

Address by the Hon'ble Speaker during the Opening Ceremony of the 9th Session of the 3rd Parliament

1. The Ninth Session of Parliament commences today graced by His Majesty the King.
2. On behalf of the Parliament, I would like to offer and express our profound and heartfelt gratitude to Your Majesty for graciously dedicating time for the Parliament amidst the endless demands placed upon your esteemed personage.

The Parliament would also like to welcome the members of the Royal Family, senior government executives, ambassadors, foreign diplomats and students from various institutes, to the opening ceremony.

3. I would also like to welcome the Speaker and the delegation from the Western Australian Legislative Parliament to the opening ceremony.
4. His Majesty's unwavering commitment and relentless pursuit of national prosperity and happiness, tireless visits to all the Dzongkhags and granting audiences to the civil servants, local government leaders, Desuups serving in the Gyalsuung Project have undoubtedly instilled boundless inspiration to work even harder.
5. Furthermore, the Parliament would like to express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty for the highly substantive and productive bilateral discussions,

specially in the fields of power and export, held during His Majesty's Royal visit to India in the month of April.

6. Likewise, the Parliament would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen for attending the Coronation Ceremony of the King and Queen of the United Kingdom, further strengthening ties between the two countries.

7. The Parliament also extends heartfelt gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo and other highly revered and learned masters for unwaveringly conducting rituals for the wellbeing of the land. The Parliament would like to specifically express gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo for conferring *wang, lung* and *thrid* of His Holiness's 8-volume self composed collection of teaching and practices.

8. The Parliament welcomes the newly elected Members of the 4th Parliament of the National Council.

Likewise, the Parliament would like to express appreciation and gratitude to the candidates who were not elected for their invaluable contribution in participating in the recent National Council election and providing the electorate with a range of choices.

9. To apprise the House on the Agenda for the session:

In addition to the legislative responsibilities and procedures of the Parliament which include the customary practice of Question Hour and Motions, the National Assembly shall be deliberating on:

I. Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2023-2024

- II. Pay Revision Bill, 2023
- III. National Digital Identity Bill of Bhutan, 2023
- IV. Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan
- V. BIMSTEC Charter
- VI. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- VII. Declaration of Biological Corridor (BC) connecting Sakten Wildlife Sanctuary and Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary

10. Likewise, for the Joint Sitting of the Parliament

- I. Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan
- II. Civil Liability Bill of Bhutan
- III. Public Accounts Committee's Review Report

11. Two petitions submitted by the Local Government have also been discussed in the preliminary meeting and have been referred for review to the Lhengye Zhungtshog.

12. The entirety of these proposed agendas shall be deliberated in accordance with procedures and the Parliament pledges to prioritize convenience and smooth implementation of the laws by the concerned agencies for the sake of the country and the people.

13. To conclude, under the benevolent guidance of His Majesty and the esteemed Royal Family, with the prayers of His Holiness the Je Khenpo and the monastic body, the good wishes of the people, the pragmatic cooperation

of the Members of Parliament and expert support from the civil servants, we offer our earnest prayers for the successful completion of the session.

THANK YOU!