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 ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
 DZONGKHAG ADMINISTRATION  
 Ngoedrup-Tse Dzong: Chhukha



The  
 **Ngoedrup-Tse**  
 Bi-Annual Newsletter

Volume I Issue II

**Chhukha at Glance**



Established in 1987, Chhukha has an area of 1,879.5 Sq Km ranging its elevation from 200-35000m. It has 11 Gewogs, 58 Chiwogs, Dungkhag, Thromdey, 16,075 households ,123 villages and 70,057 population.

It has 1,289 civil servants comprising of 398 professional and management group, 344 supervisory and support group, 66 operational group and 229 para regular group.

There are 2 colleges, 3 Central Schools, 1 Higher Secondary School, 4 Middle Secondary Schools, 2 Lower Secondary Schools, 25 Primary Schools , 6 Extended Class Room, 27 Non-Formal Education Center, 6 Early Childhood and Care Development, 10,412 students, 548 teachers, Student Teacher Ratio is 1/ 19 and 75% literacy rate.

The 3 hospitals, 2 Basic Health Unit -I,11 Basic Health Unit-II, 4 Indigenous Units, 2 Sub-posts, 44 Out Reach Clinic , 21 doctors, 4 Drungtshos and coverage of 98.3% Rural Water Supply Scheme makes health sector.

There are 11 Renewable Natural Resource Center, 2 veterinary hospitals, 10 farm shops, 492.82km farm road, 29 powertillers, 9 farmers marketing groups, 3 range offices, 43 Community Forest, 1 protected area and 85.77% forest cover.

Blessed by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, Tertoen Drukdra Dorji, je Ngwang Thinley and Thangtong Gyalpo, there are 184 lhakhangs, 169 chotens, 3 shedra, 6 lapdra, 1 drupdey and rabdey.

Under His Majesty’s Kidu Program, there are 79 school Gyalpoi tozey, 25 college Gyalpoi tozey and 38 destitute.

Against these minimum common facilities, 3% of households walk more than 30 minutes to reach the nearest road head, 25% population illiterate, 3% households are not access to improved water sources and 7.2% households experience food insufficiency.

Thus the reduction of high poverty incidences, increase of literacy rate and improvement of poor health and sanitation are some of the priorities of the Dzongkhag.

**111<sup>th</sup> National Day Felicitation**



Rabdy, civil servants, armed forces, school children, business communities and people of Chhukha Dzongkhag join the nation in the joyous occasion of 111th National Day Celebration. We pay gratitude to our farsighted monarchs and royal families for their selfless sacrifices to the nation. We vow to serve the Tsa-Wa-Sum with utmost sincerity, loyalty and dedication.

**Institutional Memory**

Institutional memory is an organization’s collective knowledge of what things mean, how it has changed and who changed it. The memory also refers to a collective ability to accumulate, retain and retrieve information of an organization required for future references.

An economically leading Dzongkhag with cohesive society, vibrant culture, sound environment and balanced development are the shared values of Ngoedrup-tse family that they embrace with and what things mean for them. Simply it is the bedrock of socio-economic developmental activities.

The Ngoedrup-tse, bi-annual newsletter tries to speak out how Chhukha Dzongkhag has changed in terms of socio-economic and good governance within the time-frame from July-December, 2018. It also reveals who has been the critical driving forces for those change initiatives.

In an essence, the newsletter is the collective effort of recording facts and figures of Chhukha for institutional memory.

### In Pursuit of Self-sufficient Geog



Metakha is one of the smallest Geogs in Chhukha Dzongkhag. It has an area of 100 Sq Km, five Chewogs, 15 villages, 120 households and 1,036 population. The altitude ranges from 1500-2000 meters with sub tropical and temperate climate.

Its minimum facility includes Geog Centre, Renewable Natural Resource Centre, Community Centre, Health Sub-post, 2 Out Reach Clinic, Primary School, Early Childhood Care Development, 7 micro-shops and Community Lhakhang. 145 km away from Chhukha Dzong and 92 km from Phuentsholing town .

The Geog has the record of 100% primary enrolment, 100% electrification, 100% mobile coverage, 94% access to safe drinking water and 88.33% households with toilet facilities. On the other hand, it has 46% of population still illiterate (299 population), 14.16 % (17 households) experience food insufficiency and 4.16 % (5 households) have to walk more than half an hour to reach nearest road head.

In the agriculture front, it has 770.23 acres dry land, 116.230 acres wetland, 22.501 acres cardamom and 0.180 acres orange orchard with access to farm road connectivity and 7 irrigation channels with reliable water resources. There is youth agriculture and dairy farmers group, 4 power tillers, 10 boleros and DCM for any business transaction of agriculture products.

Most importantly, the settlement pattern of the communities is more of cluster than a few isolated villages. The community vitality is very high with close-knit families. The populace, in general, mainly depends on subsistence farming such as agriculture, livestock and non-wood forest product.

In line with His Majesty's noble vision of achieving economic self-reliance at grass root level, the Geog Administration works towards "Self-sufficient Geog".

To this end, the Geog administration has visited the five Chewogs and discussed to production of paddy from 51 MT to 70 MT, maize from 38MT to 55MT, 16MT wheat to 24MT and 18MT buckwheat to 22 MT, reduce dependence of oil consumption through mass cultivation of mustard. The meetings also decided to adopt kitchen garden by every household, start mass cultivation of winter season vegetable and cash crops to upscale their annual income.

In doing so, the Geog has linked the farmers groups to the boarding schools and National Seed Centre for effective program implementation.

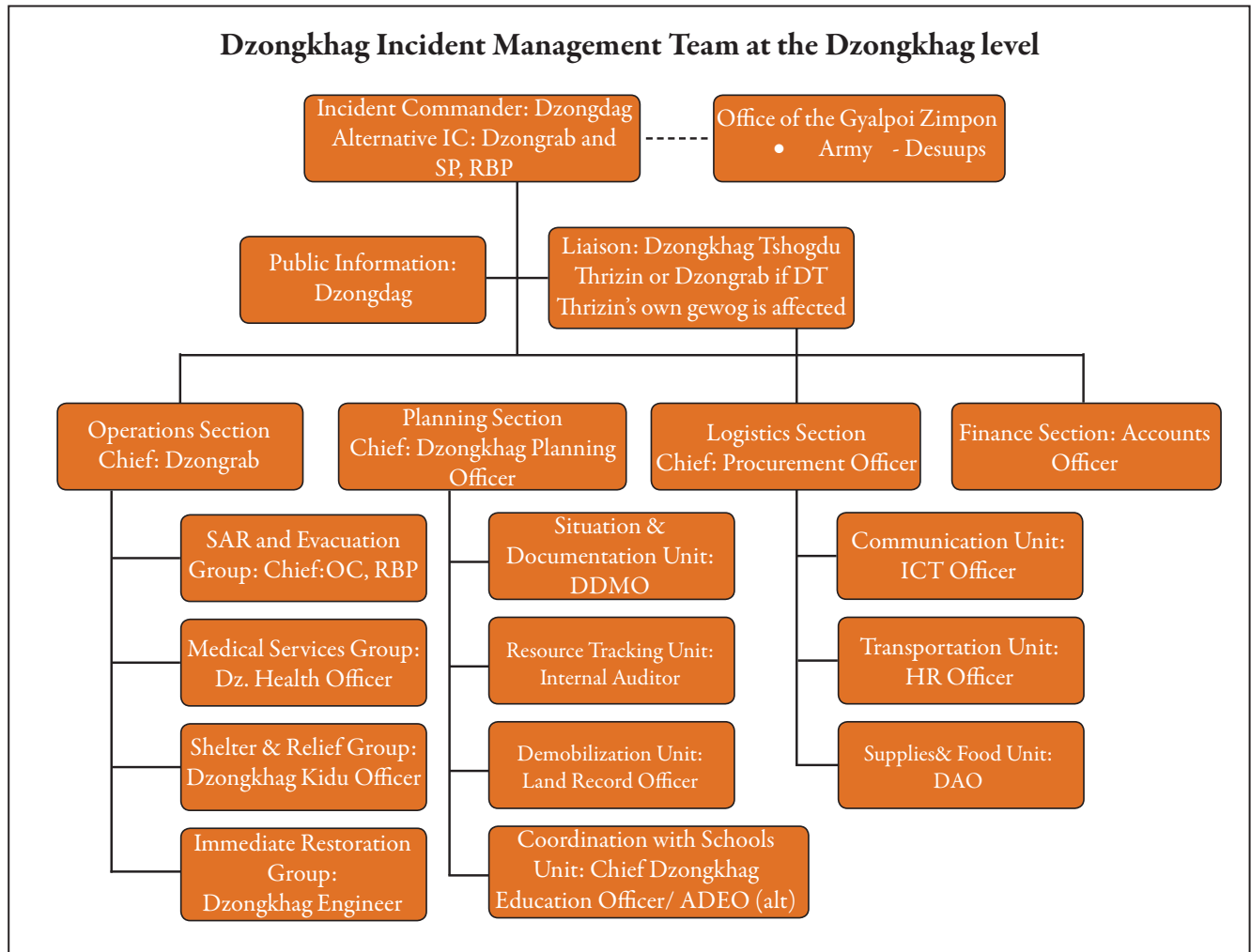
**Mr. Pralath Mohat, GAO, Metakha Geog**

*"I am not saying that material wealth is important. I am saying that if our youth in our schools each become more capable and hard-working than the other, they become national wealth."*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Incident Command System

At the time of natural disaster, Bhutan experienced the lack of coordinated response leading to delayed action and inefficient use of resources. Incident Command System (ICS) is a common response tool devised to address the natural hazard and its related issues. It is specifically structured to facilitate in five major functional areas: command, operations, planning, logistics, finance and administration. It is a modular and can be expanded from Type I disasters at the Gewog and Thromde levels to Type II and III disasters at the Dzongkhag or National levels.



