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2ND THROMDE TSHOGDE SESSION-1

Venue: Thromde Conference Hall

Date: February 26, 2016

Members present:

1. Dasho Tikaram Kafley, Thrompon, Chairperson
2. Mr. Sithar Dorji, Thromde Thuemi
3. Thromde Tshogpas, Six Demkhongs
4. Mr. Karma Dupchuk, Offgt. Executive Secretary

Observers:

1. Division heads
2. Reporter from Kuensel
3. Asst. Planning Officer as minute recorder

The Chairperson was welcomed by all the Thromde officials and the Thuemis and escorted to the Thromde Conference Hall. The 1st Session of the 2nd Thromde Tshogde, commenced with Zhugdrel Phuensum Tshogpai Tendrel.

1. Keynote address by the Chairperson

The Chairperson opened the session by welcoming and thanking all the Tshogpas, Thuemi, Officiating Executive Secretary, Division Heads and other officials for being part of the 1st Session of 2nd Thromde Tshogde. He also mentioned that the 2nd Thromde Tshogde has been instituted as per the Constitution and the Local Government Act. Further, he stated that the commencement of the 2nd Thromde Tshogde has been very fortunate as it coincides with the birth year of Gyalsey.

He envisaged a fruitful functioning of the Thromde hereafter with financial progress having close collaboration and support from the Tshogpas, Thuemi and the Thromde officials. He also thanked the Thromde officials for rendering support during the 2nd Thromde Tshogde election 2016. Finally, on behalf of Thromde Thuemi, Thromde Tshogpas, Thromde staffs and his personnel behalf, he expressed sincere prayers and wishes for the wellbeing and long life of Gyalsey.

2. Budget endorsement presentation on FY 2016-2017 budget (By Offtg. Executive Secretary)

The Officiating Executive Secretary thanked the floor for giving him the opportunity and expressed that 2016 has been an auspicious year for the nation as a whole with the birth of Gyalsey. As such, a tribute remark on behalf of Thromde Officials was paid for Gyalsey's wellbeing and long life.

Further, he also welcomed the new Thromde Tshogpas of Rabdeyling and Sonam Gatshel Demkhongs. He shared the floor that there was ambiguity in interpreting the tenure of Thrompon which has resulted in confusion for the conduct of Thromde Tshogde proceeding itself. However, with the adhoc directives issued by the competent authority, the 2nd Thromde Tshogde Session had to be conducted in haste for which an apology was announced. While there are budget endorsement and Urban Structural Plan to be shared through the presentations, he expressed optimism that there could be other miscellaneous issues that can be tabled for discussion.

In addition, he updated the gathering that the 1st Thromde Tshogde had convened seven formal sessions and nine special sessions since its establishment in 2011. He also stated that all these sessions were conducted fruitfully in line with the relevant Acts, Rules and Regulations in place and he wished that this trend and support continues in the days to come. He also highlighted development and advancement

that have been made as a result of the cordial and prompt decisions of the esteemed former Tshogde members. Envisaging that the trend of development in Thromdes is depicted through the provisions of funds, he presented on the budget proposal for the financial year 2016-2017 for endorsement.

Sl.No	Program Activity & Sub-Activities	Amount Proposed
1	Preparation of LAP- IV (including survey and demarcation)	1.500
2	Roads Construction including ring road with roadside footpaths and drains	75.000
3	Resurfacing of existing road, maintenance of footpaths and parking spaces	5.000
4	Construction of Storm water drainage	10.000
5	Procurement and furniture of office equipments, computers and peripherals for City hall complex	1.000
6	Procurement of service vehicles and machineries	3.000
7	Equipment with ICT Facilities to improve the data Base management systems	1.000
8	Construction of water reservoir and pipe lines	4.970
9	Maintenance of existing water supply	1.000
10	Conduct campaign on cleanliness, sanitation, waste disposal management , water borne disease, malaria	0.200
11	Maintenance of existing sewerage system	0.500
12	Maintenance of existing Solid waste	0.500
13	Construction of additional sewerage net works	10.000
14	Procure and provide waste bins with Degradable and Non degradable facilities	0.500
15	Construction of recreational park (Design Preparation)	5.000
16	Installation of Energy Efficient Streetlight lamps (LED or Solar sourced)	4.000
17	Maintenance of Streetlight	1.000
18	Installation of CCTV	0.100
19	Repair and maintenance of existing structures	1.000
20	Community Vitality and Awareness Programs	0.300
21	Maintenance of Mani Dungkhor, Choerten, mani dangrim and other Religious structures	1.500
22	Form, Train, equip and Mobility for disaster Management Unit/squad/Team	0.500
23	HRD	2.430
	TOTAL	130.000

