



ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2022- JUNE 2023



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT
ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN



“As a nation, we are at an inflection point. Our actions today will determine the course of our future, and put us either in the path of success or failure. There will not be any more opportunities, and we have no choice but to work with the greatest sense of urgency.”

His Majesty the King Address to the 8th Session of the Third Parliament, November 4, 2022.



FOREWORD

The National Assembly of Bhutan (NAB) is pleased to present the Annual Report 2022-2023. This report presents the highlights and overall achievements of NAB for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023. It focuses on the efforts and initiatives of the NAB and the Secretariat towards fulfilling the country's overarching goal of Gross National Happiness enshrined in the Constitution through an inclusive and vibrant democracy by effectively carrying out legislative, scrutiny, oversight, and representational functions as mandated.

During this reporting period, the Eighth and the Ninth Sessions of the Third Parliament were held successfully. A total of 48 sittings were held which includes 13 days of parliamentary joint sittings. A total of 13 legislations were adopted and 4 Bills were referred to the National Council for deliberations. These legislations were deliberated extensively and amended in keeping with the needs and relevance of the emerging situations of the country to lay a strong foundation for the rule of law in cementing the long-term interest of the country and its people. The sessions has also deliberated two motions and 104 questions asked to the government covering a wide range of social, policy, and developmental issues.

Besides the legislative role, the Members of the National Assembly made frequent visits to their constituencies to connect, understand, and listen to the people on various issues concerning their constituencies and the nation as a whole. As a part of the e-Parliament initiative, the website of the House has been revamped and the Parliament Resources Management System (PRMS) has been developed. Similarly, virtual meetings for the international delegations and the committees were organized to enhance the digitization of the parliamentary functions. Also, during the sessions through leveraging ICT, printings and distribution of printed documents has been reduced and sessions were broadcast Live through social media platforms such as Facebook and YouTube.

The Secretariat endeavored to serve the Speaker and the Members of the National Assembly with dedication and utmost sincerity. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all my colleagues for their professional, unwavering and dedicated services provided during the period for the successful and fruitful Fiscal Year 2022-2023 in the service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum.

Tashi Delek!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Duba', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Duba)

Secretary General

Content

1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. THE SECRETARIAT	2
2.1 Human Resource Development	3
2.2 Civil Service Award 2022	4
2.3 Online Systems	5
2.3.1 Revamped Website	6
2.3.2 Parliament Resources Management System (PRMS)	7
2.3.3 Complaint Redressal System (CRS)	7
2.4 Developed Five Year Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	8
2.5 Civil Society Organization (CSO) Collaboration Strategy Document	9
2.6 Communication Strategy 2022-2025 for the Parliament of Bhutan	10
3. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS	12
3.1 Vacant seat of Gelephu Constituency during the Ninth Session	12
4. LEGISLATIVE ROLE AND LEGISLATIONS PASSED	12
5. VISITORS DURING THE EIGHTH AND NINTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT	14
6. OVERSIGHT ROLE AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES	15
7. REPRESENTATIONAL ROLE AND CONSTITUENCY VISITS	17
8. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTION	18
8.1 Foreign delegations received by the National Assembly	18
8.2 Foreign Visit by the Members of Parliament	19
9. OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE	20
10. CONCLUSION	21

11. ANNEXURES22

Annexure I: Details of In-country Trainings/Workshops
attended by Staff22

Annexure II: Details of Ex-country Trainings/Workshops attended
by Staff25

Annexure III: List of Call on made to the Hon’ble Speaker from
July 2022-June 202325

Annexure IV: Budget Report27

1. INTRODUCTION

This 2022-2023 Annual Report highlights the major activities and achievements, plans and programs, and challenges of the National Assembly of Bhutan. The report also celebrates the efforts and the initiatives shouldered by the Members of the National Assembly and the Secretariat staff in working towards the achievement of the mandates of the NAB. It also highlights the efforts of the Secretariat for the uninterrupted functioning of the NAB and support to the members.

The Eight and the Ninth Sessions of the Third Parliament were held during this reporting period. The two Sessions included a total of 48 sittings including 13 days of parliamentary joint sittings. A total of 13 legislations including the 2022-23 National Budget were passed and the Royal Assent received. On the other hand, four Bills including one regional agreement and Charter, and one international convention have been referred to the National Council for consideration.

These legislations were deliberated and amended in consonance with the Constitution for the benefit of the people and the country. The Sessions had also been enriched with question hours which saw a total of 104 questions on various issues covering a wide range of social, policy, and developmental issues concerning the country and its people.

Besides the budget constraints, the Secretariat has always prioritized the human resource development of the organization. During this reporting year, 40 staff had participated in professional development programs and workshops including one ex-country training. These are meant to equip and upgrade with necessary knowledge and skills for efficiency and effectiveness in providing support to the Parliament. However, the National Assembly Secretariat faces the challenge of inadequate human resources due to the high attrition rate in the organization. The Secretariat witnessed 26 voluntary resignations and two staff leaving on Extraordinary Leave (EOL). However, these challenges have not hindered the provision of quality services to the Members of Parliament.

2. THE SECRETARIAT

The National Assembly Secretariat led by the Secretary General is an independent and non-partisan institution. It consists of three divisions, namely, the Legislative and Procedural Division (LPD), the Research and Hansard Division (RHD), and the Information and Communication Division (ICD) and is supported by the Secretariat Services. The Secretariat provides professional, technical and support services to the Members of Parliament in fulfilling the mandates of NAB.

