

FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF BHUTAN

FOURTH SESSION



Resolution No. 4

PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN

27 November - 27 December, 2025

Speaker: Lungten Dorji

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Proceedings and Resolutions of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament

1. Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of Bhutan commenced on the auspicious day on 27 November, 2025, corresponding to the 7th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year.

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo was received in the traditional Chipdrel and Serdrang Ceremony, followed by the Zhug-Drel-Phuensum-Tshogpai ceremony in the Grand Hall of the Parliament.

2. Opening Address by the Speaker

On behalf of the Parliament, the Speaker extended his deepest gratitude to His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo for graciously presiding over the Opening Ceremony of the Parliamentary Session, notwithstanding His other important engagements. The Speaker also welcomed and thanked the Members of the Royal Family and all dignitaries who attended the inaugural ceremony.

The Speaker acknowledged that His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo, with the vision of strengthening national security, building the capabilities of the youth, and preserving Bhutan's unique identity and values, has initiated the establishment of the Gelephu Mindfulness City and instituted the Desuung, Gyalsuung, and Pelsuung programmes. The Speaker expressed his sincere gratitude for these noble initiatives.

The Speaker lauded the befitting nationwide celebrations, led by His Majesty The King, observed in honour of the 70th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty

The Fourth Druk Gyalpo. He expressed his deepest reverence to His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo for strengthening national security, pioneering the Gross National Happiness, and gifting the Constitution to the people, thereby instituting an exclusive democratic constitutional monarchy.

The Speaker also expressed his appreciation and commendation to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, for his distinguished participation in the extraordinary celebrations held in November 2026. He acknowledged the profound and enduring relations between Bhutan and India, as well as the continued and steadfast support provided by the and the people of India.

The Speaker extolled the enlightened leadership of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo in successfully conducting the Global Peace Prayers, the Kalachakra Empowerment, and the Nun Ordination as part of promoting the global peace. On behalf of the people, the Speaker expressed profound gratitude for the unprecedented Royal initiatives.

Furthermohe, Speaker expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty for reaffirming the strong bilateral ties between Bhutan and India, and for undertaking a State Visit to Vietnam, during which His Majesty had met with senior officials and business leaders and secured an inter-al agreement for cooperation.

The Speaker also conveyed his deepest appreciation to His Holiness the Je Khenpo, the Central Monastic Body, the of Bhutan, as well as the volunteers and supporting organizations and institutions, for their leadership and support in the successful conduct of the Global Peace Prayer.

The Speaker informed the House that, as part of the legislative proceedings, the agenda for the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament comprised Bills, Agreements, Committee Reports, and Action Taken Reports. With regard to the Joint Sitting, deliberations included two Bills as well as the Annual Performance Audit Report. The Speaker informed that the concerned ministries and organizations would be taking necessary actions on the four petitions submitted by the Local s and the 57 issues raised by Members of Parliament, which were forwarded to the relevant Ministers and agencies as decided during the Preliminary Meeting.

In conclusion, the Speaker offered prayers for the fruitful deliberations and successful conclusion of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament. In addition, he offered Tashi Lekmon for the long life and continued success of the noble activities of His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty The Gyaltshen, and all Members of the Royal Family. He also offered Tashi Lekmon to His Holiness The Je Khenpo and all sublime figures. (The Speaker's Address is attached in Annexure I).

3. Resolutions on Introduction and Adoption of Bills

Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2025

3.1 First and Second Reading of Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2025

The Minister, Ministry of Finance (MoF), as the Member-in-Charge of the Bill moved a motion to introduce the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025 for first reading citing public benefit, market equity, timely financial rollout, minimal legislative boundaries,

alignment with international practices, and procedural considerations.

The House through majority approved the Bill for further deliberation.

In the second reading of the Bill, the Member In-charge requested to propose the Bill as an ‘Urgent Bill’. To this, he explained that the amendment will align the Financial Services Act of Bhutan 2011 with the Foreign Direct Investment Rules 2025, allowing composite insurance covering both life and non-life business under strict prudential safeguards, thereby addressing regulatory inconsistencies, promoting fair competition, encouraging innovation, supporting private sector development, and ensuring consumer protection through solvency, governance, and ring-fencing measures, while remaining proportionate to Bhutan’s small market and consistent with international best practices.

The Member from Bji-Katsho-Utsho constituency, supported the Minister’s proposal. He noted that while the 2011 Act was not necessarily inconsistent, evolving global standards require Bhutan to update its laws. He added that the new Act promotes “perfect competition,” which would benefit private businesses, strengthen the economy, and ultimately serve the national interest.

After the proposal of Bill as ‘Urgent Bill’ by the Finance Minister, the Speaker declared the Bill as ‘Urgent Bill’.

However, few Members questioned whether the Bill truly met the criteria for an “urgent bill,” referring to provisions of the Legislative Rules of Procedure which states that a Bill may be declared urgent only when required to prevent or address threats to the security and sovereignty

of the country. The Members also suggested that instead of relying solely on the decision of the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Chairperson of the National Council, the House should determine the bill's urgency through a majority vote.

Responding to these concerns, the Minister clarified that “security” includes political, economic, and social security. He explained that the matter falls under social security, as many individuals with life insurance felt that the current payout of Nu 30,000 was inadequate and requested an increase to Nu 150,000. The proposed amendment, therefore, served public interest and would directly benefit the people.

After taking into consideration the concerns raised by Members and the response by the Minister, the House assigned the Bill to the Economic and Finance Committee to review and submit the report to the House on 10 Decmeber 2025 for its third reading. **(On 8th Day of the 10th Month of Wood Female Snake Year corresponding to 28th November, 2025)**

3.2 Third Reading of the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025

Prior to the presentation of the review report for the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025 at its third reading, the Economic and Finance Committee (EFC) stated that even though the House had decided to treat the Bill as an Urgent Bill during the first and second readings, the Committee recommended that it would be more appropriate to deliberate it as an Ordinary Bill. Consequently, the Committee requested it to be an

Ordinary Bill rather than an Urgent Bill to which the Speaker consented and declared the Bill as an Ordinary Bill and not as Urgent Bill.

The member of the EFC, representing the Monggar Constituency, presented the report in which he submitted that the Committee had consulted the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA). He informed that sections 251 (a) and 251 (b) have been amended, and the Committee supports these changes. Additionally, he informed that the Committee has made adjustments to the spelling and translation of the Dzongkha text.

While deliberating on each section of the Bill, the House supported all recommendations proposed by the Committee. With this, the Speaker announced that the Bill will be adopted on 22.12.25 by voting and with this, ended the deliberation on the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025.

3.3 Adoption of Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025

The Member In charge of the Bill moved a motion for adoption of the Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025. While ascertaining the support of the House by voting, out of 44 Members present and voting, 40 voted ‘Yes’, 2 voted ‘No’ and 2 abstained from voting, thereby acquiring majority votes to adopt the Bill.

In the dissenting opinion submitted by Members from Dewathang Gomdar and Wamrong constituencies, Members submitted that although the rural life insurance scheme is very important to citizens, the has

failed to specify the dates from which the new rural life insurance scheme will be rolled out, therefore, because of which they could not extend their support to the Bill.

Lastly, as per the Rules of Procedure, the Speaker directed the Secretariat to prepare the Bill for onward submission to the National Council, and with this, ended the deliberation on the Bill. **(On 2nd Day of the 11th Month of Wood Female Snake Year corresponding to 22nd December, 2025) (Voting result is attached in Annexure II)**

3.4 Third Reading of the Livestock Bill of Bhutan, 2025

The Chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, Member from Radhi Sakteng Constituency presented the Committee's review report for third reading of the Livestock Bill of Bhutan. He informed that the existing Act is 25 years old and needs to be updated to suit current needs and situations. He also highlighted the need to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL) and the Department of Livestock (DoL), the need to improve animal breeds, strengthen animal health services, manage stray animals, and management of Tshethar Tshogpa. Subsequently, he presented the report for discussion by the House.

The House deliberated on each section of the Bill. During the discussion on the preamble, the Deputy Speaker pointed out to include “སེམས་ཅན་དང་སེམས་ཅན་དང་འབྲེལ་བའི་ཅ་དངོས་” in the Committee's proposal in the fourth paragraph of the Dzongkha text to align with English text referring to ‘animals and animal-related products’. The House accepted

this recommendation. Similarly, he also suggested mentioning “animal and animal product” in the preamble similar to as mentioned in the latter part of the Bill to ensure consistency.

The Member from Nyisho–Saephu Constituency pointed out that the words and translations from the beginning to end has to be carefully reviewed. The House directed the Secretariat to note this and make the necessary changes. He also commented on the sixth paragraph of the preamble to change Dzongkha term from ‘སེམས་ཅན་འཕྲོད་བསྟེན་གྱི་ཁྱད་རིག་ལཱ་’ to ‘སློ་ལོ་འཕྲོད་བསྟེན་གྱི་ཁྱད་རིག་ལཱ་’. The House accepted this recommendation and also approved Committee’s proposal from first to fifth provision of the chapter 1.

On the new subsection after section 6(3), the Minister, MoAL highlighted that it is the responsibility of Ministry to ensure the food and nutritional security and moreover, noted that if other objectives of the bill are fulfilled, then the food and nutritional security will be automatically taken care. So, he suggested that new provision need not be inserted in the Bill separately. However, after the clarification provided by the chairperson of the Committee on insertion of new subsection, the House supported the Committee’s proposal.

On section 6(5), the Minister, MoAL requested the House to retain the original text of the Bill as proposed by the Ministry pointing out that the Rules and Regulation provide only procedure and while for technical, separate guidelines and standards are required. While the Member of the Committee from Drametse Ngatshang Constituency and few members

clarified that as per the hierarchy of law making, Act comes first followed by rules and regulations and then guidelines and standards. Accordingly, the House accepted and supported Committee’s proposal.

The House adopted section 7 as proposed by the Committee. While deliberating on section 8, the Member from the Nyisho-Saephu Constituency recommended to make changes in Dzongkha text as “བཅའ་ཁྲིམས་འདི་ རྟོག་སློན་ཅན་གྱི་ ལག་ལེན་འཐབ་ཡོད་པ་ རེས་བརྟན་བཟོ་ནིའི་འགན་ཁུར་འདི་ ལས་ཁུངས་ལུ་ཕོག་” and also to review the translation of section 9. The House accordingly adopted the recommendation submitted.

On the new section after Section 9, the Deputy Speaker and some members pointed out that responsibility does not lie only with the Local , but also with other relevant agencies. Therefore, they recommended including these agencies in the section along with Local , and the House adopted this recommendation and agreed to make changes accordingly.

The House adopted section 10 as proposed by the Committee. However, in section 10(2), the Member from Gangzu Minjey Constituency sought clarification on the term ‘approve livestock facilities’ as it was ambiguous to understand. The Minister, MoAL explained that it means giving approval if a private party provides animal-related services in future. With this clarification, the House adopted the proposal submitted by the committee.

On the new subsection after Section 10(2), the Member from Gangzur Minjey Constituency and some other Members questioned the purpose

of inserting this section after deleting two sections (section 118 and 119)

in the Bill. They stated that Bhutan is a Buddhist country, and while global peace prayers are conducted on one side, it is very disheartening that such activities are being carried out on animals on the other side. They also noted that this would negatively affect the pillars of Gross National Happiness and would also be against the objective of developing the GMC as a Vajrayana center. They further mentioned that it would disappoint lamas, tulkus, and citizens of the country. Subsequently, the Member from South Thimphu constituency stated that if such activities are to be established, individuals must first obtain community clearance from the public and the Local .

In response, the Committee clarified that the provision was not new and existed even in the Livestock Act of Bhutan 2001. The Committee further explained that the provision did not originate from the Committee but emerged from public consultations, where opinions were divided, with some in favor and while others opposed. Therefore, the Committee informed the House that the Committee is fine with whatever decision the House takes on this matter.

Further, the Minister, MoAL clarified that the is not going to establish a slaughter house itself. Instead, the provision is meant to support individuals who may be interested in setting up such facilities in the future and to allow monitoring of these facilities. It was noted that keeping this provision in the Act would not cause any harm and that both present and future impacts should be considered. After a long discussion on the Committee's new insertion , 29 Members supported it through

a show of hands. Therefore, the House adopted the new section and resolved that if a processing facility is to be established, the individual must first obtain clearance from the community and the Local , and this requirement must be stated in the rules and regulations of the Act.

In section 10(3), the Speaker directed that the word ‘བཀའ་ཁྱུ’ be changed to ‘བཀོད་ཁྱུ’, and the House adopted this recommendation. In addition, the Minister of MoAL requested to retain the word ‘སེམས་ཅན’ to which the House approved.

The House unanimously adopted changes made by the Committee on subsections 4 to 11 of section 10. However, on the first new subsection after Section 10(11), the Member from Mongar Constituency and some other Members pointed out that providing financial support for research and development would be in contravention to the Public Finance Act and accordingly, the House decided to delete the proposal of the Committee.

Similarly, in the second new subsection after Section 10(11), the Member from Mongar Constituency and some other Members stated that the new provision need not be included in the Act, as the is already providing special support for highlanders. Other Members also suggested that instead of mentioning a specific term like ‘སྒོ་ལོ་རྩེ་’, it should be kept general. On the other hand, some Members emphasized the importance of supporting highland communities and stated that including the provision in the Act would not have any negative impact. Based on this view, the House adopted the Committee’s proposal through a show of hands.

In Section 11, at the request of the Minister, MoAL, the House decided to retain the sentence ‘as per the specific Disease Prevention and Control Plan.’ Then, in Section 12, the Hon. Deputy Speaker pointed out that in order to align the Dzongkha word ‘དབང་འཛིན་’ with the English text, it should be changed to ‘ལས་ལྗེ’.

Accordingly, the House adopted this and directed that the change be made accordingly.

Similarly, the Minister, MoAL requested that the words ‘power and’ be removed. The House adopted this change. The House also agreed to place the new section after Section 12 under Section 13, and this recommendation was adopted as well.

The House adopted Section 13, including the new subsection after Section 13(5), as proposed by the Committee. However, in Section 13, the Member from Nyisho–Saephu Constituency pointed out a grammatical error. The House then directed the Member to sit with the Committee to make the necessary corrections in Dzongkha text.

In Section 14, the Deputy Speaker questioned the practicality of placing the regulatory authority under the Ministry of Health, considering its heavy workload. In response, the Ministers of MoAL and MoH clarified that this arrangement would not be a problem.

Similarly, in Section 14(3), the Minister, MoAL requested the word ‘གཞན་ཚད་’ be retained, and the House accepted this request and instructed the Secretariat to take note of it. He also requested that all occurrences of the word ‘གཞན་ཚད་’ throughout the Bill be kept as in the original text submitted by the Ministry, to which the House agreed. However, in

Section 14(14), although the Minister requested to retain the original text, the House adopted the changes proposed by the Committee.

In the new subsection after Section 14(15), the Member from Gangzur–Minjey Constituency and some other Members stated that provision was ambiguous and that the regulatory authority might face difficulties during the implementation. Therefore, they recommended clearly stating the exact day and month, as mentioned in the existing Act for better clarity.

In response, the Member from Chhumei–Ura Constituency and some other Members explained that the provision was not new and was taken from the existing Act, and that details related to it would be specified in the rules and regulations. Then, the House directed the Committee and the Ministry to sit together to review the provision to clearly mention days and months.

The House adopted Section 15. In Section 16, which deals with the power to inspect, the Member from Gangzur–Minjey constituency stated that inspection and monitoring powers should be allowed only in certain cases and should not be given fully to the Regulatory Authority. He also stressed the need to oversee the authority’s powers. The House then directed the Committee and the Ministry to sit together and review the section.

In Section 16(2), the Member from Kilkhorthang–Mendrelgang Constituency suggested adding the word ‘pricing,’ but the House did not accept this proposal. The House then adopted Sections 17 and 18 as proposed by the Committee.

In Section 19, the Member from Gangzur Minjey Constituency and the Deputy Speaker stated that allowing inspections without a court warrant would contravene the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code. They also pointed out the risk of misuse of power and practical difficulties during implementation. Therefore, they suggested not including this provision in the Act. In response, the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) explained that the places where inspections without a court warrant are allowed are clearly specified and that there would be no issue. However, the House directed the Committee and the MoICE to sit together to further review this provision.

In Section 20, the Member from Nubi–Tangsibji Constituency suggested adding the word ‘གང་རྒྱུ’¹, and the House accepted the recommendation and adopted the provision. Sections 21 and 22 were also adopted by the House through a show of hands.

In Section 23, the Member from Gangzur Minjey Constituency stated that it is important to specify the duration to hold the seized property and be responsible for compensation if it gets destroyed during their possession. The House then directed the Committee and the Ministry to sit together and review this section.

Similarly, in Section 24, the Deputy Speaker highlighted the need to include a new section on how to return property seized under suspicion. He added that if the word ‘རྒྱུ་ལྡན་པ་’² is removed, then the new section may not be necessary. Additionally, the Member from Choekhor–Tang Constituency noted that while it may be convenient to seize vehicles,

he questioned whether there is authority to seize aircraft from other countries and pointed out that in other countries, there is a system of detaining property before seizing it.

In response, the Member from Khamaed–Lunana Constituency clarified that the word ‘རྟོགས་པ’ means ‘reasonable ground’ and stated that the Committee will review it. He also explained that aircraft and other property will be returned upon payment of imposed fines. The House then directed the Committee to review the Section once again.

In the new section after section 24, the Minister, MoAL requested removing the ‘Department’ due to a conflict of interest. Additionally, the Deputy Speaker and the Member from Gangzur Minjey Constituency stated that the provision should follow proper sequence, and the power to seize, confiscate, and dispose of property should only be exercised with a court warrant.

The Opposition Leader suggested that the Act should be drafted in a way that it is practical, noting that seizing aircraft is not realistically implementable. The Committee Chairperson clarified that all sections should be considered together, and that seizing vehicles mainly relates to biosecurity matters. He also explained that the new provision was added because people sometimes abandon their vehicles when fines are very high, which can cause problems. Following this, the House directed the Committee and the Ministry to review Sections 23 from 26.

The House adopted Sections 27 to 34 by a show of hands. In Section 36, the Member from the Nubi–Tangsibji constituency recommended

retaining the original text proposed by the Ministry, which the House accepted and adopted accordingly. Section 37 was also adopted by the House.

Regarding the new Section (A) after Section 37, the Minister of MoAL stated that the provision is already covered under the Forest and Nature Conservation Act, 2023 of Bhutan and therefore does not need to be included in this Bill. Based on this recommendation, the House decided to withdraw the new provision.

In the new Section (B) after Section 37, Members from the Dophuchen–Tading and Dramedtse–Ngatshang constituencies emphasized the importance of this provision. They explained that some tshethar tshogpa were harassing animal owners and taking animals from them, which was the reason for introducing this new provision. Following this clarification, the House adopted the provision. The new Section (C) after Section 37 was also adopted by the House.

In Section 38, the Member from Kengkhar–Wengringla constituency raised concerns that vaccinating and registering pet animals may be feasible in urban areas but not convenient in rural areas. In response, the Minister, MoAL clarified that most pet animals are kept in urban areas and emphasized the importance of identification and registration. The Minister further stated that if implementation challenges arise, they would be addressed through regulations and implemented accordingly.

Furthermore, the MoIT Minister recommended retaining the word “identified” as proposed by the Ministry. Accordingly, the House adopted

the provision based on the Committee’s proposal, deciding to retain the word “identified.” Following this, Sections 39 and 40 were also adopted by the House as proposed by the Committee.

In Section 41, the Member from the Nyisho–Saephu constituency recommended inserting a new provision stating that ‘pet animals should not harm or disturb neighbors’. The House adopted this recommendation as proposed by the Member. Sections 42 and 43 were also adopted by the House in line with the changes made by the Committee.

In Section 44, the Minister of Foreign and External Trade recommended retaining the Ministry’s original text to ensure smooth functioning of the Department and the Ministry. In response, the Committee Chairperson clarified that there was no change in meaning and that the Committee had only shortened the provision. Following this, the MoAL Minister recommended removing the words “appropriate and” to reduce the sentence. Based on this recommendation, the House adopted the provision.

In Sections 45 and 46, the House adopted the provisions with the changes made by the Committee. Regarding Section 47, the Member from the Monggar constituency raised concerns that there would be no authority to monitor the provision and requested its withdrawal, arguing that some people might violate it unknowingly; however, the proposal was refused by the House. The member also noted that the new section proposed after Section 47 was similar to Section 62 and recommended its withdrawal, stating that Section 62 already covers the matter.

The House adopted Sections 48 to 56 by a show of hands. Regarding Section 47, the MoAL Minister requested to retain the words “standards’ wherever it is in the Bill. The House agreed to retain the word “standards” as proposed by the Ministry.

The House then adopted Sections 58 to 64 with the changes proposed by the Committee. In Section 65, the Home Minister recommended inserting the term “ལས་ཁུངས་དང་འབྲེལ་བའི་གཞུག་སྡེ་,” which was adopted by the House. Subsequently, the House adopted Sections 66 to 72 and directed that the original text of the Ministry be retained in Section 73.

Regarding Section 74, the MoAL Minister requested retaining the Ministry’s original text. The Committee Chairperson explained that the provision is similar to a Rule of Procedure and would be more appropriately included in the rules and regulations, which is why the Committee deleted it. Based on this clarification, the House adopted the provision as proposed by the Committee. The House then directed that the original text of the Ministry be retained for Section 75.

The House through a show of hands adopted the new section inserted before Section 76, and Sections 76 to 96. In Sections 97 and 99, the MoAL Minister and the Deputy Speaker requested retaining the Ministry’s original text, and the House accepted their recommendation.

The House also adopted Sections 98, 100 to 105 with the amendments made by the Committee. In Section 106, the House retained the Ministry’s

original text, while Sections 107 and 108 were adopted as proposed by the Committee.

In the new section proposed after Section 108, the Member from Gangzur–Minjey constituency and the Deputy Speaker noted that the Ministry should provide financial support to the Local and pointed out that the new provision is similar to Section 108.

The Chairperson clarified that the Local was already involved in this matter. Initially, the Committee had proposed a provision for financial support, but after consulting with the Ministry, it was withdrawn. The Chairperson further explained that the new provision would only apply if an animal had no owner, in which case the Local would be responsible. Following this, the House decided to withdraw the provision and directed that the word “stray” be retained in Section 108.

The House adopted Sections 109 and 110 with the changes made by the Committee and directed that the word “standards” be retained. Regarding the new section after Section 110, the member from Shompangkha constituency suggested including ‘other chemicals’ in addition to “antibiotics” and “steroids.”

The MoAL Minister responded that it is not possible for the products to be completely free of antibiotics or steroids and added that Section 110 already addresses this matter. Accordingly, the House decided to withdraw the new provision.

The House adopted Sections 111 to 127 with the changes made by the Committee. Regarding the new section after Section 127, the Member from Monggar constituency suggested that if the products are manufactured within the country, they could be free of antibiotics, however, including this provision in the Act would not have any negative impact.

The Member from Shompangkha constituency, along with a few other members, emphasized the need to highlight chemicals other than antibiotics and steroids, and also raised concerns about the impacts of antibiotics and steroids. However, the Minister of MoAL clarified that these issues are already covered under Section 127 and therefore requested the withdrawal of the provision. Following the request from the MoAL Minister, the House accepted the request to delete the section.

The House adopted Sections 128 to 136 with the changes recommended by the Committee, while retaining the ‘standards’ proposed by the Ministry. Regarding Section 137, the MoAL Minister stated that “reprocessing” falls under treatment and recommended that it need not be mentioned separately. In response, the Chairperson clarified that ‘reprocessing and treatment’ have different meanings and noted that the term “reprocessing” was recommended by feed manufacturing experts. He therefore requested that it be retained as proposed by the Committee, after which the House adopted the provision.

Subsequently, the House adopted Sections 138 to 140 and Sections 141 to 164 as proposed by the Committee. However, the new section after Section 140 was withdrawn by the House.

In Section 165, the MoIT Minister recommended making certain changes to the English text, after which the House directed the Committee and the Ministry to sit together and review it.

Thereafter, the House adopted Sections 166 to 169 as proposed by the Committee, including a new section after Section 168, through a show of hands.

Regarding Section 170, the MoAL Minister stated that there was no need to include a new section after it, as the matter is already covered under Section 170, which contains animal welfare standards. However, the Chairperson and the Deputy Speaker clarified that the new provision aligns with the provision adopted after Section 34 and is important for animal transportation. Accordingly, the House adopted the provision as proposed by the Committee.

The Member from South Thimphu constituency expressed concern that Members were not aware of the contents of the animal welfare standards and requested that, when the bill is later submitted to the House, the draft rules, regulations, and other standards be presented together with the bill.

The House adopted Sections 171 to 193 as proposed by the Committee. Regarding Section 194, the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker recommended

reviewing the use of the word “participation,” and the House directed the Committee and the Ministry to examine the issue raised.

Similarly, the Member from Gangzur Minje constituency pointed out that the provision only states that penalties will be imposed, without clearly specifying the types of penalties for different kinds of non-compliance. In response, the House directed that the issue be addressed in line with the concern raised.

In Section 195, the Deputy Speaker and the Member from Nyisho-Saephu constituency stated that repealing only the license is not enough, as it is easy to obtain a new license under another person’s name. They emphasized that the matter should be addressed in accordance with the law.

In response, the Committee Chairperson clarified that imprisoning non-compliers serves little purpose, as it only creates problems for their families and does not lead to positive outcomes. Following this, the House directed the Committee and the Ministry to work together to review the provision.

In Section 196, the Member from Kengkhar–Weringla constituency stressed that safety equipment should be provided to all livestock employees including private employees, and requested that this be included in the provision. In addition, the Member from Gangzur Minje constituency pointed out that safety equipment may be provided by the respective organizations and not necessarily by the . He requested that

this be clearly stated in the provision to avoid confusion and to prevent financial loss to the .

Similarly, the Finance Minister and a few other Members recommended that the should provide safety equipment to employees, while private employers should provide it to their own employees. In response, the MoAL Minister and the Opposition Leader suggested to better recommend that the equipment must be provided instead of recommending wearing it. The House then tasked the Committee and the Ministry to review the matter.

The House adopted Sections 197 and 198 as proposed by the Committee. In Section 199, the Member from Gangzur-Minje constituency and several other Members supported the Ministry's original wording "good faith" as it is widely used in laws.

In contrast, the Member from Drame dtse–Ngatshang constituency and the Chairperson suggested replacing "good faith" with "official on duty", however, the House adopted the Ministry's original text. Subsequently, the House adopted Section 200 as proposed by the committee.

In Section 201, the Minister of MoAL stated that Parliament's role is to enact the law, while the Ministry is responsible for drafting the rules and regulations. The Finance Minister also emphasized that the rules and regulations must be framed in line with the Act and should not go beyond the scope of Act.

The Member from Nyisho-Saephu constituency stated that although Parliament may review the rules and regulations, it does not participate in drafting them. Following this, the House directed that the term “སྤྱི་ཚོགས་ ཀྱི་ཚོགས་ཚུང་” be removed from the section. Regarding the new section that followed, the Minister of MoAL requested its deletion, which the House approved. Sections 202 and 204 were then adopted as proposed by the Committee.

In the definition part, sections 205 (1) till 205 (35) was adopted as proposed by the Committee.

In the new subsection following Section 205(35), the Member from Nyisho-Saephu constituency proposed removing the phrase “མས་ཚན་ གསོན་པོ་ཚུ་ ལག་ལེན་འཐབ་སྟེ་ སེམས་ཚན་ཐོན་སྐྱེད་ནང་བསྐྱུར་བཅོས་” The Member pointed out that the provision was unconstitutional and added that the lamas had also advised against it. He therefore questioned if there are no other alternatives for economic development besides this approach.

