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2ND THROMDE TSHOGDE SESSION-3

Venue: MPH, Gelephu Lower Secondary School

Date: March 23, 2017

Members present:

- 1. Dasho Tikaram Kafley, Thrompon, Chairperson
- 2. Pema, Executive Secretary
- 3. Karchung, Tshogpa, Samdrupling
- 4. Lok Bahadur Chhetri, Tshogpa, Jampeling
- 5. Chimi, Tshogpa, Rabdeyling
- 6. Chencho Gyeltshen, Tshogpa, Tashiling
- 7. Tika Maya Karki, Tshogpa , Sonam Gatshel
- 8. Namkhaling Tshogpa- Vacant post

Observers:

- 1. Sonam Chophel, RTO, RSTA
- 2. Tapas Gurung, Medical Superintendent, Regional Referral Hospital, Gelephu
- 3. Lingay Dubjur, Bhutan Post
- 4. Ngawang Tenzin, R.O, Immigration
- 5. Jith Bdr. Rai, Manager, Bhutan Telecom
- 6. Drukpola, LPO, NRCA, Gelephu
- 7. Karma Wangdi, Bhutan Broadcasting Service Reporter
- 8. Thromde Staffs

The Chairperson was welcomed by all the Thromde officials and the Tshogpas and escorted to the Multi-purpose Hall. The 3rd Session of the 2nd Thromde Tshogde commenced with Zhugdrel Phuensum Tshogpai Tendrel.

• Keynote Address by the Chairperson

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2. Follow up on 2nd Tshogde Resolution

The Executive Secretary reported to the floor that all the activities as per the resolutions of 2nd Tshogde have been carried out and Dasho thanked everyone for their hard work.

3. Financial Year 2017-2018 Budget Endorsement

The Accounts Officer informed the floor that, the budget proposal for the FY2017-2018 has an amount of Nu.140 million for capital work and Nu.24 million for current expenditure. He said that the details of activity has been already worked out and ready to be submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

Resolution

The Tshogde endorsed the budget proposal for FY 2017-2018.

4. Appointment of Dzongkha Clerk or Thromde Tshogde Secretary

The Executive Secretary informed that, in case of Dzongkhags, there is a clerk who is solely responsible for recording minutes, preparation of booklets in the Dzongkhag Tshogde. In the absence of such person in the Thromde Tshogde, he reported that the role has been conferred to other officials from the office which is additional work. Besides, we need someone committed on the work for effective service delivery. Hence, it is important to appoint a clerk that is well versed in Dzongkha.

The proposal put forward by the Executive Secretary was endorsed by the Tshogde and the administration was asked to propose the same with the RCSC.

5. Public Visiting Office for Services/Approval- Every Monday to Thursday

The Executive Secretary expressed his concern about the inconvenience caused to both public and the officials due to the absence of visiting hours. For better service and for the convenience of everyone, he proposed that three days should be set as visiting days for the public and the remaining two days should be for official works, meetings, site visits, etc.

Dasho Thrompon supplemented Executive Secretary, stating that, people are often made to wait to meet the officials. Hence, he gave his consent and asked the Tshogpas to comment or give their feedbacks, if any.

The Chief Engineer further advocated the suggestion and Dasho Thrompon recommended Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday as public visiting days and Thursday and Friday for official work. However, TEO raised his concern by stating that, there will be instances where urgent issues will require immediate actions and if such visiting days are set, it may complicate the situation.

To this, Dasho Thrompon clarified that; should there be any matter that needs to be immediately resolved, it can be looked into. The Head, UPD, suggested that, instead of Thursday and Friday, Tuesday and Friday will be more suitable for official work.

Resolution

The Tshogde accepted and approved the proposal and the schedule was set as:

i. Public visiting days: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

ii. Official work: Tuesday and Friday

6. Proposal from Divisions

6.1. Environment Division

• Service Fee Collection for Medical Waste and Corporation Office Waste

The Environment Officer informed that as per Section 20 of "*Waste Prevention and Management Regulation, 2012*", we are allowed to levy nominal service charge for waste collection to the Institutions (Hospital and diagnostic centre) and Corporate Offices. He said that, **Nu.1,35,000** (Ngultrum One Lakh Thirty Five Thousand) is spent every month for management of waste from the Thromde Revenue but the income generated in return is very less. Hence, he suggested that a nominal fee of Nu.1000 (Ngultrum One Thousand Only) maybe levied but the decision was left up to the Tshogde.