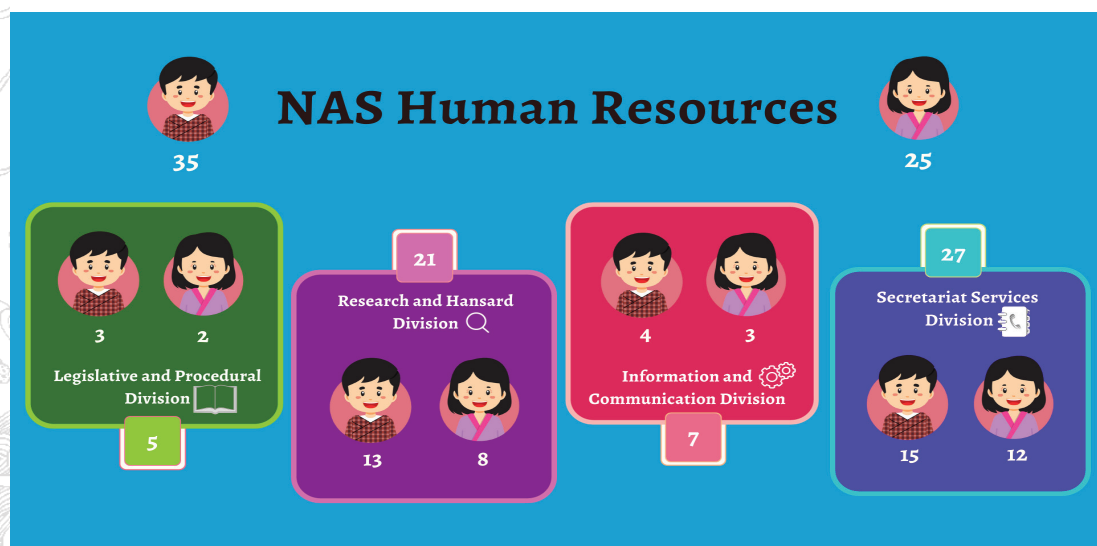


Figure 1: National Assembly Secretariat Human Resource Strength

The current staff strength stands at 60, of whom 34 are regular employees and 26 are on contract carrying out the supporting roles and responsibilities for the better performance of the Secretariat. In 2022-2023, two new staff joined the office, 26 staff resigned and two went on extraordinary leave (EOL). The female-to-male ratio of the Secretariat staff is 5:7.

Aligning with the Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023, one Research Officer and a Dy. Chief Human Resources Officer had joined the Secretariat. Yet, the projected need for a Program/Planning Officer and a Photographer still needs to be fulfilled.

2.1. Human Resource Development

The Secretariat believes that the high morale of its staff is an essential prerequisite for their better performance and overall optimum of the Secretariat. Therefore, the Secretariat prioritizes human resources development through training and providing opportunities for the staff to improve, learn and grow.

During the FY 2022-2023, around 45 staff underwent training and workshops within the country and one staff in India for capacity building. The training/conferences availed by the staff were on various fields ranging from parliamentary research, financial risk analysis and management, competency-based training, strategic development plan of the organization, sensitization workshop, and on the use of Zhiyog Electronic System (ZEST).

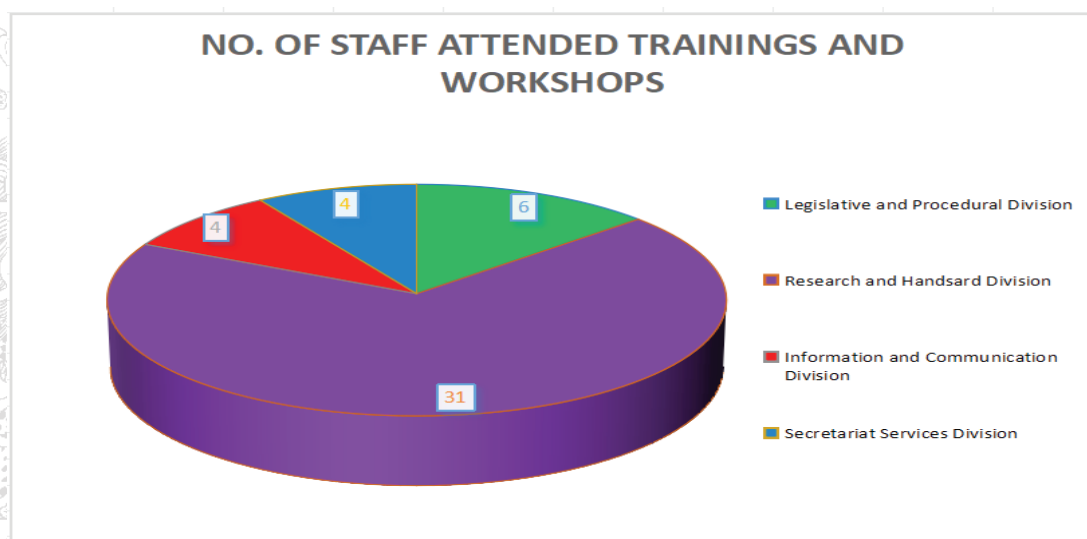


Figure 2: Training and workshops attended by staff of respective Division

A total of 31 staff of the Secretariat took part in a two-day parliamentary research training to enhance research capacity for informed and evidence-based decision making in the country. It was organized and funded by Project Nyamdrel from 14 - 16 December, 2022. Likewise, one staff attended a training on financial risk analysis and management organized by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and two staff attended

the training on zest-ePEMS systems organized by the RCSC. The other training and workshops include a strategic development plan (SDP), sensitization workshop, review and conference meeting and JAB workshop on fact-checking.

The National Assembly values the achievements of each of the staff and celebrates their success. During the reporting year, four staff were promoted and a befitting ceremony was held in the presence of the Secretary General. Mr. Ngawang Phuntsho who serves as the Personal Assistant (PA) to the Secretary General and Mr. Tashi Norbu who serves as Administrative Assistant was promoted from S4A to S3A. Likewise, Mrs. Dechen Wangmo, who served as an Account Assistant was promoted from SS4 to SS3 and Mr. Kinley, a Technician was promoted from S3A to S2A.