The adoption of ICS across the country to face natural disaster was approved in the 4<sup>th</sup> National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) meeting in 2015. This is why the ICS has been instituted in Chhukha Dzongkhag, Phuentsholing Thromdey, Dungkhag and 11 Gewogs. The incident management team is pre-identified at those various levels and the Dzongkhag is well prepared to use the ICS at any required time.

**Mr. Tshewang Dorji , DTS, CDA**

*“No matter what we achieve as a nation, whether we have a strong economy, whether we have a strong democratic system, no matter how prosperous we become as a nation, in the end, if there is no love and harmony between our people, if we don’t have the happiness and the peace that we have today, then remember, it means that somewhere along the way we have failed. Therefore, keep in mind that the ultimate measure of our success as a country is continued peace, stability and tranquility of Bhutan”*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Educational Retreat Camp



All education managers namely, Principals, Vice Principals and Teacher In-charges of schools and extended classrooms of Chhukha attended a three days retreat programme at the Bhutan Institute of Wellbeing, Chmithangkha, Tshaluney, from the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> August till 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2018. A total number of 59 participants constituting of four District Education Officers, thirty-five Principals, fourteen Vice Principals and six Extended Class Room Teacher In-charges attended the programme. The institute is located at about 11 kilometers from Khasadrapchu, towards Gidagom in Thimphu.

All participants found the camp interesting and useful both in terms of professional and personal lives. Concept like Economics of happiness and Leadership of Self were dwelled at length and deeper through the lens of Buddhism. The understanding was complimented by discussion on Gross National Happiness values and how these affected all spheres of life and the process of living in this world.

Meditation and art of mindfulness was reinforced through the perspectives of living practitioners. DASHO Dr. Pema Thinley lead the sessions on emptying minds and willingness to accept in a natural setting, which is referred to as Buddha Mind (Rang Rig Kintu Zangpo). Meditation and mindful practices promotes Buddha Mind and therefore facilitates in clarifying ones perspectives. Buddha Mind recognizes the futility in competing with others and instead enhances competition within, which results in individual excellences. This in turn, promotes cooperation amongst individuals and helps in team building skills. Another advantage of having a Buddha Mind is that it directs the human body for the right action. And the right actions promote a healthy environment that is the fundamental to the very essence of living on this Earth. The fundamental basis of all life forms on this Earth is the harmony between body and nature.

At times, the discussion and presentation were highly philosophical; we found that the essence of the program was delivered well through group discussions and self-explorations in the evenings. Self-investigations and group discussions were so interesting that all evenings stretched into nights and participants thoroughly enjoyed and expressed their satisfactions over meals and other intervals.

The managers felt that so many ideas and leanings from the institute can be rolled out in schools. They became empathetic practitioners and committed that the skills and knowledge gained during the retreat program shall be used to promote the overall wellbeing and progress of our children's education in schools.

#### Mr. Kinley Gyaltshen, CDEO, CDA

*“Culture is not to reinforce hierarchy and cause social stratification. Culture is our unique way of life, manners, etiquette and thoughtfulness – the characteristics that define us as Bhutanese. Right thoughts, actions and speech combined with respect and regard for the feelings of others – these qualities have brought unity and cohesion in our small society. They are the fruits of generations of accumulated national emotional intelligence and they must be protected at all costs. For once lost, they will never be regained. Our Bhutanese character and values – our culture – will also be the defining factor in whether we are a successful democracy.”*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Goat Farming at Sharphu

Sharphu is one of the remotest Chewogs under Darla Geog. It shares the border with India in the south and Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag towards the east. There are 65 households depending on agriculture and livestock farming. There is ECR and ORC connected by farm road. Owing to the close border forest with highly infested wild elephants, the agriculture farming has reduced drastically over the years. As an alternative, the farmers have started cultivation of ginger, arecanut and broom grass. Besides this, the farmers practice livestock particularly the goat farming as one of the main sources of income.

Considering the situation and the interest of the communities, the Geog initiated giving priority on modern goat farming. The farmers were provided with 30 numbers of exotic breeding buck (Sirohi and Beetal). They were also provided shed construction materials at the subsidy package. Each household owns minimum of 25 goats generating not less than Nu.50, 000/- annually.

**Mr. Garja Man Rai, ES, Darla Geog**



### The 5S Initiative

The Health Sector adopted the 5S Initiative as a simple tool for organizing the work places of health a clean, efficient and safe manner. It is a foundation for continuous improvement of the work place for effective public health service delivery.

The 5S stands for :

- S1— Sort : Remove what is not needed and keep what is needed
- S2— Set : Arrange essential items in order for easy access
- S3— Shine : Keep things neat and tidy, no trash or dirt in the workplace
- S4— Standardize : Establish standards and guidelines to maintain a clean workplace
- S5- Sustain : Make 5S a habit and teach others to adhere to establish standards

The implementation of the 5S approach in the health system at Dzongkhag, Hospitals and Basic Health Units level is expected to bring very health staff on board with positive attitudes, enhance team work, promote accountability and responsibility, reduce cost and wastages with judicious use of limited resource. The planning, implementation and monitoring of health activities in the dzongkhag is strictly carried out through the application of 5S strategy.

**Mr. Gopal Hingmang, Dy. CDHO, CDA**

### Chhukha Map



*“There are only three things that I always keep in mind when I am working – three things that influence all decisions that I take. The first is the peace, security and prosperity for Bhutan now and in the future. Second issue that I consider very important for our country’s future is the achievement of the goals of Gross National Happiness. The third is building a vibrant democracy for our country.”*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar  
Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Enhancing Internal Control System



A two-day finance personnel meeting of Chhukha dzongkhag was held at Darla Gewog Centre. The meeting was intended to improve a road map for internal control and service delivery system in financial management. The meeting discussed and decided the following:

It was decided that no PW advance will be released in the name of sectors or gewogs staff for planned activities. This was mainly for the early and complete settlement of advance which will enhance internal control system in managing the resources through transparency and accountability. The floor also discussed to strictly implement the google excel sheet to update TA/DA and to curb double claims from the FY 2018-2019. As endorsed by the management on the meeting resolution, TADA shall be disbursed twice a month (every second week and fourth week) for providing sufficient time on scrutiny, verification

and remittance. Any bills received to be cross-verified from the concern sector before reaching to the Finance Section and then to clear the bills immediately unless there is any fund related problem. All accounts personnel agreed to work in close coordination and uniformity with best peer management. The finance officer agreed to provide the regular communication, updates and reminds the policies and procedures to staff through emails and staff meetings. The meeting was first of its kind in the history of the sector. The participants felt useful to share their concerns and issues. It was agreed to hold such meetings bi-annually for system improvement.

**Mr. Arjun Biswa , Account Assistant -IV , CDA**

### Revitalizing the Yenlag Thromde

Chhukha Dzongkhag headquarter is located at Tshimatsham under Bjabcho Gewog. Covering an area of 245152.206 SqM, the throm comprises of Tsimalakha and Tsimatsham area where the latter was declared as the Dzongkhag Yenlag Thromde in 2015.

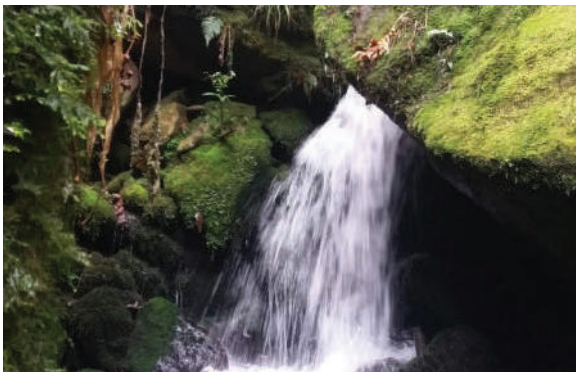
The throm is manned by a set of team consist of municipal engineer, technicians, drivers and field work-force. The overall guidance is provided by the Dzongkhag Engineering Section. The team is entrusted with the mandate of improving the Dzongkhag Yenlag Throm , Gedu satellite town and shops along the Thimphu-Phuentsholing highway.

The Dzongkhag yenlag throm is not demarcated and has no Local Area Plan for improvement and development of urban life. Currently, the Dzongkhag Municipality in close collaboration with Ministry of Works and Human Settlement is carrying on topographical survey.

A few years ago, Tsimasham was a buzzing town with regular commuters all along the Thimphu-Phuentsholing highway. With the recent opening of long awaited Damchu-Chhukha bypass, the business of the towns has been affected. To this issue, the Dzongkhag Municipality is making constant efforts exploring all the alternative to boost the business. Frequent meetings and consultations are being organized with the residents.

