon. Rinzin Dorji	Member of Parliament	Phuentshogling	
17	Hon. Rinzin Dorji	Member of Parliament	Shompangkha	
18	Hon. Karma Dorji	Member of Parliament	Drukjeygang Tseza	
19	Hon. Pema Drukpa	Member of Parliament	Khamaed Lunana	
20	Hon. Kinley Om	Member of Parliament	Bji Kar Tshog Uesu	
21	Hon. Karma Rangdol	Member of Parliament	Gangzur Minjey	
22	Hon. Ugyen Wangdi	Member of Parliament	Dramedtse Ngatshang	
23	Hon. Rinzin Jamtsho	Member of Parliament	Kengkhar Weringla	
24	Hon. Kezang Wangmo	Member of Parliament	Dokar Sharpa	

25	Hon. Khandu Wangchuk	Member of Parliament	Lamgong Wangchang	
26	Hon. Zangley Dukpa	Member of Parliament	Khar Yurung	
27	Hon. Choida Jamtsho	Member of Parliament	Nganglam	
28	Hon. Dophu Dukpa	Member of Parliament	Kabisa Talog	
29	Hon. Pelzang Wangchuk	Member of Parliament	Jomotshangkha Martshala	
30	Hon. Tek Bahadur Subba	Member of Parliament	Dophuchen Tading	
31	Hon. Ritu Raj Chhetri	Member of Parliament	Tashichhoeling	
32	Hon. Madan Kumar Chhetri	Member of Parliament	Ugyentse Yoeseltse	
33	Hon. Gopal Gurung	Member of Parliament	Gelegphu	
34	Hon. Kinga Tshering	Member of Parliament	North Thimphu	Resigned on 11/8/2016
35	Hon. Yeshey Zimba	Member of Parliament	South Thimphu	
36	Hon. Wangdi Norbu	Member of Parliament	Bartsham Shongphu	
37	Hon. Jigme Wangchuk	Member of Parliament	Radhi Sakteng	
38	Hon. Karma Tenzin	Member of Parliament	Wamrong	
39	Hon. Dupthob	Member of Parliament	Bomdeling Jamkhar	
40	Hon. Sonam Dondup Dorjee	Member of Parliament	Khamdang Ramjar	
41	Hon. Nidup Zangpo	Member of Parliament	Nubi Tangsibji	
42	Hon. Yogesh Tamang	Member of Parliament	Kilkhorthang Mendrelgang	
43	Hon. Novin Darlami	Member of Parliament	Sergithang Tsirang Toed	
44	Hon. Kuenga	Member of Parliament	Nyishog Saephu	
45	Hon. Mingbo Dukpa	Member of Parliament	Dewathang Gomdar	
46	Hon. Dorji Wangdi	Member of Parliament	Panbang	
47	Hon. Dechen Zangmo	Member of Parliament	Nanong Shuma	
48	Hon. Tshering	Member of Parliament	North Thimphu	Joined 16/11/2016