2.2 Civil Service Award 2022

In keeping with the Royal Command issued to the Royal Civil Service Commission and as per Chapter 22 of Bhutan Civil Service Rules and Regulations 2018, the Annual Civil Service Award Ceremony for ten officials of the National Assembly of Bhutan was held on 12 December, 2022. The Award recipients are as follows:

Table 1: Medal recipients from the secretariat staff

Name	Designation	Medal
Tandin Tshering	Secretary General	Gold Medal
Sonam Lhamo	Chief Information and Media Officer	Silver Medal
Wangdi Tshering	Technician	Silver Medal
Karma	Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Speaker	Silver Medal
Ugyen Dolma	Cleaner	Silver Medal
Karma Drupchu	Committee Secretary	Bronze Medal
Sonam Choki	Committee Secretary	Bronze Medal
Kinzang Wangmo	Personal Assistant to Director	Bronze Medal
Jamyang Pelden	Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Opposition Leader	Bronze Medal
Pema Choki	Messenger	Bronze Medal



Figure 5: Medal recipients from the secretariat staff

The Speaker congratulated the recipients and said that it is an honor to receive such recognition from His Majesty the King and that they should continue to serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum with dedication.

2.3 Online Systems

In the fast-paced digital age, adapting to modern technological advancements is imperative. The Secretariat has embarked on a remarkable journey towards enhancing parliamentary operations through the adoption of cutting-edge Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools. With a focus on embracing e-Parliament initiatives and embracing a paperless approach, we are fostering a more conducive working environment while reducing the turnaround time of crucial legislative work. This transformation is driven by a range of easily accessible online services, which are set to redefine the way we operate. Some of these online systems are revamping the website, development of a Parliament Resources Management System (PRMS) and institution of the Complaint Redressal System.

2.3.1 Revamped Website

As part of our strategic commitment to embrace digital transformation, we have initiated a comprehensive overhaul of our official website. In today's interconnected world, the importance of having a user-friendly and informative online platform cannot be overstated. The revamped website serves as a one-stop destination for citizens, lawmakers, and stakeholders to access up-to-date information about parliamentary proceedings, members, committees, and a wealth of other vital resources. Further, the website has been revamped with the objective of creating an interactive platform to reach out to the general public, updating its technological stacks, further ensuring that it is equipped with the latest tools and capabilities. This strategic update enhances its functionality, security, and responsiveness, guaranteeing a seamless user experience.



Figure 6: Home page of the revamped website

2.3.2 Parliament Resources Management System (PRMS)

Parliament Resources Management System (PRMS) is another system that has been developed to streamline the research and decision-making processes, empowering legislators to make informed decision and contribute effectively to the legislative process. It is a comprehensive digital repository of parliamentary resources with 6 modules namely, session documents, workflow, leave and attendance, conference hall booking, incoming and outgoing correspondences and archive modules. It enables lawmakers and staff to access important documents, reports, and research materials with ease during and off session.

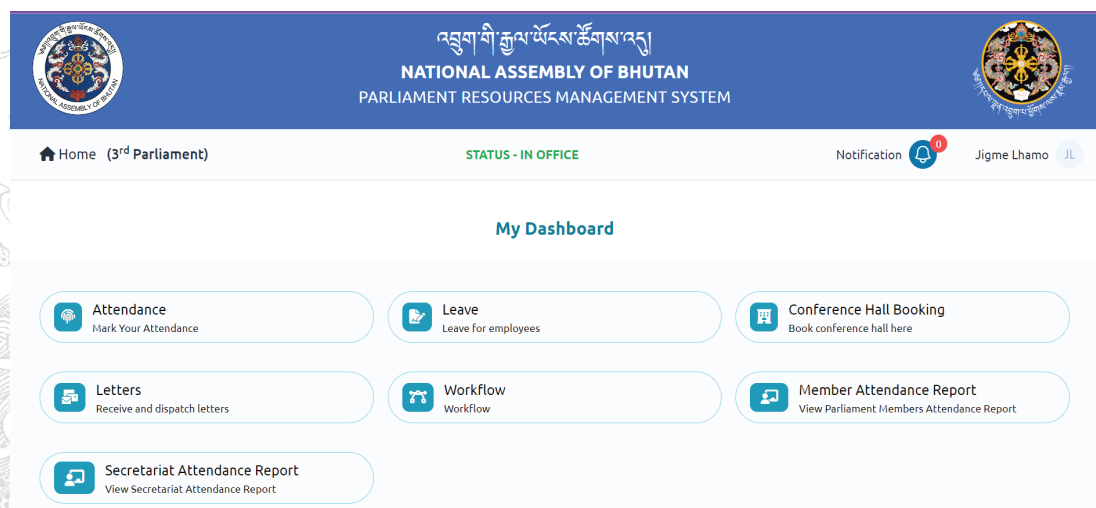


Figure 7: Dashboard of Parliamentary Resource Management System (PRMS)

2.3.3 Complaint Redressal System (CRS)

Ensuring a safe and respectful working environment is a paramount concern. In this regard, we have implemented the Complaint Redressal System (CRS) along with the standard operating procedure (SOP). The CRS serves as a structured channel for the secretariat staff to voice their complaints, seek resolution, and provide feedback on administrative and organizational processes. It provides a secure and confidential platform for reporting and addressing workplace concerns, fostering a culture of accountability, respect, and public trust in the democratic institution, ensuring a safe

working environment. Thereby, contributing to the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the National Assembly, acting as a vital feedback loop.



Figure 8: Home page of Complaint Redressal System

2.4 Developed Five Year Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

The Secretariat of the National Assembly, under the leadership of the Secretary General, serves as the administrative backbone of this esteemed institution. Charged with the responsibility of harmonizing the functioning of the Assembly with Bhutan's strategic vision, it operates in alignment with the Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2023-2028. This strategic roadmap draws inspiration from the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP), which articulates the nation's aspirations for socio-economic development and governance objectives.

The core objectives of this Strategic Development Plan revolve around four pivotal pillars. First and foremost, it aims to enhance our capacity for effective legislation, ensuring that our laws and policies align with the ever-evolving needs of our society. Secondly, it strives to fortify our role as a representative body, giving voice to the aspirations and concerns of our citizens in the governance process. Thirdly, it aims to strengthen our oversight functions, ensuring transparency, accountability, and good governance at every level. Lastly, we are resolutely focused on bolstering our institutional capacity.