*“When it comes to discipline, zero tolerance must be balanced with high expectations. Children will experiment, experience and approach life with inquisitiveness. This is natural. Sometimes they may make mistakes. Zero tolerance should mean that teachers and parents make sure to address these mistakes no matter how small they may seem. Guide the children to learn to be responsible even as they experience life in all its shades. Keep them on the right path from the start. By high expectations I mean that teachers must encourage children to aim high and excel. This country is too small and the population too few for us to be content with the mediocre. Our children must excel.”*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**



To continue the provisions of all municipal amenities and services to the town residents, the municipality office likes to highlight the followings:

- Improved the water source through maintenance and streamlining supply distribution.
- A big filtration tank was constructed to improve a safe and 24 hours drinking water supply to the thromdey.
- As the waste management services, a regular waste collector truck is being involved regularly in Tsimasham and Gedu town.
- Sewerage system services both for managing black water and grey water sewages is in place. A cesspool vehicle is in 24 hours service.
- Monitoring of residential building constructions along highway/roads and in towns is carried on regular basis.
- Internal town road network improvement including storm water drainage maintenance is under process.
- A few basic public infrastructures and recreational facilities are also in place.
- Under the budget provision of the Water Flagship Program in the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP, there are many more activities to Improve water service in the town..

**Mrs. Lhamo, AE, CDA**

*"The National Day provides us with multiple opportunities: to recall the great sacrifices made by our forefathers for the sake of the nation, to fully understand our national challenges, and to motivate ourselves to do the best for the future of our nation. It is a special day in the year to once again recommit ourselves to worthwhile efforts to serve our country better."*


**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Sure Road to Our Health and Happiness

Finding a cure is always less lucrative than finding a treatment. As science and technology grow at an exponential pace, it is pretty obvious that drugs and treatments will remain heavily incentivized.

An unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and excessive consumption of alcohol and tobacco have been observed to be the major contributing factors for most of these diseases. The good news is that 80% of these Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) can be prevented with slight modifications in lifestyles. There is evidence that adapting healthy dietary changes, physical activity and abstaining from alcohol and tobacco can help achieve the desired results.

**NCDs in Bhutan (2003-2014)**



Major NCDs	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cancers	469	639	693	670	541	686	1147	1041	970	883	923	937
Diabetes	442	634	944	1470	1732	2641	2606	3276	3740	4097	5890	9976
Hypertension	12716	14196	16576	20601	19347	20347	21177	23863	23051	27023	29962	34940
Heart diseases	223	663	195	94	126	210	216	268	347	334	290	1069
Alcohol Liver Diseases	937	1147	1217	1631	1471	1329	1602	1943	2050	2059	2631	3141
<b>Total</b>	<b>14787</b>	<b>17279</b>	<b>19628</b>	<b>24466</b>	<b>23217</b>	<b>25213</b>	<b>26748</b>	<b>30391</b>	<b>30158</b>	<b>34396</b>	<b>39696</b>	<b>50064</b>

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Diet plays a major role in adapting a positive lifestyle. A person who is conscious about what goes in his diet could have a better control on overall quality of life. It is important to understand the value of everyday diet In order to take the best decision for our wellbeing. You are what you eat.

Thanks to the existing knowledge, we are clear on what we have to eat. The basics of nutrition emphasize eating foods low in saturated fats, trans fat, sodium and sugars. While what we eat is important, interestingly, how, when and where we eat has an influence on reaping the best of what we eat.

Fancy diet plans and treading super foods might sound exciting. But in order to sustain healthy habits, it is best to consider home as the destination point. Similarly, consumption of Junk food including noodles and fizzy drinks (koka, Maggie, wai wai, fizzy drinks etc ) are not good for health and it will definitely do more harm than the good in future. Our children (future generations) are more likely to suffer from obesity and NCDs since our children are addicted to junk food and sweetened drinks.

Non-communicable disease (NCDs) or lifestyle disease have been rising at an alarming pace across the globe. Cardiovascular diseases like stroke, heart diseases, respiratory disorders and diabetes account for 80% of these NCDs. In spite of so much progress made in the health sector, in low and middle income countries like ours Nutritional health issues like stunting, malnutrition, anemia etc. is still a common public issues.

Therefore, let's pay attention to our diet and analyze the power of foods and their impact on our health as saying "Prevention is better than Cure". Today, the medical expenditure for patient referral to India is becoming a major worry as the expenditure at the national level is increasing every year.

From the common cold to cancer, weight loss to weight gain, Low blood to high blood pressure, diabetes, health has been a concern for all individuals. The decision of RCSC to conduct annual health check-ups for all the civil servants is a farsighted vision which is aimed at screening health problems and providing necessary support including timely treatment and rehabilitation thus preventing lifelong complications.

**Mr. Gopal Hingmang, Dy. CDHO, CDA**



## Certificates for Academic Excellence



Led by Dasho Dzongdag, Dzongkhag Kidu Officer and Chief Education Officer took in a pride privilege of awarding His Majesty's Certificates for Academic Excellence to the academic toppers of Dungna Lower Secondary School on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2018.

After the award of certificates to the students, Dasho reminded the students and teachers on the importance and the need for Bhutanese to be always grateful to our Great Monarchs for their selfless sacrifices in ushering Bhutan on to the path of economic development and self-reliance. He also urged the students to excel in their studies so that the noble dreams of our Kings in propelling our country to even greater heights of development is realized. Highlighting on the importance of wholesome education in refining the students' character and skills development, Dasho asked students to seriously take part in every activity organized by the school.

Similarly, His Majesty's Tashi Delek Certificate for academic excellence 2017 was awarded personally by Dasho Dzongdag and team in all the schools including College of Science and Technology and Gedu College of Business Studies.

**Mr. Kinley, Sr. DKO, CDA & Mrs. Phuntsho Wangmo, Teacher, Dungna LSS**

*"What matters to me is not whether we have thousands of students with Masters or graduate degrees. What really matters to me is whether a citizen, no matter what the level of his or her education, is able to fulfill responsibilities, serve with loyalty and bring good fortune and wellbeing to the family, community and nation."*

*"I am deeply inspired when I recall that His Majesty Drukgyal Zhipa's extraordinary reign began at the age of 16. This is what gives me the determination everyday to place greater efforts in the service of my country and people."*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

## Practices on Social Accountability



Bhutan embarked on constitutional monarchy in 2008, making one of the youngest democratic countries in the world. It is, therefore, paramount important to practice “social accountability” at grass root level for a good governance. Collaborating the local governments with citizens and making the public services more transparent and accountable with good access to the required information is the cornerstone of the sound democracy.

In the view of above, Darla Geog Administration has discussed with the local leaders and adopted some of the best attributes of social accountability:

**1.Enhance timely and quality public services delivery system**—To this end, the administration has sensitized the local leaders on public service delivery standards and its information were made available in Geog websites, face book, wechat and office notice board. Likewise the annual approved budget, 12<sup>th</sup> FYP draft activities, annual work plan and the minute of meetings were made accessible to public through circulation to all Tshogpas. The Geog has also formed C-MAC (community monitoring and assessment committee) at village level with a minimum of 6 members involving at least one woman, who will be monitoring development activities in their respective Chewogs.

**2.Provision of civic education**—In a democracy, the citizens need to be actively involved in every aspect of planning and implementation of their developmental activities. They should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and question about the political, social, administrative and economic management of the Geog/ country. Thus the team from Geog started visiting Chewogs to provide awareness on Social Accountability, Acts, Rules and Regulations of different ministries on quarterly basis.

**3.Establishment of citizen complaint structures**—It is essential for citizens to know how, where and when they can complain within the local government against the public service delivery, if it is not up to their expectations. In line with this, the Geog has institutionalized Citizen’s Suggest Box and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (Geog website and register) that can hear citizens' complaints, problems and suggestions. In addition, the Geog has initiated Chewog Consultative Meeting (CCM) involving every household twice in the financial year to voice their development concerns and issues.

**4.Participatory approach planning**—It provides an opportunity for the people to practice democracy in planning and budgeting the activities. It helps the citizens to take decisions with government officials on program development and implementation. As most of the local leaders like Gup, Mangmi and Tshogpas are new, the Department of Local Governance and Dzongkhag Administration have provided a capacity building programs on leadership, planning and prioritizing to have successful plan. A public taking social responsibility like involving in the construction and taking care of their farm roads is one the Geog encouraged them to take up ownership of their property

In sum, the social accountability is important tool to realize the noble vision of His Majesty the King “the lowest level and most intimate form of government to the people”.

**Mrs. Damcho Lhatsho, GAO, Darla Geog**

### Blooming Market Sheds



Gelling Geog covers an area of 247sq Km with elevation ranging from 2000-3500m. Approximately 80.2% of land is under forest cover and 9.3% under agriculture use. Agriculture and livestock farming are the predominant occupation. Maize, millet and barley are the chief cereal crops grown and now people are cultivating cardamom in a colossal amount since it has ready market and fetch good price. Vegetables grown in the Geog are potatoes, chilies, radish, beans, cabbage, cauliflower and garlic. There are one vegetable corporative group and five dairy farms. In order to market their vegetables and dairy products, today there are five market sheds along highway form jumja to Kamji and about twenty three vegetable vendors selling locally produces. Other Geogs along the high way have similar business transaction. Most of the farmers earns good amount from selling locally produced vegetables and dairy products. They collect vegetables and dairy products from Chongaykha, Dilip, Tshanglina under Gelling Geog and from Dungna and Darla Geog as well.

On survey it was found out that the vendors earn not less than five thousand to six thousand daily and about thirty thousand in a month. That is why the Dzongkhag administration is coming up with the new concept called “Natural Chhukha”. It is an approach where a prototype market shad will be set up as an outlet to encourage the marketing farmers group of 11 Geogs to sale their locally produced items. The dzongkhag agriculture sector is in process of developing the Standard Operating Procedures in streamlining the operation of market shads along the highways.