Likewise, the Members from Gangzur Minjey and Menbi–Tsenkhar constituencies pointed out that the definition was complicated and suggested clearly stating the intended meaning instead. In response, the Committee chairperson clarified that the definition is not decided by the Committee and agreed to go with the decision of the House.

The MoAL Minister further explained that the provision was not a new one and stated that, from the Ministry’s perspective, its meaning and intent had been clearly expressed. However, the Committee, after consulting the public, did not reflect it directly respecting the views

of the public. After that, the House adopted the provision according to the proposal of the Committee. The House also adopted sub sections 205(36) till sub section (49) as proposed by the Committee. (On 12th day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 2nd December, 2025).

3.5 Adoption of Livestock Bill of Bhutan 2025

The Chairperson of the Environment and Climate Change Committee, the Member from Radhi–Sakteng constituency presented the review report on nine disputed provisions that was directed by the House, prior to the Bill’s adoption.

In the new section after Section 14(15), Members from Nyisho-Saephu and Khatoed-Laya constituencies pointed out that the Dzongkha text should be aligned with the English version by clearly mentioning the “4th month of the Bhutanese calendar”. They also suggested including “རྒྱུ་ཚེན་ལྔ་འཛོམས་དང་ སྤྱེལ་ལྷ་ཚོས་བརྩུ་” Furthermore, they stated that if the Committee’s proposal was to be retained, then “Zhabdrung Kuchoe” should be removed from the text. The House accordingly adopted to remove the words ‘Zhabdrung Kuchoe’ from the provision and also adopted Section 16 as proposed by the Committee.

In Section 19, the Member from Gangzur Minjey constituency noted that the routine functions of the Regulatory Authority are already covered under Section 16. He suggested highlighting the requirement of a court warrant, while also clarifying that a court warrant should not be necessary in emergencies related to animal health and quarantine

matters. He recommended that this distinction be clearly stated in the provision. In addition, he pointed out that if the provision allows action without a court warrant, the phrase “any livestock farm” should be removed or the requirement for consent should be explicitly mentioned.

In response, the MoAL Minister and several other Members stated that the inspections apply to animal product farms and not to private premises. They added that requiring a court warrant would create practical difficulties and inconveniences to Regulatory Officers. Furthermore, they noted that mandating owner consent would lead to additional complications. Based on these views, the Minister sought support for the Committee’s proposal, which was subsequently adopted by the House.

In Section 24, the Deputy Speaker emphasized the need to use the term “detain” consistently in Sections 25 and 26. He also expressed concern that the provision was affecting matters related to seizure. To ensure inspections are carried out smoothly, he suggested inserting a new provision and requested the Committee to review the matter again.

The Member from Gangzur–Minjey constituency recommended retaining the Ministry’s original text, and based on this recommendation, the House adopted the provision. Sections 26, 41, 194, 195, and 196 were also adopted by the House as proposed by the Committee.

Regarding the new definition of “livestock staff,” the Health Minister recommended to include both and private personnel instead of

mentioning only . However, the House didn't accept the recommendation and adopted the definition as proposed by the Committee.

Finally, the Member in charge of the Bill, the MoAL Minister, moved a motion for the adoption of the Livestock Bill of Bhutan 2025 in accordance with Rules of Procedure. The House then ascertained the support of the House by voting. Out of 45 members present, 25 voted in favor, 19 voted against, and one abstained. Based on the majority vote acquired, the Bill was adopted by the House.

Thereafter, the Speaker instructed the Secretariat staff to prepare the Bill for submission to the National Council of Bhutan in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and with this, ended the deliberation. **(On 13th Day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 3rd December, 2025). (Voting result is attached in Annexure III)**

3.6 Third Reading of the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan, 2025

The Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Committee, the Member from Wamrong Constituency, presented the review report of the Committee for its third reading of the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan, 2025 as follows:

He informed that during the third session, the first and second readings were presented to the House by the Member in-Charge of the Bill, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (MoAL). After receiving the support of the House, the review of the Bill was assigned to the Social

Resolution of the 4th Session of the Fourth Parliament
and Cultural Committee and directed to present its review report to the
House in the fourth session for its third reading.

He stated that the Bill is not new to the country as the Cooperative Act of Bhutan, 2001, and its amendment in 2009 had already been enacted. However, the new Bill was introduced because errors and difficulties in implementation had arisen from the existing Acts with changing times. Therefore, a new Bill was introduced comprising 10 chapters.

In addition, the Committee held rigorous consultations with Local leaders, relevant stakeholders, and members of cooperatives and farmer groups in about 12 Dzongkhags.

The Bill consists of 10 chapters, 101 sections, and 83 subsections. The Committee revised 80 sections in Dzongkha text and 60 sections in English text after research and consultation with various stakeholders.

Eight sections from the Bill were repealed and three new sections were introduced, resulting in amendment of 96 main sections. Regarding subsections, the Ministry had originally proposed 83; however, one was repealed and 31 new subsections were inserted by the Committee, bringing the total to 123. Concerning definitions, the Ministry had proposed 22 sections, of which one was repealed and four new sections introduced, making 25 in total. Overall, the Committee had repealed 10 sections and inserted 35 new sections.

Despite having many laws that benefit the people, the Committee submitted that this Bill is considered the most important Bill that directly

benefits farmers, which also contributes to economic development, and improves their living conditions.

While discussing and debating on each section of the Bill, the Deputy Speaker pointed out in the Preamble that the English word ‘State’ is translated as ‘Gyelkhab’ in Dzongkha text which should be changed to ‘Gyelkham’. The House approved the recommendation.

The Committee submitted that the phrase ‘the Parliament of Bhutan has passed the following amendments’, at the end of the introduction is in accordance with the legislative drafting manual.

The Member from Choekhortang Constituency recommended inserting “(S)” for the word ‘Union of Federation’. The Speaker ordered that the English word ‘union’ be revised as it could lead to political influence.

The Member from Nyisho Saephu Constituency, who is also a Committee Member clarified on usage of word ‘union’. He stated that there was no political connotation and the Bill has clearly defined its usage. Some Members nevertheless requested the use of the word ‘Association’ instead of ‘Union’, as it is rarely used in Bhutanese laws. The Speaker instructed the Committee to take note of the suggestion and review the word ‘union’.

The House approved the proposal made by the Member from Gangzur-Minjay Constituency to ensure accurate translation of the word རྒྱལ་མཐོན་རྒྱལ་མཐོན་ for uniformity in Dzongkha and English in Chapter 1.

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock requested that Section 7 of Chapter 1 be retained as proposed by the Ministry, because it was

inserted as per the international practices. The House approved Section 7 of Chapter 1 by show of hands.

In Section 8 of Chapter 2, the Deputy Speaker, the Minister of MoAL, and some Members requested that the Ministry's original text be retained rather than the Committee's proposal. The Committee Chairperson and some Members clarified the reasons for the amendment, but the House, by majority, approved to retain the Ministry's original proposal.

The House approved the Committee's proposal to repeal Section 9, amended Section 10, and Section 11 into two categories.

Similarly, in Section 12 and the new section after Section 12, the Committee stated that registration of cooperatives and farmer groups should be primarily provided by Local s, as they are directly involved in authorizing the formation of groups. The Committee explained that reliance on regional offices created extra burdens for the people.

Some MPs supported the proposal, while the Minister of MoAL agreed with the Committee's vision but cautioned that unclear responsibilities could hinder implementation later on. He requested for a joint review by the Ministry and the Committee. The House ordered the Committee and the Ministry, along with some Members, to review the section and submit a report the following day.

Sections 13–17 of Chapter 3 were approved as proposed by the Committee by majority vote. Regarding Section 18, which requires farmer groups with more than five and up to 14 members to be

established as cooperatives, the House approved the section but directed the Committee and Ministry to review the numerical thresholds and submit a report.

In Section 19, the Member from Gangzur-Minjay Constituency recommended changing the requirement to “different households” instead of “each household” and also recommended uniform translation for Section 18.

There were no requests for Sections 19–23 and therefore, the House approved the Committee’s recommendations by a show of hands. However, regarding Section 23, the House ordered a review and submission of a clearer report on Dzongkhags and Regions.

Sections 24–29 of Chapter 4 were approved as recommended and amended by the Committee.

After a thorough discussion, Section 30 and Sections 36–49 of Chapter 5 were approved as per the Committee’s recommendations. The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock requested retention of Sections 50 and 51, which had been repealed by the Committee. After a lengthy debate, the House ordered the Committee and Ministry to review and submit a report.

Sections 52–55 and Sections 56–70 of Chapter 6 were approved as proposed by the Committee without any objection.

The new section before Section 71, regarding seed money to establish cooperatives and farmer groups, was debated for a long duration. The Finance Minister and the Minister of MoAL opposed its inclusion, while the Committee defended it as it stemmed from the public during consultations. After a lengthy deliberation, the House directed the Committee and Ministry to review and submit a report.

Section 71 was passed by the House but ordered review of a new section before Section 72, which proposed seed money for federations of cooperatives and unions of federations. Sections 73–79 were approved as recommended and amended by the Committee.

In Section 80, the Member from Choekhortang Constituency requested the inclusion of an annual audit requirement, similar to Section 12. The proposal was not supported, and the House approved the Committee's recommendation.

Sections 81–82 were approved but in Section 83, the Minister of MoAL requested review, which the House accepted, directing the Committee and Ministry to submit a report the following day.

Sections 84–96 of Chapter 9 were approved as recommended by the Committee. The House ordered a review of Sections 97–98 of Chapter 10 to align with the Livestock Bill of Bhutan.

Sections 99–100 were approved as proposed by the Committee and Section 101 and its subsections (1–12) were also approved as recommended.

The House also approved a new subsection after Subsection 12, and Subsections 13–16 were approved. In Subsection 17, the Minister of MoAL requested review, as it related to earlier sections requiring reconsideration. The House granted the request and directed submission of a report the following day.

Subsections 18–22, including a new subsection after Subsection 19, were approved by the House. However, the House directed the Ministry and the Committee to review all related sections and submit a report the following day. With this, the third reading of the Bill concluded.

3.7 Adoption of the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan 2025

The Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Committee, Member of Wamrong Constituency submitted a review report on a few sections as directed by the House. The review was mainly concerned on sections which involved Local and the Dzongkhag Administration. He presented the following report on reviewed sections.

Firstly, in the Preamble, the term རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ } was changed to རྒྱལ་ཁམས་ } in the Dzongkha text, which was endorsed by the House. However, regarding the submission to change “The Parliament of the Kingdom of Bhutan” to “Parliament of Bhutan,” the House directed that it must be retained as proposed by the Committee because it is a standard drafting practice as prescribed in the Legislative Drafting Manual 2016, and accordingly endorsed it.

Further, Section 9 was endorsed as proposed by the Ministry. In Section 11, some Members submitted that the powers and responsibilities of the Dzongkhag Registrar and the National Registrar were not clearly defined, and therefore requested clarification as there could be a conflict of interest in the future. Accordingly, the Committee clarified that the Dzongkhag Registrar shall register and endorse the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups, while the National Registrar shall register the Federation of Cooperatives and Union of Federations, ensuring that no issues would arise. The House, by a show of hands, endorsed Section 12 along with two new sections thereafter.

Additionally, under Chapter 2, Sections 23 and 27; under Chapter 4, Sections 30, 51, 52, and 54; and under Chapter 7, new sections before Sections 71 and 72, as well as Sections 73, 74, 75, 83, 91, 97, and 98, together with revised changes to subsections 17 and 20 in the definitions, were reviewed and reported to the House. The House then accepted and endorsed the changes made by the Committee after reviewing with the Ministry.

Subsequently, the Member in charge of the Bill, the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, submitted and moved the motion for adoption of the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan 2025. He stated that this Bill is not merely a legislative document but an important instrument for reform and a tool to achieve Bhutan's goals of equitable socio-economic development in line with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. It also enables the contributions and development

of farmers and supplements community development. Therefore, the Bill in charge submitted that the House should take into consideration both immediate and future needs and urged the House to support the Bill.

Lastly, while ascertaining the support of the House to Bill by voting, all Members unanimously supported the Bill by casting the vote in favour. The Speaker directed the Secretariat to prepare and forward the Bill to the National Council in accordance with legislative procedure, thereby concluding the discussion. (On 15th Day of the 10th month of the Wood female Snake Year, corresponding to 4th December 2025) (Voting result is attached in Annexure IV)

4. Resolutions for the Introduction and Adoption of Agreement/ Convention

Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

4.1 First and Second Reading of Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

The Member In-charge of the Bill, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, moved the motion for the first reading of the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The Minister stated that Bhutan's participation in the Agreement would provide long-term benefits for the country, which was initiated by India and aligns with the country's existing system.

The Member from Lamgong–Wangcha Constituency stated that all developmental activities and policy principles in Bhutan are guided by the four pillars of Gross National Happiness. Referring to Article 5 of the Constitution of Bhutan, which mandates the maintenance of a minimum of sixty percent forest cover, the Member noted that the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance is dedicated to the conservation of seven major big cat species.

The Member further reported that, globally, there are approximately 5,000 tigers, an endangered species, of which Bhutan is home to around 131, representing about 2.35 percent of the global population. Emphasizing that the Agreement would benefit the country and not impose any financial burden on Bhutan and noting Bhutan's role as a global leader in conservation, the Member submitted to the House to support the Agreement.

Accordingly, the House while ascertaining to deliberate on the Agreement, through a majority show of hands, the House agreed to deliberate on the Agreement.

Subsequently, in the Second Reading of the Bill, the Member In-charge informed that Bhutan had initiated the Global Tiger Forum, to which the of India has extended its appreciation. The Minister stated that, as a gesture of trust and recognition from India, regardless of the number of big cats in Bhutan, the country is enabled to actively participate in shaping the Alliance's future and to access the collaborative benefits it offers without incurring any financial burden. The Minister further reported that the Agreement is dedicated to the conservation and protection of

seven major big cat species and noted that the of the Republic of India has approved USD 18 million to the IBCA for the purpose of protecting these species.

The Member In-charge of the Bill stated that Bhutan’s participation in the Agreement would be highly beneficial, as it would enable the country to receive support from other member states in areas such as chain-link fencing and research on monitoring big cats. The Minister further noted that, should Parliament not ratify the Agreement, Bhutan would not be recognized as a member country of the IBCA and would be unable to access the support offered by other member states. Highlighting the goodwill between Bhutan and India, the Minister reported that the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, had made this special offer to Bhutan. The Minister subsequently moved a motion for the House to support the Bill.

The House then assigned the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee to review and present its review report for the Third Reading on 5th December, 2025. With this, the deliberation on the Agreement was concluded. **(On the 8th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year corresponding to 28th November 2025)**

4.2 Third Reading of Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

During the Third Reading, the Member of Thrimshing–Kangpara constituency, the Chairperson of the Human Rights and Foreign

Relations Committee, presented the Committee's review report on the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The Chairperson stated that, as a range country for Tiger, Snow Leopard, and Common Leopard, Bhutan would benefit from strengthened international conservation partnerships, access to international expertise, and opportunities for collaborative research under the Agreement. The Chairperson further reported that the Agreement would create avenues for potential financial support and investment in conservation projects through the IBCA's network, without requiring any financial contribution from Bhutan.

The Chairperson further reported that the Committee had conducted consultations with the Department of Forest and Park Services under the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and reviewed the legal opinion of the Office of Attorney General, as well as the political clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, regarding the Agreement.

While deliberating on each Articles of the Agreement, the House adopted all Articles through a show of hands. However, with regard to Article 9, the Member of Dramedtse–Ngatshang noted that the budget and financial resources are to be covered by voluntary contributions from the Parties, the United Nations and its agencies, as well as other interested countries and organizations. The Member sought clarification on the voting rights in the event of a potential conflict of interest.

In response, the Chairperson clarified that the of Bhutan does not have any financial responsibility under the Agreement, and the decisions made by the Assembly of the International Big Cat Alliance regarding voting rights would not affect the country.

Subsequently, the Member from Radhi–Sakteng expressed support, noting that the of India had made a special proposal to the of Bhutan to participate in the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The Member stated that, globally, for the protection of big cat and the strengthening of ecosystems, the of India had undertaken a commendable initiative, and reported that the Environment and Climate Change Committee strongly supports the Agreement.

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources clarified that, during the First and Second Reading of the Bill, the Minister had proposed that the Agreement be ratified in the current session by the two Houses. However, the Minister now submitted that the House to proceed to ratify the Bill in accordance with the established procedure of the House.

Lastly, the House ordered the Committee and the Ministry to incorporate amendments made in the Dzongkha text of the Agreement and informed that adoption of the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is scheduled on 8th December 2025. **(16th day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to the 5th December 2025).**

4.3 Adoption of the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA).

The Member in charge of the Bill, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, submitted that Bhutan would receive support from the of India with trust and confidence, and that the country would have the opportunity to actively collaborate in the International Big Cat Alliance program. The Minister subsequently moved a motion for the ratification of the Agreement by the House.

In ascertaining the support of the House on the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), all 44 members present unanimously endorsed the Agreement, with 44 votes cast in favor.

The Speaker directed the Secretariat of the National Assembly to prepare the Bill for submission to the National Council in accordance with the established procedure and thereby concluded the deliberation on the Framework Agreement on the establishment of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). (19th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 8th December 2025). (Voting result is attached in Annexure V)

Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

4.4 First and Second Reading of Amendment of Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Member In-Charge of the Convention, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade moved a motion for introduction of Amendments of Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities. He informed that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was ratified with reservations on Articles 18, 23, 27, and 29 in the 10th session of the third Parliament.

However, since 11 countries have raised objections to reservations, it is submitted to the House for amendment of reservations and the Minister sought the support of the House for amendment of Convention. Accordingly, the Member of Parliament from Nubi-Tansbji constituency rendered his support and subsequently, the House supported to deliberate on the Convention through a show of hands.

Thereafter, while presenting the motion for the second reading, the Member In charge of the Convention stated that during the previous 's tenure, in the 10th session of the Third Parliament, reservations were made with regard to Article 18, paragraph 1(a) and paragraph 2; Article 23, paragraph 1(b) and (c); Article 27, paragraph 1(c); and Article 29, paragraph 2(a) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Following Bhutan's submission of the instrument of ratification to the United Nations Secretariat on 13th March 2024, eleven countries have not accepted the reservations entered by Bhutan. Therefore, the primary objective of introducing amendments to these reservations is to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as applied in Bhutan, is fully aligned with international legal standards. Secondly, this note on Bhutan's reservations has been prepared clearly so that the positions of the concerned countries regarding these reservations are accurately reflected.

Thirdly, in order to ensure the long-term sustainability and balanced development of Bhutan, the purpose of submitting this note is to present it to the Members of Parliament for their consideration regarding the withdrawal of certain reservations.

Accordingly, the House referred the Amendment of Reservation of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the Women, Children, and Youth Committee for review and to submit the report for third reading on 12th December 2025, thereby concluding the first and second readings. (On 8th Day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 28th November 2025).

4.5 Third Reading of Amendment of Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Deputy Chairperson of the Committee from Khatoed-Laya Constituency presented the report for third reading where he mentioned that the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an important international human rights instrument that specifically focuses on and promotes the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Convention and its Optional Protocol were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 13 May 2008. Subsequently, the Royal of Bhutan submitted its instrument of signature to the Convention on 21 September 2010. Thereafter, during the 15th Special Session of the Lhengye Zhungtshog held in July 2016, a directive was issued instructing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate with relevant agencies and prepare all

necessary documentation with a view to enabling the Royal of Bhutan to ratify the Convention in the future.

Subsequently, during the 10th Session of the Third Parliament, the House endorsed the Convention with a reservation on Article 4. It was stated that the main objective of the Convention is not to create new rights, but to ensure that existing rights are accessible and inclusive, and that, guided by its principles, the rights of citizens are promoted, protected, and implemented in an equal and effective manner.

On 25th March, 2025, eleven State members (Austria, Finland, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), along with the European Union, formally communicated to the Cabinet Secretariat that they did not accept Bhutan's reservation, by registering objections to the said reservation.

Subsequently, on 27th May, 2025, in accordance with the directive issued by the Cabinet Secretariat, a 13-member working group was constituted, comprising officials including heads from relevant ministries, departments, and civil society organizations.

Thereafter, during the 64th Session of the Lhengye Zhungtshog, the proposals submitted by the working group concerning the reservations were endorsed and submitted to the Parliament for deliberation. Accordingly, for the purpose of the present deliberation, although Bhutan had earlier entered four reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, these reservations were recorded collectively without adequate justification. As a result, they came to be regarded as

unacceptable. In this regard, of the four existing reservations, three are proposed for modification, while one is proposed for withdrawal.

The amendment required is as follows:

With regard to Article 18, paragraphs 1(a) and 2, the objections raised relate to freedom of movement and residency. In accordance with Bhutan's citizenship laws, it is not stipulated that persons with disabilities face barriers in acquiring citizenship. If the eligibility criteria for citizenship are fulfilled, both persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities have equal access to citizenship. However, since the present objection is broadly framed, the Convention gives rise to an impression that persons with disabilities are subject to certain limitations compared to others. If such a situation is interpreted as being inconsistent with international law, it is stated to be unacceptable. As a result, many State Parties have entered reservations on this issue.

The purpose of the reservation is not to restrict the rights of persons with disabilities, but to align the Article with national laws. Therefore, it has been proposed that a general interpretative declaration be made in place of a reservation to Article 18.

With regard to Article 23, which concerns respect for home and the family, it was previously assumed that if a person with a disability gave birth to a child, the child would also be recognized as having a disability. However, upon review by the Ministry of Health, it was found that there is no scientific evidence to support this assumption.

Secondly, the existing marriage laws and policies in the country, including the National Health Policy 2011 and the Disability Policy 2019, provide for reproductive rights and legal capacity. Therefore, it was submitted that the earlier reservation also contradicts domestic laws.

Thirdly, as the country has extended support to CEDAW, the international community, and the rights of the child, maintaining this reservation would be inconsistent with those commitments. Accordingly, it was proposed that the reservation be withdrawn. With regard to Article 27, concerning work and employment, and the participation of persons with disabilities in workers' and trade union organizations, at the time the reservation was entered, Bhutan indicated that it did not accept this Article. This was based on the understanding that the provision in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) does not require the establishment of workers' or trade union organizations specifically for persons with disabilities, but rather that, where such organizations exist, persons with disabilities should be allowed to join them.

Furthermore, although Bhutanese laws do not explicitly provide for "trade unions," there are workers' associations. These associations perform functions similar to trade unions, and there is no provision that prohibits persons with disabilities from becoming members. Therefore, the reservation has been clarified and amended accordingly. Under Article 29, concerning participation in political and public life, if persons with disabilities are to participate as candidates and office bearers in political and public institutions, they must, first, enjoy the freedom and right to form and join political parties.

Second, they should be able to vote freely without coercion and, if they contest elections and are elected, have the opportunity to assume office and discharge public functions, regardless of the level or rank of the position. They should also be provided with reasonable accommodation, including necessary support measures, both to enable them to cast their vote and to effectively perform their duties in employment. As the earlier reservation appeared not to recognize these aspects, the reservation has now been amended to state that implementation will be carried out in accordance with the country's own electoral system and other relevant domestic laws.

The Committee fully endorsed the clarification and reservation submitted by the . However, in Dzongkha, the term (དྲགས་ཆ་) is generally understood to mean objection, opposition, or rejection. The Committee submitted that in the present Convention, the term, (དྲགས་ཆ་) is used to refer to a “reservation.” Therefore, instead of using the term (དྲགས་ཆ་), a more appropriate Dzongkha term should be used for “reservation.” Similarly, although (གསལ་བསྐྱེད་ཆ་) is commonly understood to mean notification or announcement, in the context of the present Convention it refers to a “declaration.” Hence, instead of using (གསལ་བསྐྱེད་ཆ་), a more appropriate term should be adopted. Accordingly, it was submitted for the House's deliberation and approval.

While deliberating on the Convention, on Article 18, paragraphs 1(a) and 2, some Members submitted that, in the current declaration, in addition to the phrase “in accordance with the national citizenship laws,” the words “in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan”

should also be included. However, other Members argued that it was not necessary to mention each law individually in the declaration, and that it would be sufficient to state, in general terms, “in accordance with the laws of the country.” The requested to retain the declaration as proposed by the .

On Article 23, which concerns respect for home and family, the and the Committee submitted that paragraphs 1(a) and 1(c) of this Article should be withdrawn as recommended by the Committee. Furthermore, with respect to Articles 27 (work and employment) and 29 (participation in political and public life), it was proposed that the reservations made by the and other relevant laws be considered together and harmonized, so that all provisions are aligned consistently.

After that, the House directed the Committee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Task force and other relevant agencies to sit together and submit a uniform report to the House on 08/12/2025 and with this, ended the deliberation. **(On 16th Day of the 10th Month of Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 5th December, 2025.)**

4.6 Adoption of Amendment of Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights and Foreign Relations Committee, Member from Khatoed-Laya constituency presented a revised report after reviewing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, task force, and Office of Cabinet Affairs as directed by the House.

During the presentation of the review report, the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee reported that all declarations be implemented in conformity with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and other relevant domestic laws. Accordingly, when the House deliberated on a revised proposal on paragraphs 1(a) and 2 of Article 18, concerning freedom of movement and nationality, it was adopted through a show of hands as proposed by the Committee.

Further, with respect to paragraphs (b) and (c) under Clause 1 of Article 23, the House approved their deletion in line with the Committee's recommendation. In addition, regarding Article 27, paragraph 1(c) on employment, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment submitted that the reservation to Article 27 should be withdrawn, as the employment rights of persons with disabilities are already covered under existing labour legislation, and therefore there was no need to maintain a separate reservation.

However, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade and some Members requested that the reservation be retained as proposed by the Committee. Consequently, the House directed that, further consultations be held between the Committee and the concerned Ministries and that a report be resubmitted. Following this directive, the reservation was ultimately approved in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Committee.

Thereafter, with regard to Article 29, paragraph 1(b), the reservation relating to participation in political and public life was approved in accordance with the proposal submitted by the Committee.

Following this, while voting on the Convention to ascertain the support of the House, all 39 Members present in the House voted unanimously in support, thereby ratifying the Amendment of Reservations of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Subsequently, the Speaker directed that, in accordance with established procedural requirements, the Secretariat of the National Assembly prepare and forward the Convention to the National Council for further review. Thereupon, the deliberation on the matter was formally concluded. **(On the 19th Day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 8 December 2025). (Voting result is attached in Annexure VI)**

5. Resolutions on Committee Reports

5.1 Review Report on Annual Anti-Corruption Commission Report 2024-2025

The Chairperson of the Good Governance Committee (GGC), Member from Khamdang Ramjar constituency presented the Review Report of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Report 2024-2025 as follow:

He reported that despite challenges posed by COVID-19 and limited resources, the third commission of the ACC has strengthened Bhutan's national integrity system through digital transformation, enhanced institutional capacity and stronger cross-sector collaboration.

He also reported that this Annual Report 2024-2025 is the 18th report submitted in accordance with Article (27) of the Constitution of the

Kingdom of Bhutan & section 169(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act of Bhutan (ACAB) 2011.

He said that the Bhutan's global standing improved significantly, rising from 24th to 18th and the National Integrity Assessment (NIA) score also rose to 81.30%. Further, he mentioned that in the reporting year, general advocacy marked the highest outreach of 22,922 individuals and there is integrity program for students starting from ECCD till college level. They have also trained the Youth not engaged in Education, Employment, or Training.

Similarly, general advocacy sessions were delivered across 122 Gewogs and the ACC provided specialized in-person thematic training to sectors with high corruption vulnerability. A total of 28 trainings were conducted.

Further, he reported that during the reporting year, the ACC received 364 corruption reports in total where abuse of function dominated over half of all merited cases. It was reported that Thimphu remains the corruption hotspot from Dzongkhags and Ministries & Gewog Administration top institutional offenders. In the last five years, only 10.40% (199) of corruption reports qualified for investigation, mostly involving civil servants.

