

**Opening Speech by the Hon'ble Speaker during the Opening Session of the
10th Session of the Third Parliament on 1st October 2023**

1. Graced by His Majesty the King the Opening Ceremony of the Tenth Session commences on this auspicious day today.
2. On behalf of the Members of the Parliament and on my own behalf, I would like to humbly welcome and express my deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King for gracing the Opening Ceremony amidst His Majesty's numerous Royal commitments.
3. I also welcome Members of the Royal Family, senior government officials, former government officials, diplomats and students to the Opening Ceremony.
4. I would like to remind the people that we Bhutanese have been the most fortunate to have been gifted a princess on 9th September by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen. I, on behalf of the Parliament, express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen and offer prayers for the long life and well being of Her Royal Highness the Gyalsem.
5. Under the command of His Majesty the King, to commemorate the birth of Her Royal Highness the Gyalsem, the Zhung Dratshang declared the day as Dratshang Yojay Gi Nyim, or the day to make offerings to the central monastic body.

Yojay is a traditional practice where rich and affluent individuals make voluntary offerings of land and other assets to the Monastic Body with the belief that it would accumulate merit. The revival of this practice of Yojay would greatly benefit in understanding and promoting our culture and tradition among the youth. Towards this, the Parliament would like to express deep appreciation to His Majesty the King and His Holiness the Je Khenpo.

6. His Majesty the King in July visited Japan and the United States, and met with global business and economic leaders in preparation for Bhutan's forthcoming economic development endeavors. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and reverence to His Majesty the King for this noble endeavor.
7. Additionally, His Majesty the King undertook personal visits to various regions of the nation to gain insight into the challenges and difficulties faced by the people and provided Kidu to the people. His Majesty the King also personally visited and met with the flash flood victims of the Ungar flash flood that occurred on July 20. The Parliament wishes to convey its profound gratitude for His Majesty's compassion and noble actions.
8. The Parliament would also like to express deep appreciation to the Zhung Dratshang led by His Holiness the Je Khenpo for continuously conducting prayers for the well being of the world and in particular the country and the people. Further, His Holiness also led prayer for those who lost their lives in the Ungar flash flood. The Parliament expresses our deep gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo and the Zhung Dratshang for administering the most

sacred public empowerment of Buddha Amitabha (Yoepamay Wang) to honor the birth of Her Royal Highness the Princess.

9. Further, His Holiness the Je Khenpo proffered a sum of Nu. 10 million for old aged monks living in old age care homes. His Holiness also entrusted the management of the Medicinal and Recreational Park in Sarpang to the Gelephu Thromde which is expected to benefit all Bhutanese in the future. For these compassionate and magnanimous gestures, the Parliament expresses our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo.
10. With the reinstatement of the traditional practice of Yojay by the Zhung Dratshang, the government with deep reverence made the inaugural Yojay offering. The Parliament would also like to express gratitude to the government.
11. If I may now present the agenda for the Tenth Session, the tenth session will deliberate on.
 1. Agreement on Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Protocol thereto
 2. Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Charter
 3. Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and
 4. Biological Corridor Nine Bill of Bhutan

12. Similarly in accordance with the legislative procedures the House will conduct the Question Hour and deliberate on Motions and deliberate on two follow up implementation reports.

In addition, the Parliament will also deliberate on the review report of the Anti-Corruption Commission's Annual Report 2022-2023, Public Accounts Committee's review report on the Performance Audit Reports and Prime Minister's Annual Report on the state of the nation, including legislative plans and the annual plans and priorities of the Government.

13. In conclusion under the wise leadership and guidance of His Majesty the the Druk Gyalpo and the Members of the Royal Family, prayers of His Holiness the Je Khenpo and the Zhung Dratshang, the goodwill and fortune of the Bhutanese people, wisdom and cooperation of the Members of Parliament and support from all concerned Agencies, I offer my prayers and hope for the successful conclusion of the Tenth Session of the Third Parliament.

KADRINCHE!