Figure 9: SDP Finalization workshop at Tsherim Resort in Paro

Therefore, in order to develop a robust and pragmatic five-year SDP of the organization, the secretariat staff led by the Chief Media and Information Officer conducted a series of workshops and developed SDP 2024-2028. Further, finalized and endorsed by the member's of Parliament on 22 March, 2023.

2.5 Civil Society Organization (CSO) Collaboration Strategy Document

A strategy document for the collaboration between the Parliament of Bhutan and the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) was jointly launched on 4 May, 2023 by the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Chairperson of the National Council, Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Managing Director of the Department for Asia and the Pacific of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and Mr. Mario Ronconi, Head of Unit for South and Southeast Asia at the Directorate General for International Partnership (DG INTPA) of the European Commission from European Union, Ms. Leena R. Tamang from IDEA and the Dr. Rinzin Rinzin representing CSOs of Bhutan. The launch was also attended by the Chairpersons of the Parliamentary Committees, officials from Helvetas Bhutan, CSOs and the Secretariat Staff of the Parliament.



Figure 10: Photo from launching of Parliament-CSO Collaboration Strategy Document

The strategy document recognizes the significance of CSOs in the transformation process of the country. The strategy aims to promote collaboration between the Parliament of Bhutan and CSOs through the establishment and strengthening of channels already defined in the Assembly and the Council's Strategic Development Plans (SDPs). The focus of the collaboration will be on the areas of legislation, representation and oversight through CSO participation in roundtable discussions, committee meetings/consultations, public hearings, petitions and an annual Parliament-CSO meeting.

The strategy document has been developed through a consultative approach by the Parliament of Bhutan under the Project "Nyamdrel" funded by the European Union.

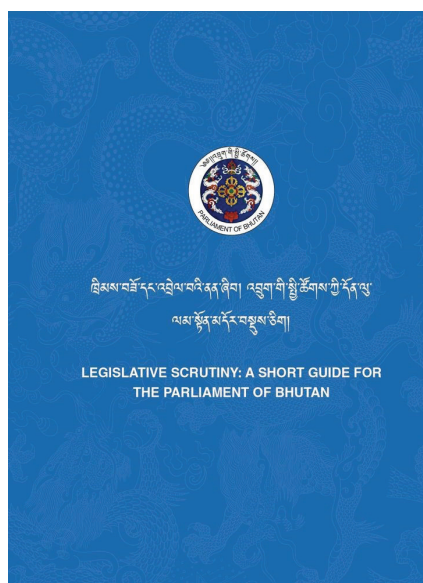
2.6 Communication Strategy 2022-2025 for the Parliament of Bhutan

The Speaker launched the Communication Strategy 2022-2025 for the Parliament of Bhutan along with the Legislative Scrutiny: A Short Guide for the Parliament of Bhutan on 13 December, 2022. The Communication Strategy 2022-2025 is aimed at improving and enhancing parliamentary engagement with the citizens and promoting parliament's image, visibility, and impact. The strategy provides an umbrella

framework for communication activities and at the same time aims to strengthen the information and communication team and infrastructure.



Figure 11: Launch of Communication Strategy 2022-2025



The Strategy is also designed to reinforce collaboration within the two Houses of Parliament and with the stakeholders to eventually strengthen Parliament's representation and outreach activities and capacity. The Communication Strategy has been developed through a consultative approach by the National Assembly of Bhutan and the National Council of Bhutan with technical support from the INTER PARES project.

Figure 12: Legislative Scrutiny: A Short Guide for the Parliament of Bhutan

3. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

3.1 Vacant seat of Gelephu Constituency during the Ninth Session

The seat for the Gelephu constituency was vacant, following the resignation of the former Information and Communication Minister Karma Donnen Wangdi. The Speaker of the National Assembly officially accepted the resignation of the Member with effect from June 19, 2023 as per Section 18 of the National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008. MP Karma Donnen Wangdi had made commendable efforts and contributions as the representative of Gelephu Constituency and shouldered significant responsibility as a Cabinet Minister.

4. LEGISLATIVE ROLE AND LEGISLATIONS PASSED

The NAB convenes two Sessions annually - Winter and Summer Session. During this financial year, the Eighth and Ninth Session of the Third Parliament were conducted. The Eighth Session of the Third Parliament was held from November 4 - December 9, 2022.

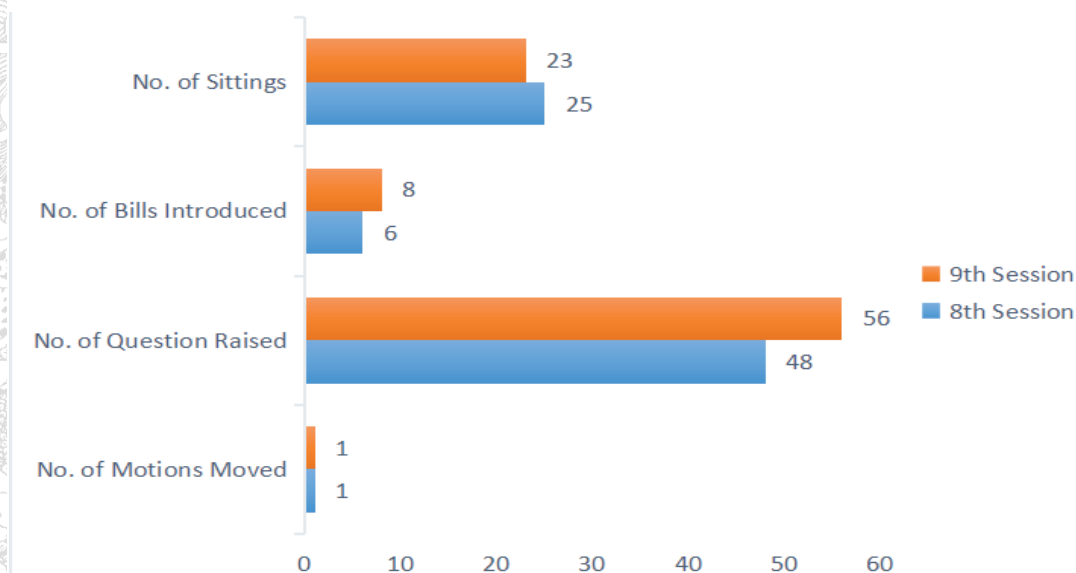


Figure 13: Comparison between Eight and Ninth Session of the Third Parliament

During the month-long session, several Bills including two international instruments were deliberated and ratified. One Motion was moved and 48 Questions were asked

during the Question hours to the government pertaining to a wide range of social, policy, and developmental issues. The lone Motion of the Session was moved to hand over the management of the Gewog Center (GC) roads to the Department of Roads (DoR) or to provide the Local Governments with an adequate budget. The motion was not passed but the Assembly endorsed the alternative motion to provide the Local Governments with an adequate budget.