**Mr. Tshewang Dendup, GAO, Gelling Geog**

### The APA Evaluation Result

Maximizing Gross National Happiness is the noble vision of His Majesty the King. To promote GNH at the grass root level as per the directives of the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, Chhukha Dzongkhag has set a total of 14 objectives and 81 indicators in the financial year 2017-18 cascading down to different sectors and the Geog.

The objectives are of the food security and generation rural income, creation of employment opportunities, improve community health status, enhance quality of education, economic development, preservation and promotion of tradition and culture, public service delivery and waste management. Accordingly, the Dzongkhag implemented the planned activities with a total budget allocation of Nu. 833.489 million (Dzongkhag: Nu.706.716m, Geogs: Nu.126.773m) to realize above set objectives and targets of different indicators.

The National Technical Team (NTC) evaluated the achievement of the Dzongkhag APA from August 6-9,2018. The Dzongkhag civil servants and local functionaries under the close guidance of Dasho Dzongdag, Dzongrab and Drungpa scored 97.55% comparing to 94.67% of the previous year. The Dzongkhag Administration likes to commit and maintains the same spirit in the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP through coordination, consolidation and collaboration of different agencies. Meanwhile, the administration also instituted Internal Review Committee (IRC) which evaluates on pre-NTCs’ arrival.

**Mr. Wangdi Gyelpo, DPO, CDA**

*“A nation’s future will mirror the quality of her youth– a nation cannot fool herself into thinking of a bright future where she has not invested wisely in her children.”*

**- His Majesty the Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### **An Ideal Student of Chhukha Central School**



“People who get to the top, work harder than those around them. They have more energy that propels them forward. And they are markedly more driven to get there”, Tina Seeling. The words perfectly correlate to Miss Passang Wangmo, the nation topper in BHSEC 2017 (Arts Stream) from Chhukha Central School proud.

A very versatile girl brought up single handily by her mother and the eldest in her family; she took serious efforts in becoming a responsible sibling after realizing the difficult situations at home. The family’s only source of income came from a small farmland. So, she decided to work harder and focus on whatever came along her way. Her mother had always been her greatest pride and inspiration.

From the day I came to know her as a subject teacher, I found in her all those positive attributes that completed my definition of an ideal student. It was very impressive to note her perfectly balancing her time in all the activities, which she took up exclusively for her broader learning development. She always believed in hard work

and in remaining motivated by seeking consistent guidance from her mother, teachers and friends. She was explorative, curious and a very enthusiastic learner who did not confine her learning zone within her classrooms and school premises, but zealously took pleasure in taking her learning beyond the restricted boundaries without giving much attention to the failure or rewards. All that mattered to her ultimately was not the victory, but in getting moulded into a confident and experienced learner.

Her efforts were spectacular, whether it was in academic, culture and literary activities. Whenever she performed on the stage on any literary contest, her performances thrilled every audience with her remarkable grandiloquence. The teachers often ended up speculating her as a winner before the contest commenced.

She not just excelled in all the positive attitudes but also held very strong leadership qualities. Her confident roles and strong vocal quality gave her an opportunity to participate in Bhutan Children’s Parliament as a National Council member representing Chhukha Dzongkhag.

This girl set a remarkable standard of the language through her powerful command over both English and Dzongkha. Her strong proficiency in the national language won her the school level ‘Nazhoen Rigtsel’ competition from which she got to the national platform to further showcase her potentiality, in which she was again declared as a national winner.

Her success stories are endless. She was the girl who never gave up, who always found some possibilities of achievement in every challenge she took up. She remained focused on her work, gave her whole heart, and remained committed and determined; gathering motivation from all sources. Her positive attitude and outlook to life were what made her to stand out at the end; a National topper from the Arts stream.

Miss Passang Wangmo declares that, topping BHSEC from Arts stream is not a final achievement and end to her dream. She pledges to work even harder to become a refined individual. Her love for history and her desire to explore on historical backgrounds were the reasons why she generated so much love for humanity subjects. This has also been the core reason for her decision to take Arts subjects despite qualifying for the science stream.

There are people who fear challenges yet some are willing to try new things. Miss Passang Wangmo chased her undying dream of becoming a lawyer and she conquered it! She is pursuing her dream career – a lawyer at Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, the Nation’s first ever law school.

**Mr. Sonam Tashi , Class Teacher, Chhukha Central School**

*“The only message I have to convey to you today, my people, is that if everyone of us considering ourselves Bhutanese can think and act as one, and if we have faith in the triple Gem, our glorious Kingdom of Bhutan will grow from strength to strength and certainly achieve prosperity, peace and happiness.”*

**- His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck**

### A Serious Public Health Concern

Drinking alcohol is associated with more than 50 diseases causing health hazards, intentional and unintentional injuries and adverse socio-economic consequences. The National Health Survey 2012 found that 28.5% of the populations aged 10-75 years were current drinkers with 31% in males and 18% in females. The national action plan has target to reduce the harmful use of alcohol by 10 % in 2025 through the accelerated implementation of strategies including public education on harmful effects of alcohol. Similarly the Dzongkhag Health Sector carried out the survey and found out the following data:

Health Center	2015		2016		2017	
	F10	K70	F10	K70	F10	K70
	Total (death)	Total (death)	Total (death)	Total (death)	Total (death)	Total (death)
Chhukha BHU 1	12	3 (1)	17	13 (1)	7	12 (1)
Tsimalakha Hospital	0	19 (1)	1	8	4	6
Baikuenza BHU	0	1	0	0	0	0
Bongo BHU	0	9 (1)	0	3(1)	0	7
Gedu Hospital	11	20	1	19 (1)	6	13 (1)
Getana BHU	0	0	8	0	0	0
Khateykha BHU 1	0	1	0	0	1	1
Logchina BHU	0	0	1	0	0	0
Metakha BHU	0	1	0	0	No report	
Chongekha BHU	1	1	0	1	0	1
Phuntsholing Hospital	79	229 (8)	56	340 (7)	53	183 (8)
Rangaytung BHU	0	1	0	0	0	0
Arikha BHU	No report	25	1	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>285 (11)</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>394 (10)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>224 (10)</b>

The above F10 shows the mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol consumption and the K70 indicates the alcoholic liver disease. Further, it was found out that the prime cause of hospital admission, road traffic accident and human death are due to alcohol consumption.

Hence, the Health Sector is tirelessly combating to reduce alcohol consumption and health related issues through timely treatment of chronic drinkers and conducting serious advocacy programs at Dzongkhag and Gewog level.

#### Dr. Tejnath, CDMO, Gedu Hospital

*“Each year, we come together to celebrate the 17th December as our National Day-an occasion of great significance and importance. The commemoration of this day serves to remind us of the profound sacrifices of our forefathers, who worked tirelessly for the wellbeing of our country and people; it allows us to express our gratitude to those who came before us for handing over a strong, sovereign nation for future generations; and it is a day on which our generation reaffirms our pledge to shoulder our important responsibility to serve the nation to the best of our abilities.”*

*“The future is neither unseen nor unknown. It is what we make of it. What work we do with our two hands today will shape the future of our nation. Our children’s tomorrow has to be created by us today.”*

**- His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### The Simplest Way of Contribution



Inspired by His Majesty's words of wisdom "Wherever we live in must be clean, safe, organized and beautiful for national integrity, national pride and for our bright future. This too is Nation Building." I could only think of a positive impact that could address the issue of waste in our beautiful country.

I decided then I must do something. While on a yearlong "Tour of Duty" with UN Peacekeeping Mission in remote places in Africa, I spear headed cleaning activities. Back home, I wanted to do it in a better way but took some time in making the decision. One fine day in July 2018, I commenced cleaning and collecting trashes along the roads from the SRPF campus (Special Reserve Police Force, Tashi Gatshel) to the 3.5 Km road connecting the old Chhukha-Phuentsholing highway. From then onward, I continuously started pick up trashes along this stretch of road twice in a day during my routine morning & evening walks. I extend my programs till Takti Chu and Chuzom on weekends.



The wastes, once collected, is segregated and handed over to those who are interested to earn some cash out of it. The disposable trashes are neatly packed and properly disposed off.

As my friend says, "it's like picking an abandoned dead body, giving it a proper wash & bidding it farewell for the second time in a respectful manner".

In this way, I have come up with a meaningful way of spending my weekends devoting at least a day in a week for the greater cause. This is how I feel and pay my gratitude to mother nature for her abundant gift. It is an insignificant but my simplest way of contribution to the nation building as a responsible citizen. Our great kings have taken a pain to conserve our pristine environment. So let us worship from our heart to make a humblest offering in fulfilling our His Majesty the King's wishes and aspiration Above all, I am very fortunate to have my supportive wife who joins me in my venture. It also gives me immense satisfaction when the travellers & friends appreciate my initiative. We don't really need someone to lead us. Just take a step and be responsible for your waste.