Moreover, he reported that regarding the mode of report, the ACC's website remained the most preferred channel followed by Walk-in submissions while *myACC App* is least used. It is also reported that reports were highest of the known sources and most of the reports were submitted by men.

He reported that they have launched the TRUST (Tripartite Realtime Update Sharing Terminal) data sharing system for real-time updates among Office of the Attorney General, Royal Audit Authority & Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Chairperson informed that the ACC has completed 39 cases this fiscal year and investigation timelines improved significantly to 52.47 days. Further, the clearance rate reached 63.93% and the ACC also carried out 60 search operations.

Similarly, it was reported that in the last year alone, 485 individuals were implicated, largely due to one major monument-fees case, with “participation in an offence” and “abuse of function” being the most common charges.

He reported that in the past five years, the prosecution rate stood at 54.31%, while conviction rates remained consistently high at 84.58%. Moreover, restitution efforts prayed for Nu. 481 million in the last five years, contributing to a total of Nu. 3.984 billion prayed Since 2006.

He said that backlogs have sharply improved where cases awaiting investigation dropped from 132 in 2020 to 32, while 49 cases are under review by OAG and 18 cases are currently on trial.

He reported that although the annual attrition rate of the Commission fell sharply from 17.95% to 8.33%, the five-year average remains high at 12.8%, indicating ongoing challenges with staff retention. Further, he mentioned that in terms of partnerships, it has strengthened collaboration

with key agencies like the OAG and RAA, and further, the ACC engaged in 18 networking initiatives with national and international partners.

He reported that the National Integrity Assessment revealed, gift-giving is accepted as “customary”, while 50% of youth show acceptance of lying and cheating. It is also reported that the law enforcement agencies remain among the most systemically vulnerable institutions. A major weakness is a significant gap between the high levels of responsibility and their low remunerations.

During the deliberation on the report, Deputy Speaker and some Members expressed gratitude to the Anti-Corruption Commission in reducing and preventing corruption. The Finance Minister expressed his satisfaction with the corruption rate to 56 percent as reported and expressed the full support of the to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The Member from Radhi–Sakteng Constituency noted that while Developing Accountable, Moral, Trustworthy, and Successful Individuals (DAMTSI) programme, which covers students from ECCD to the college level, there appears to be a gap in provision for classes PP to IV and sought clarification on this matter. Additionally, Members from Bartsham-Shongphu and Kengkhar-Weringla Constituencies expressed concerns over the growing public tolerance of corruption and youth accepting cheat or lie under certain circumstances. They further highlighted the Royal Civil Service Commission to ensure the regular provision of human resources, as the ACC currently relies on contract employees for approximately 23% of its workforce.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Committee clarified that the Committee has submitted a recommendation to integrate ethics into the national curriculum, considering concerns regarding public perceptions of corruption and the willingness of youth to engage in cheating or dishonesty. Likewise, the Minister for Education and Skills Development clarified that integrity programmes are in place for students from Class PP through the college level. These include the Cheychey Scout programme for Classes PP-III, the Nachung Scout programme for Classes IV-VI, the Nazhoen Scout programme for Classes VII-XII, and the Rover Scout programme at the college level, all of which form part of integrity program. In addition, a Scout Training Manual for adults and Scout Leadership Training programmes for scouts are also available.

During the deliberation on the Anti-Corruption Commission’s first recommendations “enforce stricter sentencing standards, with higher penalties where senior officials are involved”, the Member from the Radhi–Sakteng Constituency, along with several other Members, expressed support for the proposals. However, they also stated that over time, the absence of detailed rules, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and adequate authority within existing laws has created challenges for public and civil servants in delivering timely and effective public services. The Member further recommended a comprehensive review of legislation and procedures, emphasizing the need for strong political will to address these issues.

The corruption rate among civil servants stands at 26.68 percent, with the highest incidence reported from the Dzongkhags. Members noted

that a significant proportion of ACC staff are young and emphasized the importance of having personnel with relevant experience and expertise. They further highlighted that the misuse of authority is most prevalent in areas such as recruitment, transfers, and school admissions, underscoring the need to strengthen and digitalize these systems.

In response, Committee Members reiterated the importance of implementing the recommendations, noting that if senior officials misuse their authority and fail to model ethical behavior, efforts to reduce corruption will be ineffective. They also added that the DAMTSE program should not be limited to schools; instead, it should be developed in consultation with the Royal Civil Service Commission and extent to all civil servants as well.

Furthermore, the House supported and adopted the additional recommendation put forward by the Member from Nyisho–Sephu constituency and other Members to require a detailed report on the implementation status and outcomes of the adopted recommendations to be presented in the next session.

The Minister for Education and Skills Development clarified that instances of misuse of authority related to school admissions fall under the Ministry’s purview. She added that, beginning next year, student admissions will be processed through the EMIS system to ensure greater transparency and accountability.

In response, the Home Minister and the Member from Radhi–Sakteng Constituency proposed a new recommendation. However, the Prime

Minister stated that the is already addressing the matter and that it did not need to be included. In addition, the Member from Monggar Constituency highlighted the challenges in implementing the Committee's recommendations due to limited resources. The Member requested the to provide the necessary resources and further recommended the use of the Universal Service Fee (USF) to improve basic services in remote areas. This recommendation was accepted and endorsed by the House.

Moreover, the House emphasized the need to review the first recommendation of the ACC, along with related issues such as the agency's organizational structure, internal monitoring mechanisms, and the procurement system. The House adopted this decision by a show of hands.

Regarding the second recommendation of the ACC "institutionalize preventive systems by mandating AIMS across all budgetary agencies", the Member from Bartsham–Shongphu Constituency stressed the importance of including all agencies, rather than only those that utilize the budget. The Member further stated that corruption can be prevented by strengthening the Internal Control System.

In response, the Committee Member from Bji–Kartsho–Uesu Constituency clarified that higher levels of corruption are observed in agencies that use the budget, which is why the recommendation focuses on those agencies. The Member added that if this approach is implemented, it may encourage other agencies to follow suit and therefore requested that the Committee's recommendation be retained.

Subsequently, on the first recommendation of the Commission, the House tasked the Committee with making additional changes. For the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh recommendations of the Commission, the House instructed the Committee to review again and report during the Winter Session.

The Opposition Leader and several other Members pointed out that corruption tends to be higher in areas where civil servants remain posted for long periods. Therefore, they recommended setting a minimum posting period of five years and a maximum of seven years for civil servants in a particular location.

In the Annexure of the Commission's report, the House noted that details of some agencies with corruption were clearly reflected with their names, while for other agencies only the names were mentioned, which was found to be inconsistent. Therefore, the need to maintain consistency in the report was emphasized. The House also noted that some cases were referred by the Commission to the Royal Audit Authority, while others were forwarded to the courts, which often take longer to resolve cases. As such, the House requested the development of a collaborative strategy to ensure faster case resolution. Furthermore, it was recommended that corruption among civil servants is often linked to financial difficulties and therefore called for a review of the country's economic situation with a view to increasing civil servants' salaries. The House highlighted that this recommendation to be reflected.

Although the Minister of Finance expressed support for the Committee's recommendations, he proposed revising the phrase "committee urges the

National Assembly to immediate establishment” to a more appropriate and accurate term. He further noted that digitalization alone cannot eliminate corruption, but highlighted that the implementation of ePEMS has significantly contributed to improving accountability.

Additionally, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment clarified that the 7th phase of the project, funded through the Universal Service Fee (USF), has been completed, covering 27 villages. He added that planning for the 8th phase is currently underway.

Lastly, after a long deliberation on the review report, the House adopted the 7 recommendations of ACC as follows:

1. Enforce stricter sentencing standards, with higher penalties where senior officials are involved, to reinforce deterrence and accountability.
2. Institutionalize preventive systems by mandating AIMS across all budgetary agencies, with biannual assessments that capture both preventive efforts and actual corruption occurrences.
3. Introduce an Ethical Leadership Token system, linked to performance-based budgeting and the MaX framework, to incentivize integrity and accountability in leadership.
4. Strengthen integrity in law enforcement and regulatory agencies, embedding anti-corruption values in their mandates and culture.
5. Integrity-based resourcing, ensuring that liabilities and living costs do not structurally undermine enforcement roles, while holding high-risk positions to the highest standards of accountability.

6. Specialized capacity-building resources, particularly in digital forensics, risk-based audits, and cross-border enforcement.
7. Preventive systems, including mandatory integrity vetting and systematic rotation of high-risk posts.

The Good Governance Committee submitted that Committee has noted some serious concern regarding Anti-Corruption Commission’s findings which consistently identified Finance, Procurement, Ministries, and Local as entrenched sources of corruption. With 33.9% of cases arising from financial management, 33% from procurement, and abuse of power accounting for 51.2% of offences, the evidence confirms systemic governance failures, driven largely by excessive human discretion and high-risk human interfaces. Civil servants and Local officials remain the professions most frequently implicated.

The Committee urges the National Assembly to mandate the immediate establishment of a single, secure, end-to-end digital platform that enforces:

- 1.1 Mandatory e-payments, eliminating cash handling and reducing person-to-person transactions vulnerable to manipulation;
- 1.2 End-to-end e-procurement, ensuring full transparency, audit trails, and minimal human intervention at critical decision points;
- 1.3 Automated digital approvals, and drastically reducing discretionary authority and eliminating opportunities for undue influence; and
- 1.4 Transparent, integrated HR systems, enabling objective, rule-based personnel management with limited subjective human involvement.

1.5 The recent assessments such as National Integrity Assessment (NIA), National Corruption Barometer survey (NCBS), and Youth Integrity Assessment reveals deep-rooted vulnerabilities in our governance culture. Public perception of corruption has risen sharply from 14% in 2012 to 38.3% in 2022, with 39% of citizens now reporting being “accustomed” to corrupt practices. Gift-giving is widely normalized (45%), reframing bribery as cultural reciprocity.

The Youth Integrity Assessment 2022 shows alarming trends: 50% of youth admit they would lie to parents or teachers, and 45% would cheat if no harm is perceived. Meanwhile, media scrutiny remains weak, with only 13% of journalists engaging in analytical reporting and just 3% in investigative journalism, allowing misinformation and cynicism to thrive.

Therefore, GGC urges the National Assembly to embed ethics, integrity, and anti-corruption principles across the national curriculum and all public service frameworks.

After that, the House adopted 4 additional recommendations submitted by Members as follow:

1. The Committee shall present an action taken report on the Anti-Corruption Commission’s resolutions adopted in the previous session during the upcoming winter session.
2. The Universal Service Fee (USF) under BICMA shall be utilized to enhance infrastructure development in remote areas.

3. The Committee to review the feasibility of establishing an Administrative Tribunal.
4. The Anti-Corruption Commission, the Royal Audit Authority, and the Office of the Attorney General should clearly define their powers and functions in accordance with the law and established procedures. They must ensure that neither the courts nor the institutions themselves adversely affect individuals who have been acquitted, and that the seizure and release of prohibited assets, financial accounts, and related matters are carried out promptly and without undue delay, in line with the institutions' responsibilities.

In total, 13 recommendations were approved by the House. The Committee was tasked to review these recommendations and submit its report to the upcoming winter session.

The discussion concluded by directing the Committee to review the Structural Plan of the Agency by selecting some ministries and agencies as an addition to the first recommendation of the ACC and directed the individual ministers to kindly inform their individual ministries regarding the discussions held today. **(On 16th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year corresponding to 5 December 2025)**

5.2 Review Report of Tourism Policy

The Member from Chokhor-Tang Constituency, serving as the Deputy Chairperson of the Economic and Finance Committee presented the review report of Tourism policy as follow:

“In accordance with the directives issued during the preliminary meeting of the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament, the Economic and Finance Committee was mandated to review Tourism Policy and submit its findings to the Parliament. In carrying out this mandate, the Committee engaged in consultations with relevant stakeholders, undertook field visits across approximately eleven Dzongkhags, and held meetings with key institutions, including the Department of Tourism; the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators; the Guide Association of Bhutan; the Handicrafts Association of Bhutan; the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Bhutan; Bhutan Airlines; Tashi Air; the Department of Culture; the Department of Immigration; and the Department of Revenue and Customs.

Accordingly, the Committee submitted the following ten observations and nine recommendations

1. Law and Policy

Under the current SDF-focused policy framework, tourism demand has generally declined across the country, with businesses in central and regional areas being disproportionately affected. Furthermore, a growing mistrust between domestic and international tour operators has been observed. Frequent and unpredictable policy changes have also created an environment of uncertainty, making long-term planning and sustainability difficult.

Moreover, it is submitted that a lack of uniform interpretation of the Tourism Act and Regulations (2024) among relevant agencies has led to challenges. These arise from both ambiguities in legal provisions and the absence of clear implementation guidelines.

2. Governance and institutional coordination

Within the country, tourism-related responsibilities are distributed across multiple agencies, including the Department of Tourism, the Department of Immigration, aviation authorities, financial institutions, and Local s. In this context, divergent interpretations of laws by these agencies, inconsistencies in regulatory procedures, delays in approvals, and a lack of clear directives have led to significant coordination challenges. Furthermore, the absence of a central coordinating authority has made it difficult to assign accountability and ensure the effective implementation of policies and programs.

3. Border towns

At present, although a 24-hour concessionary period under the Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) is provided for border towns, it has not resulted in significant economic benefits for local businesses. This is because tourists largely utilize the concessionary period for travel within the country and, when traveling abroad, use it only for a single day. Consequently, the majority of the concessionary period is being used for transit purposes rather than contributing meaningfully to economic activities within the border towns.

This indicates a need to reassess the design and effectiveness of the 24-hour SDF concession mechanism to enhance its contribution to the economic development of border towns.

4. Operational Mechanism and Revenue Leakage

As tourists increasingly make direct arrangements without engaging Bhutanese tour operators, the benefits are primarily accruing to foreign tourism service providers. Consequently, revenue and tax leakages are increasing. Moreover, a significant number of foreign operators are not being effectively monitored or regulated in compliance with the law, resulting in foreign currency inflows remaining unaccounted for within the country.

It is submitted that the market access and revenue opportunities of Bhutanese tourism enterprises are increasingly being lost to foreign operators, thereby adversely affecting competitiveness and long-term sustainability. As a result, tourism's potential contribution to the national economy is undermined, leading to declines in employment and growth opportunities. Furthermore, this trend poses risks to the foundational principle of 'High Value, Low Volume' tourism and negatively impacts the overall quality and integrity of the tourism sector.

5. Infrastructure and Regional Diversification

Tourism activities within the country are predominantly concentrated in Thimphu, Paro, Punakha, Wangdue, and Bumthang, which together account for more than 95 percent of overall tourism activity. In contrast, the central and eastern Dzongkhags lack essential tourism-

related infrastructure, including accommodation, hospitality services, handicraft enterprises, transport services, and immigration facilities. This absence of supporting facilities limits the capacity of these regions to benefit from tourism and constrains private sector investment, thereby hindering the infrastructure development necessary for the expansion and diversification of the sector.

It is submitted that uneven tourism development across regions has led to an unequal distribution of benefits. In the western Dzongkhags, while accommodations and supporting facilities are adequate, the low number of tourists has resulted in the underutilization of existing infrastructure, leading to Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) in the hotel sector. Overall, tourism development in the country remains insufficient, and achieving economic growth alongside regional development equality continues to be a major challenge.

6. Permit and Digital Transaction System

As tourists and foreign tour operators directly pay visa processing fees and the Sustainable Development Fee (SDF), the risk of revenue leakage has increased. Furthermore, the multiplicity of procedures for foreign currency transactions has adversely affected transparency and accountability. The absence of a standardized system for licensing, fee collection, and service facilities has further compounded these challenges.

7. Aviation Connectivity and Airfare

Compared to the rest of the South Asian region, airfares in Bhutan are relatively high, which reduces air connectivity and discourages tourists

from visiting. Due to a lack of transparent and regulated pricing, rising airfares pose a risk to tourism development by directly contributing to a decline in visitor arrivals.

8. Community Participation and Diversification

It is submitted that tourism in Bhutan continues to be heavily concentrated on cultural sightseeing and trekking, with limited diversification into other niche experiences. Participation by homestays, artisans, and rural communities has been declining, leaving many potential local beneficiaries under-engaged.

9. Hotel Industry

Bhutan's hotel sector, comprising 409 registered 1–5 star establishments, has seen occupancy decline from 37.2% pre-COVID to 17.4% in 2024. The sector employs around 13,000 people, many of whom face uncertain job prospects due to reduced tourist demand.

Lower occupancy and revenues have strained the ability of hotels to service loans, contributing to rising Non-Performing Loans (NPLs). The resulting financial pressures increase unemployment risks and may drive skilled workers abroad, threatening the sector's sustainability and broader tourism-driven economic growth.

10. Lack of Policy on Culture and Nature-Based Tourism

Culture-based tourism is widely prevalent across the country; however, despite its predominance, there are no specific policies or guidelines to determine which areas should be accessible to tourists. Moreover, there

is a lack of clarity regarding the permitting of activities such as rafting and fly-fishing as tourism-based enterprises.

It is submitted that, in the absence of enabling policies and guidelines, there is a risk of failing to capitalize on valuable resources to promote tourism on a wider scale.

In line with the above observations, the following nine recommendations were submitted:

1. Legislative Reforms

It is recommended to review the Tourism Levy Act of Bhutan 2022 and make it more comprehensive by clearly defining institutional roles, pricing instruments, licensing processes, regional development guidelines, and governance and accountability mechanisms. This revised legislation should provide a coherent legal framework to streamline operations, enhance transparency, and support equitable regional development. Meanwhile, the Tourism Rules and Regulations 2024 should be maintained as a transitional framework only until the new Act is enacted, ensuring continuity in regulatory oversight during the reform process.

2. SDF Adjustments

It is recommended to establish a flexible and adaptive SDF (Sustainable Development Fee) framework that strengthens the responsiveness of Bhutanese tourism to market dynamics. This should include introducing market-oriented instruments—such as group discounts, long-stay

incentives, and seasonal concessions—targeted specifically at the central and eastern regions to boost occupancy, improve regional dispersal, and optimize the utilization of hotels and restaurants.

Simultaneously, the SDF rate should be clearly aligned with legislation to ensure market clarity and confidence. This can be achieved by amending the Tourism Levy Act 2022 to reflect the current USD 100 rate, or by replacing it with a comprehensive Tourism Act that delegates rate-setting authority to the Rules and Regulations. This would allow for timely adjustments based on market conditions and policy priorities. Together, these measures would enhance revenue retention, support equitable tourism development, and strengthen Bhutan’s competitiveness as a destination.

3. Border Town Measures

To address the limited impact of the current 24-hour SDF waiver, the Committee recommended introducing a 72-hour SDF waiver for designated border towns. This mechanism would allow visitors to remain within the border-town zone without incurring SDF charges, while maintaining standard movement controls for travel beyond the zone. This adjustment is expected to enhance economic activity, support local businesses, and better achieve the intended objectives of the waiver.

4. Strengthening Governance

It is recommended to establish a single, empowered Tourism Authority responsible for policymaking, tourism development, licensing, SDF management, and payment systems. The Authority should also implement

inter-agency Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for visa clearance, SDF administration, aviation coordination, and product approval. This would ensure streamlined operations, clear accountability, and efficient governance across the tourism sector.

5. Improving Operational Systems

It is recommended to mandate that all visa applications be linked to a licensed Bhutanese operator or individual to ensure proper coordination and oversight. To support this, a single-window digital platform should be developed to integrate visa processing, SDF payment, booking verification, safety monitoring, and operator services. Such a platform would streamline operations, enhance transparency, improve the visitor experience, and strengthen regulatory control across the tourism value chain.

6. Airfare Rationalization

It is recommended to review the current three-tier airfare pricing policy with airlines to explore a more balanced model, including the adoption of a uniform airfare rate irrespective of nationality to improve tourist arrivals. This should be complemented by closer collaboration with airlines to ensure price transparency and competitiveness.

7. Diversification and Community Participation

It is recommended to develop targeted programs to diversify Bhutan's tourism offerings, focusing on culinary tourism, textile and craft circuits, agro-tourism, wellness retreats, trekking revival, and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) events during the low season.

Concurrently, participation by artisans, homestays, and community-based tourism should be strengthened through tailored incentives and capacity-building initiatives. Together, these measures will broaden the tourism portfolio, enhance local engagement, and promote more equitable and sustainable economic benefits across all regions.

8. Support for Hoteliers

It is recommended that immediate action be taken to stabilize Bhutan’s hotel sector. Low-interest soft loans with deferred repayment will ease financial strain and keep hotels operational. Concurrently, Agencies should resume holding domestic meetings and conferences in hotels, providing guaranteed demand and safeguarding jobs. Operational grants for renovations, hygiene, and eco-certifications will further enhance quality and competitiveness.

Meanwhile, aggressive ESP-funded (Economic Stimulus Program) marketing targeting niche tourism—coupled with MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) promotion and bulk-booking incentives—will drive occupancy and diversify revenue streams.

9. Policy and Guideline for Culture-Based Tourism

Noting the immense potential to promote tourism by capitalizing on Bhutan’s rich cultural and nature-based assets, the Committee recommends the formulation of enabling policies and guidelines by the Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders.

During deliberations on the first recommendation, the Member from the Monggar Constituency, along with other Members, pointed out that the current Tourism Levy Act 2022 primarily focuses on the collection of the SDF. They noted that several aspects must be harmonized with the Act, as tourism revenue is not being fully captured in the national accounts due to leakages.

Furthermore, to align with the Tourism Policy 2024, the Tourism Levy Act 2022 should be reviewed to include institutional responsibilities, pricing mechanisms, visa procedures, regional development guidelines, and governance and accountability measures. These elements must be made fully transparent and clearly communicated. The House subsequently approved this recommendation by a show of hands.

Regarding the second recommendation, the Member from the Khamaed–Lunana constituency, along with other Members, pointed out that it is critical for the to strengthen the SDF (Sustainable Development Fee) policy. Additionally, Members noted that while it is not feasible to revert to the previous rate of USD 65, they requested to maintain the current rate at USD 100. On behalf of the , the Ministers stated that the USD 100 SDF is currently being implemented effectively and without procedural difficulties. Following this submission, the House directed the and the relevant Ministry to review the proposal. Subsequently, the House endorsed the proposal through a show of hands.

As no objections were raised to the third recommendation, the House approved it through a show of hands.

Regarding the fourth recommendation, the Member from the Bartsham–Shongphu constituency and several other Members noted that the primary objective of requesting a comprehensive Act is to formalize a robust governance structure. They expressed concern that if the tourism sector is placed under a single ministry, difficulties in policymaking and decision-making may arise, given that tourism is a commercial sector. Therefore, Members strongly suggested that establishing a clear and well-defined governance structure for the tourism sector is essential.

With the goal of making the sector more efficient and effective, and as recommended by the Committee, the House instructed the to carefully review whether the current Department of Tourism should be retained, reconstituted as a Council, or established as an independent Authority. Following this, the House endorsed the recommendation through a show of hands.

Regarding the fifth recommendation, the Minister for Home Affairs stated that the Department of Immigration operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs and carries out specialized responsibilities. He noted that tourists are monitored from the day their visa is issued; moreover, the Minister informed the House that visa and Sustainable Development Fees (SDF) can be conveniently paid online. Travel permits are typically issued within 72 hours, though in urgent cases, they can be obtained within 24 hours through a fast-track process.

In this regard, the Members of Parliament from the Radhi–Sakteng and Gangzur–Minjei constituencies stated that existing procedural

difficulties primarily arise from Sections 11 and 12 of the Tourism Act and its accompanying regulations; therefore, these two sections require amendment. They further stated that while travel permits may currently be processed by tourists directly, by foreign agents, or by domestic agents, amending the provisions to create greater opportunities for Bhutanese tour operators would yield significant national benefits.

Regarding this matter, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) stated that a Tourism Registration System has been introduced. In addition, the Department of Immigration has integrated the travel permit system, and linking these two systems provides an opportunity to address existing challenges. Following this submission, the House directed the to review the proposal, and the recommendation was adopted through a show of hands.

Regarding the sixth recommendation, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment, and the Member of Parliament from the Sergithang–Tsirangtoed constituency stated that making airfares uniform for domestic tourists, international tourists, and Bhutanese citizens could lead to significant practical implementation challenges. Therefore, they emphasized that the House should deliberate thoroughly before arriving at a decision.

On the same issue, several Members noted that the Association of Bhutanese Tour Operators (ABTO) has raised concerns and submitted reports regarding excessively high airfares. Accordingly, Members requested that the Committee’s recommendations be retained.

Subsequently, the House directed the to conduct a one-time examination, in line with the Committee’s proposal, of the potential benefits and implications for the two airline operators. Following this, the House approved the recommendation through a show of hands.

Regarding the seventh recommendation, the Member from the Wamrong Constituency, the Finance Minister, and the Member from the Nyisho–Saephu Constituency submitted that tourism-related sectors—such as tour operations, restaurants, homestays, and shops—yield significant economic benefits. They emphasized that it is not only vital to involve local communities in promoting and managing tourism development, but that community participation also strengthens local traditions and national culture. Furthermore, by leveraging Bhutan’s unique natural environment, community-based involvement has the potential to contribute substantially to the overall development of tourism in the Kingdom.

Moreover, it was submitted that tourists are attracted to Bhutan’s strong focus on eco-tourism, its pristine national parks, and unique traditions not found elsewhere. As a result, the benefits derived from tourism are becoming increasingly significant. The House adopted this recommendation through a show of hands.

During the deliberation on the eighth recommendation, the Member of Parliament from the Lamgong–Wangchang Constituency, along with several other Members, submitted that if urgent management measures for three-star hotels are not introduced, many will be forced to close.

They noted that the hotel occupancy rate has declined from 37.2% pre-pandemic to a concerning 17.4% under present circumstances.

Furthermore, it was discussed that hotels are facing difficulties in repaying loans, contributing to rising youth unemployment. In this context, Members suggested that if -related meetings and conferences were once again held in hotels, as was the previous practice, it would provide much-needed support. Following these proposals, the House adopted the recommendation through a show of hands.

As there were no objections to the ninth recommendation, the House approved it through a show of hands.

Lastly, the House directed the to take into consideration the nine recommendations submitted by the Committee, along with the views, concerns, and suggestions expressed by other Members. The was further instructed to consult with relevant experts and submit a comprehensive Action Taken Report (ATR) during the next summer session. **(On the 19th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Snake Year, corresponding to 8th December 2025)**

6. Resolutions on Action Taken Reports

6.1 Action Taken Report Regarding Inconvenience Caused by High-Tension Transmission Lines on Private Land

The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources submitted a detailed report on the resolution of the Action Taken Report regarding inconveniences caused by high-tension transmission lines on private land.

The Minister stated that the House had directed the Ministry to resolve the inconveniences caused to the public by high-tension transmission lines on private land and to submit a report to the House, as requested in earlier sessions. The Ministry noted that the report is based on joint discussions with relevant agencies, including consultations held with the Bhutan Power Corporation, the National Land Commission, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport, and other stakeholders.

It was reported that the transmission network currently includes 1,836 km of lines and approximately 5,050 towers. In areas where towers are installed for 33 kV lines, villages face land fragmentation and other inconveniences. However, these issues are not yet officially recorded. The 11 kV and 33 kV lines in rural areas will be shifted as conditions permit.

At present, there are 5,050 towers across the country carrying 66 kV, 132 kV, 220 kV, and 400 kV lines, 1,049 of which are reportedly located on private land.

The Minister informed the House that, following directives from the House as well as orders from the and the Prime Minister, this issue must be resolved in the best interest of the people. Accordingly, the Minister stated that the report's recommendations have been submitted to the Cabinet. He further clarified that while the is prepared to address public demands for shifting poles from rights-of-way, relocating poles for 66 kV lines and above poses significant risks and financial burdens.