Annexure 2 (a): List of National Assembly Secretariat Staff in 2016-2017

Sl.#	Name	Position Title	Postion Level	Remarks
1	Sangay Duba	Secretary General	EX1B	
2	Duba	Director	EX3	
3	Lam Rinzin	Sungkhop	NA	
4	Sonam Lhamo	Dy. Chief Research Officer	P2A	
5	Lotey Gyeltshen	Sr. Research Officer	P2A	
6	Tenzin Namgay	Sr. Research Officer	P3A	
7	Tshewang Norbu	Asst. Research Officer	P5 A	
8	Phub Tshering	Asst. Research Officer	P5 A	Transferred on 20-06-17
9	Ugyen Wangdi	Research Asst. II	S2A	
10	Tashi Dem	Sr. ICT Officer	P3A	EOL (01/01/2017-31/12/2018)
11	Sonam Tobgay	Asst.Info & Media Officer	P5 A	
12	Sampa Dhendup	Sr. ICT Technical Associate III	SS4A	
13	Singay Tshering	ICT Technical Associate I	S1A	
14	Kinley	Technician II	S4A	
15	Wangdi Tshering	Technician III	S5A	
16	Tashi Norbu	Admin. Asst. III	S5A	
17	Sonam Delek	Legislative Officer	P4A	
18	Sonam Choki	Committee Secretary	P5A	
19	Karma Drupchu	Committee Secretary	P5A	
20	Kanjur Wangmo	Committee Secretary IV	P4A	
21	Pem Zam	Committee Secretary V	P5A	
22	Sonam Tshering	Committee Secretary IV	P4A	Transferred on 31-03-17
23	Jigme Tenzin	Legal Asst. II	S1A	
24	Tshering Dorji	Legal Asst. II	S1A	
25	Tashi Rabtan	Legal Asst. III	S1A	
26	Chimi Lhaden	Legal Asst. III	S1A	
27	Kinzang Choden	Legal Asst. III	S1A	
28	Ngawang Norbu	Dy. Chief Admin. Officer	P2A	
29	Yeshi Norbu	Sr. Accounts Officer	P3A	Transferred on 10-03-17
30	Sherab Tenzin	Asst. Admin. Officer I	P5A	Transferred on 10-03-17
31	Sonam Wangmo	HRO	P4A	
32	Kuenzang Wangmo	PS II	P5A	
33	Kunzang Dema	Accounts Asst.	SS3A	
34	Tshering Dorji	PS III	P5B	
35	Dorji	Sr. Store Keeper V	S1A	
36	Karma	Sr. Personal Asst. III	S2A	
37	Tshering Dema	Personal Asst. I	S3A	

38	Dhendup Pem	Adm. Assistant 111	S4A	
39	Thinley Dema	PA II	S4A	
40	Tashi Wangdi	Adm. Assistant III	S4A	
41	Jamyang Palden	PA III (OL)	S5A	
42	Kinzang Wangmo	PA III (Director)	S5A	
43	Namgay Pem	Adm.Asstt III	S5A	
44	Kencho Dema	Admin. Asst. III	S5 A	Transferred on 14-11-2016
45	Sonam Tshering	Sr. Dispatcher	O1 A	Compulsory retirement 01-03-2017
46	Pema Dorji	Driver	O1 A	
47	Chokey Dorji	Driver III	O2 A	
48	Ngawang Dorji	Driver III	O4 A	
49	Karma Dhendup	Driver III	O3 A	
50	Ngawang Samdrup	Driver I	O1 A	
51	Sonam Tshering	Driver I	O1 A	Transferred on 15-08-2016
52	Ugyen Lhendup	Driver IV	O4 A	Resigned on 30-09-2016
53	Tashi Dorji	Messenger	GSP	
54	Tshokey Dorji	Messenger	GSP	
55	Pema Choki	Messenger	GSP	
56	Ugyen Dolma	Sweeper	ESP	
57	Tenzin Deki	Sweeper	ESP	
58	Sonam Choden	Sweeper	ESP	
59	Lobzang Dorji	Night Guard	ESP	

Annexure 2 (b): List of National Assembly Secretariat Contract Staff in 2016-2017

Sl No.	Name	Position Title	Position Level	Resigned date
1	Sonam Norbu	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Resigned on 31.01.2017
2	Sonam Tobgye	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
3	Dawa Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Resigned on '01.03.2017
4	Tshewang Dorji	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
5	Yonten Phuntsho	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
6	Tandin Gyeltshen	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
7	Chimi Rinzin	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
8	Phuntsho Wangdi	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
9	Geden	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
10	Tshering Yangki	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
11	Phuntsho Wangdi	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
12	Tenzin Wangchuk	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
13	Changala	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
14	Ugyen Tshering	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
15	Jurme Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
16	Rinchen Khando	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
17	Phuntsho Wangmo	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
18	Tsheltrim Dorji	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Resigned on 31.03.2017
19	Chencho Om	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
20	Sangay Norbu	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
21	Rinchen Dema	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
22	Kinley Om	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
23	Passang Lhamo	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
24	Tshewang Choki	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
25	Tandin Choden	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Resigned on 31-01-2017
26	Namgay Lhamo	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
27	Dawa Pemo	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
28	Kezang Dema	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
29	Sonam Wangmo	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
30	Tshewang Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
31	Sonam Dhendup	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
32	Tshering Choden	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
33	Jigme Tenzin	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	
34	Sherab Losel	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Appted in replace of Sonam Norbu