**Mr. Tshering Dorji, SRPF, Tashi Gatshel**

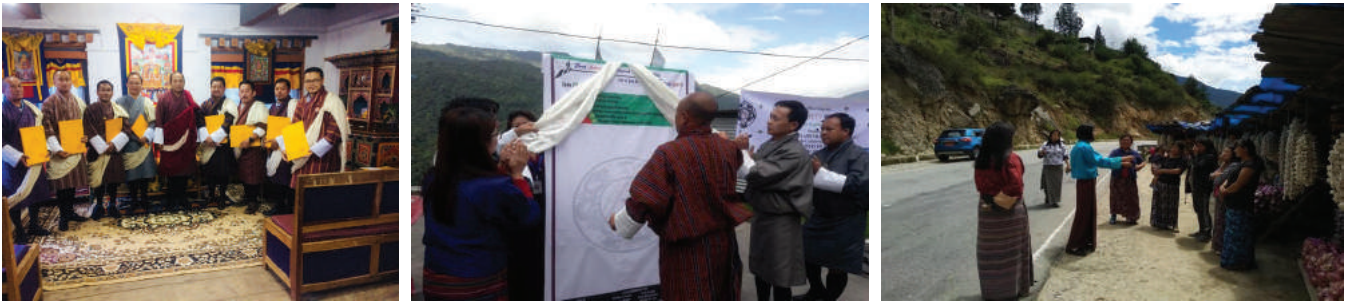
*"I enjoy talking to you all not just because it is my duty but because we will be starting our lives together and ending our careers together. When we retire 20 or 30 years later, let us pass on the country proudly into younger hands. Our responsibilities, country, goals and fates are the same. We will see each other grow old, and more importantly, we will see each other become wiser, more capable, more intelligent and we will see each other serve our country. I pray that you will serve yourselves, your parents and family as well as the country capably and with dedication."*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Waste Prevention and Management Initiatives

The issue of waste management along Thimphu-Phuentsholing highway remains a big concern for every one of us. All efforts are being made at local and national levels to help reduce littering wastes and has improved significantly.

In response to the Dzongkhag Waste Stakeholder Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2018, the Gedu Forest Division conducted awareness campaign on feeding of wild animals in August, 2018. The commuters were sensitized on the monkey feeding and its waste nuisance. Feeding the monkeys not only makes them dependent on people losing their natural capability to look for foods but is also high risk of contracting diseases.



Jointly with the RBP Traffic Division, Dzongkhag and the RSTA Tsimatsham provided awareness on “UN Global Road Safety Week 2018”, the drivers and commuters were primarily sensitized on road safety aspects and waste management including monkey feedings. The travellers were made to sign the commitment pledges. The team also monitored periodically the public transport buses/taxis/private cars.



To ensure sustainability in managing the waste, the dzongkhag administration encourages the adoption of certain stretch of areas by different institutions. Gedu College of Business Studies is the first stakeholder to institute on the high-way adoption by signing the memorandum of agreement with the Dzongkhag administration on 14/10/2018 i.e coinciding with the 10<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the College. The College adopted 10km stretch high way from Gedu Chu to Jumja. The administration is currently working on to replicate such ideal practices in the institutions, schools and gewogs along the high-way.

Further the dzongkhag waste management team keeps on monitoring strictly the existing temporary sheds/agriculture sale counters and shops/restaurants along the highway. The illegal constructions and indiscriminate dumping of wastes by the Project Dantak are monitored and streamlined in close coordination with the Department of Roads and Gewog Administrations.

**Mr. Sangay Norbu, Environment Officer, CDA**

*We remain attentive to the threat of climate change that affects ecosystems, glaciers and all life forms. Ensuring the survival and continued vibrancy of our natural heritage will require innovative efforts, especially in terms of assured financial sustainability to manage this unique tapestry of conservation space*

**-Her Majesty Gyaltshen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck**

### Chapcha Geog in Focus

Chapcha Geog is one of the successful Geogs in terms of economic growth and self-sufficient under the Chhukha District. There are 12 villages, 6 Chiwogs, 454 households with 3,439 population. In term of facilities, there are 4 community schools, 1 primary and Middle secondary school, 1 Basic Health Unit, 5 Out Reach Clinic, Renewable Natural Resource Centre, Geog centre with good connectivity of farm road and B-mobile/ Tashi Cell Service. Potato, chilli, carrot and beetroots are main crops of the people.



In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal (1651), visited Chapcha where the present old Dzong is located. He mediated and blessed the area upon the invitation of village rich patron called Drakchu Gyeltshen. The people of Chapcha suffered from chronic epidemic disease and number of death increased everyday. The doctors from Cooch Bihar and religious activities by different spiritual masters failed to cure the disease. Upon the request by village patron, Zhabdrung Rinpoche administered Wang-Lung Thri-sum to devotees gathered near the present Rimthakha Lhakhang.

One can still witness an extended teaching stone throne of Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel at Rimthakha village. Local elder says that Zhabdrung sat on this stone to give religious talks and blessing to public gathered there. Thus the Zhabdrung's blessing brought tremendous happiness and harmony in the village. People were freed from disease and had unusual experience of bountiful harvest of crops every year. Even today, Chapchas are known as a successful businessman and is famous for potatoes and Chill production. Hence the people became true follower of Drukpa Kagyupa and considered Zhabdrung as their spiritual leader and master. Zhabdrung Rinpoche served as a refuge to the people of Chapcha and people had taken full refuge in Zhabdrung for their daily activities. This is how 'Chapcha' has derived its name, "Chap"- meaning "refuge" and "Cha/yul" meaning "village/place".

### Historical Chapcha Dzong

Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal built Chapcha dzong after the visit for the welfare of his faithful subjects. He then appointed Penlop as his representative giving authority to govern six regions namely Chapcha, Gangkha, Pagga, Bjachok, Bunakha, and Bongo to protect from external invasion.



According to village elders, Chapcha Dzong was also used as a transit point for Zhabdrung and central government's goods. The people of Pasakha bring government's goods from India and handover to Chapcha administration and from here the people of Chapcha carried and reached Naktshana at Lamdru (about 3 km before reaching Khasadrupchu). And thereafter by another region's group and continued till the goods reached to Zhabdrung. Thus the Dzong was administered by the following successive Ponlops :

First Ponlop -Jang Sithub, Second poenlop - Wangme Daw , Third poenlop - Phob Thel, Fourth Poenlop- Tawchu Zekor, Fifth Poenlop - Kawang Jochung, Sixth Poenlop - Babu Ngachung, Seventh Ponlop -Ramjam Gaychu, Eighth Ponlop - Ramjam Pekt, Ninth Ponlop - Ramjam Jamdo and Tenth Ponlop Ramjam Zamling Dorji.

An iconic Dzong, once upon a time and a seat of Chapcha Penlop since 1963, is now in a very pathetic condition. Looking at it makes one feel very sad and is now an eye sore for everyone. It is located in the centre of beautiful Chapcha village. The appointment of Penlop at Chapcha Dzong was discontinued by His Majesty the Third King and replaced it with Dungkhag system by appointing a Drungpa in 1975. In the same year it was shifted to Tsimatsham and, then later in 1987 it was instituted as Chhukha Dzongkhag. The first Drungpa was Zamling Dorji (1975-80 ) followed by Drungpa Bap Khandu (1980-83) and later administered by Drungpa Wangdi Norbu (1983-86).



### Pilgrimage Sites and Festivals

Blessed by Zhabdrung Ngwang Namgyal, Teroen Drukdra Dorji, Je Ngwang Thinley Drug and Thangtong Gyalpo, Chapcha has many scared places and interesting festivals for visits and to receive benediction.

The Kudung Chorten of Teroen Drukdra Dorji is one among many. It is located near the Chapcha dzong and primary school. According to the oral account of village elders, Teroen was assassinated in the year 1713 and preparation was made by Je Ngawang Drup to recieve the body at Tshamdra Gonpa.

However, this couldn't be done as body showed the sign of final resting near the Chapcha Dzong. The cremation rite was presided over by Tshamdra Je Ngawang Drub. After the cremation rites, strong wind blew out all the ashes up in the sky and it was Tshamdra Telku who begged for some residues to be left for the benefits of sentient beings. Later, the stupa was built to fulfill the wishes of people of Chapcha and other wishers across the nation.

This is scared water source, holy water or Drupchhu created by Teroen Drukdra Dorji at Damchu below the Thimphu- Phuntsholing highway that is few km away from chhuzom. Legend says that people of Chapcha and Lomneykha used to raise their domestics animals at Damchhu. However, people could not reside in the area as there was no clean water. Upon reaching to the place, Teroen informed people that there was karmic relation between him and people from the past lives and thus created this holy water. One can also see the resting stone created next to the drupchhu.

The most significant tasks performed by the Teroen was revealing of Akazati statue from Tumdrag Aminey. The statue can be still be seen at Dokhachu Goenpa. Besides this, there are number of pilgrim sites such as Tsari nyum ney, Langa Goenpa, Paga Goenpa, Guru Dorji Phagmoi ney, Thadrak ney, Tshamdrak Goenpa and Dokhachu Goenpa. There is drupchu at Paga that is believed to be consisting of water from 8 different sources (Chumi Yenlag gye). More interestingly, there are local festivals and Tshechu like Gangkha Lhasey, Rimthakha phola, Thadrag sonsoelkha and Shemgangkha Donchoe



**Ms. Lhachey, GAO, Chapcha Geog**

### Annual Health Conference

The annual health conference was held from 1st till 3rd August 2018 at Phuentshogling. "Let's talk : Sensitization" was the theme set covering on health sector challenges, public health activities and 12th Five Year Plan priorities.

Dasho Drungpa graced the opening ceremony and the closing ceremony was done by Dasho Dzongrab. Both the Dasho emphasized on a quality service delivery and a need for such conference for a better coordination towards a fruitful outcomes.