Likewise, the Ninth session of the Third Parliament was conducted from 8 June to 8 July 2023. During the month-long session, several bills including three international instruments were deliberated and ratified. The session witnessed fifty-six questions during the Question Hours covering a wide range of issues relating to economy, social, policy, and developmental issues. A Motion was moved on “The construction of one storied building will not require the structural drawings and for two storied and above buildings, the government shall provide model drawings to the people free of cost.” This lone motion was unanimously adopted by the House.

During the reporting year (in two sessions), the following Bills were adopted:

1. The Civil Service Reform Bill of Bhutan 2022;
2. The Tax Bill of Bhutan 2022;
3. The Property Tax Bill of Bhutan 2022;
4. The Pay Structure Reform Bill of Bhutan 2022;
5. The Royal Bhutan Police Bill (Amendment) 2021;
6. The United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC);
7. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (TIP Protocol);
8. The National Digital Identity Act of Bhutan 2023;
9. The Pay Revision Act of Bhutan 2023;
10. The Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan 2023;
11. The Civil Liability Act of Bhutan 2022;

12. The Budget Appropriation Act for FY 2023-2023; and
13. The Supplementary Budget Appropriation Act for FY 2022-23

The House also adopted and referred the following Bills and International Instruments to the National Council which will be deliberated during its 32nd session:

1. The Biological Corridor Nine Bill of Bhutan 2023;
2. The Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan;
3. The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Charter; and
4. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

5. VISITORS DURING THE EIGHTH AND NINTH SESSION OF THE THIRD PARLIAMENT



Figure 14: Visitors from various schools and Institutes during the Eighth and Ninth sessions

During the 8th Session of the Third Parliament, upon the invitation from the National Assembly Secretariat, students and teachers from Zilukha Middle Secondary School, Royal Thimphu College, and trainees from the Royal Institute of Management attended the Opening Session. The closing ceremony of the Eighth session was attended by Trainees from the National Institute for Zorig Chusum, students and teachers from Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Zilukha Lower Secondary School and Druk School. The visit was facilitated as a part of the visit to the parliament program with the objective of educating our youth on our parliament and providing the students an opportunity to witness and get hands-on experience with parliamentary proceedings.

Similarly, students and teachers from Royal Thimphu College, and trainees from the Royal Institute of Management and the Institute of Science of Mind attended the Opening Session of the Ninth session upon the invitation from the National Assembly Secretariat. The trainees of the Institute of Science of Mind also attended the Closing ceremony of the 9th Session of the Third Parliament. This invitation was part of a visit to the parliament program with the objective of educating our youth on our parliament and providing the students an opportunity to witness and get hands-on experience with parliamentary proceedings.

6. OVERSIGHT ROLE AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The NAB performs varied, complex, and voluminous functions under its three core mandates of representation, oversight, and legislative roles.

Although the visible part of the NAB's work is witnessed in the Parliament Hall during its two Sessions every year as they are closely watched and followed, the NAB performs other roles and responsibilities behind the scene to ensure the success of those two visible Sessions. Among many is the work of the Parliamentary Committees. Section 11 of Article 10 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan mandates each

House of Parliament to establish Committees through Rules of Procedure in order to carry out the business of Parliament. As per the Rules of Procedure, the standing Committees deliberate, inquire, investigate, review, recommend, legislate, and draw attention to any important matter of national importance to the Speaker and the House and advice on matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The Committees comprise members from both ruling and opposition parties and they function throughout the year as carrying out inquiries, hearing witnesses, consulting, deliberating on policies, and formulating reasoned conclusions. The recommendation and report of the Committee is then tabled in the House.

The NAB has 9 Standing Committees - the Public Accounts Committee (joint parliamentary committee), the Legislative Committee, the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee, the Social and Cultural Committee, the Good Governance Committee, the Environment and Climate Change Committee, the Women, Children, and Youth Committee, the Economic and Finance Committee, and the House Committee.

During the Eighth session, the Environment and Climate Change Committee reviewed the Forest and Nature Conservation Bill of Bhutan 2021 while the Social and Cultural Committee was assigned to renew the Royal Bhutan Police (Amendment) Bill 2021. Likewise, the Tax Bill of Bhutan 2022, the Pay Structure Reform Bill of Bhutan 2022 and the State of the Nation were reviewed by the Economic and Finance Committee. The Legislative Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing the Civil Liability and the Civil Service Reform Bill 2022 and was assigned to the Good Governance Committee.

Similarly, during the Ninth session of the same reporting year, the Legislative Committee was entrusted to review and report on the Agreement on the Movement of Traffic-in-Transit between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Tax (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2023. The Economic

and Finance Committee reviewed and reported on the National Budget report along with the Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2023-2024 and the Supplementary Budget Appropriation Bill for FY 2022-23, and the Pay Revision Bill of Bhutan 2023. The Environment and Climate Change Committee was assigned to review the Declaration of Biological Corridor (BC) connecting Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary and Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary. The Good Governance Committee was entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing the National Digital Identity Bill of Bhutan 2023. The Women, Youth and Children Committee reviewed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the BIMSTEC Charter was reviewed by the Social and Cultural Committee.