The Minister further clarified that if the relocation of poles is not possible, compensation will be provided. In cases where landowners suffer damage due to poles and have no alternative land, they must submit a complaint to the Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC). The BPC and the National Land Commission will then jointly deliberate to arrange for substitute land or other appropriate measures. The Minister noted that these procedures are clearly specified in the report tabled in the House.

During deliberations, some Members submitted that if electricity poles and lines need to be shifted, the costs should not be borne by rural communities. Instead, compensation must be provided. They emphasized that compensation should be differentiated based on whether farmland, orchards, dry land, or houses are impacted. Therefore, it is important to establish clear compensation schemes to avoid inconveniencing the public.

Members further submitted that any compensation or substitute land must be provided to landowners without delay. Without such relief, rural communities would continue to pay land tax on property they are unable to use. Consequently, the Members suggested that land tax exemptions or reductions should also be considered.

It was also submitted that if compensation is paid in cash, electricity tariffs could increase by 6%, with a base tariff rise of 0.3%. Members cautioned that since the Bhutan Power Corporation (BPC) is a profit-making entity as well as a service provider, any tariff increase should not be imposed without a careful review. They requested that the relevant

ministries and agencies thoroughly review these issues to ensure long-term benefits for the people.

Additionally, the Member from Choekhortang Constituency noted that while 19 Dzongkhags are listed as affected, Bumthang Dzongkhag is excluded and would therefore not receive compensation. He pointed out that if the tariff increases for everyone, it would be unfair for Bumthang to pay the higher rate without being eligible for the same benefits. He sought clarification from the Minister on this discrepancy.

The Minister for Energy and Natural Resources clarified that expenditures are handled on a case-by-case basis. He explained that not all pole relocations require compensation; rather, the BPC provides compensation only where genuine inconvenience is caused in areas where lines are already installed.

It was further noted that if new house construction requires the installation of a transformer, the owner must bear that cost. Under the current system, any resulting tariff adjustments must be reviewed by the Electricity Regulatory Authority, as no other alternative exists.

After addressing the various views expressed by Members, the Minister announced that the compensation and land replacement program will be launched at the beginning of this year.

After deliberation, the House endorsed the submissions, and all Members unanimously supported the Ministry's Action Taken Report with a show of hands.

Finally, the House instructed the Ministry to initiate appropriate measures in a systematic manner, ensuring the safety and welfare of rural communities. The Ministry was also directed to raise public awareness on the matter. **(On the 19th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 10th December 2025).**

6.2 Action Taken Report on Incorporating Courteous Communication and Respectful Interaction into Public Service Training Programs

The Member of the Social and Cultural Committee, who is also the Member of Parliament for the Khatoed-Laya Constituency, submitted the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the resolution to incorporate courteous communication and respectful interaction into public service training programs as follows:

Regarding the background and objectives, the Member informed the House that, as per the resolution of the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament, the Social and Cultural Committee was mandated to follow up with the Public Service Delivery Division (PSDD) of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and report on the status of the ATR. He stated that the background, objectives, and justifications for this initiative were discussed in detail during the previous session.

In the report, he mentioned that the PSDD has undertaken a major initiative to professionalize frontline service delivery in alignment with the 13th Five-Year Plan's vision of citizen-centric governance.

This program seeks to strengthen the skills, professionalism, and service mindset of frontline officials who represent the at the first point of

contact with citizens. A budget of Nu. 109 million has been allocated for the program in the 13th FYP under GoI funding.

In terms of training coverage, 392 frontline officials have been trained across five cohorts. These include staff from Integrated Service Centres, the Public Service Contact Centre (1199), medical reception desks, Community Centres, Dzongkhag service desks, and immigration checkpoints. The curriculum focuses on empathy-driven communication, conflict management, digital readiness, emotional intelligence, and professional etiquette. It also introduces global service models and citizen journey-mapping tools to improve service design.

Regarding follow-up mechanisms, pre- and post-training assessments showed significant improvements in knowledge and confidence. A mandatory 21-day practice challenge reinforces behavioral change, and refresher courses are planned to sustain learning and address persistent challenges.

Reported challenges include the difficulty of releasing frontline staff for multi-day training due to workload pressures, varied levels of digital literacy among participants, limited infrastructure in some areas affecting the application of new skills, and the complexity of measuring long-term citizen satisfaction.

Regarding the way forward, it was reported that training will be expanded nationwide, prioritizing high-volume service agencies and Dzongkhags. Service standards will be institutionalized through Citizen Charters and frontline Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Additionally, digital

readiness will be strengthened, and adequate tools will be provided to frontline staff. Service excellence will be embedded into performance management systems, while monitoring will be enhanced through citizen feedback and periodic assessments. Finally, regional study tours will be explored to learn from international service delivery models.

However, the Committee has made several recommendations regarding areas omitted by the Public Service Delivery Division or not included in its current plans. These are:

1. Introduce Training Modules – Integrate courteous communication and ethical conduct into the curricula of training institutes and centers.
2. Conduct Refresher Courses – Provide specialized refresher programs for senior officials and those in higher-level positions.
3. Develop Service Delivery Standards – Establish clear service delivery standards, including defined Turnaround Times (TAT).
4. Extend Training Services – Include police personnel, health workers, investigators, and related agencies to ensure dignified and empathetic interactions within justice and security services.

During deliberations, the Member from Nyisho-Saephu Constituency and other Members submitted that, instead of providing training at additional financial cost, a dedicated subject could be introduced in schools. They argued that if such training were integrated into the curriculum, students would graduate with skills comparable to vocational training. This would enable them to apply those skills immediately upon entering the

workforce without requiring separate training programs. Furthermore, should financial resources become available, refresher and advanced programs could be introduced in alignment with the existing system, providing a significant benefit to the nation.

In addition, it was submitted that providing services is not enough; it is equally important to ensure they are available and delivered efficiently and on time. Members emphasized that in cases where a head of office is absent, the appointed deputies must not be treated as mere substitutes. Instead, they should be entrusted with the corresponding responsibilities and vested with the necessary authority to carry out their duties effectively.

It was also submitted that providing timely services is crucial, as most communications are now conducted online. Furthermore, Members emphasized the importance of training not only frontline workers but also the officers and personnel responsible for the actual delivery of services.

Regarding the Committee's third recommendation, some Members noted that during the tenure of the third , Ministries prepared a Service Charter that emphasized service delivery standards, similar to the Committee's current recommendation. However, they pointed out that the Charter could not be effectively implemented because it lacked 'legal teeth' due to the absence of a Public Service Delivery Act. The lack of such a law makes it difficult to hold agencies accountable, which remains the primary reason for delays in service delivery.

Members sought clarification on whether the Committee had considered the necessity of such an Act. The Committee acknowledged that drafting a Public Service Delivery Act, as suggested by some Members, would be beneficial. However, they informed the House that the matter had not been discussed with relevant authorities during their consultation meetings.

The Committee further clarified that while the law was not discussed, the issue was not neglected. They explained that because the Public Service Delivery Division aims to provide not only training but also periodic monitoring, additional programs, and guidelines for inclusion in annual performance reports, these frameworks are intended to be comprehensive. Therefore, the Committee felt that existing guiding frameworks addressed the relevant aspects without immediate recourse to new legislation.

Accordingly, the House reviewed the four recommendations submitted by the Committee, which were subsequently approved by a majority vote.

Based on these recommendations, the House advised Ministries, Departments, and heads of institutions to ensure that officials under their supervision adhere to these standards. In addition, the House reminded these entities of their responsibility to provide public services efficiently and on time. **(On the 19th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 8th December 2025).**

6.3 Action Taken Report on Crime Prevention and Making Bhutan a

Safe Society

The Minister of Home Affairs presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on Crime Prevention and Making Bhutan a Safe Society. The Minister stated that, regarding the nine recommendations proposed by the Committee, consultations and reviews were carried out in coordination with eleven relevant agencies, including various ministries and departments.

The Minister reported the following:

Regarding the first recommendation on strengthening law enforcement agencies, the Royal Bhutan Police has installed a total of 896 CCTV cameras across Dzongkhags, Gewogs, and Thromdes. It was further reported that CCTV coverage will continue to expand, particularly in larger urban centers and high-risk areas. As a result of this surveillance, positive outcomes have already been observed in crime prevention. Additionally, under the 13th Five-Year Plan, a budget of Nu. 16.255 million has been allocated to strengthen the Police, with an additional Nu. 91 million allocated for the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years to reduce crime at the community level.

From July 2025 to the present, awareness and need-based intervention programs have reached a total of 17,614 individuals, including youth, monastic institutions, and the general public. Furthermore, plans have been developed to procure portable equipment for frontline officials to combat online sexual exploitation and abuse among youth. Efforts to strengthen drug detection through the deployment of sniffer dogs are also underway.

The Department of Law and Order (DLO) reported that, in addition to raising public awareness on community safety, educational programs on human trafficking have been disseminated to high-risk groups, such as taxi drivers, entertainment venue workers, women, youth, and the film industry. Coordination among relevant agencies has also been strengthened to address financial security issues arising from fraud and deception.

Moreover, the DLO, in collaboration with the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA), Bhutan Telecom, the GovTech Agency (formerly DITT), and the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA), has conducted several consultative meetings to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and address emerging challenges.

Regarding the second recommendation on strict alcohol control, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), in collaboration with the private sector, has been reviewing the legal frameworks of various agencies while consulting on challenges related to enforcement. Additionally, between July and September 2025, the Ministry conducted thorough inspections of commercial establishments across Dzongkhags, Gewogs, and other sensitive areas—including offices, schools, monastic institutions, and hospitals.

Furthermore, while the practice of observing Tuesday as a ‘dry day’ (a day with no alcohol sales) was in effect nationwide from 1999 to 2023, the Ministry reported that proposals have been submitted and consultations are currently underway to reinstate it.

Regarding the third recommendation on child protection mechanisms, the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC)—now integrated as a division under the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD)—reported that, in accordance with the Child Care and Protection Act of Bhutan 2011, community- and school-based Child Protection Committees have been established. These efforts are supported by the national child protection helpline (1098), and service delivery is being reviewed and strengthened through integrated services at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH).

Furthermore, the MoESD, through its Department of School Education, has been establishing community-based Child Protection Committees across 288 schools in three Dzongkhags to enhance accountability and internal capacity. Additionally, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry has developed a nationwide online child-care and protection training program.

Regarding the fourth recommendation on youth awareness and engagement, the Ministry reported that Respect, Educate, Nurture, and Empower Women (RENEW) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment have been providing training programs tailored to the diverse needs of young people. Additionally, youth centers across the country continue to provide essential support services and assistance.

Furthermore, through the education and training sectors, winter youth resilience and life-skills programs have been implemented for at-risk youth in middle secondary schools. The health and wellbeing sector has

also been conducting awareness programs in selected schools regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse, including tobacco.

Regarding the fifth recommendation to enhance measures to combat domestic violence, the Minister reported that the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of Bhutan 2013, along with marriage-related laws, is currently under review. A National Action Plan has also been developed to eliminate gender-based violence. Furthermore, work is underway to harmonize the National Gender Equality Policy draft with existing policies on sexual and gender-based violence. To support livelihood generation, skills-development programs such as tailoring and weaving are also being implemented.

Currently, RENEW is promoting gender equality and preventing gender-based violence through education, awareness, and advocacy initiatives. To support this, 14 Community Service Centers have been established nationwide. These interventions have benefited more than 1,800 individuals and have enhanced the community's ability to recognize and respond to gender-based violence and related challenges.

Regarding the sixth recommendation to enhance access to mental health services, efforts are being strengthened nationwide. In this regard, the Ministry of Education and Skills Development recruited 13 new school counselors in July 2025, bringing the total number of counselors across middle secondary schools to 177. Additionally, the Ministry of Health, through the National Health Services, has expanded mental health services to all Dzongkhags.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Royal Command of Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, the Pema Centre Secretariat, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, has been implementing national school programs focusing on mental health, well-being, and the prevention of substance abuse.

Regarding the seventh recommendation to facilitate reintegration into society, Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) are being reintegrated upon their release from the Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre (YDRC) through training, employment, continuing education, and counseling. Notably, Nazhoen Lamtoen has reintegrated 79 such children into mainstream society. Furthermore, children in conflict with the law are being positively engaged through community service diversions, with Nazhoen Lamtoen facilitating 66 diversions to date. The Department of Law and Order will address the matter of the ‘cooling period’ bilaterally at a mutually convenient time.

Regarding the eighth recommendation to assess the need for social media and public space monitoring, the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) has issued a public notification warning TikTok content creators and live streamers to immediately cease ‘extreme punishment shows.’ Formal warnings have been sent to those involved, with legal action threatened for any further violations.

BICMA, in coordination with GovTech, is reviewing and updating the Information, Communications, and Media Act of Bhutan 2018 to address challenges posed by anonymous social media accounts, misinformation,

and emerging cyber threats. This update aims to ensure accountability and public safety while protecting lawful free expression.

BICMA currently takes reactive measures by forwarding criminal cases to the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) and liaising with Meta and TikTok during major incidents. However, while reported content can be removed, there is currently no system in place to prevent repeat offenders from creating new accounts.

During the deliberations, the Member from the Kengkhar–Weringla Constituency, who is also a Member of the Committee, submitted that the report does not adequately reflect several critical issues. These include the budgetary and human resource constraints faced by law enforcement agencies like the RBP, as well as delays in implementing policies and programs, particularly regarding alcohol control. She noted that the report also lacks a comprehensive review of laws concerning domestic violence and child protection. Furthermore, she pointed out the inadequate outreach of youth programs and mental health services in rural areas, stating that structured institutional frameworks were not clearly articulated in the report.

Additionally, the Member submitted that the report does not sufficiently highlight the effectiveness of laws governing social media or the capacity to curb online crimes. She also emphasized that when juveniles are released from prison after completing their sentences, they should be provided with at least one recognized skill-based certificate to support their reintegration. She concluded that these vital issues remain unaddressed in the current report.

The Member from the Nyishog–Saephu Constituency submitted that although the issue of the ‘cooling period’ was discussed during the third session, the present report fails to mention it. Additionally, he urged the to strictly monitor smoking in public areas. In response, the Health Minister informed the House of the urgent need for a comprehensive Alcohol Policy, noting the rise in non-communicable diseases related to alcohol consumption.

Moreover, due to the increase in domestic violence cases, he informed the House that the Ministry of Health is currently formulating a new national policy on alcohol. It was further noted that, for the benefit of the youth, community-based social reintegration programs are being supported by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen’s Office, as well as by civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

In response, the Minister for Home Affairs clarified that most victims of online fraud are individuals with limited education. To address this, the Ministry, in consultation with relevant agencies, has approved an action plan as part of the report. The Minister further explained that if fraud occurs, the first step is to report the matter to the Royal Bhutan Police. Subsequently, the concerned bank account will be frozen, and efforts to recover the funds will be initiated.

In addition, the Ministry is encouraging private homeowners to install CCTV cameras. At the same time, the Royal Bhutan Police are making preparations to provide technological support. Moreover, owing to the security and protection initiatives instituted under the noble guidance of

His Majesty The King, the number of crimes has significantly decreased, with crime rates in 2025 dropping by half compared to 2024.

Regarding the budget of the Royal Bhutan Police, the Minister stated that although the Police continue to shoulder increasing responsibilities related to public safety and security, their budget allocation has been enhanced under the 13th Five Year Plan compared to the 12th Five Year Plan. Furthermore, to further strengthen the capacity of the Royal Bhutan Police, approval has been granted and preparations are underway to enter into a cooperation agreement with the of Singapore for capacity-building support.

Thereafter, the House considered the nine recommendations submitted by the Women, Children and Youth Committee and the Action Taken Report presented by the Minister for Home Affairs; each recommendation was endorsed by a majority through a show of hands. **(On the 21st day of the 10th month of the Male Wood Snake Year, corresponding to 10th December 2025).**

6.4 Action Taken Report on increasing building heights from three to five storeys in all Dzongkhag Yenlag Throms.

The Member of the Environment and Climate Change Committee from the Drametse-Ngatshang Constituency presented an Action Taken Report on increasing the number of storeys from three to five in all Dzongkhag Yenlag Throms. Based on population metrics, this initiative aims to ensure equitable development and improve community livelihoods.

He stated that during the third session of the National Assembly, the House discussed a petition submitted by the Chukha Dzongkhag regarding the restriction of building heights to three storeys (G+2). The Environment and Climate Change Committee was directed to research the issue and submit a report; accordingly, the Committee reviewed the matter as follows:

According to the petition, regulations must be reviewed based on population size to ensure equitable development and improve community livelihoods. After reviewing the rationale, impact, and implementation of the policy, the Committee submitted the following seven observations:

1. Alignment with Legislation: Section 8 of the Bhutan Building Regulation 2023 aligns with Section 300 of the Local Act.
2. Uniform Implementation: The need for consistent policy application across regions.
3. Economic Impacts: The potential financial effects on the community.
4. Infrastructure Readiness: The capacity of current infrastructure to support changes.
5. Attic and Basement Rules: Inconsistent interpretation and application of these specific regulations.
6. Public Sentiment: The general opinion and concerns of the public.
7. Assessment Gaps: A lack of technical, socio-economic, and safety assessments.

Further details are provided in the report submitted to the House.

Committee's Recommendations

1. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT) should constitute a Joint Technical Committee comprising experts from relevant agencies and representatives from the Local .
2. Section 8 of the Bhutan Building Regulations 2023 should be amended to adopt differentiated height limits based on the topography, geographical stability, socio-economic context, risk profile, and infrastructure of each settlement.

During the deliberation, the Chairperson (the Member from the Radhi-Sakteng Constituency) stated that during field consultations in Doksum and Tsimasham, the Committee observed that building more than three storeys is technically feasible. However, since several other factors must be considered, the Committee recommended that the MoIT form a Joint Technical Committee to review the matter further.

The Members from the Lamgong–Wangcha and Nganglam Constituencies noted that inconsistent building heights have negatively affected the aesthetic of Paro town. Members stressed the importance of following a town blueprint to preserve its beauty in the future. Additionally, it was pointed out that soil testing in Bhutan is primarily conducted for bridge construction rather than for buildings, which differs from practices in other countries.

The Members from the South Thimphu and Lingmukha–Toedwang constituencies raised concerns regarding the inconveniences caused by the current structural plan, particularly the land requirements for

buildings of the same height. Members also highlighted implementation issues within the current urban structural plan, noting that while a 30% setback was previously required for construction, that requirement has now increased to 70%. As this issue directly relates to the Committee's second recommendation, Members requested that it be integrated into that recommendation.

However, the Member from the Drameitse–Ngatshang constituency clarified that the issues raised by the two members were distinct. While those concerns pertain to the structural plan, the Committee's mandate was limited to reviewing the restriction that limits buildings to a maximum of three storeys (G+2) in areas without an approved spatial plan. Consequently, the Committee declined to include these issues in its specific recommendations.

The Minister of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT) informed the House that the Ministry is currently addressing these concerns and, if permitted, is prepared to present the structural plan to the House separately. The Minister assured the House that this presentation would clarify the Members' doubts and concerns.

The Member from the Nganglam constituency emphasized that attic regulations should be applied uniformly nationwide. He also pointed out that current challenges largely stem from poor master planning and frequent changes made for temporary convenience. Therefore, he stressed that master plans must be prepared properly and effectively from the outset.

The Minister of MoIT acknowledged the importance of these issues and agreed to consult with the Committee to form a Joint Technical Committee for further review. The Minister also informed the House that letters have already been dispatched to Dzongdas, local leaders, and Thromdes, and that relevant Ministry officials have been directed to review these concerns and provide support wherever possible.

The Member from the Wamrong constituency emphasized the need for the Joint Technical Committee to consider issues related to the “road right-of-way” during its review. However, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT) stated that these concerns differ from the current petition and should be discussed and decided separately.

The Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency noted that people encounter difficulties obtaining thram numbers and land certificates when relocating, and stressed that these issues must be resolved. In response, the Minister of MoIT assured the House that the Ministry would take up the matter and address it accordingly.

The Member from the Lamgong–Wangchang constituency raised concerns regarding unfair practices during building inspections. He noted that while attic construction is officially restricted, some owners were granted occupancy certificates while others were penalized for the same issue. Due to these inconsistencies, he suggested that building monitoring should not be the sole responsibility of inspectors and that the Joint Technical Committee should also be involved in overseeing inspections.

Lastly, the House adopted the two recommendations proposed by the Committee. Following the adoption, the House instructed the MoIT to take note of the views and concerns raised by the Members in addition to the Committee's recommendations and to submit an appropriate report during the 5th Session. **(On the 21st day of the 10th month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 12th December 2025).**

6.5 Action Taken Report on the Implementation of Recommendations regarding the Motion to Strengthen Regulatory Enforcement and Institute a Zero-Tolerance Policy on Pornographic and Violent Online Content in the Kingdom of Bhutan

The Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the implementation of the resolutions from the Third Session as follows:

Regarding the first recommendation to develop a zero-tolerance policy and to monitor and implement existing laws to prevent the spread of sexual content, violent acts, and unethical behavior on digital and social media platforms, the Minister submitted that the Ministry is in discussions with the OCASC (under the Prime Minister's Office) and the GovTech Agency.

Additionally, the National Policy Coordination Division under the OCASC has prepared a draft Information and Communication Policy. This will be consolidated with the e-Governance Policy to develop a more comprehensive National Information and Media Policy for digital governance. It was reported that this drafting process has already commenced and will incorporate specific measures to address

pornographic, violent, and unethical behavior across all information and media platforms.

Regarding the second recommendation to establish an autonomous team with high technical capacity and adequate resources within the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA), the Ministry acknowledged the recommendation and informed the House that discussions have been initiated with the Human Resource Division of the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) to establish a new division. The House was informed that once this division is established, it will significantly enhance the Authority's professional capacity and that efforts to address current capacity gaps are already in progress.

Regarding the third recommendation—calling for the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, to organize nationwide digital ethics and compliance awareness campaigns—the Minister informed the House that the Ministry has actively collaborated and participated in sensitization programs organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs. These campaigns aim to reduce fraudulent activities on internet platforms, the spread of fake news and misinformation, the use of fake identities, and the creation of fraudulent websites that threaten societal security and harmony. The Minister further stated that these advocacy programs have already reached approximately 17,000 citizens, contributing to the national goal of creating a safer digital environment in Bhutan.

Regarding the fourth recommendation—requesting the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment to assess the operational capabilities of the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) and strengthen its independence and responsibilities—the Minister informed the House that the Ministry has proposed to amend the Information, Communications and Media Act of Bhutan 2018. In addition, the Ministry continues to enhance BICMA’s operational capacity through the consistent monitoring of human resources and budgeting, as well as periodic reviews of budgeted activities and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Regarding the amendment of the Information, Communications and Media Act of Bhutan 2018, the Minister informed the House that the GovTech Agency is leading the legislative proposal in collaboration with the OCASC. The Minister expressed confidence that once the Act is amended, existing concerns and regulatory issues will be effectively addressed.

Regarding the House’s recommendation that all relevant Agencies and law enforcement bodies remain vigilant and coordinate efforts to prevent the use of media platforms for promoting regionalism, discord, or content that threatens Bhutan’s unity, peace, and social cohesion, the Ministry—through BICMA—is working closely with the Department of Law and Order (DLO) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Royal Bhutan Police, and social media platforms such as TikTok and Facebook.

The Minister also informed the House that officials from TikTok and Facebook, based in their regional offices in New Delhi and Singapore, were invited to Bhutan and briefed on the nation's laws, rights, freedoms, and privileges. Furthermore, the House was informed that the monitoring of content detrimental to national unity and peace has already been initiated.

Between July and October, 17 instances of social media content deemed detrimental to societal harmony were taken down in accordance with the law. The Ministry assured the House of its zero-tolerance approach in enforcing strict regulations, noting that such content could ultimately pose a threat to national security.

The House subsequently adopted the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the five recommendations submitted by the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment through a show of hands by all participating Members. The House concluded its deliberations and directed the Ministry to present a comprehensive report during the Sixth Session in winter. **(On the 21st Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 10th December 2025)**

6.6 Action Taken Report Regarding the Reinstitution of the Class X Cut-off Point

The Minister of Education and Skills Development submitted an Action Taken Report (ATR) on the reinstatement of the Class X cut-off point. The Minister stated that, moving forward, this will no longer be referred to as a “cut-off point” but will instead be termed “merit-based admission.” In

accordance with the Royal Kasha (Royal Decree) on Education Reform, the national curriculum has been aligned with Cambridge standards, and Bhutan's education benchmarks will henceforth be measured against international standards.

The Minister further reported that the Cambridge framework is utilized in over 160 countries worldwide. With technical support from Cambridge, Bhutan has successfully completed the alignment of its school curricula within eight months, and approximately 800 textbooks have already been prepared.

It was also reported that, as the Cambridge-aligned curriculum is scheduled for phased implementation beginning in 2026, the decision on whether to retain the Class X cut-off point has been temporarily deferred. Following the full rollout, an evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the cut-off point should be maintained or removed based on students' assessment results and the new merit-based system.

During the discussion on the report, several Members, including the representative from the Monggar constituency, submitted that they had suggested the removal of the Class X cut-off point as early as the Third Session, rather than its deferment. Members stated that the Ministry's decision to defer the matter has raised significant concern, leading to extensive deliberations.

Additionally, it was noted that in the current employment market, the minimum qualification required is generally Class XII. Consequently,

some Members requested the Ministry to completely abolish the Class X cut-off point. Others further submitted that as this issue is closely linked to national education policy, it must be deliberated thoroughly over time to reach a concrete and clear resolution.

Accordingly, after ascertaining the support of the House, a majority of Members approved the Action Taken Report (ATR) submitted by the Minister for Education and Skills Development via a show of hands. The Speaker also reminded the Ministry to take note of the views and submissions made by the Members while carrying out its duties. **(On the 22nd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 11th December 2025)**

6.7 Action Taken Report on the Resolution to Provide Support and Amenities to People Residing in Bordering Areas

The Chairperson of the Good Governance Committee, a Member from the Khamdang-Ramjar constituency, presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the resolution to provide support and amenities to populations residing in bordering areas as follows:

He reported that the primary objectives are to gain a comprehensive understanding of the incentives and support mechanisms required for populations in international border areas. This includes engaging with local leaders and citizens to identify their challenges, aspirations, and suggestions for incentivization and retention.

To enhance the livelihoods of highland communities, the provides targeted support and services, including:

- Yak Breed Improvement: Enhancing yak genetics through high-quality breeding bulls.
- Calf Shelters: Constructing secure yak calf shelters to reduce predation losses.
- Infrastructure: Providing water supply facilities and specialized yak wool harvesting facilities.

He also reported that the agricultural sector has supported highlanders with greenhouses for vegetable cultivation, as well as solar and chain-link fencing. Additional incentives, such as the Royal Highland Festival and support for female yak supply and rangeland management, are also being provided.

Despite the incentives currently in place, the field consultations conducted by the Committee revealed that highland communities across all visited gewogs continue to face a wide range of economic, infrastructural, environmental, and social challenges. To address these issues, the Committee submitted the following recommendations:

1. Economic Incentives and Livelihood Strengthening

- Targeted Productivity Grants: Provide seeds, fertilizers, farm machinery, and cold storage units, coupled with training in climate-smart agriculture and the promotion of niche products such as medicinal herbs, saffron, and off-season vegetables.

- **Led Infrastructure Support:** Ensure fully funded, -led implementation of key infrastructure projects—such as chain-link fencing and irrigation maintenance—to address labour shortages and reduce the financial burden on rural households, particularly those maintained by senior citizens managing ancestral homes.
- **Market Access Facilitation:** Ensure guaranteed minimum support prices, procurement of key produce, or subsidized transport to the nearest market hubs.
- **Microfinance and Enterprise Support:** Expand access to microfinance with interest subvention, grace periods, and mentorship for village-based income-generating activities, including handicrafts, small-scale processing, value addition, eco-tourism, and homestays.