All the employees of 19 health facilities including Phuentshogling hospital attended the programme organised by the Dzongkhag Health Sector.

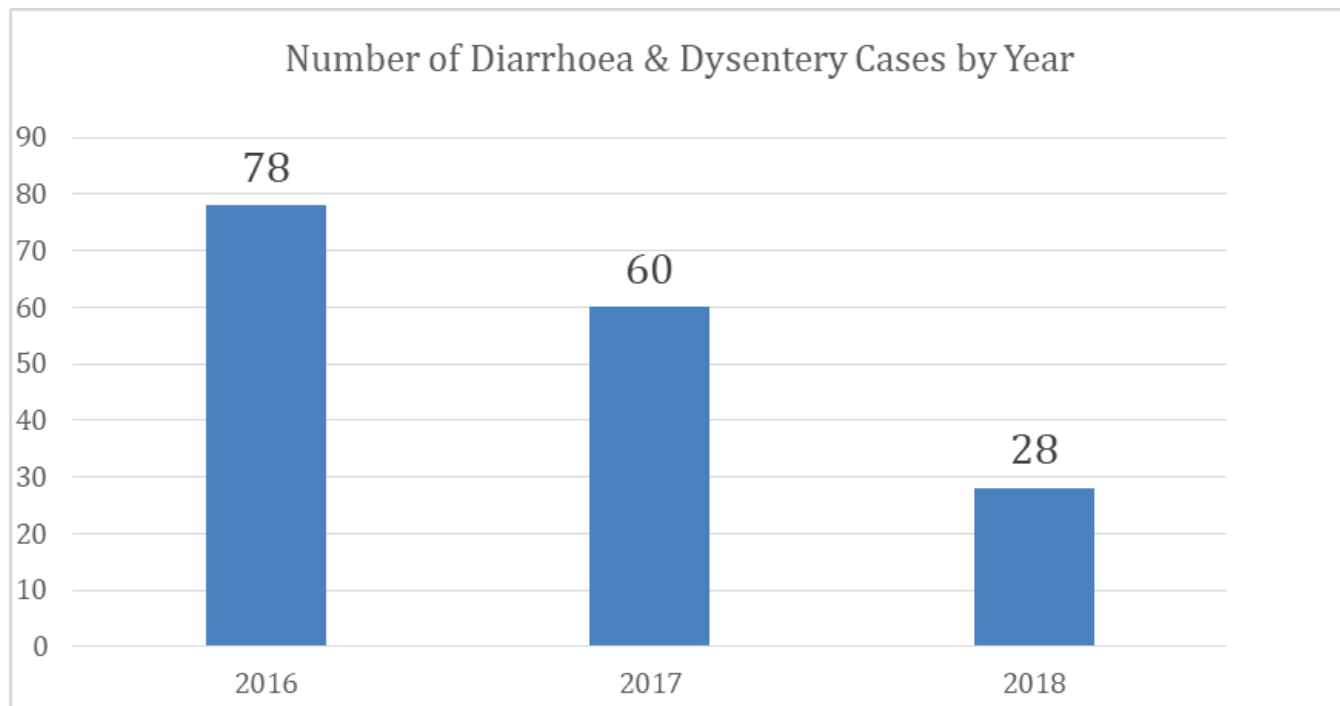
It is an annual event of the dzongkhag health sector.



**Mr. Namgay Pelzang, Internal Auditor, CDA**

### Bearing Impact of Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Thimphu and Malaysia helped realize my dream of 100 percent toilet coverage in Bongo village. It all began in September, 2017 when I met one of the members of 'Bongop Tshogpa'. The Tshogpa is an informal organization formed by group of civil servants of Bongo to promote community harmony and help develop Bongo village. I requested the Tshogpa to provide toilets as there was health and sanitation issues in the village.



*Chart 1: OPD registered cases of Diarrhoea and Dysentery (2018 figure is till 18 October only)*

In a month, the administrator of Bongop Tshogpa met with the Bongop Chiwog Tshogpa and carried on physical verification of all households to find out the number of pit toilets/pour flush and one who do not have. It was found that 36 households out of 44 are without proper toilet. The Bongop Tshogpa thus put up the proposal to the Rotary Club of Thimphu (RCT) to seek support for the construction of the 36 PF toilets and accorded approval in October, 2017.

The model of implementation of the project was community driven approach. The RCT provided a drawing and design with all required construction materials (cement, sand, toilet pot, CGI sheets, iron rods, water pipes, toilet pipes, nails and screws). And the beneficiaries were made to construct their toilet with contribution of labor force, timber, stone and stone chips.

The shortage of labor force was a major issue during the implementation phase. A working group model involving all the beneficiaries was adopted to address the issue. The villagers were divided into seven groups and then made them to complete the constructions of each member in turns.

A sample toilet was constructed in October 2017 and it took over 20 days to complete one. Then the whole project implemented on December 23, 2017 and completed on January 25, 2018. The project took only 34 days to complete all 35 toilets.

Unlike in the past, the 100 percent toilet coverage in the village had drastically reduced the number of adults and children who suffered from water borne diseases like Diarrhoea and Dysentery.

This project has proved that collective efforts can always bring in far reaching impact to our communities. It also indicated that our donor funds could be very well utilized with the involvement of people who genuinely are in need of it. All this good cause is due to the unfailing support of Bongop Tshogpa' and the Rotary Club. More so, the Rotary Club with the involvement of the Bongop Tshogpa, have completed another 59 toilets in Ketokha village. Both the projects were inaugurated by Honourable Nangsi Lyonpo in presence of Dasha Dzungda, Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizen, local leaders and beneficiaries of the two villages.

**Mr. Sangay Tenzin, Sr. HA , Bongo BHU-II**

### Max. Coaching Skills



A two-day coaching session for two groups was organized in Chhukha Dzongkhag as per the instruction of the Royal Civil Service Commission. Three facilitators from the RCSC deliberated the session and interacted with the 55 supervisors of various agencies of the Dzongkhag. The session was mainly to provide its theoretical frameworks and equip the participants with necessary coaching skills so that they become effective leaders to achieve their organizational goals.

The participants discussed on manager's role as coach, leadership compass, importance of giving feedback, accountability conversation, tactical accountability and developmental accountability. The participants felt and expressed that these main components are theoretical learning and skill development for their effective coaching.

As a coach, the facilitators emphasized the participants to know more about their employee's mindset and skill set deficiencies. Accordingly providing right coaching was core message of the facilitators. The participants, therefore, agreed to introduce coaching culture at their work places and maintain its consistency for leadership effectiveness and organizational improvement.

**Mr. Dorji Phuntsho, HRO, CDA**

### Education Fraternity Volleyball Tournament



The Volley Ball Tournament was organized as a part of annual entertainment program for the education family. There were 12 competitive teams from higher secondary and Middle secondary schools. It was organized at Gedu Higher Secondary School by the Dzongkhag Education Sector.

Kamji Central School begged the winner trophy and the Runners-up trophy was taken by the Chhukha Central School.

*For me, I hold sacred the endeavours begun by my father, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. I have committed myself to bringing to fruition all the noble endeavours begun in his 34 years of service and sacrifice. I also hold sacred my duty to ensure the success of democracy, and I shall work to lay the strongest foundations for a vibrant democracy within my reign."*

**- His Majesty The Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### The School Reform Initiative

An effective school leader plays a crucial role in school improvement and reform initiatives. A leader or school team must be through with the quality curriculum practices, implement plans in line with the aims and vision of Ministry of Education. A school team must be able to ensure and meet the students and parents' aspirations and expectations.



Metakha Primary School envisions "An excellent learning centre that caters to the needs and aspirations of children in the Gewog". The school plans, policies and programs are all aligned with the national goals of the country to make the school more relevant and effective in delivering the quality of education to the students. The school strives to accomplish its vision by enhancing students' academic performance through innovation and creativity, providing quality wholesome education through various programs, responding and supporting the immediate needs of the students and strengthening school management through best practices.

Enhancing students' academic performance with higher rate of qualifying to next grade is one of the top priority indicators of the school. Invariably the classroom teaching is primarily focused on

implementation of the 21<sup>st</sup> teaching pedagogy that can boost both the teaching-learning process. To help push forward the students' academic performance, the school promotes and cultivates a reading habit in students and teachers. Recognizing and awarding certificates and prizes to the excellent students is the teaching-learning culture of the school. In summary, the school places 80% of attention in academic program as guidance is required by all students irrespective of high and low achievers.

Academic learning mostly confined to classroom is not only the solution for the students to be smart and useful citizen in near future. In order to make the Metakha School more meaningful and wholesome in approach, the school provides a wholesome education through scouting program, health program, agriculture program, culture program and different clubs to build a strong life-skill foundation in every student. The school encountered time constraint to carry on all these programs but with the careful planning and maintaining strict annual school calendar, the things are on positive move. This is how the school keeps student busy and transforms their behaviours and attitudes in the world of works and skills development. However the school believes only 10% of attention is required on this non-academic program as it is just an alternative of academic program.

Responding and supporting the immediate needs of needy students plays crucial roles in saving and shaping the lives of students. In this area, the school identifies the students who are in need of academic, financial, social and emotional support services. The teachers looking after students' support service program provides a wide range of support services like financial help, remedial classes and simple counselling to the needy students in collaboration with their parents and higher authorities. The school is declared as free from any sort of discrimination and punishments to make them feel at home and enjoy learning at the fullest. Since the school believes all students do not require all support service at a time, 5% of school attention is placed to this program.