7. REPRESENTATIONAL ROLE AND CONSTITUENCY VISITS

One of the mandates of the Members of Parliament is the representational role. The representational role takes two forms, i.e., representing their constituents in the decision-making process and informing them of the decisions of the Parliament. The Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2014 mandates the members to visit their constituencies at least twice a year. Constituency visits are aimed at enhancing the two-way communication between the constituents and their representatives. The Members of Parliament are considered as the bridge between the people and the government and a representative to fulfill the aspirations of the people and help to achieve them. The visits are expected to enable the members to know and understand the ground reality of their people and the issues faced by their constituents.

During the FY 2022-2023, the restrictions on travel from one Dzongkhag to another in the selective Dzongkhags continued for a certain duration resulting in members not being able to visit their constituencies as per plans. Additionally, as one of the budget rationalization initiatives, the number of days for constituency visits for which the members was reduced to 24 days in a year.

8. COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTION

The Members of Parliament shoulder multiple responsibilities to ensure that every decision that they take is well-researched and well-informed. To do this, the Members of Parliament require lots of exploration, broadening of their horizon, and interaction with various other perspectives. So, it is of paramount importance that Parliamentarians go beyond the primary task of debating and passing laws. Among these is an engagement with inter-parliamentary diplomacy and exchange partnership. These collaborations enable the members to broaden their perspectives on the issues enhancing informed and evidence-based decision making for the country and its people.

Additionally, the international instruments duly acceded require ratification by the Government which mandates Parliament to engage in and have influence in international affairs. The members of the Parliament make ex-country travels to foster parliament-to-parliament relations, to represent Parliament in a certain forum, to garner parliamentary support for a common cause, and to get exposure and learning. Similarly, several international delegations make visits to the Parliament to strengthen, promote and consolidate the strong bond between the parliaments.

8.1 Foreign delegations received by the National Assembly

The meet and greets program has been resumed successfully after two years of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this reporting year, the National Assembly of Bhutan received about 20 delegations from parliament around the globe including ambassadors from different countries.

Virtual meetings also became a norm after the pandemic. The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Chairman of the Bhutan-Mongolia Parliamentary Group and a member of the Parliamentary Group met virtually with the members of the Parliamentary Group from the Mongolian Parliament. Mr. Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador of Mongolia to Bhutan also joined the meeting.



Figure 15: Virtual meeting of Bhutan-Mongolia Parliamentary Group

The groups discussed the possibility of the parliamentary exchange programs, learning from each other's experiences and strengthening the bonds between the Parliaments and countries. The Mongolian Parliament extended an invitation to the Bhutanese members of the Parliamentary Group to visit Mongolia. The Bhutan-Mongolia Parliamentary Friendship Group was formed in November 2020.

8.2 Foreign Visit by the Members of Parliament

A Parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan made a five-day visit to India upon the invitation extended by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, India from 6 to 10 February, 2023. During the visit, the delegation met with the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the key officials of the Government of India. The delegation had the opportunity to witness the proceedings of the Budget sessions and signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Lok Sabha of India on strengthening parliamentary relations.



Figure 16: Bhutanese Parliamentary Delegation in India

The delegation led by the Speaker Wangchuk Namgyel included:

- Hon. Ugyen Tshering, Eminent Member, National Council of Bhutan
- Hon. Ugyen Tshering, National Council of Bhutan
- Hon. Lhaki Dolma, National Council of Bhutan
- Hon. Karma Gyeltshen, National Council of Bhutan
- Hon. Tshewang Lhamo, National Assembly of Bhutan
- Hon. Karma Gyeltshen, National Assembly of Bhutan
- Hon. Gyem Dorji, National Assembly of Bhutan
- Hon. Karma Wangchuk, National Assembly of Bhutan
- Hon. Ugyen Wangdi, National Assembly of Bhutan
- Hon. Karma Lhamo, National Assembly of Bhutan

9. OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

The NAB's total budget approved for the FY 2022-2023 was Nu.116.908m with the current budget of Nu.113.556m and a capital budget of Nu.2.744m. The overall budget expenditure achievement was 99.52% with a budget balance of 0.565m. The details of the financial achievement are provided in Annexure IV.

With the effect of the global pandemic on the economy in the initial years, the NAB in its effort to reduce the burden on the Government budget has implemented several budget rationalization initiatives. One of them is the reduction of the number of days for constituency visits to 24 days, reducing travel expenses for both the members and the secretariat staff mainly the Assistant research officers. The Secretariat plans to continue such measures in the future.

10. CONCLUSION

The reporting year 2022-2023 witnessed the smooth achievement of its planned activities of the year. The Secretariat led by the Secretary General had served the Members of the Third National Assembly with full dedication and commitment and aspires to serve with integrity and humility in the years to come. This report highlights the innovative roles and participations taken by the members and the activities undertaken to fulfill the sacred mandates of the Parliament either in person or through technology virtually. It also highlights the roles carried by the members in carrying out Committee meetings/consultations, questions asked, petitions raised and motions debated.

The Secretariat would like to thank all our development partners and important stakeholders for their assistance, contribution and participation in delivering fruitful outputs and outcomes of the initiatives. The Secretariat remains indebted to the guidance of the Speaker and the members in its efforts to better serve and support the Parliament.

11. ANNEXURES

Annexure I: Details of In-country Trainings/Workshops attended by Staff

Sl. no.	Training on	Staff who attended	Organised/ Funded by	Date (DD.MM.YYYY)
1	Parliamentary Research Training	Assistant Research Officers: Pasang Lhamo, Ugyen Lhamo, Tandin Namgyel, Sonam Eden, Sangay Norbu, Dorji Gyeltshen, Phuntsho Wangdi, Tashi Phuntsho, Tandin Gyeltshen, Tshering Yangki, Kinzang Tshering, Sonam Wangmo, Namgay Lhamo, Zeko Lham, Mindu Wangmo, Tshering Zangmo, Dorji Phuntsho, Yeshey Dorji, Ugyen Norbu, Karma, Sonam Choden A, Kinzang Wangdi, Dhan Bdr Bishwa, Tika Nesor, Karma Dema, Dawa Gyeltshen, Ugyen Kelzang, Phuntsho Wangdi B, Tashi Tobgay, Sonam Yangki, Ugyen Wangdi	Project Nyamdrel	14.12.2022 to 16.12.2022
2	Financial Risk Analysis and Management	Leki Dema, Committee Secretary	Ministry Of Finance	19.12.2023 to 23.12.2023
3	Zest-ePems	Namgay Pem, HR Assistant Dechen Wangmo, Accountant	RCSC	25.01.2023 to 26.01.2023
4	JAB workshop on fact checking workshop	Sonam Yangki, Asst. Information and Media Officer		10.12.2022 to 11.12.2022