2. Connectivity and Physical Access

- **Helipads and Community Helistops:** Develop helipads and community helistops in strategic village clusters to facilitate supply chains, medical evacuations, disaster response, and official movements. This should include airfare subsidies for civil servants posted in these areas.
- **Terrain-Appropriate Mobility Solutions:** Introduce light ropeways, cable cars, and improved mule trails to transport heavy loads efficiently and reduce logistical costs.

3. Human Capital, Education, and Social Retention

- Quality Rural Education: Enhance the quality of rural education by deploying trained and experienced teachers to geopolitically sensitive areas. These efforts should be supported by digital teaching and learning models, along with incentive packages for remote postings.

4. Health, Gender, and Social Services

- Healthcare Deployment: Station qualified medical staff—prioritizing female healthcare professionals—in sensitive border regions to address maternal and women’s health gaps.
- Periodic Health Services: Conduct regular mobile health camps, senior citizen check-ups, and provide inclusive care for persons with disabilities.

During the deliberation on the recommendations, the Member from the Radhi–Sakteng constituency expressed support for the recommendations submitted by the Committee. The Member proposed including an additional sub-recommendation under the first recommendation to address road connectivity and drinking water supply, noting that these services are becoming increasingly essential. Furthermore, the Member emphasized the importance of incorporating a recommendation on mobile connectivity, recognizing its critical role in the modern era.

In this regard, the Minister for Home Affairs expressed support for the Committee’s recommendations and proposed an additional recommendation to initiate various festivals, such as the Royal Highland

Festival, to promote and safeguard cultural heritage and traditions.

Furthermore, to enhance livelihoods and improve the standard of living, the distribution of power tillers was highlighted as essential support.

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock stated that a Traditional Medicine and Biodiversity Center has been established to ensure the sustainable conservation of biodiversity. He further emphasized that highland communities have been identified as a priority under the 13th Five-Year Plan. In addition, provisions have been made to facilitate the trade of products from highland communities, and incentive mechanisms have been introduced to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

After a lengthy deliberation, the House reminded the Ministry of Home Affairs to take note of the issues and concerns raised by other Members on the matter. The House also instructed the Ministry of Home Affairs to take the lead in forming a Joint Technical Committee comprising relevant agencies and the Local . The purpose of the Committee is to identify what kinds of support and facilitation—beyond those already included in existing plans—are required to improve the livelihoods of highland communities and enhance the morale and well-being of the people, considering both the recommendations submitted by the Committee and the views expressed by the Members. The Minister for Home Affairs was instructed to present a comprehensive report to the House during the 6th Session of the National Assembly. **(On the 22nd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 11th December 2025).**

6.8 Action Taken Report on Bar Licensing and Monitoring

A report was presented by the Chairperson of the Women, Children, and Youth Committee, who is also the Member from the Shompangkha constituency, regarding the resolution on the issuance of bar licenses and the requirement for regular monitoring and inspections.

During the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament, alcohol abuse was raised as a matter of significant concern, particularly in relation to the proposer's constituency. Following consultations with the public and relevant stakeholders, it was submitted that the issue is widespread, affecting not only that specific constituency but also various other urban centers. After deliberation, the House entrusted the Women, Children, and Youth Committee to conduct a comprehensive review in coordination with relevant agencies and to submit a report during the Fourth Session.

In line with this mandate, the Committee held consultations with representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Home Affairs; the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI); Thimphu Thromde; and other relevant agencies within the recreational and entertainment sectors. Based on these engagements, the Committee submitted a report outlining both feasible and non-feasible recommendations.

Alcohol-related issues are a serious concern because alcohol contains ethanol, which is globally recognized as a psychoactive substance with harmful effects. Excessive consumption leads to both short-term and long-term health consequences, including liver disease, cardiovascular diseases, neurological disorders, and accidents.

In Bhutan, alcohol consumption has traditionally been an integral part of cultural practices and social interactions; in the past, it was consumed in limited quantities, primarily during ceremonial occasions. However, it has increasingly shifted toward a common and harmful pattern of consumption. Easy accessibility, growing social acceptance, and weak enforcement of existing laws have contributed to escalating health, social, and economic challenges. Moreover, the rising number of alcohol-related incidents underscores the urgent need for coordinated national interventions.

The establishment of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) places strong emphasis on disciplined social systems and responsible behavioral practices as key pillars of Bhutan's sustainable development. In this context, addressing alcohol abuse is a matter of national responsibility and a public health priority. Accordingly, the report underscores the importance of concerted and committed action to mitigate alcohol abuse in the interest of the well-being of the people and the nation.

Recommendations Submitted by the Committee

1. Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE)

- Strengthen Enforcement: Ensure the Department of Revenue and Customs (DRC) and the Regional Offices of Industry, Commerce and Employment (RoICE) strengthen the enforcement of existing regulations.
- Prohibit Subleasing: Strictly prohibit the subleasing of bar and entertainment licenses.

- Blood Alcohol Content (BAC): Reduce the legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit to 0.05%.
 - Mandatory Education: Introduce mandatory education and awareness programs for all license holders.
 - Ara Regulation: Develop clear guidelines for the production and sale of Ara.
 - Compliance Inspections: Require mandatory compliance inspections as a prerequisite for license renewal.
 - Legislative Review: Consider proposing a dedicated Alcohol Control Act if existing regulations fail to achieve the intended outcomes.

2. Ministry of Health (MoH)

- Contaminant Monitoring: Strengthen the monitoring and testing for contaminants such as methanol and bongkreikic acid, particularly in home-brewed beverages.
- Alcohol Content Regulation: Ensure that the alcohol content of Ara does not exceed 40%.
- Healthy Drukyul Initiative: Fully implement the Healthy Drukyul Initiative with a specific focus on the following:
 - Legislative Reform: Formulating a dedicated Alcohol Control Act.
 - Licensing and Enforcement: Strengthening licensing reforms and monitoring.
 - Legal Limits: Reducing the legal Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) limit.

- Age Verification: Reinforcing strict age verification at points of sale.
- Community Engagement: Promoting active community involvement in prevention programs.
- Integrated Care: Enhancing healthcare coordination and support services for those affected by alcohol abuse.
- Public Advocacy: Continuing nationwide advocacy and sensitization programs for responsible drinking.

3. Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

1. Enforcement: Strengthen the enforcement of regulations through Dzongkhag Administrations.
2. Regulatory Mandates: Ensure that Entertainment Licensing Committees (ELCs) adhere strictly to their full regulatory mandates.
3. Ara Control: Strengthen monitoring and control over the sale of Ara.
4. Identity Verification: Require original ID verification for the sale of alcohol and for entry into entertainment venues.

Subsequently, during the deliberation on the report, the Minister of Health stated that the Ministry has been making sustained efforts to address alcohol-related issues. The Minister highlighted that alcohol consumption contributes significantly to mental health disorders, suicides, road traffic accidents, and other adverse incidents, all of which have been occurring at an alarming rate. In response, the Ministry has been implementing a comprehensive range of programs and interventions.

Furthermore, acknowledging that multiple ministries and agencies share the responsibility for enforcing relevant laws, the Minister noted that the Ministry of Health continues to coordinate and consult with these various stakeholders to ensure a unified approach. As a result, action plans have been developed, and the Ministry is currently working on the Alcohol Control Strategic Plan.

Additionally, the Minister acknowledged the importance of raising public awareness regarding alcohol-related issues and stated that such initiatives would be strengthened. With regard to regulating the alcohol content of locally brewed Ara, the Minister noted that enforcing a strict limit—whereby the alcohol percentage does not exceed 40 percent—would be challenging. Nevertheless, he stated that the matter would be further reviewed and pursued progressively.

Furthermore, a Member pointed out that bar licenses are currently not being used by the license holders themselves but are instead being leased to other individuals through sub-leasing arrangements. The Member further submitted that stakeholders have strongly emphasized the need for a clear regulatory framework to control the alcohol content of spirits.

In response to these concerns, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment acknowledged that while such issues are covered under existing rules and procedures, certain gaps remain within the regulatory framework. The Minister assured the House that the issues arising from these gaps would be reviewed and addressed accordingly.

Regarding the three recommendations submitted by the Committee, all three ministries concerned agreed in principle to implement them as proposed. However, the Minister for Home Affairs clarified that the responsibility for monitoring genuine identification documents in alcohol outlets and entertainment venues lies with the Royal Bhutan Police. While the Police currently face challenges due to manpower shortages, the Minister stated that the matter would be incorporated into the regulatory framework and reviewed further.

Accordingly, the House resolved that the should take into consideration the views expressed by the Members, as well as the concerns of the public regarding alcohol issues. The House further directed the Ministry of Health to take the lead in consulting and coordinating with relevant ministries and agencies to submit a clear and comprehensive report on the matter during the Sixth Session of the Fourth Parliament. The resolution was supported by the House through a majority by show of hands. **(On the 22nd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 11th December 2025).**

6.9 Action Taken Report on Improving Mobile Network and Telecommunications Services in Remote Areas

The Member from the Bongo–Chapchha constituency, representing the Good Governance Committee, presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding the resolution to improve mobile network and telecommunications services in remote areas as follows:

He reported that during the Third Session of the Fourth Parliament, the Member from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency raised a critical issue

regarding the persistently weak and unreliable mobile network services in the highland and remote areas of Bhutan. During deliberations, the House mandated the Good Governance Committee to undertake a comprehensive review and submit a detailed report during the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament. Accordingly, the Committee conducted field visits and consulted with various stakeholders to prepare the report.

The report aims to assess the current state of mobile network coverage in remote gewogs, with a specific focus on 4G and 5G services. It also evaluates the alignment of current telecommunications expansion plans with national goals for digital inclusion and equitable development under the Digital Druklyul initiative.

He also reported that the Committee consulted with Soe and Lingzhi gewogs in Thimphu Dzongkhag, Chokhor gewog in Bumthang Dzongkhag, and selected gewogs in Chukha Dzongkhag. Furthermore, the Committee held substantive consultations with the national telecom service providers (Bhutan Telecom (BT) and TashiCell) to scrutinize their coverage metrics, strategic plans, and operational challenges.

The Member reported that during field visits and public consultations, the Committee observed several critical and untenable issues. These included a pronounced disparity in network coverage, the inequitable rollout of 5G services, prohibitive geographical barriers, critical infrastructure deficiencies, and an affordability crisis affecting service equity.

The Committee, therefore, puts forth the following recommendations for the consideration and approval of the House:

1. Prioritize Strategic Investment in Underserved Regions

- National Connectivity Priority Map: Mandate the immediate development and implementation of a National Connectivity Priority Map to identify and target gewogs and chiwogs with the most severe connectivity gaps.
- Financial Subsidies: Direct the allocation of specific subsidies and the strategic utilization of the Universal Service Fund (USF) to finance network expansion in these designated, commercially non-viable areas.

2. Streamline Regulatory and Approval Processes

- Collaborative Approval: Direct the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA) and the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) to collaborate with Local s to simplify and fast-track land-approval and right-of-way procedures for critical telecom infrastructure, treating it as a national priority.
- Single-Window System: Establish a single-window clearance system for all telecom-related project approvals to eliminate bureaucratic delays.

3. Enhance User Access and Affordability

- Device Subsidies: Launch a national initiative to promote and subsidize affordable 5G-compatible devices through public-private partnerships, targeting low-income and rural communities.

- **Tariff Management:** Instruct operators to implement any data tariff reductions in a phased and responsible manner, ensuring that network capacity enhancements are deployed concurrently to safeguard service quality.
- **Accountability:** Mandate BICMA to regularly monitor, audit, and publicly disclose network performance indicators to ensure transparency and hold operators accountable.

During the discussion, the Member from the Khamad–Lunana constituency clarified the Committee’s mention of the absence of mobile network services in the remote villages of Lunana Gewog. He clarified that since 2015, all areas under Lunana Gewog have been receiving network services effectively. He further stated that the difficulties residents previously faced with solar energy during winter (due to heavy snowfall) were resolved with the introduction of electricity during the Fourth ’s tenure. Therefore, he assured the House that these specific issues have already been addressed.

The Member from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency noted that the issue had been raised during the Third Session, leading to the request for the report presented by the Committee. He explained that in high-altitude communities, residents often travel far from their homes (such as during the cordyceps collection season) or move with their livestock, remaining away from their villages for two to three months at a time. When emergencies arise during these periods, access to reliable communication is essential for coordination and seeking assistance.

Consequently, he proposed that a special program for highland communities, such as a Flagship Program, be established to address these unique challenges. He emphasized that this would improve public service delivery by resolving communication barriers and requested that this be included as a new recommendation.

Furthermore, the Member from the Dewathang–Gomdar constituency pointed out that in some remote areas, network towers have been installed in locations where residents on the opposite side receive poor or no signal. This has disrupted connectivity for those communities. He, therefore, urged that network towers be positioned or adjusted to provide multi-directional coverage to ensure better service delivery. Similarly, the Member from the Drukjegang–Tseza constituency suggested that since the report addresses network issues on a nationwide scale, its title should be revised to better reflect its broad scope.

In response, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Employment stated that the is already acting on the Committee’s recommendations and has initiated the Rural Connectivity Program. He emphasized the ’s responsibility to ensure the implementation of such initiatives. He further clarified that the establishment of a Flagship Program would align with the ’s existing plans and activities, making an additional detailed explanation unnecessary at this time.

Accordingly, the House directed the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment to consult with relevant agencies—considering both the three recommendations of the Committee and the suggestions made

by other Members—and to submit a detailed report during the upcoming Summer Session. The resolution was adopted by the House through a show of hands.

The House further directed the Committee to revise the title of the report in both Dzongkha and English by replacing the word “Highlander” with a term inclusive of all areas of the nation, and substituting the word “poor” with a more appropriate term. **(On the 22nd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 11th December 2025).**

6.10 Action Taken Report on the Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2025–26

Based on the resolutions regarding the Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2025–26, the Finance Minister submitted an Action Taken Report (ATR) to the House as follows:

During the Third Session of the Parliament, while deliberating on the Review Report of the Budget Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025–26 and the Review Report of the Supplementary Budget Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024–25, the Economic and Finance Committee submitted recommendations to the for adoption. Accordingly, this report is respectfully submitted to present the ’s responses to those recommendations.

Regarding the Committee’s second recommendation, the Finance Minister reported that the fiscal deficit was initially projected at 6.2 percent of GDP in the original budget. However, due to continuous measures implemented by the Ministry of Finance to enhance revenue

mobilization and rationalize expenditures, and in alignment with the first-quarter update from the Macroeconomic Framework Coordination Committee (MFCC), significant improvements have been recorded. As of 30 September 2025, domestic resources increased to Nu. 76,508 million, resulting in a reduction of the fiscal deficit to 4.1 percent.

Furthermore, regarding the fourth recommendation, the General Reserve must be clearly reflected in the budget to ensure legal compliance with Article 14.3 of the Constitution and Section 62 of the Public Finance (Amendment) Act of Bhutan 2012. This reserve is utilized according to the General Reserve Guidelines 2022 to meet urgent, unforeseen national priorities.

For newly initiated programs without specific initial budget allocations, the Ministry of Finance has introduced a special mechanism for collective funding approval. These allocations remain subject to review and approval by the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) to ensure transparency and accountability.

Regarding the fifth recommendation for Rural Life Insurance, although an initial specific allocation of Nu. 263 million was not made, Nu. 70.1 million has now been provided for previously unplanned activities. To oversee this, the Ministry of Finance—in coordination with the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA), GovTech Agency, National Digital Identity (NDI), the Cabinet Secretariat, and the Ministry of Home Affairs—has formed a Multi-sectoral Steering Committee to monitor budget execution.

Furthermore, a Multi-Sectoral Steering Committee—comprising the Ministry of Finance and other relevant agencies—has been assigned to oversee the planning, budget allocation, and monitoring of these urban poverty alleviation programs, ensuring timely and efficient implementation.

Regarding the Committee’s sixth recommendation on the ‘Third Child Policy’, the House has approved an allocation of Nu. 31.5 million in the national budget. A detailed explanatory report on this allocation has been submitted to the House in writing.

The Third Child Policy program serves as a strategic response to the declining birth rate and the rapid aging of the population. It is also a legally administered intervention that includes children under formal care. Through this program, families who wish to have larger households are expected to benefit from reduced financial burdens related to childcare, nutrition, and health services.

The program will be implemented through a collaborative, multi-agency framework with measures in place to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability. In this regard, the Prime Minister’s Office will provide overall oversight, coordination, awareness and outreach, and risk monitoring.

With support from the Public Service Delivery Unit (PSDU), the Ministry of Health will serve as the lead implementing agency. However, the Department of Civil Registration and Census (DCRC) will be responsible for the verification of birth records.

The Ministry of Finance will facilitate fund disbursement, while the National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) will provide support on matters relating to child welfare. Through these arrangements, the Third Child Incentive Programme will ensure the protection of children's well-being and establish a systematic, efficient mechanism to deliver benefits to eligible families.

It was further stated that the programme is expected to be launched on 5th February 2026, in commemoration of the birth anniversary of His Royal Highness The Gyalsey.

With regard to the seventh recommendation of the Committee, it was clarified that central programmes should not be treated as "deposit works." Instead, such programmes must be implemented through the central system to ensure uniform standards, quality, and technical supervision.

It was further explained that if the central were to implement these programmes directly, challenges could arise due to the limited technical capacity of certain local s. Moreover, since central -implemented programmes cannot be classified as deposit works under Ministry of Finance policies, it has been decided that Local activities must continue to be implemented by the Local s themselves on a regular basis.

Likewise, with regard to the ninth recommendation of the Committee, it was reported that the Economic Stimulus Fund has been incorporated

into the budgetary programme framework for implementation by relevant agencies. Accordingly, the accounting and financial management systems have been put in place and aligned in a proper and compliant manner.

Under the tenth recommendation, it was reported that due to the non-deposit of accrued interest from the weather-based insurance scheme, the budget allocation for the 2025–26 fiscal year initially excluded Nu. 49.5 million. Consequently, after adjustments, the final budget figures amount to Nu. 58,481,217 for the primary programme and Nu. 58,431,717 for other related allocations as reported.

Under the twelfth recommendation regarding the challenges of underutilizing the new development budget, the Ministry of Finance has introduced quarterly monitoring, formal reminder notices, and performance-based accountability measures. A review of the implementation of the new development budget shows that approximately 87.76% of the allocated funds have not yet been utilized.

The issue of capital budget underutilization will be closely examined and monitored by the Ministry of Finance and the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) to ensure proper scrutiny and assessment.

Based on the Committee’s review and recommendations, the House was informed that as of 18 July 2025, challenges related to the underutilization of the new development budget and the non-deposit of allocated funds are being addressed. The relevant agencies are implementing quarterly

monitoring, reminder systems, and performance-based accountability measures.

Based on the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2024–25, it was reported that approximately 87.76% of the new development budget remained unutilized.

Accordingly, under the thirteenth recommendation, it was reported that coordination has been undertaken with the National Land Commission (NLC) and related agencies for the proper management of non-tax revenue from individual sources. These efforts aim to consolidate records and ensure the accurate verification of such revenue streams.

Finally, under the fourteenth recommendation, it was reported that the planned 500 kW micro-hydropower project in Lunana has not yet been implemented. Accordingly, the House requested the submission of official verification and related supporting documents from the , as per the resolution passed.

While deliberating on the ATR, the Member from the Bartsham–Shongphu constituency submitted that there are instances where centrally controlled activities are not implemented in certain areas, causing inconvenience to the public. He further noted that a lack of effective coordination between ministries and relevant agencies has hampered the commencement of projects, leading to difficulties for local authorities and Members of Parliament. Moreover, in some cases, tenders are completed, but because authority is retained by the Central , it has become difficult to achieve the desired outcomes.

On this matter, the Member from the Radhi–Sakteng constituency stated that the Central should provide clear guidance and support to local authorities regarding planned activities and the proper allocation of funds. He emphasized that funds allocated to the Ministry of Education should be utilized effectively to develop quality educational facilities, prioritizing projects based on need and strategic importance to ensure maximum impact.

The Finance Minister submitted that out of the total Nu. 34 billion allocated as Block Grants to Local s, Nu. 13 billion was allocated to Gewogs, Nu. 10 billion to Dzongkhags, and Nu. 11 billion to Thromdes.

He further noted that the Central remains prepared to provide human resources, technical support, infrastructure, and budget to Local s based on their technical capacity.

Similarly, under the 13th Five-Year Plan, it was reported that the Small Development Project (SDP) has been upgraded to the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP). A total budget of Nu. 10 billion has been earmarked for these community-focused initiatives, with all activities expected to be planned and executed within the established framework. Furthermore, while the maintenance and repair of Gewog farm roads were previously managed by the Central , it has now been directed that these responsibilities be undertaken by the Local s.

It was reported that due to insufficient capacity at the Gewog level, implementation difficulties remain; in such cases, the Dzongkhags and

the Central must provide necessary support. For example, while projects such as hospitals, National Medical Services, and chain-link fencing were previously planned and executed by the Central, the 13th Five-Year Plan clarifies that both Gewogs and Local s are now responsible for planning and implementing these projects. Consequently, the allocation and use of funds must be transparent and properly managed.

Accordingly, Block Grants are being allocated based on the Division of Responsibility Framework (DRF) and the Local Key Result Areas (LGKRAs). In line with this, it has been clearly stated that the Central must provide support depending on the capacity and financial position of each Local .

In this regard, the Member from the Radhi–Sakteng constituency emphasized the importance of clearly understanding the objectives of budget allocation under the 13th Five-Year Plan through better coordination between the Central and Local s. In particular, it was highlighted that Nu. 38 billion is being implemented by the Central for the benefit of Local s, while Nu. 34 billion is provided as annual grants directly to Local s.

Under the 13th Five Year Plan, education facilities and services, health services, water supply projects, and other Local programs are classified as Project-Tied Works. These programs are implemented through support mechanisms executed by the Central, as submitted.

Furthermore, it was noted that while the emphasized that Local s should prioritize their Annual Grants for education and health services during the current session, a lack of clarity in the Local Annual Grant Guidelines 2024 and annual budget notifications has caused inconsistent understanding among ministries. Concerns were also raised regarding the lack of coordination with Local s on the classification of activities, budget ceilings, and the formulation of joint programs between the Central and Local s.

Consequently, it was proposed that the establish a clear framework for sharing responsibilities between the Central and Local s regarding the allocation of Nu.72 billion in the Local L] budget to ensure transparent planning and budgeting.

In this context, the Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency emphasized that while the Committee had recommended keeping the fiscal deficit below 5 percent, it had already dropped to 4.4 percent within six months. Furthermore, it was noted that the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and revised income tax measures starting in 2026 are expected to create inflationary pressure and crowding-out effects. Therefore, he emphasized that relevant agencies must undertake careful monitoring and review to address these issues appropriately.

At the same time, it was reported that the Central needs to immediately finalize its roadmaps and financial plans. Concerns were raised regarding how the will continue to reduce the deficit over the next six months.

Consequently, the House urged the to take prompt and careful action to address these fiscal gaps.

Lastly, after ascertaining support for the Action Taken Report (ATR) submitted by the Finance Minister, the House approved the ATR by a majority show of hands. Along with this, the House instructed the Economic and Finance Committee to submit all concerns and questions raised by other Members to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry was directed to acknowledge these submissions and carry out its duties accordingly, taking all points into consideration during implementation. (On the 23rd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 12th December 2025)

6.11 Action Taken Report on Commercial Banks Setting Varying Interest Rates Based on Rates Determined by the Financial Institutions Association of Bhutan (FIAB), Leading to Unequal Access to Credit for the Public; submitted by the Economic and Finance Committee.

The Member of the Economic and Finance Committee (the Member of Parliament from the Gelephu constituency) presented the review report on bank interest rates and land valuations as follows:

The Committee submitted a comprehensive review report on bank interest rates and land valuation. In addition, the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA), the Ministry of Finance, and relevant financial institutions are required to submit a coordinated action plan to the Economic and Finance Committee in July 2026. Subsequently, the Committee recommended that the implementation status be reviewed

and that a findings report be presented to the House during the Sixth Session of the Fourth Parliament.

During the deliberation on the report, the Member from the Dramedtse–Ngatshang constituency stated that while the relevant ministries and agencies are discharging their respective responsibilities, rural communities will continue to face difficulties in accessing credit. He emphasized that these challenges will persist unless adequate credit mechanisms, enhanced support, and policy-related barriers affecting citizens in rural and remote areas are addressed.

Furthermore, noting that the Bhutan Development Bank Limited (BDBL) serves a predominantly rural clientele, it was emphasized that the must formulate and implement adequate and effective policy measures to support its operations.

Accordingly, the House directed that the report presented by the Committee shall be given due consideration and implemented by the Ministry of Finance, the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA), and financial institutions. Furthermore, the Committee was directed to take due note of and act upon the issues raised by the Member from the Dramedtse–Ngatshang constituency. The House thereafter resolved that the Committee shall submit a follow-up review report on the same during the Sixth Session of the Fourth Parliament. **(On the 2nd Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 22nd December 2025).**

7. Resolutions on the Re-deliberation of Agreements/Conventions

7.1 Free Trade Agreement between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand

The Member-in-Charge of the Bill (the Minister of Industry, Commerce and Employment) reported that, following its adoption by the National Assembly, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand was submitted to the National Council for review, in accordance with established procedures.

The Minister further reported that, following a proposal from the Governor of Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) to include the city within the scope of the Agreement, the Ministry proposed the removal of Section 2 of Article 1.3. This section previously stated that “this Agreement shall not apply to the Special Administrative Region agreed by the Parties,” alongside a corresponding footnote stating, “For greater certainty, the Special Administrative Region includes Gelephu Mindfulness City in Bhutan.”

The Minister informed the House that the proposed amendments were accepted and adopted by the National Council. He further stated that the Agreement has been returned to the National Assembly for re-deliberation; accordingly, he moved a motion seeking the House’s support for the National Council’s amendment to Section 2 of Article 1.3.

Subsequently, the Member from the Thrimshing–Kangpara constituency, who serves as the Chairperson of the Human Rights and Foreign

Relations Committee, stated that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand had been thoroughly reviewed by the Committee. The Chairperson recalled that during previous consultations, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE) had informed the Committee that Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) was not included within the scope of the Agreement. However, the Chairperson clarified that the removal of Section 2 of Article 1.3 and the associated footnote is acceptable.

The Member from the Tashichhoeling constituency (the Deputy Speaker) and the Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency stated that the concept of a Special Administrative Region should not be limited solely to Gelephu Mindfulness City, and that future autonomous regions should also be considered. They suggested that Section 2 of Article 1.3 be framed more broadly and that removing the specific footnote would serve a greater national purpose. However, the Members sought clarification on whether the removal of Section 2 of Article 1.3 could pose any legal or trade challenges in the future.

In response, the Member-in-Charge of the Bill stated that the policies, systems, and plans for Gelephu Mindfulness City are currently being formulated in alignment with the vision of His Majesty the King, in consultation with global experts. The Member further explained that while the provision was originally included to distinguish the region’s specific administrative status, the Ministry removed Section 2 and the footnote following the proposal for amendment. The of Thailand subsequently signed the Agreement on 15th December 2025.

The Minister further stated that while there is a possibility of establishing autonomous regions in the future, the country will continue to function as one independent nation in alignment with the vision of His Majesty The King and the Diamond Strategy. The Minister clarified that this amendment would not pose any issues.

The Member from the Tashichhoeling constituency (the Deputy Speaker) and the Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency expressed concern that removing Section 2 of Article 1.3 might have implications for other articles and sections of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Members sought clarification on how the Ministry ensured the Agreement aligns with the Application of Laws Act 2024 (GMC Law No. 1), which incorporates elements of Singaporean law and approximately 18 other statutes. The Members emphasized that such clarification is necessary to assist the House in supporting the Agreement.