Dasho Thrompon had the same opinion and urged that; initial amount of Nu.1000 can be levied. Accordingly, a notification about the fee shall be sent to the respective Institutions and Corporate Offices and the same shall be recorded in the minutes. The fee shall be levied with effect from July, 2017.

The Medical Superintendent acknowledged the idea of service fee but he requested for some time before the fee is implemented since, they need to get the budget from the Ministry.

The Tshogpa, Tashiling Demkhong questioned whether the fee shall be levied only to the Corporate Offices. The Environment Officer clarified that, since, residential structures are already being charged for the services along with the tax, the fee shall only be levied to the Hospitals and Corporate offices. He further explained that even though schools fall under the category of Institution, they shall be exempted from the fee. The Executive Secretary added that, schools manage their own waste.

The Chief Engineer said it is important to understand the whole scenario before endorsing such proposal. He explained that fees are already included for certain offices which have rented out private buildings for their use. He also added that certain amount have been included for waste along with the tax which may result in conflict later.

The Environment Officer made it clear that, tax and other charges are paid by the building owner and the service charge for waste management and collection which is being proposed will be imposed to the offices and not the building owners.

Resolution

The proposal was endorsed and the fee of Nu.1000 (Ngultrum One Thousand) shall be levied from July, 2017 to the Hospital and two Private Diagnostic Centers and the Corporate Offices.

6.2. Urban Planning Division

• Endorsement of Local Area Plan V

As the conceptual LAP requires endorsement by the Tshogde, a brief presentation was presented by the Urban Planning Division. It was brought into the notice of Tshogde and the audience that, as per DCR, a plot measuring minimum of 25 decimals shall qualify for institutions. However, there are 10 undersized plots in the Institutional precinct. Hence, better charges have been worked out for the undersized plots which shall be submitted to the National Land Commission for Thram validation and the demarcation and handing taking of the plots is scheduled to be completed by June, 2017.

Further, it was also informed that the ISC had been endorsed by the Tshogde before but due to non finalization of Airport Flight Funnel path, it could not be implemented. Nevertheless, the issue has now been resolved after joint meeting held with Department of Airport Transport at Paro. Hence, the revised ISC is submitted for endorsement by the Tshogde.

• Shifting of Truck parking to new Area

His Majesty during his royal visit had commanded to construct the taxi parking at the suitable location in Gelephu which is currently being occupied as the truck parking is ideal. The Head, UPD reported that, the truck parking shall be shifted near AWP (behind Chencho Workshop) on temporary basis.

Resolution

The proposal regarding the shifting of truck parking were endorsed by the Tshogde as proposed and the Urban Planning Division was instructed on the taxi parking at the existing Truck parking area.

6.3. ICT Cluster Division

• Financial and Technical Assistance (Internet/LAN connectivity) for Youth Center estimated about Nu.2, 67,178.08

It was appraised before the Tshogde that, with the advancement of technology, it is important for the youth to have easy access to the internet which will prove to be beneficial for them. In order to do that, budget amounting to Nu.2, 67,178.08 was proposed to the Tshogde which shall be utilized for setting up Internet connectivity for the youths at the Youth Center.

Resolution

The Tshogde endorsed the amount for setting up Internet Connectivity at Gelephu Youth Center.

6.4. Thromde Education Sector

• Supplementary funds for SEN& TRC (SEN programs for specially disabled children and TRC resources for developing teaching learning activities are limited)

The Thromde Education Officer enlightened that, as SEN is a program for specially disabled children, a lot of resources are required to help develop and train the teaching and learning activities. Since, there is shortage of resources, he appealed to the Tshogde for supplementary funds to buy necessary materials, to give training, etc.

Resolution

The TEO was asked to propose for a nominal budget through note sheet as and when required which shall be met from Thromde Revenue.

• Requirement of Fund for Wire Mesh Fence

The TEO reported that the fence around the school needs maintenance and proposed for fund to install wire mesh fences.

Dasho Thrompon asked the Chief Engineer whether there is any budget provision for such maintenance to which the Chief Engineer explained that, the maintenance is required but there is not budget for it at the moment.

Resolution

The Tshogde assured necessary assistance.

• Day Meal for Lower School

The TEO reported that there are students that come from poor background and are residing far from school. Such students do not get enough time to concentrate on their studies, hence, he suggested that if day meal is provided for the students, it will ease their problem and students can concentrate on their studies.