5	SDP 2024-2028	Tandin Tshering, Secretary General Sonam Lhamo, Chief Information and Media Officer Sonam Delek, Offtg. Chief Legislative Officer Sonam Yangki, Asst. Information and Media Officer Tshering Wangchuk, Legal Officer Karma Drupchu, Committee Secretary Jigme Lhamo, Asst. ICT Officer Namgay Lhamo, Asst. Research Officer Sonam Wangmo, Asst. Research Officer Karma, Asst. Research Officer		
6	SDP 2024-2028	Sonam Lhamo, Chief Information and Media Officer Sonam Delek, Offtg. Chief Legislative Officer Pem Zam, Committee Secretary Sonam Choki, Committee Secretary Karma Drupchu, Committee Secretary Sonam Yangki, Asst. Information and Media Officer Tshering Wangchuk, Legal Officer Jigme Lhamo, Asst. ICT Officer Ugyen Wangdi, Research Assistant Sonam Dema, Asst. Research Officer Karma, Asst. Research Officer Karma Dema, Asst. Research Officer		22.03.2023 to 23.03.2023

7	Sensitization of committee system and legislative procedure to the CSOs	Sonam Delek, Offtg. Chief Legislative Officer Sonam Choki, Committee Secretary Pem Zam, Committee Secretary Sonam Dema, Asst. Research Officer Ugyen Wangdi, Research Assistant	Project Nyamdrel	27.02.2023 to 1.03.2023
8	Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028	Sonam Lhamo, Chief Information and Media Officer Sonam Delek, Offtg. Chief Legislative Officer Pem Zam, Committee Secretary Sonam Choki, Committee Secretary Karma Drupchu, Committee Secretary Sonam Yangki, Asst. Information and Media Officer Tshering Wangchuk, Legal Officer Jigme Lhamo, Asst. ICT Officer Ugyen Wangdi, Research Assistant Sonam Dema, Asst. Research Officer		17.02.2023 to 20.01.2023
9	Review and Conference Meeting	Sonam Delek, Offtg. Chief Legislative Officer Pem Zam, Committee Secretary Pema Dorji, Driver	Human Right and Foreign Relation Committee	

Annexure II: Details of Ex-country Trainings/Workshops attended by Staff

Sl. no.	Date	Training title	Staff who attended	Organized/ Funded by
1.		Use of Technology in Election	Sampa Dhendup	ITEC, India

Annexure III: List of Call on made to the Hon'ble Speaker from July 2022-June 2023

Sl. no.	Date	Call on Made by
1	20.09.2022	The Member of the European Parliament's Delegations for Relation with South Asia Countries led by Vice President Ms. Evelyn Regnar, and another delegation led by EU Ambassador for Bhutan Mr. Ugo Astuto
2	29.09.2022	Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela of India to Bhutan
3	07.10.2022	The Ambassador Shahidul Karim of Bangladesh to Bhutan
4	18.10.2022	Ms Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative, UNDP Bhutan made her departure call on
5	30.11.2022	The new Resident Representative of UNDP Bhutan, Mr. Mohammad Younus
6	23.12.2022	Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela of India to Bhutan
7	25.12.2022	The outgoing UNICEF Bhutan Representative Dr. Will Parks
8	15.02.2023	Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela of India
9	06.03.2023	A ten-member Austrian Parliamentary delegation led by Ms. Petra BAYR, Hon'ble Member of Austrian Parliament, and Chair of Development Cooperation Sub-Committee
10	14.03.2023	Hon'ble Speaker met with the students from Harvard University

11	29.03.2023	The Ambassador of Bhutan to Belgium and the European Union with concurrent accreditation to Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden, Ms Tshoki Choden
12	15.04.2023	Ambassador-Designate of Mongolia to Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Ganbold Dambajav called on the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan
13	26.04.2023	17 members high level delegation from the European Union (EU) led by the EU Ambassador Mr. Ugo Astuto
14	28.04.2023	The Hon'ble Speaker accompanied by Hon'ble Kinley Wangchuk and Hon'ble Passang Dorji (PhD) interacted with the Centre for GNH guests.
15	28.04.2023	Ambassador Mr. Freddy Svane of Denmark to Bhutan
16	04.05.2023	The Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific of Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance Mrs. Leena Rikkila Tamang
17	07.06.2023	Delegation from the Western Australian Legislative Assembly led by the Speaker Hon Michelle Roberts
18	14.06.2023	Ambassador Nguyen Thanh Hai of Socialist Republic of Vietnam
19	15.06.2023	Ambassador Firat Sunel of the Republic of Türkiye to Bhutan
20	22.06.2023	The Ambassador Mr. Ganbold Dambajav of Mongolia to Bhutan called on the Deputy Speaker