He explained the requirements and background on how the above figure have been derived and worked out. With regard to the recreational park in teak plantation (58 acres), he stated that in-house knowledge may not be professional enough to plan the stature of a Town Central Park and hence the provision of Nu 5 million for consultancy services. Since the budget for maintenance and operation for streetlights are limited and given the extensive area to cover, it may be important to explore energy efficient lights that would reduce the cost of operation and therefore the provisions to install energy efficient LED streetlights in all the places. Installation of CCTV was found very important so as to monitor the destruction of streetlights and also to enhance security for all the areas in close collaboration with the RBP. In the current fiscal year, the office in partnerships with schools have planned to conduct community vitality programs through door-door visits on waste management, awareness on imparting civic sense with regard to protecting government properties, crime prevention and reduction of domestic violence. Unlike other three Thromdes, Gelephu Thromde lacked Zangdopelri because of which a need was felt to re-organize the Buddha Statue area by dismantling obsolete structures and turning it into a space for recreation and religious circumbulation.

The officiating Executive Secretary threw light on the fund statement for Gelephu Thromde. He informed that GoI granted Nu 100 million through the Small Development Projects (SDP) for the development of infrastructures in LAP-II and LAP-III.

	RGoB	GoI	Revenue
Capital	130	100	21
Current	13		
Total	143	100	21
Grand Total = 274 million			

The Chairperson thanked the officiating Executive Secretary for such presentation and said that the old Thromde Tshogpas are well aware of such budget proposals except for two new Thromde Tshogpas. He informed especially the new Thromde Tshogpas that the office prepares budget proposal every financial year, gets it endorsed through the Thromde Tshogde for onward submission to the Ministry of Finance. The Chair informed the members to review the list of activities proposed for additional inclusion or

subtraction so as to inform the people of respective Demkhongs and endorse it accordingly for onward submission.

Tashiling Tshogpa expressed his concern regarding the budget for cleaning drains in the core area, on which he enquired if it is possible to increase the budget proposal for cleanliness since it is of utmost importance. To this, the officiating Executive Secretary clarified by saying that the cleanliness of the town has been outsourced to the private firms, while the monitoring work is done by the environment division. He furthermore clarified on the need to work out within the budget ceiling provided for each fiscal year for both capital and current activities. Moreover, he appraised the floor that there have not been any serious complaints or issues regarding the cleanliness of the core area. The Head, Environment Division suggested that the lid of the drains be removed so that cleaning of the garbage is possible. However, the officiating Executive Secretary said it may be a wasteful expenditure if all the lids are removed at a time but rather to cut the metal grid at certain intervals so that cleaning is feasible. The Chairperson advocated the officiating Executive Secretary's suggestion and asked for immediate action. Due to limited time frame, the Chairperson informed the Thromde Tshogpas to have better discussion with their Demkhong people to have agendas for Tshogde discussion during next fiscal year's budget proposals, since the Tshogde this time around had to be convened adhoc.

Having discussed in detail, the budget was endorsed for submission to the Ministry of Finance.

3. Presentation on Thromde Structure Plan (By Urban Planner)

The Urban planner informed the floor that Gelephu Structural Plan was prepared in 2005 by Benninger, Architectonics USA and revised in 2014. The Structural plan depicts a total area of 14.75 Sq.km while the approved area of Gelephu Thromde is 11.52 Sq.km. He also presented on the details of LAP I, II, III, IV, ISC, Core area. The Royal Boulevard (3.56 km) could not be constructed due to high budget implication (Nu.370 million). Further, he presented the skeletal plan of city central park in LAP II (58 acres) that outlines three zones; 1) children park 2) general section 3) senior citizen. However, due to limited human resources capacity, it is important to have experts and consultants who could really work into the park design. Finally, he mentioned the issues faced by Thromde, such as the need to have 500 meter buffer zone restricting developments, flash floods during monsoon season, budget constraints, lack of mobility equipments and capacity building.

The Chairperson applauded Urban Planner for the presentation and informed the members that Structural Plan is the back bone for any kind of developmental activities to be brought in the city. He cited an example of the number of storied a building should have according to the guidelines in the structural plan. With this few remarks, the floor was open for miscellaneous discussion.