In response, the Member-in-Charge of the Bill clarified that the Application of Laws Act 2024 (GMC Law No. 1) was specifically enacted to safeguard the country’s sovereignty. He explained that GMC Law No. 1 serves as the primary guiding framework to facilitate and regulate investments in the commercial and industrial sectors.

Subsequently, the House resolved to replace the term ‘གན’འཛིན’ with ‘གན’ཀྱི’ in accordance with Article 10(25) of the Constitution of Bhutan. Accordingly, the House expressed its support through a majority show of hands and formally adopted the Free Trade Agreement between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand.

The Speaker informed the House that, in accordance with established procedure, the adopted Agreement will be submitted for Royal Assent, thereby concluding the deliberation. **(On the 4th Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 24th December 2025).**

8. Resolutions of the Joint Sitting

8.1 Disagreement between the National Assembly and the National Council on the Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024

In accordance with parliamentary procedure, prior to the commencement of deliberations on the Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024, the Secretary General of the National Assembly read out the Royal Kasho to the Joint Sitting.

8.2 Royal Kasho for the Joint Sitting of Parliament

As the National Assembly of Bhutan and the National Council of Bhutan have not reached a consensus on several sections of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024, in accordance with Article 13, Section 8 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, Royal Assent is hereby granted to convene a Joint Sitting of Parliament for proper deliberation and voting on the Bill. **(Granted on the 1st Day of the 8th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year).**

By Warrant Under His Hand

Druk Gyalpo

Following this, the Chairperson of the Joint Committee (Eminent Member Tashi Chhozom of the National Council) introduced the Committee members. She submitted that out of the 182 sections in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of Bhutan 2013, the National Council had proposed changes to 160 sections, while the National Assembly had amended 102 sections. Subsequently, the two Houses could not reach a consensus on 49 disputed sections, necessitating a Joint Sitting. She further explained that the majority of these amendments were required due to translation inconsistencies between the terms ‘negotiated settlement’ and ‘mediation’.

The House then deliberated on each of the disputed sections of the Amendment Bill. With no objections raised for the Preamble and Section 1 of Chapter I, the House approved the Committee’s recommendations by a show of hands.

During the deliberation on Section 2, the Member from Dramedtse–Ngatshang sought clarification on the phrase ‘incidental to arbitration,’ expressing concerns over potential challenges in its implementation. In response, the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee clarified that the phrase was retained from the original Act of 2013 and was not an amendment proposed by the Committee. Following this explanation, the House approved the section.

The House then approved Sections 4, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 30 of Chapter 2 by a show of hands, as proposed by the Committee.

Regarding Section 31, the Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency proposed changes to the English phrasing; however, the House adopted the Committee’s recommendation. Sections 32, 40, 41, 52, and 53 were also approved by a show of hands, as proposed by the Committee.

With regard to Section 54, the Member from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency proposed that the phrase “any other person” be translated as རྒྱུ་མེད་གཞན་གང་རུང་ཅིག་།. Accordingly, the Member recommended adopting the amendment previously proposed by the National Assembly. The House approved this proposal by a show of hands. Subsequently, Sections 56, 62, and 72 were also adopted by a show of hands, as recommended by the Committee.

In Section 100, the Member from Nyishog–Saephu noted an inconsistency between the Dzongkha and English versions. It was proposed that the phrase ‘Within the period of time agreed by the parties, or failing such agreement as determined by the arbitral tribunal’ be accurately reflected in Dzongkha as རྒྱུ་མེད་ཞིབ་ཚོགས་སྡེ་གིས་གཏན་འབེབས་བཟོ་མི་དང་འབྲེལ་ཁ་འཆམ་འབྲུང་མ་ཚུགས་པ་ཅིན་།. Accordingly, the Member proposed adopting the National Assembly’s amendment, which the Committee further revised to རྒྱུ་མེད་ཞིབ་ཚོགས་སྡེ་གིས་དེ་ལྟགས་ཀྱི་ངོས་ལེན་འབྲུང་ཚེ་། the section was then approved. Similarly, Section 101 was also approved after incorporating the same changes made in Section 100.

In Section 107, the Member from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency suggested that the phrase ‘(further proof)’ should be translated in

Dzongkha as རྩོམ་ཐོན་ལུངས་བཞེད་མི་། rather than རྩོམ་ཐོན་ལུངས་སྒྲིག་མི་།. The Chairperson of the Committee clarified that the term had been incorporated from the Evidence Act. Following this clarification, the section was approved as proposed by the Committee.

Sections 118, 119, and 125 were adopted by the House as proposed by the Committee. Regarding Section 134(A), the Member from the Gangzur–Minjey constituency sought clarification on the purpose of inserting the new section. He noted a potential contradiction: while sub-section (1) empowers the Centre to conduct a review, sub-section (2) states that the Centre’s opinion shall not be final. In response, the Deputy Chairperson of the Committee clarified that this provision was drafted in alignment with international best practices.

Following this, the Member proposed an amendment to sub-section (2). Consequently, the Committee revised the terminology from “Scrutiny” to “Review,” and the section was subsequently adopted by the House.

Regarding Section 150(c), the Member from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency pointed out that the term རྩོམ་ཐོན་ལུངས་། was misspelled and should include the letter རྩོ།. He, therefore, proposed adhering to the National Assembly’s amendment. The House accepted the proposal and adopted the section accordingly.

Section 151 and Sections 162 through 178 (excluding Section 173) under Chapter 12 were accepted by the House as proposed by the Committee.

For sub-section (12) of Section 182, the Member from the Tashichhoeling constituency proposed deleting the term “as amended” and replacing the words “Public Servant” with “Civil Servant.” The House accepted the proposal and adopted the section with these amendments.

The House then called for a final vote on the Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024. Of the 67 members present, 65 voted in favour while 2 abstained. Having secured the required two-thirds majority, the Bill was formally passed by the Joint Sitting.

Lastly, the Speaker announced that the Bill would be submitted for Royal Assent, thereby concluding the joint sitting deliberations on the ADR (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025. **(On the 3rd Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 23rd December 2025). (The voting result is attached in Annexure VII)”**

8.3 Disagreement between the National Assembly and the National Council on the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024

In accordance with parliamentary procedure, before commencing deliberations on the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024, the Secretary General of the National Assembly read out the Royal Kasho to the House, which authorized the convening of a Joint Sitting of Parliament.

8.4 Royal Kasho for the Joint Sitting of Parliament

The National Assembly (Amendment) Bill 2024, adopted by the Fourth Parliament, has not been granted Royal Assent. Therefore, in accordance with Article 13, Section 10 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, a Royal Command is hereby issued to convene a Joint Sitting of Parliament for the purpose of proper deliberation and voting on the Bill. (Granted on the 1st Day of the 8th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year).

By Warrant Under His Hand

Druk Gyalpo

Subsequently, the Chairperson of the Joint Committee (the Member of Parliament from the Nyishog–Saephu constituency) introduced the Committee members and shared the background of the Bill. He stated that the Legislative Committee had proposed amendments to a total of 44 sections of the National Assembly Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008, of which the House approved 34 sections. The amended Bill was then submitted to the National Council on 4 July 2024. He further clarified that the primary purpose of the amendments was to strengthen the functioning of the institution and ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities, rather than to encroach upon the powers of other institutions.

The National Council amended 21 sections of the Bill and returned it to the National Assembly. The National Assembly accepted 12 sections,

while 9 sections remained disputed. To resolve these disputed sections, the Speaker submitted a petition to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo on 19 December 2024 to convene a Joint Sitting. This request received Royal Approval on 30 January 2025.

During the Third Session, a Joint Sitting was held to deliberate on the nine disputed sections. It was resolved that Sections 254(A) and 254(B), pertaining to protocol, be removed from the Bill as the Ministry of Home Affairs agreed to incorporate them into the Ministry's Protocol Guidelines. The remaining seven sections were approved by the House, and the Bill was subsequently submitted for Royal Assent on 10 July 2025.

However, the Bill did not receive Royal Assent and was returned for further deliberation in a Joint Sitting as per Article 13, Section 10 of the Constitution. This followed a Supreme Court interpretation which found that three provisions related to the Secretary General were inconsistent with the Constitution.

Consequently, a Joint Committee was formed to deliberate on the seven remaining sections. In line with the Supreme Court's interpretation, the three sections related to the Secretary General were removed, while the remaining four were kept unchanged. The House is therefore requested to deliberate on and approve these provisions.

Thereafter, when the House sought support for the Committee's recommendation to repeal the three sections related to the Secretary

General, the Members expressed their support and the recommendation was approved. Regarding the remaining four sections, the Speaker reminded the House that no further deliberation was necessary, and the Bill was put to a vote.

Finally, when the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2024 was put to a vote for approval, out of the 69 Members present, 25 voted in favour, 39 voted against, and 5 abstained. As the Bill did not secure the required two-thirds majority, it failed to pass and was consequently declared a Dead Bill as per the Legislative Rules of Procedure (LRoP) of the Parliament. **(On the 4th Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 24th December 2025). (The voting result is attached in Annexure VIII)”**

8.5 Public Accounts Committee’s Review Report on the WASH Facilities and Services of Schools under Thimphu Thromde

Before commencing deliberations on the Public Accounts Committee’s (PAC) Review Report regarding the Performance Audit of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and services in schools under Thimphu Thromde, the Secretary General read out the Royal Kasho for convening the Joint Sitting of Parliament.

8.6 Royal Kasho for the Joint Sitting of Parliament

Royal Assent is hereby granted to convene a Joint Sitting of Parliament on the 25th and 26th of December 2025 to present and deliberate on the Public Accounts Committee’s Review Report on the Performance Audit of WASH Facilities in schools under Thimphu Thromde. This Assent was granted on the 22nd Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year.

By Warrant Under His Hand

Druk Gyalpo

Following the reading of the Royal Kasho by the Secretary General, the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (Member from the Lamgong–Wangchang constituency), presented the Committee’s report. This presentation was conducted in accordance with Article 25 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. The report was summarized and presented in three parts as follows:

Part 1: Review Report on the Performance Audit of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Facilities and Services in Schools under Thimphu Thromde.

Background

The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) conducted the Performance Audit using a result-oriented approach to evaluate the activities, mechanisms, and processes governing the provision of adequate Water, Sanitation,

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the policy and operational framework, the RAA reviewed key documents, including the National Standards for WASH in Schools, National Sanitation and Hygiene Standards, National Education Statistics, the Draft Strategy for WASH, school policies, Health Action Plans, UNICEF WASH guidelines, and documentation on WASH-related promotion and awareness activities.

The proposed and approved budgets of the Education Sector under Thimphu Thromde were assessed to examine resource allocation and financial support for WASH activities, alongside other relevant records pertaining to the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities. Site inspections were carried out in all schools to assess the condition, adequacy, and functionality of existing infrastructure.

To complement the document review and inspections, the RAA conducted interviews with school management, health coordinators, and waste management coordinators to gather insights into challenges, priorities, and maintenance practices. Consultations were also held with Thimphu Thromde and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development to understand policy support, resource allocation, and accountability mechanisms.

Furthermore, to incorporate user perspectives, the RAA administered a survey to students in Classes IV to XII across all participating schools. The survey collected feedback on the accessibility, cleanliness,

usability, and overall adequacy of WASH facilities; the availability of essential supplies, such as water and soap; and challenges encountered by students, including limited toilet access and concerns regarding water quality.

Based on the audit findings, the RAA recommended the following actions:

1. **Prioritized Infrastructure Planning:** The Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD), in consultation with Thimphu Thromde and school management, should develop a prioritized plan to ensure the adequacy of WASH facilities in accordance with National Standards.
2. **Inclusivity Upgrades:** The MoESD should upgrade WASH facilities to ensure they are inclusive and accessible to all students.
3. **Staffing Requirements:** The MoESD, in consultation with the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), should specify the requirements for cleaners based on the student population.
4. **Sustained Funding:** The MoESD, in consultation with Thimphu Thromde and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), should prioritize and secure an adequate, sustained budget allocation for the maintenance, upgrading, and improvement of school WASH facilities.
5. **Water Quality Management:** Thimphu Thromde should institute regular mechanisms for water quality testing and remediation.
6. **Continuous Supply:** Thimphu Thromde should ensure a continuous water supply in schools and establish alternative storage facilities.

7. **Operational Planning:** School management should develop a comprehensive management plan for the operation and maintenance of WASH in schools.
8. **Integrated Awareness:** The MoESD should develop an integrated awareness program on WASH for students, coordinators, and staff.
9. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The MoESD should establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress of WASH programs in schools nationwide.
10. **National Assessment:** The MoESD should conduct a comprehensive assessment of WASH facilities in all schools across the country.

Committee’s Observations:

The Committee observed that the issues highlighted by the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) in its performance audit of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in 20 schools under Thimphu Thromde are not isolated to the capital alone. Rather, these findings reflect broader and recurring challenges experienced across all schools nationwide.

This conclusion is strongly supported by the Committee’s nationwide questionnaire survey, which covered all 566 schools. The survey results revealed similar patterns of deficiencies, including inadequate and unreliable water supply, insufficient or poorly maintained sanitation infrastructure, non-functional handwashing stations, a lack of essential hygiene supplies, and significant gaps in routine operation and maintenance practices.

Furthermore, the Committee noted that several systemic issues identified by the RAA—such as inadequate monitoring mechanisms, insufficient budget allocation for WASH, and limited technical capacity at the school level—were evident in most schools across other Dzongkhags as well.

The alignment between the RAA’s findings in Thimphu Thromde and the Committee’s nationwide data indicates that these challenges are not unique to the capital’s schools, but are representative of national-level shortcomings in WASH service programs. While the RAA’s observations provided a strong foundation, the Committee considered it essential to further highlight a set of critical issues that persist, as they reflect the everyday realities in schools across the country.

3.1 Inadequate WASH Facilities and Services in Bhutanese Schools

The Committee observed significant gaps in the adequacy of WASH facilities across most schools in the country. These deficiencies include an insufficient number of toilets for both male and female students, unreliable water supplies, and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions.

Of the 297 schools that responded to the Committee’s questionnaire survey, 257 schools (86.5%) reported inadequate budgets for WASH facilities and services, indicating that many students lack access to basic essentials such as soap. The remaining 40 schools (13.5%) reported funding their WASH programs through ad hoc fundraising activities, such as sports events or movie screenings—an approach that is neither reliable nor sustainable.

The Committee's field visits revealed that many existing WASH facilities are in poor or non-functional condition. For instance, Ura and Chumey Central Schools have multiple toilets rendered unusable due to broken flush systems, blocked drains, and missing doors, compromising student privacy, safety, and hygiene. The survey further highlighted that many WASH facilities are aged, which compromises student health and well-being.

Several schools also have poorly planned WASH infrastructure that fails to adequately cater to gender and age-specific needs. For example, some urinals are unsuitable for younger students, and girls' toilets often lack private and hygienic disposal bins for sanitary pads, forcing students to use open bins or plastic bags. Additionally, many handwashing stations are installed too high for younger students, preventing independent use. A significant majority (261 schools) reported a lack of inclusive designs for students with disabilities. The Committee also observed that the low quality of construction materials used in many facilities leads to rapid deterioration, especially under frequent use and rough handling by students.

Water supply remains another persistent challenge. Many schools experience unreliable access to water throughout the year, as sources often dry up or become silted during summer, while pipelines freeze in winter. Despite Bhutan's pristine environment, tap water is currently not safe for direct consumption.

Water quality testing protocols were found to be inconsistent across schools; of the 268 schools that responded regarding water testing, 116

(43.3%) conduct testing twice a year, 68 (25.4%) conduct it once a year, and 41 schools (15.3%) have never conducted water testing, posing a significant public health risk.

The Committee also found that water heating and treatment systems are largely non-functional due to poor or delayed maintenance. According to the survey, 107 schools use manual firewood-heated systems, while 29 schools have electric heating systems. Specialized equipment, such as SkyHydrant filters and solar water heaters, was often found to be non-operational. Given Bhutan's cold winters, the absence of reliable water heating systems is particularly concerning, as students require warm water for handwashing, bathing, and maintaining proper hygiene.

Overall, these findings highlight a systemic gap in providing safe, reliable, and weather-appropriate water and sanitation services, with direct implications for student health, hygiene, and the overall learning environment.

3.2 Maintenance and Coordination Gaps in School WASH Facilities

The Committee observed that most schools have insufficient budgets to carry out necessary upgrades, repairs, and routine maintenance of WASH facilities, resulting in deteriorating infrastructure and compromised hygiene standards. Additionally, many schools lack skilled personnel to perform even basic repairs and maintenance.

Septic tank desludging services are also inadequate. For instance, in Gasa, there are no municipal cesspool tankers, forcing schools to hire services from Punakha, which is both expensive and unsustainable.

Furthermore, the Committee's consultations with various schools revealed that the coordination and support systems between schools and Local s are inconsistent. While some schools benefit from proactive support from their respective Local s, others receive little or no guidance, technical assistance, or funding. This inconsistency demonstrates how the absence of a standardized, coordinated approach to WASH programs directly affects the daily operation and maintenance of facilities in schools across the country.

Much of the WASH infrastructure has never undergone comprehensive renovation; some toilets built as early as 1978 have received no upgrades since their initial construction. Many schools reported that their toilets do not meet the design requirements prescribed in the National Standards for WASH in Schools (2024), thereby undermining hygiene standards and the overall learning environment.

Committee's Recommendations

3.1 Initiate a National WASH Flagship Program for All Schools in Bhutan

Considering the inadequacies in WASH facilities across schools nationwide, and given their implications for student health, well-being, and academic performance, the Committee recommends that the initiate and implement a comprehensive National WASH Flagship Program to systematically address these deficiencies. The proposed flagship program should include:

1. **Nationwide Assessment:** Conduct a nationwide assessment to determine existing WASH conditions, infrastructure gaps,

accessibility needs, and compliance with the National Standards for WASH in Schools (2024).

2. **Comprehensive National Plan:** Develop a comprehensive national plan outlining priority areas and a dedicated budget for both construction and long-term operations and maintenance (O&M).
3. **Standardized Infrastructure Designs:** Create standardized WASH infrastructure designs that are safe, durable, child-friendly, gender-responsive, and fully accessible to persons with disabilities.
4. **Quality Assurance:** Establish clear quality standards for construction materials and implement monitoring mechanisms to ensure high-quality execution.
5. **Water Security and Quality:** Ensure reliable, year-round access to water through robust supply and treatment systems, including functional water heating and regular water quality testing protocols. Additionally, the Committee recommends a pilot project in Thimphu Thromde to establish a safe drinking water system, enabling tap water to be safe for direct consumption.

3.2 Enhance WASH Support and Coordination

The Committee recommends that the strengthen collaboration among schools, Thromdes, Dzongkhags, and relevant agencies to ensure reliable support for WASH facilities. This should include providing sustainable septic tank desludging services, technical assistance for maintenance and repairs, and financial support for routine upkeep and emergency repairs.

Part 2: The follow-up on the status of the resolutions from the Second Session of the Fourth Parliament is as follows:

During the Second Session, while deliberating on the Review Report of the Performance Audit, the House adopted ten resolutions. Of these, one resolution (No. 10) has been implemented, eight resolutions (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9) are currently under implementation, and one resolution (No. 5) has not been implemented.

The Speaker then opened the floor for general observations prior to deliberating on the Committee's new recommendations.

The Member from the Monggar constituency stated that 86.7% of schools reported inadequate budget allocations for WASH facilities, with many lacking Common Minimum Facilities (CMF). He expressed concern that insufficient budgeting continues to hinder the provision of WASH services. Referring to the Mid-Term Review (MTR), he noted that a portion of the Nu. 14 billion budget allocated for Central Schools should be earmarked specifically for WASH facilities, rather than being utilized solely for other expenditures. He emphasized that CMF support should be effectively implemented rather than remaining "only on paper," and requested that this be included as an additional recommendation.

Similarly, the Member from South Thimphu and the Member of the National Council from Haa stated that if such challenges persist in Thimphu, conditions in other Dzongkhags are likely more severe. They stressed that attention should not be limited to WASH facilities alone

but should also extend to other school infrastructure. It was suggested that WASH support be initiated as a “project” under block grants and decentralized by allocating responsibility to Local s rather than retaining it solely under the Central . They further highlighted that Gewog block grants are insufficient, as multiple schools often fall under a single Gewog, a situation further compounded by human resource shortages.

The Member of the National Council from Haa also suggested recruiting plumbers and electricians and urged the monitoring of private schools’ compliance with MoESD standards. He raised concerns regarding colder regions where water freezes during winter, the issue of non-functional geysers, and reported past health problems among students.

The Member from the Dramedtse–Ngatshang constituency, referring to the Performance Audit (PA), clarified that his remarks were not directed against the Committee or the Royal Audit Authority (RAA). He emphasized that a performance audit should assess inputs, outputs, and outcomes; however, he noted that the WASH PA appeared more like a compliance audit. He stated that the report should have included outcome-based data, such as the number of students who fell ill prior to the establishment of WASH facilities and whether student absenteeism and health-related issues improved following their implementation. He, therefore, sought clarification on whether the Committee had examined these specific outcomes.

Another Member from the Khamdang–Ramjar constituency acknowledged that while the WASH Standards 2024 are comprehensive, they are not fully aligned with on-ground realities. Many schools still

face basic challenges, such as a lack of water supply and damaged infrastructure, which hinder improvements in education quality. He also highlighted human resource shortages, noting that some schools have only one wet sweeper, and suggested recommending adequate staffing through the RCSC or MoESD.

In response, the Finance Minister stated that WASH is a basic necessity that cannot be fully addressed within one or two years as it requires long-term investment. While budget constraints remain a major concern, he recalled that His Majesty The King, during the 113th National Day, emphasized that there should be no compromise on essential funding.

The Minister informed the House that the Nu. 14 billion budget allocated for Central Schools in the 13th FYP will be maintained and assured that the Ministry of Finance supports the Committee's recommendations. He further stated that the Ministry plans to decentralize planning to Dzongkhags and Local s, though the effectiveness of this approach will be monitored. Additionally, he mentioned plans for rooftop solar installations, noting that proposals must originate from the schools themselves to ensure accurate placement. He concluded by emphasizing that improving WASH facilities is a long-term process and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting the 's recommendations.

The Education Minister responded that the WASH Standards 2024 were developed with support from WHO and UNICEF and apply to all schools in Bhutan as common minimum facilities. She explained that WASH facilities in Thimphu Thromde schools do not fully meet

these standards because most were constructed in the 1960s. In contrast, newer schools—such as Sherabgatshel Primary School, built in 2022—comply fully with the standards.

Following the development of the WASH Standards 2024, the Ministry conducted a nationwide assessment in 2025 in collaboration with UNICEF, covering 510 schools, 10 teacher training institutes, 216 monastic institutions, and 32 nunneries. The assessment identified significant gaps, focusing on functionality, accessibility, safety mechanisms, and inclusivity. She shared the findings, noting that 91% of schools had access to water and 95% of facilities were functional, while acknowledging shortcomings in toilet ratios for girls and in menstrual hygiene management.

The Minister for Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR) highlighted that budget constraints and human resource shortages remain key challenges. He noted that even when the provides fully furnished WASH facilities, maintenance is often poor following the official handover. He specifically emphasized the shortage of wet sweepers and mentioned current restrictions on foreign labor, despite the labor scarcity noted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Additionally, the Minister stated that a 5,000 MW solar program is being implemented under the National Energy Policy 2025; for schools, this is particularly significant as rooftop solar can facilitate water heating. He stressed the importance of sustainability and post-construction

maintenance, urging the House to incorporate these considerations into its final recommendations.

The Health Minister emphasized that WASH is a multi-sectoral responsibility requiring collaboration among several agencies. He stated that while not all issues can be resolved immediately, most concerns raised would be addressed through the proposed recommendations, and he urged a collective effort to overcome existing challenges.

Responding to the queries from the Member from Dramegtse–Ngatshang, the PAC Chairperson clarified that regarding the Performance Audit, the observations were noted and would serve as a reminder to the Royal Audit Authority (RAA). The Committee had attempted to assess whether student absenteeism was linked to WASH deficiencies; however, school management could not provide reliable data, and the Committee felt it inappropriate to include unverified information in the report.

When the RAA tabled the Performance Audit, the Committee decided to approach the matter holistically to achieve better results. Accordingly, the Committee conducted field visits to 10 schools and submitted recommendations based on those findings. Since visiting all 566 schools in Bhutan was not feasible, a nationwide survey was conducted for the remaining schools to ensure comprehensive coverage.

The PAC Chairperson reminded the House why WASH facilities are prioritized despite numerous other challenges in the education sector. He reiterated that the Review Report was prepared in accordance with

Article 25(6) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan and after thorough deliberation on its national significance. He noted that the primary aim was to alleviate the hardships faced by schools by providing essential facilities, rather than catering to individual preferences.

Subsequently, while deliberating on the RAA's recommendations, some Members inquired about the criteria for prioritization—specifically whether it should be based on student population, areas with higher health risks, or a focus on remote schools—and suggested that clarification from the Ministry or the Committee would be helpful. It was proposed that specifying the requirement for toilets to be constructed according to the WASH Standards 2024 within the recommendations would be highly beneficial.

Members noted that while all schools are important, the must determine which facilities should be prioritized for construction. They also highlighted that without a sufficient budget, the may struggle to fulfill these objectives, and they expressed strong support for the recommendations.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Committee clarified that prioritization will be based on the National WASH Standards 2024. Across schools nationwide, some will require the construction of new WASH facilities, while for others, regular maintenance may suffice. The will categorize schools accordingly, and prioritization will be determined based on this assessment.

The Minister of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) informed the House that following the identification of gaps through a nationwide survey, the MoESD—in collaboration with Thimphu Thromde—has developed an action plan. In 2025, approximately 32 new toilets were constructed in accordance with the standards at a cost of Nu. 18.1 million, while four inclusive WASH facilities are being developed at a cost of Nu.10.4 million. Additionally, 19 schools have been equipped with SkyHydrant water filters, with 10 more schools planned to receive them. The plan also includes capacity-building initiatives and the provision of specialized toolkits.

The Minister informed the House that the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) has allocated a budget of Nu. 300 million for WASH programs, and prioritization will be based on this amount. While one portion is managed centrally by the Ministry, another is funded through the block grants of Local s (LGs). She noted that when LGs prioritize their activities, education often remains a lower priority. However, if LGs—following the example of Phuentsholing Thromde—could prioritize and allocate budgets more effectively, it would significantly improve outcomes. Additionally, for the Financial Year 2025–26, Thimphu Thromde has allocated between Nu. 55,000 and Nu. 80,000 to respective schools to cover operation and maintenance (O&M) costs.

The Speaker noted that since the WASH Standards have already been developed, it is now crucial to assess which Dzongkhags do not meet these requirements. He emphasized the importance of identifying whether the

primary challenges relate to water supply, toilet infrastructure, or usage patterns. While budget allocation is facilitated through block grants, the Speaker observed that some Dzongkhags lack the proactive budgetary arrangements seen in Thimphu Thromde. Therefore, he stressed that the MoESD must determine how funds are distributed across Thromdes, pinpoint the specific sources of deficiencies, and align its prioritization accordingly. The MoESD was directed to consider these aspects in its strategic planning and to consult with the Ministry of Health (MoH). Based on this deliberation, the House endorsed Recommendation No. 1 of the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) by a majority show of hands.

Regarding the second recommendation of the RAA, the House endorsed the recommendation as proposed, without changes, through a majority show of hands.

While deliberating on the third recommendation, some Members raised concerns regarding value education in schools. They questioned whether providing a sufficient number of wet sweepers (cleaners) might limit students' opportunities to learn values such as responsibility and participation, potentially leading to an imbalanced approach where students are not practically involved.

Members also noted that in some schools, teachers are required to escort students up to Class V to the toilets, indicating that the issue extends beyond the mere availability of cleaners. There is a need to recruit dedicated support personnel to assist young children rather than placing this responsibility on teachers.