Annexure IV: Budget Report

Printed Date: 03/08/2023

EXPENDITURE REPORT

4. REVISED BUDGET/EXPENDITURE

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN
 DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT
 FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu. in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OBC	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
002						NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SERVICES				
	005					NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MANAGEMENT & SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES				
		001				NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT				
			01			PAY AND ALLOWANCES				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	14.647	14.582	0.065	0.45
					02.01	Other Personnel Emoluments	0.622	0.545	0.077	12.36
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.640	0.639	0.001	0.14
					24.03	Contributions - Provident Fund	1.548	1.533	0.015	0.99
					25.01	Retirement Benefits	1.312	1.273	0.039	2.95
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	18.769	18.572	0.197	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	18.769	18.572	0.197	
			02			OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECRETARIAT				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					11.01	Travel - In-country	0.231	0.231		
					12.01	Utilities - Telephones, Telex, Fax, E-mail, Internet	0.502	0.502		
					12.02	Utilities - Telegram, Wireless Transmission, Postage	0.007	0.007		
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.112	0.112		
					15.02	Maintenance of Property - Vehicles	0.768	0.768		
					15.05	Maintenance of Property - Equipment	0.059	0.059		
					15.07	Maintenance of Property - Computers	0.006	0.006		
					17.01	Op. Exp. - Advertising	0.025	0.025		
					17.02	Op. Exp. - Taxes, Duties, Royalties, Fees, Handling Charges, Bank Charges	0.009	0.009		
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	0.159	0.159		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	1.878	1.878		
						TOTAL OF SAct 02	1.878	1.878		
			05			HON'BLE SPEAKER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND CONSTITUENCY VISIT				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	1.359	1.356	0.003	0.18
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	1.359	1.356	0.003	
						TOTAL OF SAct 05	1.359	1.356	0.003	
			06			HON'BLE OPPOSITION LEADER'S OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND CONSTITUENCY VISIT				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					18.01	Hospitality & Entertainment	1.500	1.500		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	1.500	1.500		
						TOTAL OF SAct 06	1.500	1.500		
			08			CENTRAL HEATING VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING HVAC				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					51.08	Exp. on Structure - Others	0.384	0.384		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.384	0.384		
						TOTAL OF SAct 08	0.384	0.384		
			29			RESEARCH AND HANSARD DIVISION				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	9.055	9.054	0.001	0.01
					11.01	Travel - In-country	0.460	0.460		
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.465	0.465		
					25.01	Retirement Benefits	2.065	2.060	0.005	0.25
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	12.045	12.039	0.006	
						TOTAL OF SAct 29	12.045	12.039	0.006	
			33			PURCHASE OF LAPTOPS FOR AROS				
				0001		RGBO Financing				
					54.03	Computers & Peripherals	2.266	2.265	0.001	0.04

Page 1 of 3

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN
 DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT
 FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OBC	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	2.266	2.265	0.001	
						TOTAL OF SAct 33	2.266	2.265	0.001	
			34			PURCHASE OF UPS FOR NA SERVER ROOM				
				0001		RGOB Financing				
					54.02	Office Equipment	0.129	0.128	0.001	0.75
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.129	0.128	0.001	
						TOTAL OF SAct 34	0.129	0.128	0.001	
						TOTAL OF Act 001	38.330	38.122	0.208	
			002			ASSEMBLY SESSION SERVICES				
				01		GENERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.261	0.261		
					17.01	Op. Exp. - Advertising	0.056	0.056	0.000	0.08
					17.08	Op. Exp. - Incountry Meetings and Celebrations	2.670	2.338	0.332	12.42
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	2.987	2.655	0.332	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	2.987	2.655	0.332	
				02		PRINTING OF GYALSUNG CIVIL SERVICE REFORM AND PAY RESTRUCTURE REFORM BILL				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.119	0.119		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.119	0.119		
						TOTAL OF SAct 02	0.119	0.119		
						TOTAL OF Act 002	3.106	2.774	0.332	
			003			COMMITTEE SERVICES				
				01		GENERAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.023	0.023		
					17.08	Op. Exp. - Incountry Meetings and Celebrations	0.377	0.377		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.400	0.400		
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	0.400	0.400		
						TOTAL OF Act 003	0.400	0.400		
			004			PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE MP SERVICES				
				01		PAY AND ALLOWANCE				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					01.01	Pay and Allowances	57.064	57.045	0.019	0.03
					02.01	Other Personnel Emoluments	0.679	0.679		
					11.03	Travel - (LTC/Leave Travel Concession)	0.536	0.535	0.001	0.18
					24.03	Contributions - Provident Fund	5.436	5.430	0.006	0.11
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	63.715	63.689	0.026	
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	63.715	63.689	0.026	
				02		OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES MP				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					11.01	Travel - Incountry	2.415	2.415		
					12.03	Utilities - Electricity, Water, Sewerage	0.197	0.197		
					13.01	Rental of Properties - Buildings	1.581	1.581		
					14.01	S & M - Office Supplies, Printing, Publications	0.098	0.098		
					15.02	Maintenance of Property - Vehicles	0.898	0.898	0.000	0.00
					21.01	Current Grants - Individuals/Non-profit Orgs.	5.500	5.500		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	10.689	10.689	0.000	
						TOTAL OF SAct 02	10.689	10.689	0.000	
				03		PARLIAMENTARY VISIT TO INDIA DELHI				
					0001	RGOB Financing				
					11.02	Travel - Outside Bhutan	0.095	0.095		
						TOTAL OF FIC 0001	0.095	0.095		
						TOTAL OF SAct 03	0.095	0.095		
						TOTAL OF Act 004	74.499	74.473	0.026	
			007			UNICEF SUPPORT TO NAB				
				01		JOINT WORKSHOP TO DRAFT SDP 2024 2028				
					2647	UN Support for Parliamentary Democracy in Bhutan to NAB & NCB				
					45.02	Training - Others	0.573	0.573		

ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT: 103.01 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN
 DEPARTMENT: 01 SECRETARIAT
 FIELD OFFICE: 00 NA

(Nu. in Millions)

PRG	SPRG	ACT	SACT	FIC	OBC	TITLE	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	%
						TOTAL OF FIC 2647	0.573	0.573		
						TOTAL OF SAct 01	0.573	0.573		
						TOTAL OF Act 007	0.573	0.573		
						TOTAL OF SPrp 005	116.908	116.343	0.565	
						TOTAL OF Prp 007	116.908	116.343	0.565	
						TOTAL OF FO 00	116.908	116.343	0.565	
						TOTAL OF Debt 01	116.908	116.343	0.565	
						TOTAL OF AU 103.01	116.908	116.343	0.565	
						GRAND TOTAL	116.908	116.343	0.565	

Published by National Assembly of Bhutan
Post Box No.139, Gyelyong Tshogkhag, Thimphu Bhutan
PABX: +975-2-322729/3227923
www.nab.gov.bt www.facebook.com/NABhutan