The good literatures on management and leadership reveals that the good school plans and policies can not be executed effectively without a sound school administration and best management practices. The school strongly believes in managing the school through team works and collaboration with the stakeholders. Hence the school has well established school management team and school management board. These two school bodies execute and implement the school plans and policies principally based on transparency, accountability, efficiency and professionalism. The parents are involved in all school programs believing that school can not be run in an isolation. Functioning school through a good governance and democracy approach is what we believe to achieve our vision of "An Excellent Learning Centre"

**Mr. Thinlay, Principal, Metakha Primary School**

*"Youth must be given the Highest Priority. We have to invest in our youth. If we can help our youth of today and direct them on right path, we would face less problems in the future."*

**- Her Majesty Gyalum Tshering Pem Wangchuck**

## Orange Colour Services



Chhukha Dzongkhag have 118 Dessups (62 from Gedu-Tshimatsham and 56 from Phuentshogling). One day coordination meeting was organised in Gedu College of Business Studies on the annual work plan and fund raising programmes. Dessups play a crucial roles in delivering immediate support services during the needy time

Some of the contributions made are:

- **Tumdra Ami Ney**— casualties and crowd control from the base point till pilgrimage site (1 hour walking distance). The Aum Kanchim(Akazati) statue was revealed from the Ney by Tenzin Drukdrag Dorji and is worshiped now by the Hindu and Buddhist. Every year in march , many Hindu devotees from India visit the place to attend Lord Shiva and Shivarati Festival .
- **Paga Goenpa**—transportation of timbers and ceiling works carried on 18th October 2018.
- **Ganglakha**—planted 5,000 saplings to mark the Social Forestry Day.
- **Chundzom till Rinchending Check post**—mass cleaning campaign april 2018
- **Chhukha Dzongkhag Region**—aiding in accident and disaster casualties.
- **Chorten Degay construction , Gedu**—1 day labour construction collaborating with the armed force .

Dessups also help celebrate Annual Chhukha Tshechu and generated fund through lottery draw. Currently, Chhukha Dzongkhag Dessups have a fund balance of more than Nu.150,000/-

Collaborating with the armed forces, Dessups takes a pivotal role as a Dzongkhag Disaster Management Team , an Incident Command System (ICS) instituted in the dzongkhag against disaster preparedness .

**Mr. Tashi Dorji (Dessup Coordinator) Teacher, Tsimakha PS.**

*"I am a firm believer/ that if there is one word /that will stand out above all other words/ when we describe/ our country's amazing journey of modernization/ over the last few decades-it is/ Education. Our institutions, our leaders of today-all of us, including me- are the proud products of the Bhutanese Education system."*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Annual Dzongkhag Picnic



The annual dzongkhag picnic was held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at the Degopang in Tshimalakha.

Unlike past year where luggage has to be carried to the picnic spot on foot for about half a kilometre, this year sounds lucky! Vehicles could easily reach the destination thereby curbing the initial transportation ailments encountered.

The day started with a hot porridge and a delicious breakfast followed by various entertainment items with the objective to encourage mass participation in the event.

For Kids, games like Balloon Fight Race, Water Balloon Race and Treasure Hunt were organised. Ladies got the opportunity to participate in Guess your pumpkin weight and short put competition. Similarly, Gents too got the privilege to showcase their talent in Khuru Tournament and short put competition. For gents and kids, pulling the Cap game brought much laughter and for gents and ladies, passing the pumpkin game and tam-bula added a beautiful reminiscence.

Cash prizes and gifts sponsored by the LT Tshongkhag, Bark Enterprise, Kencho Tshering Tshongkhag and dzongkhag administration were awarded to the winners, runners-ups and second runners-up.

Such events not only brought a refreshing time after a hectic year of services to the nation but also provided avenue towards a better interaction among the ngoedrup-tse families. Further, it opened door to showcase ones talents and skills in varied areas of games, dancing, singing, cooking, hospitalities, logistic and team work.

The programme ended with the award of prizes to the winners and tashi-labey wishing for a similar re-union filled with ample luck and happiness in the coming years.

Venerable Lam Neten, Dasho Drangpon and regional heads of various institutions and families of Chhukha Dzongkhag Administration attended the program. It was the second annual picnic organised by the administration.

**Mr. Namgay Pelzang, Internal Auditor , CDA**

*“The acronym for these extraordinary qualities of the Bhutanese people—Sincerity, Mindfulness, Astuteness, Resilience, and Timeliness—is SMART. Bhutan has always been a smart nation. That is why we must continue to build smart institutions, and that is why it is imperative that our people remain smart. We must nurture these wonderful qualities and remember everyday, how they have defined us as a nation and as a people. We must remember that these qualities will help us navigate the 21st century and build an ever better place. Our country has an extremely bright future and that future is in your hands.”*

**- His Majesty The Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Chhukha-Damchu Bypass Road and Its Impact.



The construction of 29.2km Chhukha-Damchu bypass road began on March 2010 with the project cost of Nu.2.870 billion and completed in July 2018.

To mark the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Indo-Bhutan Friendship, the road was inaugurated on July 18, 2018. Honourable Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay, India's Ambassador to Bhutan, Jaideep Sarkar, Works and Human Settlement Minister Dorji Choden, Secretaries of Ministry of Works and Human Settlement and National Land Commission, dignitaries of the Project Dantak, local leaders, regional and sector heads of Chhukha Dzongkhag attended the inauguration ceremony.

The commuters of Thimphu-Phuentsholing high way now benefited with the reduced travel time by 19.2 KM. This provided avenue towards saving on Bhutan's economy with the reduction on the imports of fuel and vehicle spare parts, and alarming vehicle maintenance expenditures. Additionally, it not only added towards a pleasant drive but also contributed in declining the accident frequency via old narrow route of Chapcha.

On the other side, it has immensely affected 77 shops and 28 restaurants of Chapcha, Tsimatsham and Tsimalakha towns which otherwise used to be the 'lunch hub' with hundreds of vehicles plying every day. Now, the town looks deserted with few commuters and local residents. Few hotels have been shut-down, and the vegetable vendors are seen descending down to the new high-way to sell their produce and return at dusk to Tsimalakha everyday. Further, it has also side lined the dzongkhag head-quarter making more difficult for the people of 11 Geogs to avail required public services. A glaring example will be the Chapchaps bearing the brunt of high transportation fares towards Tshimatsham to avail the regular services like LPG Services, banking services, administrative services, judiciary services, health services and school services. It was indeed fortunate for the people of Chapcha, Lobnekha, Bunagu, Tsimalakha and Tshimatsham to continue availing the local bus service towards the capital city provided by the Karma Bus Service. However, that is the lone bus which provides service once a day only. Similarly, local residents avail twice a week bus service towards Phuentshogling provided by Ap Tstagay.

In nutshell, despite the trials faced by the local residents of Bjabcho Geog and Chapcha Geog, the by-pass road has contributed towards national benefit at large.

**Mr. Namgay Pelzang, Internal Auditor, CDA**

*"Many hundreds of years ago, Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyal unified the nation, established the dual system and laid the foundations on which a unique Bhutan was born. This new nation was then further strengthened over the course of history by fifty-four Desis and generations of Bhutanese. The last hundred years, the Wangchuck dynasty further strengthened the foundations laid by the Zhabdrung, and handed over a special nation to our People in 2008. All of this was possible because our People have lived as one small family, true to the ideals of the Zhabdrung and the foundations of a unique and special Bhutanese identity."*

**- His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

### Chhukha National Assembly Election 2018



The third historic National assembly Election was called on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018 after receiving the royal decree from His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo. The poll day was on 15<sup>th</sup> September for the primary round and the general election was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

Bongo-Chapcha and Phuentsholing are the two constituencies of Chhukha Dzongkhag. It has a total registered voter of 25,057 with 12,620 male and 12,437 female respectively. During primary round, a total of 16,480 voters voted, of which 4,107 were postal voters. Likewise in general election, a total of 18,077 voters voted of which 4,407 were postal voter. The overall voter turnout increased from 65.7 percent in primary round to 72 percent in general election. Such mounting trend were due to the additional facilities of postal ballot facilitation booth.

From the onset of nomination of filings by the candidates until the poll day, the candidates/representatives and supporters were frequently reminded by the Chief/Dy. Election Coordinators, Returning Officers and the National Observers during the coordination meeting, common forum and at any meetings, about their code of conducts, the root cause of allegations to accomplish the common objective of a smooth, dispute free and a healthy election. A specific voter education was imparted in all 58 Chewogs and Phuentsholing Thromdey. The voters were reminded on the importance of voting and encouraged them to participate in parliamentary elections with “*Natural Responsibility or Tshornang*.” However, the voter turnout could not meet the set target of 75% in general election as it coincided with the cardamom harvest season.

The people of Chhukha elected Ms.Tshewang Lhamo from Bongo-Chapcha and Mr.J.B Rai from Phuentsholing constituencies as their representatives to the National Assembly. Hon’ble J. B Rai currently serves as an Education Minister.