With regard to the availability of cleaners, the Minister for Energy and Natural Resources questioned whether a mechanism exists, in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs, to engage foreign workers. Additionally, the need to clearly establish accountability was stressed. Some Members stated that cleaners should be deployed in proportion to the student population to avoid problematic situations.

It was also highlighted that on 5 June 2025, the MoESD Child Safeguarding and Protection Framework was developed, signed, and submitted to the NCWC. This framework clearly outlines the ‘dos and don’ts’ for teachers nationwide and cautions against involving students in cleaning toilets, as such tasks may place teachers in complex and vulnerable positions.

Members noted that if the issue requires immediate resolution, schools could be permitted to outsource cleaning services on an hourly basis.

In response, the Chairperson stated that the Committee had discussed the matter and agreed that students up to Class IV should not be involved in wet cleaning. Regarding value education, it was clarified that while students cannot be expected to clean toilets at all times—necessitating the recruitment of cleaners—schools may still dedicate specific days for value education activities, as per existing practices.

The Speaker directed that, in addition to the RAA’s recommendations, consultations be carried out with the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) and the Ministry of Education and Skills Development

(MoESD) to determine appropriate WASH support requirements. These consultations should specifically address whether to outsource cleaning services or recruit cleaners based on the student population. An Action Taken Report (ATR) must be submitted during the next Winter Session. Following this directive, the House endorsed the third recommendation proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

During deliberations on the fourth recommendation proposed by the RAA, Members raised concerns regarding the inclusion of an additional recommendation. While acknowledging the importance of hiring wet sweepers (cleaners), some Members noted that cleaners might not always be the primary priority and recommended allocating a specific budget head for primary schools. It was further observed that when inspectors visit schools, they often assess the condition of toilets first; if toilets are well-maintained, it is generally assumed that other facilities are also in good condition. In this context, the concept of a “welcoming toilet” was emphasized as a benchmark for overall school hygiene.

In response, the Minister for Home Affairs stated that Thimphu faces particular challenges due to population pressure and water scarcity, which have contributed to WASH-related issues within the Thimphu Thromde. Regarding wet sweepers (cleaners), the Minister supported the view that students should not be required to clean toilets and suggested that cleaning services could be outsourced, similar to services provided by entities such as Dr. Toilet and Bhutan Toilet Organization (BTO). The Minister cited examples of pay-and-use public toilets, which have demonstrated improved maintenance. Furthermore, the Minister

emphasized the need to explore the outsourcing of cleaning services while clearly establishing accountability.

The House directed that, in addition to the recommendations of the RAA, the MoESD, in consultation with the MoH, conduct consultations to explore whether cleaning services should be outsourced, as practiced in certain Thromdes and remote areas. The Ministry of Finance and the MoESD were further directed to discuss and allocate a specific budget head for WASH facilities and services under the block grant. An Action Taken Report (ATR) following the allocation of a dedicated budget for water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and services shall be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), and the PAC shall review and present the ATR during the Winter Session. Following these directives, the House endorsed the fourth recommendation proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

With regard to the fifth recommendation of the RAA, the House directed the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT) to take the lead in conducting water quality testing across Thimphu Thromde—not limited to schools—and to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) on the results and their implications during the Winter Session. The House endorsed the recommendation as proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

Regarding recommendations No. 6 and No. 7, the House endorsed both as proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

While deliberating on the eighth recommendation, the House directed that it would be inappropriate to place the entire responsibility on the MoESD, as the Ministry cannot cover all schools independently. Therefore, accountability for WASH facilities and services should be shared among the MoESD, Local s, Dzongkhags, Thromdes, and Gewog administrations. Schools located within Gewog premises should be managed by the Gewog administration with support from health in-charges and teachers. The MoESD should take the initiative to guide, coordinate, and assess the requirements for the proper maintenance of WASH facilities. An Action Taken Report (ATR) shall be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), and the PAC shall present the ATR during the Winter Session. The House endorsed the eighth recommendation as proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

While deliberating on the ninth recommendation of the RAA, Members emphasized that the should consider a Flagship Program during the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 13th Five-Year Plan, given its national importance. The House adopted the recommendation to specifically include the word ‘safe’ in relation to physical infrastructure.

The House directed the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) to explore the feasibility of the flagship project during the Mid-Term Review and to form a committee or task force to periodically evaluate these systems within schools using a proper evaluation framework. An Action Taken Report (ATR) is to be submitted during the Winter Session. Following this, the House endorsed the ninth

recommendation proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

The Speaker directed the Committee to replace the term ‘ schools’ with ‘all schools’ to ensure inclusivity; subsequently, the House endorsed Recommendation No. 10 as proposed by the RAA through a majority show of hands.

While deliberating on the Committee’s Recommendations No. 1 and 2, the House directed that, in addition to the MoESD, three other ministries—namely MoENR, MoIT, and MoH—form a joint task force led by the MoENR. This task force is mandated to review and monitor whether WASH facilities and services meet required standards, identify water-related issues in schools, and propose strategies to address challenges related to facilities and budgeting. An Action Taken Report (ATR) shall be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), and the PAC shall present the ATR during the Winter Session. The House endorsed the first and second recommendations proposed by the Committee through a majority show of hands.

Regarding the follow-up on the resolutions of the Second Session of the Fourth Parliament, the House adopted Resolutions Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 through a majority show of hands. However, for Resolution No. 3, the Speaker directed the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to submit an implementation report during the upcoming Winter Session.

While deliberating on Resolution No. 5 (which has not yet been implemented), Members raised concerns that the Ministry of Energy

and Natural Resources (MoENR) had limited its scope to overseeing technical feasibility and reserve adequacy under the FMFS. It was argued that this does not fully align with Section 22 of the Mines and Minerals Act 1995, which mandates that the Ministry also consider environmental, social, and financial aspects.

Members noted that this concern was previously raised during the last Winter Session, and the Committee was unable to provide a convincing response at that time. They requested clarification on how the Committee has sought to align these requirements over the past six months. Additionally, some Members suggested removing this specific matter from the Resolution adopted by the House, as it may not be acceptable to the Department of Geology and Mines (DGM). They further noted that the response recently submitted by the Minister was reasonable.

In response, the Committee explained that during consultations with the Department of Geology and Mines (DGM), it was observed that the Department lacks the experts required to study financial feasibility. For this reason, the Committee had recommended limiting the DGM's scope—a recommendation the House previously adopted. The Committee further noted that if the Department were to recruit economic and financial experts, this scope could be expanded. Regarding the proposal to remove the endorsed resolution, the Committee stated that the decision rests solely with the House. Accordingly, the House voted to remove Resolution No. 5 by a majority show of hands.

Regarding Resolution No. 6, a Member raised concerns that noise testing results had exceeded maximum permissible levels. The Member

requested that the Ministry provide solutions to address these issues and noted that the potential effects on crops, infrastructure, and water have not yet been tested. It was emphasized that these assessments are necessary and should be prioritized to prevent adverse impacts. The House decided that an Action Taken Report (ATR) addressing the recommendations made by the Member should be submitted during the upcoming Winter Session. The House endorsed the recommendations through a majority show of hands.

While deliberating on Resolution No. 7, Members raised concerns regarding the long-term gypsum mining activities at Khothakpa in Pemagatshel, which have been ongoing for 40 years and are projected to continue for another 45 years. Members acknowledged that gypsum mining has contributed significantly to the national economy. However, serious concerns were raised over delays in compensating affected landowners.

It was noted that compensation for 12 affected households took nearly three years to process, and an additional 47 households have been awaiting compensation since last year. Furthermore, while land for relocation has been identified, there remains uncertainty regarding its ownership (or private), its suitability for resettlement, the financial capacity of the households to relocate, and whether the land is arable or otherwise usable.

Members further noted plans to extend mining activities by 150 to 300 meters into the buffer zone. The report also indicated that water testing

results showed contamination, which could adversely affect nearby households through air, water, and noise pollution. In this regard, Members requested that: (i) a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) be developed by the DGM or MoENR; (ii) the contingency fund be increased from 2 percent to 5 percent; and (iii) the consider providing company shares to affected households in Khothakpa, Pemagatshel.

In response, the Minister stated that increasing the contingency fund from 2 percent to 5 percent would require additional time to implement; therefore, it would be more practical to proceed with the existing 2 percent, which is expected to be operational by January 2026. Regarding the SOP, the Minister clarified that all necessary procedures would be incorporated into the Mines and Minerals Rules and Regulations. With respect to providing shares to households in Khothakpa, the Minister noted that while the intent is positive, the long-term sustainability of such a measure would need to be carefully considered.

The Speaker directed the MoENR to resolve the issue as soon as possible and to report on the status of the actions taken within one year—specifically during the upcoming Winter Session. The House endorsed the resolution through a majority show of hands.

Regarding Resolutions Nos. 8, 9, and 10, the House adopted them as the responses submitted by the ministries and agencies were considered reasonable and acceptable. These resolutions were passed through a majority show of hands.

Lastly, while ascertaining the support of the House on the recommendations submitted by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) via voting, out of a total of 72 Members, 70 Members voted ‘Yes’, one voted against, and one abstained. Accordingly, the Committee’s recommendations were adopted by a majority vote.

After that, the Speaker declared the following three Royal Audit Authority (RAA) reports as public documents:

1. Annual Audit Report 2024–25
2. Performance Audit Report on Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Water Resources Management
3. Performance Audit Report on the Commercial Agriculture and Resilient Livelihoods Enhancement Programme (CARLEP)

Subsequently, the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was directed to review these reports and submit its findings for deliberation during the next session of Parliament.

With this, the deliberation on the PAC report concluded. **(On the 6th Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 27th December 2025). (The voting result is attached in Annexure IX)**

9. Resolutions of the Question Hour Session

During the Question Hour of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of Bhutan, Members of Parliament (MPs) raised 21 oral questions and 21 written questions to the relevant ministries. The concerned Ministers provided corresponding responses, and the Question Hour proceedings were conducted effectively in accordance with established procedures.

However, during the Question Hour for the Group B Ministries on 2nd December 2025, the MP from the South Thimphu constituency raised a question to the Minister for Education and Skills Development concerning disparities in facilities and services between central schools and non-central schools.

As the Member was not satisfied with the Minister's response, he formally requested that the matter be taken up for debate in accordance with parliamentary procedures. The House accepted the request, and on 9th December 2025, during the debate session, the MP submitted a recommendation requesting the Minister for Education and Skills Development to give due consideration to the following ten issues.

1. Ensure Equitable Resource Allocation: Ensure equitable resource allocation across all schools.
2. Provide Day Meals: Provide day meals (lunch) to all eligible students.
3. Enhance 21st-Century Learning: Equip every school with 21st-century teaching and learning materials, including smart boards and computers.
4. Mobilize Project Budgets: Secure and mobilize adequate budgets specifically for carrying out project activities and implementation.
5. Expand Teacher Professional Development: Ensure equal opportunities for all teachers to enhance their capacity through training, workshops, and related professional development programs.

6. **Curriculum Review and Continuity:** Conduct a comprehensive review of existing curricula and ensure implementation without repeated or unnecessary overhauls.
7. **Transparent HR Procedures:** Implement transparent systems for the recruitment, transfer, and deployment of teachers.
8. **Regular Data Updates:** Regularly update school-related information and status reports on the Ministry's official website in a timely manner.
9. **Reassess Common Minimum Facilities (CMF):** Reassess the Common Minimum Facility (CMF) standards in all schools to ensure basic education quality benchmarks are fulfilled.
10. **Education Act by 2027:** To enhance education quality and prevent politicization, consider tabling a dedicated Education Bill before the year 2027.

To support educational programs, it was submitted that the feasibility of increasing Annual Grants to Local s be considered. In addition, it was proposed that all eligible students be provided with lunch, adequate budgets be allocated, and disparities between central schools and non-central schools be reduced. The House held a lengthy deliberation on these issues.

The House directed the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD) to duly consider the ten recommendations submitted by the Member from the South Thimphu constituency and to prioritize and implement necessary measures accordingly. Furthermore, as submitted by the Leader of the Opposition and other Members, the House

emphasized that eligible students should be provided with lunch, and that support and assistance be extended to children unable to enroll in school due to the absence of schools and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers in certain areas.

Furthermore, it was resolved that mechanisms to allocate a portion of the frozen grant funds to the education sector should be explored, and that construction and renovation works should be expedited to ensure the timely completion of school infrastructure.

Regarding the funding—as resolved during the first and second sessions—it was decided that the fund amounting to more than one billion, which was initially allocated to the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MoENR), be reallocated to the Ministry of Education and Skills Development (MoESD). The was reminded to consider these resolutions carefully and implement them appropriately. With these remarks, the deliberations were concluded.

Similarly, on 12 December 2025, during the Question Hour for the Group B Ministries, the Member from the Thrimshing–Kangpara constituency raised questions to the Minister for Education and Skills Development regarding the extension of the tenure for contract teachers, as well as pension and provident fund benefits for Non-Formal Education (NFE) instructors.

Not being satisfied with the Minister’s response, the Member submitted a request for a debate on these issues. However, on 22 December 2025,

the Member withdrew the request in accordance with a directive from the House. Nevertheless, the following three issues were submitted to the Ministry in the form of questions, as outlined below:

1. **Contract Fulfillment:** Due to the acute teacher shortage, contract teachers were initially appointed with agreements to serve until 2026. However, many contracts are reportedly being terminated in 2025, a year earlier than planned. Therefore, these teachers should either be permitted to serve until 2026 as per their original agreements or be provided with compensation as stipulated in their contracts.
2. **Requirement vs. Approval Gap:** While School Principals and Dzongdags have reported a combined shortage of 998 teachers nationwide, the Ministry has reportedly only approved 511 new positions. Clarification is sought regarding this significant inconsistency between field requirements and ministry approvals.
3. Since the practical impact of the teacher shortage is felt by Local s, yet teacher deployment is determined centrally by the Ministry, clarification was sought on how the Ministry consults with local authorities to address the issue.

In response, the House was unable to provide an opportunity for a debate on the request submitted by the Member. However, regarding the three questions raised earlier, the House directed the Ministry to submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) before the next Summer Session; on this note, the deliberation was concluded. **(On the 2nd Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 22nd December 2025).**

10. Rectification of Resolutions

10.1 Speaker: The House was informed that the Resolutions of the Session thus far would be read section by section for rectification. Members were reminded to submit their comments on any part of their deliberations that might be missing from the Resolutions. The rectification proceedings were then carried out as follows:

Members from the Nyishog–Saephu and Radhi–Sakteng constituencies observed that the rectification of Resolutions requires more time. Furthermore, it was suggested that presenting both the Dzongkha and English versions together would facilitate a better understanding of the text. The Member from the South Thimphu constituency requested that the ten recommendations submitted during the debate be included in the Draft Resolutions, as they had been omitted, and that a directive be issued by the House for the submission of an Action Taken Report (ATR).

Similarly, the Health Minister and the Member from the Maenbi–Tshenkhar constituency observed a critical need for clear and detailed procedures regarding the Question Hour, deliberations, the presentation of Action Taken Reports, and the adoption of recommendations. Therefore, the significance of reviewing, amending, and adopting the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly of Bhutan 2022 was underlined.

The Speaker directed that, as suggested by the Members of Parliament, two weeks be allocated for the rectification of the Resolutions.

Accordingly, Members were asked to review the Resolutions and share any comments with the Secretariat as soon as possible.

As suggested by the Member from the South Thimphu constituency, it is important to accurately reflect the deliberations in the Resolutions. Regarding the need for an Action Taken Report (ATR), although it is not explicitly reflected in the Resolution, it will suffice if the Ministry considers the requirement and acts accordingly.

Regarding the system for conducting debates, the Rules of Procedure do not provide detailed guidance, although they already contain some provisions. Therefore, as proposed by the Members, it was noted that this matter should be appropriately considered and included in the Preliminary Meeting for further deliberation. With this, the deliberation on the rectification of the Resolutions was concluded. **(On the 6th Day of the 11th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year, corresponding to 26th December 2025).**

11. Closing Address

The Prime Minister, the Chairperson of the National Council, and the Leader of the Opposition jointly conveyed their profound gratitude and deep appreciation to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for His service to the Nation and the people, day and night. In particular, they acknowledged His Majesty's gracious initiatives in instituting the Global Peace Prayer Festival and the Great Kālacakra Empowerment during the year. Furthermore, they expressed deep admiration and sincere gratitude to His Majesty for initiating the Gelephu Mindfulness City in the long-

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term interest of the Nation. (The verbatim transcription of the concluding
addresses can be accessed via the verbatim booklet published.)

12. Closing Ceremony

The Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament was formally concluded on the 7th Day of the 11th Month of the Wood-Snake Year, corresponding to the 27th of December 2025, which was graced by His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo at the Grand Assembly Hall. Upon the delivery of the Closing Address by the Speaker, the Session concluded with the Members of Parliament offering Zhabten and Tashi Moenlam to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.

Note: In case of inconsistencies between the Dzongkha text and English texts, the Dzongkha text of the Resolutions shall prevail.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized letters and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.

(Lungten Dorji)
SPEAKER

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Address by Tshogpon Lungten Dorji at the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of Bhutan on 27 November 2025.

1. The Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament commences today, on the auspicious 17th Day of the 10th Month of the Wood Female Snake Year.
2. On behalf of the Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest respect and heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for graciously presiding over the Opening Ceremony of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament. His Majesty's presence, despite the many demands of His national duties, reflects the profound importance accorded to the Parliament and its role in the governance of our nation.
3. On behalf of the Parliament, I warmly welcome and express my deepest gratitude to Her Majesty the Gyaltshen for gracing this Opening Session. Her Majesty's gracious presence greatly enhances the significance of this occasion.

Likewise, I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome and sincere gratitude to the Members of the Royal Family for their continued presence and support during Parliamentary Sessions.

In addition, I extend a cordial welcome and appreciation to senior government officials, former senior government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, officials from various agencies and commissions, business representatives, political leaders, local visitors, teachers and

students, media personnel, and all those joining us through the live broadcast.

4. This year, as we celebrate the most auspicious and momentous national occasion of the 70th Birth Anniversary of our beloved Fourth Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, we offer our deepest prayers for the fulfillment of His Majesty's noble aspirations, His long life, and for the continued peace, prosperity, and wellbeing of our nation. At a time when the world is confronted with natural calamities, geopolitical tensions, and conflicts affecting millions, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo continues to lead with profound wisdom and foresight, undertaking numerous noble and visionary initiatives:

Firstly, under the Royal Command of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Bhutan graciously hosted the Global Peace Prayer Festival from 4 to 10 November at Changlimithang to offer prayers for Bhutan and for world peace. In a spirit of complete inclusivity, without distinction of nationality or religious tradition, revered Buddhist masters and practitioners were invited to offer profound prayers for global peace and collective wellbeing, presided over by His Holiness the Je Khenpo.

Secondly, under the noble guidance of His Eminence the Dorji Lopen, the Zhung Dratshang conducted the Global Peace Prayer and the sacred Jabzhi Dhoechog at Kuensel Phodrang, at the feet of the Buddha Dordenma, from 4 to 10 November. Commanded by His Majesty the King and coordinated by the government, these sacred rituals were

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performed to avert obstacles and misfortunes, and to promote universal peace, wellbeing, and harmony.

Thirdly, on the auspicious 11th of November, coinciding with the Descending Day of Lord Buddha, the nation celebrated the 70th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The celebration commenced with the offering of Ku-Sung-Thukten Mendrel to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, made on behalf of the people and the government. His Majesty the King expressed that the celebration was a profound expression of national gratitude for His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo's thirty-four years of enlightened leadership, boundless compassion, and devoted service, which have laid the enduring foundations of peace, prosperity, and stability in our Kingdom.

His Majesty the King expressed profound gratitude to His Majesty the Third Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the Father of Modern Bhutan, and to Her Majesty Yum Kesang Choden Wangchuck, acknowledging the immeasurable blessings the Kingdom received through the birth of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, whose arrival was foretold by Terton Drukdra Dorji as the destined sovereign of this era. His Majesty described the Fourth Druk Gyalpo as a Dharma King of unparalleled compassion and wisdom—a sovereign whose like has never before arisen and shall never appear again.

His Majesty the King expressed profound appreciation to the Zhung Dratshang and the entire monastic community, led by His Holiness the Je Khenpo, for their unwavering prayers, devoted service, and steadfast dedication to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and to the nation.

His Majesty reminded the nation that Bhutan is unique in its foundation of unity, Dharma, and the noble values of its people. Recognized by the world as a blessed and sacred land, Bhutan is renowned for its peace and spiritual heritage. The strength of this extraordinary country is embodied in its people, who exemplify integrity, loyalty, trust, and a deep sense of responsibility.

His Majesty reflected that these noble qualities inherent in the Bhutanese people and the nation did not arise by chance; they are the result of the blessings of the Triple Gem, the enlightened leadership of our Monarchs, and the sacrifice and devotion of our ancestors, who laid the enduring foundations of our sovereign nation.

His Majesty recalled with deep reverence that the Fourth Druk Gyalpo ascended the Golden Throne in 1972 at the tender age of sixteen, undertaking the sacred responsibility of strengthening and guiding the Kingdom. His Majesty expressed how profoundly different Bhutan might have been without the wise and visionary leadership of King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

His Majesty highlighted the enduring philosophy of Gross National Happiness, introduced by the Fourth Druk Gyalpo to empower the people and guide the nation's future. His Majesty the Fourth King also initiated the drafting of the Constitution and led Bhutan through a peaceful transition to parliamentary democracy in 2008.

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His Majesty further emphasized that the visionary Fourth Druk Gyalpo was not only a statesman but also a protector and a teacher, fulfilling the roles of Head of State, Commander-in-Chief, Guide to the Citizens, and Dharma King. He embodied the enlightened qualities of Rigsum Gonpo: the fearlessness of Chana Dorji (Vajrapani), the wisdom of Jampelyang (Manjusri), and the compassion of Chenrezig (Avalokiteshvara). As a great statesman, a fearless warrior, and a wise teacher, His Majesty truly exemplifies the ideal of a Dharma King.

His Majesty also shared personal reflections on serving the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and conveyed the twelve timeless pieces of guidance from His Majesty the Fourth King on leadership and service to the nation. While these instructions were offered to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, they serve as enduring guidance for all Bhutanese, reminding everyone to remain mindful and devoted in the service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum.

His Majesty urged the people to renew their pledge of loyalty and service to the nation and expressed the hope that His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, may be assured of the unwavering and steadfast commitment of the people. His Majesty further prayed that the teachings of Ugyen Guru Rinpoche and Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel may eternally flourish, and that Bhutan would forever remain a blessed and extraordinary country.

His Majesty expressed profound joy that the Former, Present, and Future Monarchs, together with all the citizens of the Kingdom, were able to come together to commemorate this sacred 70th Birth Anniversary. His

Majesty also commanded that the nation offer prayers for the wellbeing of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and celebrate His centenary. Parliament offers its deepest prayers for the long life, good health, and continued wellbeing of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

5. His Majesty the King expressed profound happiness that the celebration was graced by the esteemed presence of His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India. His Excellency's presence, despite the recent tragic events in New Delhi that resulted in loss of lives, reflects his deep respect and admiration for His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The enduring friendship between Bhutan and India, nurtured over generations, remains a source of strength and stability for both nations. Bhutan deeply values India's consistent support and guidance and expresses its profound respect and admiration for the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi and the Government of India.

6. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that he personally chose to be part of the auspicious 70th Birth Anniversary celebrations to pay tribute to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, who embodies wisdom, simplicity, courage, and selfless leadership. He further highlighted the deep religious and cultural ties that bind the two countries.

The Prime Minister paid tribute to His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo for strengthening the longstanding ties between Bhutan and India, and for his visionary contributions to democratic governance, national

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development, and the philosophy of Gross National Happiness. His Majesty's leadership established a strong foundation for nation-building that goes beyond GDP, prioritizing the wellbeing and happiness of the people.

The Prime Minister further stated that 1.4 billion Indians are united in prayer for global peace, participating in the Global Peace Prayer Festival, offering their prayers for world peace, as well as for the Wangchuck Dynasty and the Bhutanese people.

Addressing the gathering at Changlimithang, the Prime Minister announced that Gelephu and Samtse would soon be connected to India's railway network, and that India will establish an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu. This marks a significant step toward strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing regional connectivity.

Further, the following important Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were formalized:

- MoU between the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB), and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India (GoI), on Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy.
- MoU between the Ministry of Health, RGoB, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI, on Cooperation in the Field of Health and Medicine.
- MoU between the PEMA Secretariat and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, GoI, on Building Institutional Linkages.

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Furthermore, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the 1,020-megawatt Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project on 11 November 2025 in the Kuenrey of Tashichhodzong. This momentous occasion marks a significant milestone in the longstanding cooperation between Bhutan and India in the field of hydropower.

The Prime Minister noted that the Government of India has been a steadfast friend and supporter of Bhutan. In an extraordinary gesture of goodwill, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and the Global Peace Prayers, the Honorable Prime Minister and the people of India graciously brought the sacred Relics of Lord Buddha to Bhutan, allowing the Bhutanese people to receive blessings.

For this profound act of generosity and reverence, the Parliament offer its deepest and immeasurable gratitude.

His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, in graciously seeing off the Prime Minister of India at Paro International Airport, further symbolized the deep friendship, trust, and enduring partnership between the leaders and peoples of both nations.

His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan, Dasho Tshering Tobgay, held discussions with the Prime Minister of India on matters of energy, commerce, technology, and regional cooperation. These deliberations have yielded significant outcomes, for which Parliament expresses its

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sincere gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi, and His Excellency the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

Fourthly, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the three-day Kalachakra Empowerment, held from 12 to 14 November, which was graciously attended by His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and His Holiness the Je Khenpo.

The Global Peace Prayers and the Kalachakra Empowerment, presided over by His Holiness the Je Khenpo, were graced daily by Their Majesties the Druk Gyalpo and the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, as well as Members of the Royal Family. Despite their many royal duties, Their Majesties were present each day, offering prayers for the wellbeing of the nation and its people.

These sacred events transformed the nation into a realm reminiscent of the Northern Abode of Shambhala, with His Holiness as Sakyamuni Buddha, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, as Chogyal Dawa Zangpo, and His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo as Rigden Pema Karpo. The Bhutanese people are truly blessed beyond words. Parliament expresses its deepest gratitude to His Holiness and to Their Majesties the Druk Gyalpo and the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, offering auspicious prayers for their long life, continued service, the flourishing of the Dharma, and for global peace and prosperity.

Fifthly, as part of the festival, His Holiness the Je Khenpo conferred a historic full ordination ceremony, known as the Gelongma Ordination,

upon nearly 270 participants from 14 countries at the Bhutan Nuns Foundation Training Centre at Tshalumarphey in Thimphu, from 15 to 19 November.

This initiative was undertaken under the command of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo to renew and strengthen the system of ordination for Buddhist nuns. The ceremony was graced by His Majesty the King and Members of the Royal Family.

Parliament offers its heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and Members of the Royal Family for this visionary initiative, which further elevates Bhutan's standing in the world. We humbly offer our Tashi Monlam prayers for prosperity, wellbeing, and the continued glory of Palden Drukpa.

7. With the kind permission of the Golden Throne, I would like to humbly recall the noble and exemplary accomplishments of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

Born beyond the realm of gods, as the protector and jewel of the nation, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo ascended the Golden Throne at a youthful age. At a time when the country had only a few capable leaders, His Majesty personally traveled throughout the Kingdom, including its most remote corners, witnessing firsthand the hardships of the people and responding with profound compassion. His Majesty laid firm foundations for national security, the wellbeing of the people, socio-economic development, and a unique system of governance unmatched elsewhere.

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As Bhutan's foremost representative and a founding member of regional organizations in South Asia, His Majesty led and contributed to global forums such as the Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations, articulating the nation's positions with clarity and responsibility. In doing so, His Majesty strengthened Bhutan's international standing and relations, particularly deepening the enduring ties between Bhutan and India.

