

AGENDA FOR THE 7TH SESSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BHUTAN
(Subject to change without notice)
19th May – 8th July 2011

Thursday, 19 May

REGISTRATION OF HONORABLE MEMBERS

- a. Registration of Hon'ble Members
- b. Distribution of documents

Friday, 20 May

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (JOINT SITTING)

- a. Inaugural address by the Hon'ble Speaker
- b. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo addresses the Parliament (If it pleases His Majesty)
- c. Move the motion of thanks

Monday, 23 May

JOINT SITTING - 1

- a. Deliberation on Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Tuesday, 24 May

JOINT SITTING - 2

- a. Adoption of Penal Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Civil & Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Wednesday, 25 May

JOINT SITTING - 3

- a. Adoption of Civil & Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Financial Services Bill of Bhutan 2011

Thursday, 26 May

JOINT SITTING - 4

- a. Adoption of Financial Services Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Friday, 27 May

JOINT SITTING - 5

- a. Adoption of Anti-Corruption (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Child Care & Protection Bill of Bhutan 2011

Monday, 30 May

JOINT SITTING - 6

- a. Adoption of Child Care & Protection Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Water Bill of Bhutan 2011

Tuesday, 31 May

JOINT SITTING - 7

- a. Adoption of Water Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Move motion seeking approval of the House to compile and translate amendments to Marriage Act of Bhutan into English.

Wednesday, 1 June

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH SESSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

- a. *Marchang* ceremony
- b. Inaugural address by the Hon'ble Chairperson
- c. Adoption of agenda

Thursday, 2 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 1

- a. Introduction of Public Finance Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

- b. Introduction of Sales Tax, Customs & Excise Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- c. Introduction of Election Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Friday, 3 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 2

- a. Introduction of Consumer Protection Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Ratification of SAARC Agreement on Trade in Service (SATIS)

QUESTION TIME – 1

6th – 10th June

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Monday, 13 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 3

- a. Deliberation on Public Finance Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Deliberation on Sales Tax, Customs & Excise Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Tuesday, 14 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 4

- a. Continue deliberation on Sales Tax, Customs & Excise Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

- b. Deliberation on Election Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

QUESTION TIME – 2

Wednesday, 15 June

Public Holiday (Lord Buddha's Parinirvana)

Thursday, 16 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 5

- a. Adoption of Public Finance Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Adoption of Sales Tax, Customs & Excise Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011
- c. Adoption of Election Act (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2011

Friday, 17 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 6

- a. Deliberation on Consumer Protection Bill 2011

QUESTION TIME – 3

Monday, 20 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 7

- a. Continue deliberation on Consumer Protection Bill of Bhutan 2011

Tuesday, 21 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 8

- a. Re-deliberation on Child Adoption Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Adoption of Child Adoption Bill of Bhutan 2011

QUESTION TIME – 4

Wednesday, 22 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 9

- a. Introduction of Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund Bill 2011
- b. Deliberation on Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund Bill 211

Thursday, 23 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 10

- a. Adoption of Consumer Protection Bill of Bhutan 2011
- b. Adoption of Druk Gyalpo's Relief Fund Bill 2011
- c. Move motion to introduce National Flag of Bhutan Bill
- d. Other Legislative motions by Members/Committees

Friday, 24 June

REVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES – 1

- a. Report by the Good Governance Committee on Annual Anti-Corruption Report 2010

- b. Deliberation on Annual Anti-Corruption Report

QUESTION TIME – 5

Monday, 27 June

(POLLING DAY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS)

Tuesday, 28 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 11

- a. Introduction of National Budget & Appropriation Bill 2011-2012
- b. Deliberation on National Budget & Appropriation Bill 2011-2012

QUESTION TIME – 6

Wednesday, 29 June

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 12

- a. Adoption of National Budget & Appropriation Bill 2011-2012

Thursday, 30 June

REVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES – 2

- a. **Bifurcation of larger gewogs**

Many *dzongkhags* have expressed the need to bifurcate larger *gewogs* for reasons of inequitable development and difficulty in accessing *gewog* services. The issue had been raised in several

sessions of the previous National Assembly, GYTs, DYT, Annual Conference of Chairpersons of GYTs and DYT, as well as in the present National Assembly in January 2009. However, the issues had been deferred since the 10th Five-Year Plan had already been formulated. As the Royal Government begins to formulate the 11th Five Year Plan, it is pertinent to discuss the issue since bifurcation of *gewogs* will have direct impact on plan formulation and resource allocation.

b. Policy on private education in Bhutan

While the success of child enrolment in public as well as private school has offered opportunity to pursue studies up to higher secondary school, it is a concern that there is only one private college to help absorb the ever growing number of higher secondary school graduates. The lack of opportunity to continue higher studies within the country has compelled thousands of Bhutanese children to study outside, especially in India at their own expenses.

It is in this light that the Government and the Royal University of Bhutan need to consider promoting an enabling environment whereby private tertiary institutions can be established to enable Bhutanese children to continue studying in Bhutan.

Friday, 1 July

JOINT SITTING – 8

- a. Hon'ble Prime Minister to present the annual report on the state of the nation, including legislative and annual plans & priorities of the government

Monday, 4 July

JOINT SITTING - 9

- a. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to present Annual Audit Report
- b. Performance Audit Report

Tuesday, 5 July

JOINT SITTING - 10

- a. Continue deliberation on PAC Report

Wednesday, 6 July

REVIEW OF POLICY ISSUES – 2

a. Foreign Labour recruitment agency

To ensure that only skilled foreign workers were recruited and the recruitment procedures streamlined, the government under the Wage Rate, Recruitment Agencies & Workmen's Compensation Act 1994 was required to license and establish recruitment agencies. In 2004, the Government directed the Ministry of Labour & Human Resources to license and establish employment agencies. Rules and regulations governing employment agencies were approved in 2006. Accordingly, several agencies in Phuentsholing,

Samtse, Gelephu and Samdrup Jongkhar were licensed and became operational.

However, in view of the poor performance of the Foreign Recruitment Agencies, it needs to be discussed whether a change in policy is necessary whereby the employers could recruit foreign workers directly through non-Bhutanese labour contractors as in the past or strictly implement related laws for the benefit of Bhutanese contractors.

b. Review on Irrigation facilities and infrastructure in the country

Irrigation so far has been largely confined to paddy cultivation. While paddy cultivation requires further impetus, irrigation services should also be extended to cash crop and horticulture (vegetables) development as these play vital role in enhancing and ensuring household level income besides strengthening food security and nutrition. However, plan documents reveal that the implementation of irrigation projects and the National Irrigation Policy modules have become weak following the transfer of engineering staff to Ministry of Works & Human Settlement. It is also felt that there is lack of government support for irrigation facilities for cash crop cultivation. This issue needs to be reviewed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Thursday, 7 July

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH SESSION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

- a. Closing address by the Hon'ble Chairperson
- b. Tashi Moenlam

Friday, 8 July

CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 7TH SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (JOINT SITTING)