35	Kencho Yenten	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Appted in replace of Dawa Tenzin
36	Neten Dorji	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Appted in replace of Tsheltrim Dorji
37	Zeko Lham	Asst. Research Officer	P5 B	Appted in replace of Tandin Choden

Annexure 3: Foreign delegates received by National Assembly in 2016- 17

Sl. No	Delegation
1	H.E. Mr. Maung Wai, Ambassador-designate of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Bhutan on 12/07/2017
2	European Parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Jean Lambert, MP on 24/05/2017
3	Mr. P.R Barua, Sr Vice President of Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, Dharma-Rajika Buddhist Monastery on 16/05/2017
4	H.E. Mr Alexandre Ziegler, Ambassador of France to India on 27/04/2017
5	Ms. Gem Lao Arya, Country Director of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 14/04/2017
6	Ms. Claudia Roth, Vice President of German Bundestag, Parliament of Germany on 07/04/2017
7	Mr. Gerald Daly, the new UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Bhutan on 22/03/2017
8	Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen, Director of Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) on 09/03/2017
9	H.E Mr. Tomasz Kozlowski, EU Ambassador, EU member States in New Delhi on 31/01/2017
10	H.E Mr. Tsend Munkh-Orgil, Foreign Minister of Mongolia on 21/12/2016
11	Dr. Zoltan Valcsicsak, President of Hungarian Bhutan Friendship Society on 02/11/2016
12	H.E Dr. Thierry Mathou, French Ambassador to Republic of Philippines on 02/11/2016
13	Mr. Bjorn Forde, Director of Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) on 12/9/2016
14	Prof. Chaisit Trachotham, Chairman of the State Audit Commission and his delegation from the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand on 23/8/2016
15	Mr. Rudolf Schwenk, new UNICEF Country Representative, Bhutan on 23/8/2016
16	Mr. Nicholas Rosellini, Deputy Regional Director for Asia & the Pacific and Director of the Bangkok Regional Hub on 22/08/2016
17	Shri Subrata Das (out-going Counsellor) and Shri Raghav Prasad Bhatnagar (in-coming Counsellor), Embassy of India in Thimphu on 11/08/2016
18	Ms. Christina Carlson, out-going UN RR in Bhutan on 01/08/2016
19	H.E Mr. Md. Abdul Hamid, President of People's Republic of Bangladesh on 04/07/2016
20	H.E. Mr. Linus Von Castelmur, outgoing Ambassador of Switzerland to Bhutan on 29/6/2016

Annexure 4: Budget and Expenditure Report of National Assembly in 2016-17 FY

Sl	Particulars	Budget			Expenditure			Balance	
		Secretariat	MP Office	Total	Secretariat	MP Office	Total	Secretariat	MP Office
1	Pay and Allowances	21.805	48.303	70.108	19.764	47.826	67.590	2.041	0.477
2	Other Personnel Emoluments	0.364	0.000	0.364	0.336	0.000	0.336	0.028	0.000
3	Travel -In country	2.334	6.802	9.136	2.295	6.800	9.095	0.039	0.002
4	Travel -Outside Bhutan	1.241	6.506	7.747	1.241	6.443	7.684	0.000	0.063
5	Utilities- Telephones, Telex, Fax, E-mail, Internet	0.938	1.135	2.073	0.938	1.122	2.060	0.000	0.013
6	Utilities- Telegram, Wireless Transmission, Postage	0.166	0.052	0.218	0.166	0.051	0.217	0.000	0.001
7	Utilities-Electricity, water, sewerage	0.000	0.217	0.217	0.000	0.213	0.213	0.000	0.004
8	Rental of Properties-Buildings	0.000	1.307	1.307	0.000	1.307	1.307		0.000
9	S & M-Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	1.980	0.425	2.405	1.961	0.423	2.384	0.019	0.002
10	S & M-Text Books, Library Books, Stationeries & Sports Item	0.071	0.055	0.126	0.038	0.051	0.089	0.033	0.004
11	Maintenance of Property-Vehicles	0.775	1.027	1.802	0.775	1.021	1.796	0.000	0.006
12	Maintenance of Property-Equipment	1.469	0.000	1.469	1.468	0.000	1.468	0.001	0.000
13	Maintenance of Property-Computers	0.020	0.000	0.020	0.002	0.000	0.002	0.018	0.000
14	Op. Exp.-Advertising	0.540	0.000	0.540	0.540	0.000	0.540	0.000	0.000