4. Miscellaneous

- a) Jampeling Tshogpa brought up three issues:
 - I. Official Seal and Letter head: He asked about changing the seal from “Thuemis” to “Thromde Tshogpa”
 - II. Picnic spot: To identify picnic spot in Mou chhu to prevent pollution of the area
 - III. Canopy: To build canopy for the RBP who goes for patrolling during monsoon season

Resolution

The Chairperson informed the members to visit printing house and then process the bill for submission to Accounts Section. So far as the picnic spot is concerned, the officiating Executive Secretary clarified that the picnickers are usually people from outside the border. Since it concerns security, he informed the floor that for picnicking, there is standing norms and understanding established between the Thromde and Security agencies (Dzongkhag, Dungkhag, RBP, Immigration) that the conduct of event relating to mass gathering like marriage ceremonies, national level rimdros and rituals etc shall accord necessary approval from the Dzongkhag. Since the activity in discussion involves people from outside, Immigration has framed certain Do’s and Don’ts to be followed while on picnic visit. It was also apprised that, in conjunction with these security agencies, Thromde also collaborates on sanitation requirements and monitoring.

With regard to the request from RBP for construction of Canopy shed, the Officiating Executive Secretary informed the gathering that Thromde has already approved to construct temporary canopy in all six Demkhongs for which the designs and estimates are underway.

- b) Samdrupling Tshogpa brought up an issue on the inconvenience faced by the people while voting and processing VPIC. He pointed out that other Demkhongs have office except in Samdrupling.**

Resolution

The officiating Executive Secretary reassured saying that construction of Demkhong Constituency Hall shall be explored depending on the budget availability once the LAP is completed.

- c) Tashiling Tshogpa raised his concerns on the dust being generated by the ongoing raising of road in Tashilling which would pose risk to public health and requested Thromde for black topping. He also enquired on the status of water shortages and the need to urgently solve the matter.**

The officiating Executive Secretary clarified that it isn't easy to start off the road construction for short of budget given the large stretch to cover. He cited the examples of having to take a big risk in floating the tenders for construction of ISC road given the budget availability of just 50 million against the estimated cost requirement of almost Nu. 90 million instead of having to surrender back Nu. 50 Million. He explained that small stretch of road incurs huge cost given the fact that all service lines including sewerage, water supply, street lights, footpath etc have to be integrated all together to avoid wasteful expenditure and future complications. He further explained that the technique of constructing roads have changed calling for a raised road level due to heavy down pour especially for a place like Gelephu. In order for these raised embankments to achieve proper consolidation, it is necessary to keep open to traffic for a year or two before it gets blacktopped and hence the reason for exclusion of blacktopping work for Tashiling.

The Engineer, Water Supply Section clarified saying that there is not enough budgets to take the water pipe from Zomlingthang Tank till lower part of Tashilling. He reassured that the already completed water supply packages shall serve lower Tashiling from the round tank while the ongoing water supply construction from Zomlingthang shall serve the upper Tashilling. He informed the gathering that once these two lines are tested, the problems associated with the main water pipelines will be resolved soon.

d) Samdrupling Tshogpa brought up an issue on the inconvenience faced by public as a result of road closure by the ongoing middle secondary school construction.

The Officiating Executive Secretary clarified that the existing road leading to Samdrupling through ongoing middle secondary school construction site must have closed due to inconveniences caused for them to work. He informed that re-validation for LAP-IV is underway and that temporary access can be arranged once the re-validation is completed. He also shared of the inconveniences faced by office since people don't come to take over their planned plots despite repeated reminders. He informed Thromde Tshogpas to kindly inform all the people in their respective Demkhongs and render necessary support. He clarified that it would be near impossible for office to even provide temporary access without the plots been taken over officially by these landowners.

Resolution

The Chairperson requested if there could be at least an access road as it was becoming difficult for taking sick people to hospital. The officiating Executive secretary said that discussion with the contractor to have an access road has already been initiated and underway. The Head, UPD informed that the discussion to allot plot in LAP IV is ongoing with NLCS and will be completed on March 14, 2016 after which developmental activities can be initiated.

e) Co-ordination issues

The officiating Executive Secretary took the opportunity to at least advocate the need to attend the meetings and be on time. Similarly, Head, UPD also added that people hardly turn up during plot allotment even after second notification in BBS.

The officiating Executive Secretary also reminded the members to bring in the important issues that require to be deliberated at Tshogde level only. He informed the gathering that petty issues that are administrative in nature are also being discussed at Tshogde, thereby undermining the sanctity of Thromde tshogde's stature besides being construed as a failure to coordinate between the Administration and Thromde Tshogde.

5. Closing remarks by the Chairperson

The Tshogde concluded with the Chairperson stating that 1st Session of the 2nd Thromde Tshogde has been successful and with his sincere gratitude, accredited everyone for their fruitful participation. Lastly, with the grace of god and blessings of His Majesties the Kings, he concluded the Session with a prayer for a gradual progress in times to come.