Resolution

The Tshogde directed the Tshogpas to make a detail study about the situation and see whether it is really required. Further, Tshogde instructed the concern official to discuss with the parents regarding the matter and the findings shall be presented in the next Tshgode.

• Government ECCD Centre within Thromde for lower income families

TEO also proposed for a government ECCD Centre within Thromde for lower income families.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that a thorough study shall be conducted and the findings to be presented in the next Tshogde.

v. Renovation of Youth Center Wall

TEO put forward the need to renovate the wall of Youth Center. The Head, DRD said that, the Center falls on LAP V so, it will be proper to wait till the plan is finalized.

Resolution

The Tshogde directed TEO to discuss with DRD and Urban Planning and submit the estimation.

7. Submissions from Demkhong

I. Tashiling Demkhong

• Connection of GI pipeline from main line to meter point

The Site Engineer, Water Supply section informed the gathering that the work has already begun in LAP II. However, he assured that the work will also be carried out in LAP IV & V once the planning begins. Further, he also said that the water connection currently provided is just a temporary measure because if installed with GI pipeline, it will have to be dismantled once construction of road occurs.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the work will be carried out in the future.

• Maintenance of road in AWP area.

Dasho Thrompon stated that the AWP area falls under LAP V which is already endorsed by Tshogde. As such he said that as the developmental activities occur, the above issue will be addressed accordingly.

Resolution

The Tshogde instructed the Demkhong Tshogpa to identify the area for maintenance and submit the estimate to the Thromde Administration.

• Construction of Base walls through Aipoli stream

The Chief Engineer, Infrastructure Development Division, stated that as the LAP V is endorsed in the Tshogde, the construction of base-wall will be taken up in the 12th FYP.

Resolution

The Tshogde informed the gathering that since the LAP was finalized recently, the activity can be taken up only in the 12FYP.

• Bore well

The Tshogpa gladly informed that the problem of water shortage has improved over the times after the construction of bore well. However, he was also of the opinion that construction of another bore well will further reduce water shortages in the future.

Resolution

The Tshogde informed that the bore well construction in Rabdeyling, Jampeling and Samdrupling will be taken up through the project. However, probability of constructing the bore well in Tashiling will be carried if there is any saving.

• 21 Plots under no construction zone in Airport in Tashiling Demkhong.

The Head, Urban Planning Division reported that 28 private plots (20.56 acre) fall under the flight funnel path and informed that there is a lot of pressure from the public. As such, he asked the Tshogde for their direction.

Resolution

The Tshogde directed the Urban Planning Division to submit the matter to the Department of Air Transport at the earliest.

• Status update regarding Elephants problems

The official from the Forest informed that electric fencing as been constructed from Aipoly. In addition, the official said if Thromde has budget, Forest Office will be providing technical assistance in coming up with the design of the fence.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the activity will be taken up if there is any savings.

II. Samdrupling Demkhong

• Clearance of Jungle/bushes

The Demkhong Tshogpa informed that the people are questioning him about the clearing of bushes in the government land. He also pointed out that people would rather pay fine than clear the bushes as they find paying penalty is far cheaper.

Dasho Thrompon said that clearing of bushes in the government land will be the responsibility of Thromde Office but with regard to private land, he asked if the Executive Secretary could throw light on the matter.

To this, the Executive Secretary stated that most of the plot owners reside in Thimphu who does not even have clear knowledge of their plot location. He said that the owners were notified even through the Bhutan Broadcasting Service to clear the bushes from their land. He added that if the tax is not paid for three consecutive years, then the plot will be taken as government land.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that:

- 1. Government plots will be cleared by Thromde Office.
- The penalty for the private owners shall be calculated as Cost per clearing * Frequency of clearings required.
- 3. The other option for the private owner could be to clear their respective plots after obtaining clearance from the Tshogpa.
- Fire Hydrant Water Reservoir

The Tshogpa felt that it is crucial to have a fire hydrant in times of disaster which are unpredictable. To this, Dasho Thrompon stated that there is a provision to withdraw water from the Tashiling water tank should any disaster happens. As such, he also said that Infrastructure Development Division should also keep the provision for connecting pipe in the future tanks in the Demkhongs.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the future tanks will have the provision to connect pipes to use water in times of disaster.