15	Op. Exp.-Taxes, Dues, Royalties, Fees, Handling Charges, Bank Charges	0.015	0.000	0.015	0.004	0.000	0.004	0.011	0.000	0.011
16	Op. Exp.-Transportation	0.000	0.025	0.025	0.000	0.024	0.024	0.000	0.001	0.001
17	Op. Exp.-In country Meetings & Celebrations	3.549	0.759	4.308	3.480	0.759	4.239	0.069	0.000	0.069
18	Hospitality and Entertainment	0.240	3.120	3.360	0.240	2.949	3.189	0.000	0.171	0.171
19	Current Grants- Individuals/Non-profit Orgs.	0.000	3.800	3.800	0.000	3.733	3.733	0.000	0.067	0.067
20	Subscription to International Organization	0.000	0.890	0.890	0.000	0.741	0.741	0.000	0.149	0.149
21	Contributions- Provident Fund	1.076	3.446	4.522	1.055	3.416	4.471	0.021	0.030	0.051
22	Retirement Benefits	0.576	0.000	0.576	0.576	0.000	0.576	0.000	0.000	0.000
23	Training-Others	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
24	Purchase of Vehicles	2.079	0.000	2.079	2.079	0.000	2.079	0.000	0.000	0.000
25	Furniture	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.120	0.120	0.000	0.000	0.000
26	Office Equipment	0.000	0.319	0.319	0.000	0.211	0.211	0.000	0.108	0.108
27	Computer and Peripherals	0.220	0.000	0.220	0.160	0.000	0.160	0.060	0.000	0.060
28	UN Support	3.303	0.000	3.303	3.300	0.000	3.300	0.003	0.000	0.003
	Total	43.261	78.308	121.569	40.918	77.210	118.128	2.343	1.098	3.441

Annexure 5: Information with respect to the Second Parliament (2 August 2013 to 8 December 2017)

Session No.	No. of NA sittings held (days)	No. of Joint Sitting (incl opening & closing) held (days)	Total Sitting (days)	No. of voting held per session	No. of Acts passed (only those granted Royal Assent)	No. of conventions ratified (only those passed by both houses)	No. of motions moved	No. of questions asked (both Written & Oral)	No. of petitions received from LGs
First	9	5	14	0	0	0	0	39	0
Second	16	4	20	7	1	2	1	38	25
Third	21	3	24	6	0	3	0	45	33
Fourth	15	4	19	12	4	2	0	36	21
Fifth	18	11	29	69	6	1	5	45	30
Sixth	15	6	21	10	0	1	0	54	18
Seventh	21	9	30	19	2	0	2	43	12
Eighth	15	4	19	7	2	2	0	41	0
Ninth	23	7	30	10	1	1	2	59	11
Tenth	14	4	18	9	4	2	1	56	15
	167	57	224	149	20	14	11	456	165

Committee Meetings held (No. of meetings)	563 Meetings held.
Resources developed for effective Parliament	Legislative Drafting, Public Hearing, Committee & Oversight Manuals, Orientation Handbook, Rules of Procedures and Legislative Rules of Procedures
Ex-country visits made by Members of NA	Total 228 visits (14 in 2013, 50 in 2014, 57 in 2015, 59 in 2016 and 48 in 2017) as of end Dec 2017
In-country visits made by Members of NA	34 MPs of NA were in their constituencies for 8,617 days. Average of 56 days by each Member of NA a year.
Bills considered but not passed	RTI Bill (NA passed), Enterprise Registration Bill (NA passed) and Marriage Bill (NA deferred)
Conventions/Agreements considered but not passed	EIB Agreement (NA passed), BBIN Agreement (NA passed and JS deferred) & UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (withdrawn in NA)

