

22nd Session Closing Address by the Hon'ble Chairperson

The 22nd Session of the National Council concluded on 23rd of January 2019 corresponding to the 18th Day of the 12th Month of Earth Male Dog Year of the Bhutanese Calendar. The Chairperson thanked the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, the Cabinet Secretary and other officials for gracing the closing ceremony.

The Chairperson informed that during the 22nd Session of the National Council, under the Legislative Issues; the Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2018-19 was deliberated and adopted 3 recommendations which were submitted to the National Assembly for re-deliberation. Under Issues related to Review of Policies; he informed that the 12th Five Year Plan Report was deliberated thoroughly and adopted around 22 recommendations which were submitted to the Royal Government for acceptance. Likewise, an Interim Report on issues related to Review of Harmful Use of Alcohol in the Country and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) were reported to the House.

The Chairperson said that the guidance and suggestions provided by the House on the Interim Reports needs to be consolidated and included in the preparation of the final reports. With regard to Proceedings of Question Time, a total of 7 Question Time sessions were conducted by the National Council in which the Hon'ble Prime Minister and six cabinet Ministers had participated.

With the conclusion of the 22nd Session of the National Council, the Chairperson announced the draft agenda in preparation for the 23rd Session. The Committees of the National Council were assigned the following works:

Committee	Work Distribution	Remarks
Good Governance Committee	1. Final Report on Review of Harmful Use of Alcohol in the Country	In continuation to the 22 nd Session of the National Council
	2. Annual Anti-Corruption Commission Report 2018	Annual Report
	3. Review the guideline for the appointment of the constitutional post holders	Issue identified during the Retreat Workshop at Paro in July 2018
Economic Affairs Committee	1. Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2019-2020	Will be received from the National Assembly during the 2 nd Session of the Third Parliament
	2. Issues related to Fronting	Issue identified during the Retreat Workshop at Paro in July 2018
Social and Cultural Affairs Committee	1. Review the Lhengye Zhungtsho Act 1999	As decided during the Plenary Meeting
	2. Review issues related to Human Trafficking	Issue identified during the Retreat Workshop at Paro in July 2018
Natural Resources and Environment Committee	1. Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	Received from the National Assembly after the 1 st Session of the Third Parliament
	2. Drafting of Impeachment Bill	As per the resolution of the previous National Council and as decided during the Plenary Meeting

Legislative Committee	1. Drafting of Entitlement Bill for the Cabinet Ministers and equivalent positions	As decided during the Plenary Meeting
Foreign Relations Committee	1. Air Service Agreement between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of the United Arab Emirates	Received from the National Assembly after the 1 st Session of the Third Parliament
Special Committee	1. Final Report on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)	In continuation to the 22 nd Session of the National Council

The Chairperson said that that the National Council was able to successfully conclude its 22nd Session without any obstacles mainly due to the blessings of the Kenchog Sum and the protection of the Guardian Deities, the grace of Their Majesties and the prayers of the Clergy. He also thanked all the Hon'ble members of the National Council and its Committees and the staff of the Secretariat for their contributions and support in ensuring the success of the Session.

Similarly, he expressed his gratitude to the Department of National Properties for making all logistical arrangements during the Session; the Royal Bhutan 25 Police for providing security services; the Bhutan Broadcasting Service for live broadcast of entire Session proceedings; and all the other media firms for dissemination of news and information related to the Session. Finally, the Chairperson offered prayers for the long life and prosperity of deeds of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, His Royal Highness the Gyalsey, Members of the Royal Family, His Holiness the Je Khenpo and the Clergy. He also prayed for prevalence of peace and prosperity in the country more than ever before.