Since the accession of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, this noble legacy has continued through the steadfast upholding of the vision of Gross National Happiness as the guiding principle of governance. Under this vision, numerous initiatives have been undertaken to promote the wellbeing and prosperity of the people. His Majesty's farsighted environmental policies, including the requirement to maintain at least sixty percent forest cover at all times, have inspired global admiration. For these outstanding contributions, His Majesty has been recognized internationally with the following awards:

- Champions of the Earth Award, 2005
- J. Paul Getty Conservation Leadership Award, 2006
- Kyoto Earth Hall of Fame Award, 2011
- Blue Planet Prize, 2022, from The Asahi Glass Foundation

As a Dharma King and Bodhisattva, His Majesty has also advanced Buddhist teachings by expanding monastic institutions, improving meditation centers, temples, and schools of dialectics, and strengthening the welfare of the monastic community.

At a time when democracy was still unfamiliar in many parts of the world, His Majesty worked tirelessly to prepare Bhutan for a democratic future. Local governance systems were introduced to cultivate leadership among the people, including the Dzongkhag Yargay Tshogchung in 1981 and the Gewog Yargay Tshogchung in 1991, thereby empowering citizens to participate actively in national planning and development.

In 1998, His Majesty devolved executive powers to an elected Council of Ministers, and in 2008, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo jointly entrusted full executive authority to the people, with their blessings and aspirations.

For these noble and enduring contributions, the Members of Parliament offer their heartfelt prayers for the long life, good health, and continued wellbeing of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, the protector and guardian of the Bhutanese people.

8. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, guardian and protector of all Bhutanese has also undertaken a series of progressive and transformative initiatives across the country to promote development and nurture the potential of the people. The Gelephu Mindfulness City is one such transformative initiative, envisioned to foster compassion, social harmony, environmental preservation, and sustainable national progress.

Drawing from the wisdom of Buddhism, a unique Bhutanese identity and system of mindful and sustainable trade relations have taken shape through the Mindfulness City. In the building of the Gelephu Mindfulness

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City, the Members of the Royal Family, people from all over the country and members of the monastic body offered their prayers and voluntarily contributed their efforts, exemplifying volunteerism and support in fulfilling the vision of His Majesty the King. The Parliament would like to express its deep gratitude to His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo for this noble and farsighted initiative.

9. In order to ensure the security and sovereignty of the nation and the people, His Majesty strengthened the three armed forces through the establishment of Desung and Gyalsung, and has also introduced Pelsung to safeguard the country's wealth and resources. His Majesty has instructed all entrusted with these responsibilities to carry out their duties with loyalty, wisdom, and wholehearted dedication.
10. During the recent first state visit to Vietnam in August, Their Majesties the King and Queen met senior officials and trade leaders, reaffirming and strengthening bilateral relations. The two governments held high level meetings that resulted in the signing of agreements, memoranda of understanding, and two conventions on civil aviation. These developments have laid a strong foundation for enhanced cooperation in politics, the economy, investment, trade, technology, education, culture, health, and tourism. The Parliament expresses its sincere gratitude to His Majesty for these achievements.
11. Following the passing of Her Majesty Queen Mother Sirikit of Thailand, Their Majesties traveled to Thailand to offer prayers and condolences. The Parliament expresses profound gratitude for this noble gesture and

offers prayers for the swift enlightenment for Her Majesty the late Queen Mother.

12. His Holiness the Je Khenpo, together with great lamas, reincarnate teachers, learned masters, and monastic communities from many countries, performed profound prayers for global peace and for the well-being of the Kingdom of Bhutan and its people. During this occasion, the sacred rituals of the powerful Kalachakra, including the extensive Four Hundred Kalachakra Mandala Offering, were performed with great splendor and devotion. Through the divine activities and blessings of His Holiness, a total of two hundred seventy women received their full monastic vows as bhikshunis. On behalf of the people, I express heartfelt gratitude to His Holiness and offer prayers for his long life and continued enlightened activities.
13. Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, despite her royal responsibilities in nurturing the young Princes and Princess, has graciously served His Majesty as Patron of the Pema Secretariat. Motivated by deep compassion for the youth of Bhutan, Her Majesty has played a central role in strengthening mental health services. Through her guidance, mental health support groups have been established, which will support citizens in addressing mental health challenges.

The Parliament expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Her Majesty for her presence and prayers throughout the Global Peace Prayers and the Kalachakra Empowerment, and for her compassionate care and guidance for the treasured young members of the Royal Family.

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14. The Parliament humbly expresses its profound gratitude to the great masters, eminent spiritual teachers, and revered incarnate lamas who traveled to Bhutan to preside over the Global Peace Prayers, and offers prayers for their long life and the flourishing of their noble Dharma activities.

15. The Royal Government and the Zhung Dratshang, working in harmony, offered extensive support and made extensive arrangements for the Global Peace Prayers, the Kalachakra Empowerment, and the sacred rituals at Kuenselphodrang. The Parliament also gratefully acknowledges the many generous donors whose selfless contributions made these events possible.

We further express deep gratitude to His Excellency the Prime Minister, the monastic bodies, government institutions, the three armed forces, Desuups, volunteers, and all individuals who ensured the success of the Global Peace Prayer and Kalachakra empowerment.

16. To present a brief overview of the agenda items for the Fourth Session:
 - 4 legislative Bills and 3 Conventions from the National Assembly are scheduled for deliberation, along with 3 Conventions submitted for re-deliberation. The Report of the Anti-Corruption Commission and 2 Committee Reports will also be deliberated
 - 11 follow up reports will be presented, and the Motion and Question Hour will be conducted in accordance with established procedures.

- For the Joint Sitting, 1 Audit Report and 2 Bills are scheduled for re deliberation.

The Parliament received a total of 57 petitions from Local Governments and Members. As these matters fall within the purview of the relevant Ministries and Agencies, the preliminary meeting has forwarded the issues to the concerned authorities. The Parliament urges the respective Ministries and Agencies to resolve and address these matters at the earliest possible time.

17. In conclusion, with the blessings of the Triple Gem, and under the benevolent guidance of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and the Royal Family, and with the sincere prayers of the people, we offer our prayers for a smooth and successful conclusion of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament.

I offer my deepest prayers for the continued good health, long life, and prosperity of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Their Royal Highnesses, Her Majesty the Druk Gyaltsuen, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and all Members of the Royal Family. We also offer profound respects and prayers to His Holiness the Je Khenpo and the Zhung Dratshang for their blessings and for the enduring peace, harmony, and well-being of the people and the nation.

Kadrinche and Trashhi Delek!

ANNEXURE II**Voting Records for Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan 2025****YES 40, ABSTAIN 2, NO 2, Total voted 44**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chhumig-Ura)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
4.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
5.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
6.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
7.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	YES
8.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
9.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
10.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
11.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
12.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
13.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
14.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
15.	H.E. Gem Tshering (MoENR)	YES
16.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
17.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
18.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
19.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
20.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	NO
21.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
22.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	ABSTAIN
23.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES

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24.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
25.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	ABSTAIN
26.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
27.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
28.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	NO
29.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
30.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
31.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
32.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
33.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	YES
34.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
35.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
36.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
37.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
38.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Dragteng-Langthel)	YES
39.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
40.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
41.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
42.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
43.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
44.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES

ANNEXURE III**Voting Records for Livestock Bill of Bhutan 2025****YES 25 ABSTAIN 1, NO 19, Total voted 45**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chhumig-Ura)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	NO
4.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	NO
5.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
6.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
7.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
8.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
9.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
10.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
11.	H.E Dasho Tshering Tobgay (Prime Minister)	YES
12.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
13.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
14.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
15.	H.E. Gem Tshering (MoENR)	YES
16.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
17.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
18.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	NO
19.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	ABSTAIN
20.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	NO
21.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
22.	Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phuntsholing)	YES
23.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	YES

24.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	NO
25.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	NO
26.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	NO
27.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	NO
28.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
29.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	NO
30.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	NO
31.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	NO
32.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	NO
33.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
34.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	NO
35.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
36.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	NO
37.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	NO
38.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
39.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Dragteng-Langthel)	NO
40.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
41.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
42.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	NO
43.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	NO
44.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
45.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	NO

ANNEXURE IV**Voting Records for the Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan, 2025****YES 44, ABSTAIN 0, NO 0, Total voted 44**

1.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
2.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
3.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
4.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
5.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
6.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	YES
7.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
9.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
10.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
11.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
12.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
13.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
14.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
15.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
16.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
17.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
18.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
19.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
20.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
21.	Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phuntsholing)	YES
22.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	YES

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23.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
24.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
25.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	YES
26.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
27.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
28.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
29.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
30.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
31.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
32.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
33.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	YES
34.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
35.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
36.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
37.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
38.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Dragteng-Langthel)	YES
39.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
40.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
41.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
42.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
43.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
44.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES

ANNEXURE V**Voting Records for Framework Agreement on the Establishment of International Big CAT Alliance****YES 44, ABSTAIN 0, NO 0, Total voted 44**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chhumig-Ura)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
4.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
5.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
6.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
7.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	YES
8.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
9.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
10.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
11.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
12.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
13.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
14.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
15.	H.E. Gem Tshering (MoENR)	YES
16.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
17.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
18.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
19.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
20.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
21.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES

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22.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	YES
23.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
24.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
25.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	YES
26.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
27.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
28.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
29.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
30.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
31.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
32.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
33.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	YES
34.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
35.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
36.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
37.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
38.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Dragteng-Langthel)	YES
39.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
40.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
41.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
42.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
43.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
44.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES

ANNEXURE VI**Voting Records for Amendment of Reservation on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities****YES 39, ABSTAIN 0, NO 0, Total voted 39**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chhumig-Ura)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
4.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
5.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
6.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
7.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
8.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
9.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
10.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
11.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
12.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
13.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
14.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
15.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
16.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
17.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
18.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	YES
19.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
20.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
21.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	YES

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22.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
23.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
24.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
25.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
26.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
27.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
28.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
29.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	YES
30.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
31.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
32.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
33.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
34.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
35.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
36.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
37.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
38.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
39.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES

ANNEXURE VII**Voting Records for Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2024****YES 65, ABSTAIN 2, NO 0, Total voted 67**

1.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Paro Dzongkhag)	YES
3.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
4.	H.E Sangay Dorji (Chairperson)	YES
5.	Hon. Phub Dorji (Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag)	YES
6.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Punakha Dzongkhag)	YES
7.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
8.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
9.	Hon. Dago Tshering La (Haa Dzongkhag)	YES
10.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
11.	Hon. Tshering Tshomo (Zhemgang Dzongkhag)	YES
12.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	YES
13.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
14.	Hon. Jamyang Namgyel (Pemagatshel Dzongkhag)	YES
15.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
16.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
17.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
18.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
19.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES
20.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
21.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES

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22.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
23.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
24.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
25.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
26.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
27.	Hon. Nima Wangdi (Tsirang Dzongkhag)	YES
28.	Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phunstholing)	YES
29.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeyang-Tseza)	ABSTAIN
30.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Eminent Member)	YES
31.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
32.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
33.	Hon. Sonam Tenzin (Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag)	YES
34.	Hon. Phuntsho Rapten (Eminent Member)	YES
35.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	YES
36.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
37.	Hon. Sonam Tobgyal (Trashigang Dzongkhag)	YES
38.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
39.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
40.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
41.	Hon. Leki Tshering (Thimphu Dzongkhag)	YES
42.	Hon. Kelzang Lhundup	ABSTAIN
43.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
44.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
45.	Hon. Tshering Wangchen (Mongar Dzongkhag)	YES
46.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES

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47.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)	YES
48.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	YES
49.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
50.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
51.	Hon. Pema Tashi (Sarpang Dzongkhag)	YES
52.	Hon. Rinzin Namgyal (Trongsa Dzongkhag)	YES
53.	Hon. Kezang Chuki Dorjee (Eminent Member)	YES
54.	Hon. Birendra Chimoria (Dagana Dzongkhag)	YES
55.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
56.	Hon. Tshering (Gasa Dzongkhag)	YES
57.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
58.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
59.	Hon. Kencho Tshering (Bumthang Dzongkhag)	YES
60.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
61.	Hon. Tashi Dendup (Samtse Dzongkhag)	YES
62.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
63.	Hon. Tashi Chhozom (Eminent Member)	YES
64.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
65.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES
66.	Hon. Tshewang Rinchen (Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag)	YES
67.	Hon. Tashi Wangyal (Eminent Member)	YES

Voting Records for National Assembly of Bhutan (Amendment) Bill, 2024**YES 25, ABSTAIN 5, NO 39, Total voted 69**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chume-Ura)	NO
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Paro Dzongkhag)	YES
4.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
5.	H.E Sangay Dorji (Chairperson)	NO
6.	Hon. Phub Dorji (Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag)	NO
7.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Punakha Dzongkhag)	NO
8.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
9.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	NO
10.	Hon. Dago Tshering La (Haa Dzongkhag)	NO
11.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	NO
12.	Hon. Tshering Tshomo (Zhemgang Dzongkhag)	NO
13.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	NO
14.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	ABSTAIN
15.	Hon. Jamyang Namgyel (Pemagatshel Dzongkhag)	NO
16.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	NO
17.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	NO
18.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	YES
19.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	NO
20.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	NO
21.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	NO
22.	H.E Gem Tshering (MoENR)	NO
23.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	NO

ANNEXURE VIII

24.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	NO
25.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
26.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
27.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
28.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	NO
29.	Hon. Nima Wangdi (Tsirang Dzongkhag)	NO
30.	Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phunstholing)	NO
31.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	ABSTAIN
32.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Eminent Member)	NO
33.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
34.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
35.	Hon. Sonam Tenzin (Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag)	YES
36.	Hon. Phuntsho Rapten (Eminent Member)	NO
37.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	ABSTAIN
38.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
39.	Hon. Sonam Tobgyal (Trashigang Dzongkhag)	NO
40.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	NO
41.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
42.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
43.	Hon. Leki Tshering (Thimphu Dzongkhag)	NO
44.	Hon. Kelzang Lhundup	ABSTAIN
45.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES
46.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
47.	Hon. Tshering Wangchen (Mongar Dzongkhag)	NO
48.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	NO

ANNEXURE VIII

49.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)	NO
50.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
51.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
52.	Hon. Pema Tashi (Sarpang Dzongkhag)	NO
53.	Hon. Rinzin Namgyal (Trongsa Dzongkhag)	NO
54.	Hon. Kezang Chuki Dorjee (Eminent Member)	NO
55.	Hon. Birendra Chimoria (Dagana Dzongkhag)	NO
56.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
57.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Drakteng-Langthel)	YES
58.	Hon. Tshering (Gasa Dzongkhag)	NO
59.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
60.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	NO
61.	Hon. Kencho Tshering (Bumthang Dzongkhag)	NO
62.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
63.	Hon. Tashi Dendup (Samtse Dzongkhag)	NO
64.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
65.	Hon. Tashi Chhozom (Eminent Member)	YES
66.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	ABSTAIN
67.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES
68.	Hon. Tshewang Rinchen (Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag)	NO
69.	Hon. Tashi Wangyal (Eminent Member)	NO

ANNEXURE IX**Voting Records for PAC's review report on the Performance Audit of WASH facilities in Higher Secondary Schools in Thimphu Thromde****YES 69, ABSTAIN 1, NO 1, Total voted 71**

1.	Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chume-Ura)	YES
2.	Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen -Tading)	YES
3.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Paro Dzongkhag)	YES
4.	Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bomdelling-Jamkhar)	YES
5.	H.E Sangay Dorji (Chairperson)	YES
6.	Hon. Phub Dorji (Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag)	YES
7.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Punakha Dzongkhag)	YES
8.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdhang -Ramjar)	YES
9.	H.E. Tshering (MoHA)	YES
10.	Hon. Dago Tshering La (Haa Dzongkhag)	YES
11.	Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)	YES
12.	Hon. Tshering Tshomo (Zhemgang Dzongkhag)	YES
13.	Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)	YES
14.	Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Choekhor-Tang)	YES
15.	Hon. Jamyang Namgyel (Pemagatshel Dzongkhag)	YES
16.	H.E. Younten Phuntsho (MoAL)	YES
17.	H.E. Tandin Wangchuk (MoH)	YES
18.	Hon. Sangay Khandu (Deputy Speaker)	NO
19.	H.E Dasho Tshering Tobgay (Prime Minister)	YES
20.	H.E. Yeezang D Thapa (MoESD)	YES
21.	H.E. Namgay Dorji (MoICE)	YES

22.	H.E. Lekey Dorji (MoF)	YES
23.	H.E Gem Tshering (MoENR)	YES
24.	H.E. D.N Dhungyel (MoFAET)	YES
25.	H.E. Chandra Bdr.Gurung(MoIT)	YES
26.	Hon. Dasho Pema Chewang (Opposition Leader)	YES
27.	Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)	YES
28.	Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)	YES
29.	Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)	YES
30.	Hon. Nima Wangdi (Tsirang Dzongkhag)	YES
31.	Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phunstholing)	YES
32.	Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)	ABSTAIN
33.	Hon. Ugyen Tshering (Eminent Member)	YES
34.	Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)	YES
35.	Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)	YES
36.	Hon. Sonam Tenzin (Tashiyangtse Dzongkhag)	YES
37.	Hon. Phuntsho Rapten (Eminent Member)	YES
38.	Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)	YES
39.	Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)	YES
40.	Hon. Sonam Tobgyal (Trashigang Dzongkhag)	YES
41.	Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)	YES
42.	Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)	YES
43.	Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)	YES
44.	Hon. Leki Tshering (Thimphu Dzongkhag)	YES
45.	Hon. Kelzang Lhundup	YES
46.	Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)	YES

ANNEXURE IX

47.	Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)	YES
48.	Hon. Tshering Wangchen (Mongar Dzongkhag)	YES
49.	Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)	YES
50.	Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Mongar)	YES
51.	Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchag)	YES
52.	Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)	YES
53.	Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saephu)	YES
54.	Hon. Pema Tashi (Sarpang Dzongkhag)	YES
55.	Hon. Rinzin Namgyal (Trongsa Dzongkhag)	YES
56.	Hon. Kezang Chuki Dorjee (Eminent Member)	YES
57.	Hon. Birendra Chimoria (Dagana Dzongkhag)	YES
58.	Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)	YES
59.	Hon. Namgay Dorji (Drakteng-Langthel)	YES
60.	Hon. Tshering (Gasa Dzongkhag)	YES
61.	Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)	YES
62.	Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)	YES
63.	Hon. Kencho Tshering (Bumthang Dzongkhag)	YES
64.	Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)	YES
65.	Hon. Tashi Dendup (Samtse Dzongkhag)	YES
66.	Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)	YES
67.	Hon. Tashi Chhozom (Eminent Member)	YES
68.	Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)	YES
69.	Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)	YES
70.	Hon. Tshewang Rinchen (Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag)	YES
71.	Hon. Tashi Wangyal (Eminent Member)	YES

Closing Address by Tshogpon Lungten Dorji at the Closing Ceremony of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament of Bhutan, 27 December 2025

1. The Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament concludes on this auspicious day with the gracious presence of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo.
2. On behalf of all Members of Parliament and on my own behalf, I extend our deepest respect and heartfelt gratitude to His Majesty for graciously presiding over the Closing Ceremony of this Parliament session.
3. We would also like to express our deep reverence to Her Majesty the Gyaltshen for graciously attending the Closing Ceremony of the Parliament despite Your Majesty's tight schedule.
4. In addition, we humbly welcome and offer our sincere reverence to Their Royal Highnesses for the continued gracious presence during the Opening and Closing Ceremony of the Parliament.
5. The Parliament would also like to extend our warm welcome to the senior officials, members of the diplomatic corps, former senior officials, media agencies and all the attendees who are here to witness the closing of the Parliamentary session and all the people who are witnessing the closing ceremony on television.
6. In keeping with the established practice of the winter session, a vote of thanks was offered by following:
 - The Prime Minister on behalf of the .

ANNEXURE X

- The Chairperson on behalf of the National Council, and
- The Leader of the Opposition on behalf of the Opposition Party.

The Parliament conveys its sincere appreciation to the Prime Minister, the Chairperson of the National Council, and the Leader of the Opposition for their heartfelt expressions of gratitude and loyalty to His Majesty The King.

7. On 22 December 2025, in profound recognition of the far-reaching and exceptional contributions rendered by His Majesty The King to the sustainable development, peace, and security of our nation, Chulalongkorn University of the Kingdom of Thailand conferred upon His Majesty its highest academic distinction, the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in International Development Studies. The Parliament, with the deepest reverence and loyalty, humbly extends its heartfelt congratulations to Your Majesty on this most distinguished honour.

Likewise, in recognition of the unwavering dedication, compassionate leadership, and tireless advocacy demonstrated by Her Majesty the Queen for the welfare and well-being of the Bhutanese people, particularly in the areas of health, equality, cultural preservation, and sustainable development, Chulalongkorn University conferred upon Her Majesty the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology and Anthropology. With utmost respect and admiration, the Parliament humbly offers its heartfelt congratulations to Your Majesty on the conferment of this esteemed academic honour.

ANNEXURE X

The conferment of such prestigious honorary academic degrees by a renowned foreign institution, in recognition of the exceptionally distinguished services rendered by Their Majesties in the supreme interest of the nation and its people, further enhances the dignity and international standing of our country. It also serves to strengthen and deepen the enduring bonds of friendship, goodwill, and cooperation between the Kingdoms of Bhutan and Thailand, which continue to flourish with each passing year.

On behalf of the Parliament, we humbly express our profound gratitude to the President and the esteemed professors of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, for conferring these noble and distinguished honorary academic titles upon His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen, with the highest respect, reverence, and admiration.

8. I am pleased to report the successful conclusion of the deliberations of the Fourth Session of the Fourth Parliament, during which the following key legislative and parliamentary business were accomplished:

National Assembly has adopted the following Bills:

- Livestock Bill of Bhutan, 2025
- Cooperatives and Farmer Groups Bill of Bhutan, 2025
- Financial Services (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2025

International Agreement and Conventions:

- Adoption of Framework Agreement on the Establishment of International Big CAT Alliance.

ANNEXURE X

- Amendment of Reservation on Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The Agreement and the Convention is transmitted to the National Council in accordance with the rules of procedure.

Reports:

- Review Report on the Anti-Corruption Annual Report 2024 – 2025
- Tourism Policy Review Report
- 11 Action Taken Reports, and
- Question Hour Sessions on matters of critical importance to the nation and the people.

Re-deliberation:

- The House re-deliberated and adopted the Free Trade Agreement between the Kingdom of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand. The Agreement has been ratified and is ready to be submitted for Royal Assent.

Joint Sitting:

- Deliberated the disputed sections of the Alternative Dispute Resolution (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2024. The Joint Sitting adopted the Bill and will be submitted for Royal Assent.
- Deliberated the disputed sections of the National Assembly (Amendment) Bill of Bhutan, 2024. However, the Bill failed to secure the two third majority during voting and was therefore declared a dead Bill.

9. The Parliamentary session was conducted smoothly and successfully. The Committee Chairpersons and Members presented the Bills with clarity and diligence and undertook comprehensive reviews of the reports. The proceedings were further enriched by the constructive engagement and full support of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, Ministers, and the Members of Parliament.
10. The successful conclusion of this Parliamentary Session was also made possible through the dedicated support of the Secretariat, the staff of the Department of Procurement and Properties, the media personnel, and the Royal Bhutan Police, who ensured the smooth conduct of proceedings and the maintenance of security.

I take this opportunity to convey my sincere appreciation to the Members of Parliament and to all individuals who contributed to the conduct of Parliamentary proceedings and related activities.

11. In conclusion, we humbly offer our heartfelt prayers for the long life and the swift fulfilment of all noble aspirations of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, Their Royal Highnesses, and all the esteemed Members of the Royal Family.

With deep reverence, we also humbly offer prayers for the long life of His Holiness the Je Khenpo and all venerable religious figures, and for the continued flourishing and propagation of the sacred Dharma.

ANNEXURE X

Therefore, to the Glorious Palden Drukpa, the Enlightened Bodhisattva who abides unwaveringly in the Vajra-like Dharma and is enthroned upon the golden throne upheld by the fearless Five-Faced Protector, we, the House, unanimously offer our prayers for Your Majesty's long life and for the continued bestowal of peace and auspiciousness upon the Kingdom.

To the Glorious Pelden Drukpa lineage holder, the Enlightened Bodhisattva who abides unshakably in the Vajra-like Dharma and is enthroned upon the Golden Throne upheld by the fearless Five-Faced Protector, the Parliament unanimously offers prayers for Your Majesty's long life and continued auspiciousness.

Tashi Delek

List of Members who have attended the sittings of the Fourth Session of Fourth Parliament

1. H.E Speaker Lungten Dorji (Panbang)
2. H.E Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay (Sangbekha)
3. H.E MoFAET Minister D.N Donyel (Phuntsho Pelri)
4. H.E Health Minister Tandin Dorji (Athang-Thedtsho)
5. H.E Finance Minister Lekey Dorji (Bardo-Trong)
6. H.E Education Minister Yeezang D Thapa (Ugyentse-Yoeseltse)
7. H.E MoAL Minister Younten Phuntsho (Jomotsangkha-Martshala)
8. H.E MoIT Minister Chandra Bdr. Gurung (Lhamoizingkha-Tashichoeling)
9. H.E MoENR Minister Gem Tshering (Dokar-Shaba)
10. H.E Home Minister Tshering (North Thimphu)
11. H.E MoICE Minister Namgay Dorji (Kabji-Talo)
12. Hon. Opposition Leader Dasho Pema Chewang (Kanglung-Samkhar-Udzorong)
13. Hon. Dy. Speaker Sangay Khandu (Tashichhoeling)
14. Hon. Sonam Rinchen (Chume-Ura)
15. Hon. Kuenzang Thinley (Chhokhor-Tang)
16. Hon. Pempa (Bongo-Chapcha)
17. Hon. Rinzin Dorji (Phuntsholing)
18. Hon. Sonam Dorji (Drugeygang-Tseza)
19. Hon. Pema Drukpa (Khamaed-Lunana)
20. Hon. Lhaba Lhaba (Khatoed Laya)
21. Hon. Lhendup Wangdi (Bji - Kartshog- Uesu)

ANNEXURE XI

22. Hon. Loday Tsheten (Gangzur -Minjey)
23. Hon. Tempa Dorji (Menbi -Tsenkhar)
24. Hon. Kinzang Wangchuk (Dramedtse-Ngatshang)
25. Hon. Dorji Wangmo (Kengkhar-Weringla)
26. Hon. Naiten Wangchuk (Monggar)
27. Hon. Sonam Tashi (Lamgong-Wangchang)
28. Hon. Sangay Thinley (Khar-Yurung)
29. Hon. Yeshey Jamtsho (Nanong-Shumar)
30. Hon. Lamdra Wangdi (Nganglam)
31. Hon. Namgay Wangchuk (Lingmukha-Toedwang)
32. Hon. Tshering Penjor (Dewathang-Gomdar)
33. Hon. Ugyen Lama (Dophuchen-Tading)
34. Hon. Harka Singh Tamang (Gelephu)
35. Hon. Dr. Tek Bdr Rai (Shompangkha)
36. Hon. Tshewang Rinzin (South-Thimphu)
37. Hon. Rinchen Wangdi (Bartsham-Shongphu)
38. Hon. Tashi Tenzin (Radi-Sakteng)
39. Hon. Damche Tenzin (Thrimshing-Kangpara)
40. Hon. Lam Dorji (Wamrong)
41. Hon. Wangdi Drukpa (Bumdeling-Jamkhar)
42. Hon. Namgay Dorji (Khamdang-Ramjar)
43. Hon. Namgay Dorji (Dragteng-Langthel)
44. Hon. Phuntsho Dhendup (Nubi-Tangsibji)
45. Hon. Kamal Bdr Gurung (KikhorthangMendrelgang)
46. Hon. Lhakpa Tshering Tamang (Sergithang-TsirangToed)
47. Hon. Kuenga Dorji (Nyishog-Saepu)