• New Road construction materials (Bajari)

Dasho Thrompon was of the view that the new road should be constructed with bajri and stones so as to prevent blockage in the monsoon seasons.

Resolution

The Tshodge directed the Tshogpa to discuss with the Infrastructure Development Division for estimates and then the work will be carried out from savings.

Requirement of Bore well in all Demkhongs

The issue was discussed in the earlier agenda submitted by Tashiling Demkhong, where the Tshogde informed that the bore well construction in Rabdeyling, Jampeling and Samdrupling will be taken up through the project. However, probability of constructing the bore well in Tashiling will be carried if there is any saving.

III. Rabdeyling Demkhong

• Drinking Water

The Tshogpa reported about the water leakage which needs to be looked into. To this, Dasho Thrompon stated that upon investigating the water leakage, it was found out that the leakage was from AWP water pipeline.

Resolution

The Tshogde informed that AWP will look into the water leakage.

• Requirement of Meeting Hall

The Tshogpa informed that the requirement of a Demkhong meeting hall is very necessary so as to conduct any kind of public consultations/meeting. Dasho Thrompon also supported the idea of the meeting hall; however, he said that the construction cannot be carried out in the current five year plan. As such, he suggested the Tshogpa to submit the requirement to the Planning Officer so that it can be included in the 12FYP.

Resolution

The Tshogde unanimously decided that the construction of meeting all will be carried out in the 12FYP.

• Footpath on the High Way

The Tshogpa informed that construction of footpath is crucial along the Highway. To this, Dasho Thrompon stated that the activity can be fulfilled once the Royal Boulevard is approved in the 12FYP.

Resolution

The Tshogde informed that the construction of footpath on the highway will be taken up if the Royal Boulevard construction is approved in the 12FYP.

IV. Jampeling Demkhong

• Computer Laptops for Demkhong Tshogde Tshogpas

Dasho Thrompon opined that it is not possible to provide individual laptop to the Tshogpas. However, he also said that with the upcoming new Thromde Office, a room will be given to the Tshogpa to setup their office, during which they will require the facility. The Chief Engineer also supplemented Dasho Thrompon saying that it is always important to also study whether there is an actual need of issuing laptops to the Tshogpa.

The Tshogde decided that the provision of laptops for all the Demkhong Tshogpa will be on sharing basis.

• Need of Children's Park

The Tshogpa reported on the public's request for a simple children park in the Demkhong. Dasho Thrompon informed that the construction of park in the Teak Plantation (Central Aviary Park) is already in the planning stage for which budget will be proposed.

Resolution

The Tshogde directed the Tshogpa to write to the Thromde Administration after which it can be discussed with Ministry of Finance or the activity could be carried out if there is saving.

• Electricity to the cow sheds

The Tshogpa informed that there are people in his Demkhong whose livelihood is solely depended on sell of dairy products. In addition, he also informed about the loss of cow in the Demkhong. As such, he requested if Thromde could provide the electricity wherein the electricity bill will be borne by the individual. Dasho Thrompon informed that the cattle should be reared in the extended area as endorsed in the former Thromde Tshogde. He also said that there is no possibility to provide electricity to individual cow shed.

The Executive Secretary also added that, electricity can be provided only if cattle are reared in the extended area. The Head, Development Regulation Division also supplemented that the cattle owner who shifted the cow shed in LAP I should be asked to rear the cattle in the extended area.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that electricity will be provided only to those cow sheds where more owners rear the cattle, but in the extended area.

• Strict rules and regulations to prohibit movements after 10:00 PM

Tshogpa said that people, even the youths are moving around late into the night and shared his concern on safety and security. Dasho Thrompon gladly accepted the concern of the Tshogpa, however, he said that Thromde is not the right authority to deal with the issue. As such, Dasho said that Tshogpa should discuss it with the Royal Bhutan Police.

The Tshogde instructed the Tshogpa to discuss the matter with the Royal Bhutan Police.

• Maintenance of Drainage and Garbage

Tshogpa informed that there is blockage of drains due to people disposing garbage. He asked if it is possible to provide waste bins to minimize littering of garbage in the open spaces. To this, Dasho Thrompon said that the Tshogpa should inform the Thromde office for further discussion and necessary actions.

Resolution

The Tshogde instructed the Tshogpa to report the matter to Thromde Administration for further discussion.

V. Sonam Gatshel Demkhong

• Preparation of Local Area Plan VI (LAP VI) in Sonam Gatshel Demkhong.