**Mrs. Ugyen Choden, Election Officer, CDA**

*“We are also the custodians of national identity. Differences in our ethnicity, religious beliefs, regional and economic backgrounds must never be allowed to divide us— we must be able to always have a common Bhutanese identity that transcends all differences. There is no other country in the world exactly like Bhutan— we are unique in the world, we have a unique identity, and we have to ensure that we look after it.”*

**- His Majesty The Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**



### Annual Dzongkhag Tshechu



The annual Chhukha Dzongkhag Tshechu was celebrated from 17<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> October 2018 . The programme was coordinated by the Dzongkhag and Chhukha Rabdey in close collaboration with the regional offices. Unlike in the past where tshechu was hosted outside the Dzong at the Tshechu-thang, this year was celebrated inside the dzong courtyard to create more festive mood to the celebration. Despite the tshechu coincided with the poll day and cardamom season in the Geogs, spectators turnout was beyond expectations! Visitors came from the nearby dzongkhag and the occasion saw an increase in tourist arrival from international and regional areas. Keeping our unique culture and tradition alive through performance of significant mask dances and folk songs in the Dzongkhag was the aim of the celebration.

**Mr. Ugyen Chada, Cultural Officer, CDA**

### Fishery Cooperative— a successful saga of Drukdingsa



Riverine and Capture Fishery is one of the natural resources management strategy. “Drukdingsa Riverine Capture Fishery Management Group” is first of its type in Chhukha Dzongkhag. It is formed after realizing alternative sources of income in the community during 2017-2018 fiscal year ensuring the sustainable harvesting of fish from the river without disturbing the ecology. There are four major fish species in the river ecosystem. The user right for 5.5 Km Pachhu stretch from Chukti in the south to Dakchhalum in the north was handed over to the community for the period of five years. Only cast net and bamboo trap are allowed to use for fishing to ensure population dynamic in the river ecosystem. They are not allowed to fish during spawning season and any auspicious

days/months. As of date about 1.2 metric ton of fish was caught from the river which generated about Nu. 0.300 million. On average, the fish production contributed about Nu. 9,090 per members . Cardamom was the main source of income in the past. However, due to its low production and declined in prices, fishing is playing an alternative source of income for the community. At the same time, sense of ownership has developed and the fishery resources are being protected from rampant fishing ensuring sustainability of river ecosystem.

**Mr. Biksash Rai, ES, Doongna geog**

*“The destiny of Bhutan is intimately bound with that of India and it is in our mutual interests to further bounds of friendship and understanding”*

**- His Majesty the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck**

### Couple Walk for Health and Love



The Dzongkhag Health Sector coordinated first of its kind couple walk on 24th November 2018 from Tanalum till Tshimalakha town (16 KM). It was organised as a part of Multi Sector Task Force (MSTF)/ Community Based Support System (CBSS) programme to combat and reduce the alarming Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and socio- economic implications, pioneer with the physical activities in the dzongkhag and provide a platform towards a healthy love of a couples.

The event was organised in two categories. One category was aged below 40 years and the other was above 40 years age. The couple who reaches the destination point within the fastest time was declared the top three winners in each categories.

With the theme 'Let's Walk Together for 30 Minutes Everyday', 87 couples registered for the competition. Hon'ble National Council Member of Chhukha, civil servants, regional offices, business communities and armed forces raced the day wearing the white cap with the printed logo of the days' event. All the participants were lifted by bus towards Tanalum and they were served with hot veg porridge. Before the race kicked off, Dasho Dzongdag highlighted on the significance of the days event and briefing was done by the coordinator.

In below 40 aged category, Mr. Yonten Jamtsho (26 years) and Mrs. Kelzang Lhamo (24) bagged the winning prize completing the race in 1 hour ,34 minutes followed by Mr. Tashi Gallay (28 years) and Mrs. Sonam Peldon (28 years) in 1 hour ,35 minutes. The second runners-up was secured by Mr. Nima Tshering (28 years) and Mrs. Samten Choden (30 years) in 1 hour, 37 minutes.

Similarly in above 40 aged category , Mr. Tashi Norbu (48 years) and Mrs. Ngawang Choden (39 years) bagged the winning prize covering the distance in 2 hours , 17 minutes followed by Drimpoen Sherub Tenzin (43 years) and Mrs. Dechen Tshomo (40 years) in 2 hours, 19 minutes. They were then followed by Mr. Dawa Tamang (45 years) and Mrs. Radika (40 years) completing in 2 hours ,20 minutes.

The winners were provided with set of religious books (choe bom), first runners-up with trumpet (Dung) and second runners-up with jaling along with certificates. Interestingly, all the couples completed the race within the set time frame and they were provided with certificate of participation . The event ended with a lunch programme. The dzongkhag has a plan to coordinate similar such events in the future for a healthy chhukha and a healthy love.

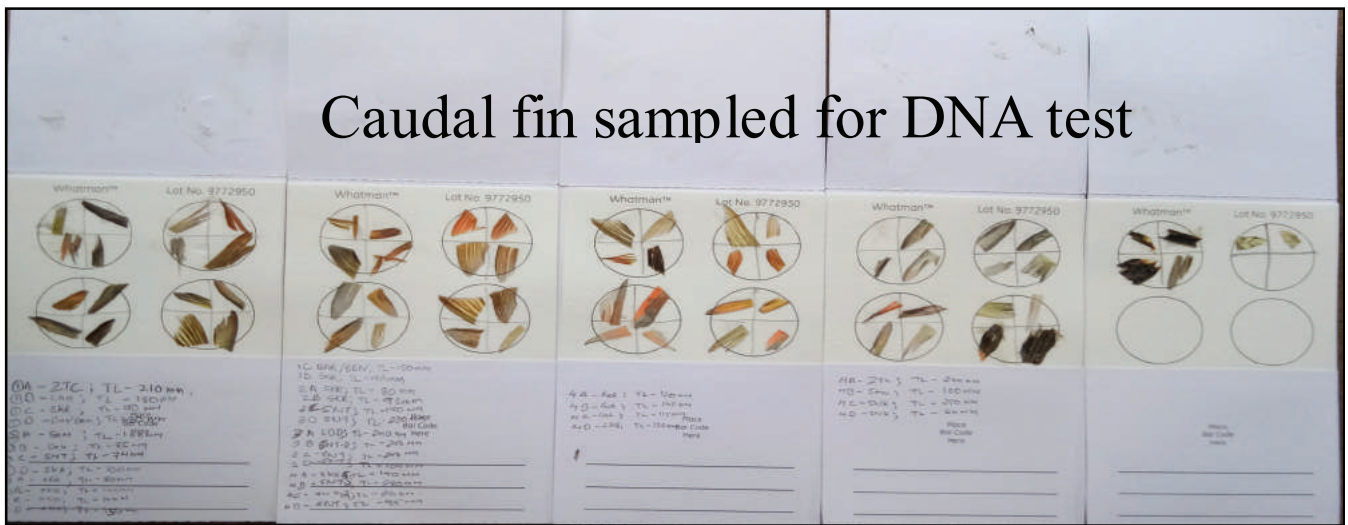
**Mr. Namgay Pelzang, Internal Auditor, CDA**

*"Today, GNH has come to mean so many things to so many people but to me it signifies simply - Development with Values. Thus for my nation today GNH is the bridge between the fundamental values of kindness, equality and humanity and the necessary pursuit of economic growth.*

**- His Majesty The Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**

**Assessment for Community based Capture Fishery**

**Caudal fin sampled for DNA test**



Dzongkhag Livestock Sector in collaboration with Regional Livestock Development Centre, Tshimasham and National Research Centre for Riverine and Lake Fisheries, Haa conducted a joint assessment of fishery resources in Ridak River from 16/9/18 to 20/9/18. This was done to determine the fishery resources in the river ecosystem including species composition and abundance and to determine Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE). The activity was a part of series of activity planned for developing community based capture fishery for Sarphu-Allay-Piping community and its management plan during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

During the study period about 29 fish species were found to be thriving out of which 18 species were caught and released and 11 species were reported by the community fisherman. The study also found that the tentative CPUE at 14 fishes per fisherman per fishing day meaning that a fisherman would catch 14 fishes if the fisherman spend one hour twenty five minutes in a day fishing. One of the critically endangered fish species particularly Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*) in latin, “Sernya” in Dzongkha and “Saur” in Lhotsam) was also found warranting comprehensive management plan.

**Mr. Thinley Tenzin, LPO, DVH**

*“Bhutan, through good fortune and fate, could not hope for a better moment than now for this historical development and would never find another opportunity like this to introduce a Constitution that would provide a democratic system of government best suited for the future well-being of the nation. Today the King, government, clergy and the people in all sections of society, enjoyed unprecedented level of trust and fidelity. The security of the country was ensured and the people enjoyed peace and stability. Bhutan’s relations with its close friend and neighbour had reached a new height and the country also enjoyed growing relations with its developmental partners as well as other countries that appreciated the Kingdom’s wholesome policies for development and change. In many countries, Constitutions were drafted during difficult times, under pressure from political influences and interests, but Bhutan was fortunate that the change came without any pressure or compulsion.”*

**- His Majesty the Fourth King Jigme Singye Wangchuck**

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### Best Practices of Chhukha

- The 3M Initiative (monthly management meeting) to strengthen good governance and democracy based on principle of Blue Ocean Strategy.
- The 3A Initiative (academic acceleration activities) to enhance student academic performance.
- The Joint Initiative of Education and RNR Sector for supply of indigenous RNR products to all boarding schools.
- Institutionalization of sector coordination meeting for transparency, accountability, efficiency and professionalism.
- In-house and campus greening program initiative for green and clean Chhukha.
- Chhukha Natural Initiative to promote local agriculture and livestock produce.
- Waste Prevention and Management Initiative along Thimphu-Phuntsholing high way.



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