Dasho Thrompon informed that LAP V has just been endorsed. Furthermore, he also requested if Urban Planning Division could start with the preparation of LAP VI but leaving out the 500m buffer zone as it is. To this, Head, Urban Planning Division stated that as per the 11FYP, the target to prepare LAPs has been already fulfilled and as such there was no budget for LAP VI preparation. He added that the initial planning for LAP VI might have to be met from revenue as there was no separate budget for LAP VI preparation.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the fund for preparation of LAP preparation be started now through revenue as 12FYP is yet to be started, which could be adjusted once 12FYP begins.

• Present Vegetable Shed to be improved/ constructed like Thimphu vegetable centenary shed.

The Executive Secretary informed that the construction of vegetable market like in Thimphu was discussed with the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture during his visit to Gelephu. He informed that the Minister has also asked to submit the estimates. As such, if Ministry of Agriculture approves the budget, work can be carried out; otherwise it will be addressed in the 12FYP.

The Tshogde decided that the construction of vegetable market will be carried out in Ministry of Agriculture approves the budget otherwise it will be taken up in 12FYP. Further, Administration was instructed to follow up on the matter.

• Some of the buildings in Core town still not done with the roofing.

The Head, Development Regulation Division informed that there are a total of ten households without roofing which were constructed prior to 1997. Dasho Thrompon also stated that roofing is mandatory as per the Development Regulations.

Resolution

The Tshogde directed the Tshogpa to report to the Thromde Administration about the households without roofing so that Thromde Administration can act accordingly.

• Maintenance of drains

The Tshogpa requested for the maintenance of drain nearby Muensel Lam area before the onset of monsoon. Dasho Thrompon stated that Tshogpa should report the issue to the Thromde office although he regretted to inform that there was no budget to carry out the activity. Nevertheless, he assured that it can be carried out if there is any saving.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the maintenance work will be taken up from budget savings.

• Maintenance of Old Water Channel

The Tshogpa requested if the old water channel near the Twin Building could be maintained as the garbage is being dumped in it creating unhygienic environment. Dasho Thrompon said that the Thromde should visit the area and take up necessary actions.

The Tshogde instructed Infrastructure Development Division to depute an Engineer to check the site before the onset of monsoon so as to see if maintenance is required and will be carried out accordingly.

VI. Namkhaling Demkhong

• Flood Protection work below Flood Control Tank (Aipoli stream).

The Demkhong Tshogpa raised his concern requesting the flood protection work to be taken up immediately saying that the drain has been ended right on the highway. Further, he also said that there is loss of property below the detention point.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that due to financial constraint in the current fiscal year, only the river dredging work will be carried out but the major flood protection work shall be carried out in the 12FYP.

• Development of road towards Bore well

The Tshogpa raised the issue stating that the road is very necessary as the people feel the pinch of improper road toward the bore well. To this, Dasho Thrompon said that if there are any potholes, Thromde should work accordingly.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that should there be any potholes, maintenance work will be carried out as and when required.

• Street lights on the access roads

Dasho Thrompon pointed out that LAP VI will be prepared after which all the developmental activities will be carried out accordingly. However, he said that we also need to study if the need to install the streetlights is necessary.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that if there is an urgent need, Thromde will install 1-2 streetlights wherever required.

Repair of Irrigation channels of lower Namkhaling

The Tshogpa stated that the area near International Border is kept as agriculture land for which he said proper irrigation channel is very necessary.

Resolution

The Tshogde decided that the maintenance of irrigation channel will be taken up in the 12FYP.

8. Miscellaneous issues

I. Requirement of RBP personnel on duty for Gelephu Thromde office

Dasho Thrompon stated that the issue was discussed even in the previous Thromde Tshogde. He also said that the Chief of police has asked to get the agenda endorsed through Thromde Tshogde for further deliberation/action.

Resolution

The Tshogde endorsed the requirement of RBP personnel so that Thromde Administration could once again write to the RBP.

II. Increasing of boundary wall height

Tashiling Tshogpa put up the request to increase the height of boundary wall stating that the current height of the wall is very short. Dasho Thrompon also supplemented saying that Thromde received written complaints from the public stating that people can travel by jumping across the wall due to the minimum height of the boundary wall.

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9. Closing remarks by the Chairperson

The Tshogde unanimously decided that the height of the boundary wall will be increased by 30cm.