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THE STATE OF THE NATION

Dasho Tshering Tobgay
Prime Minister of Bhutan



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With utmost reverence and humility of the Body, Speech, and Mind, this annual State of the Nation Report is submitted before the Golden Throne of His Majesty The King for perusal and assent.

The State of the Nation

Article 10 Section 10 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan mandates that the Prime Minister present an Annual Report on the state of the nation, including legislative plans and the annual plans and priorities of the Government to the Druk Gyalpo and to a joint sitting of Parliament. In accordance with this Constitutional provision, it is my honour to present the State of the Nation report to this distinguished joint sitting of Parliament.

I take this opportunity to express my most humble and sincere gratitude to His Majesty The King for granting this special honour, although the fourth elected government has been in office for just over five months. On the same note, I thank the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Chairperson, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, and all the Hon'ble Members of the two Houses of Parliament for this opportunity. I welcome and thank everyone present here in the Parliament Hall, as well as those following this report on television and social media platforms.

The most important aspects of the state of the nation are sovereignty, security, and peace. In this respect, our nation has grown ever stronger. The peace and stability in our nation are primarily due to the unwavering dedication of the three Armed Forces and De-suung, who have selflessly served under the command of His Majesty The King, our Supreme Commander.

The annual State of the Nation report is structured into five chapters:

Chapter 1: State of the Country

Chapter 2: Challenges Facing the Country

Chapter 3: Strategies to Address the Challenges

Chapter 4: Government Plans and Priorities for 2024-2025

Chapter 5: Government's Legislative Plans for 2024-2025



Chapter 1: State of the Country

The state of the country is intrinsically linked to the state of Gross National Happiness (GNH), a wisdom propounded by His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo. For the past 50 years, all our policies and plans have been rooted in the vision and principles of GNH.

Therefore, if GNH is in a good state, it is indicative of the overall well-being of the country. On the contrary, if the benefits of GNH are not experienced, it necessitates acknowledging that the state of the country is less favourable.

As Bhutanese people understand, fulfilling the objectives of Gross National Happiness entails socioeconomic development and growth. Similarly, we must preserve and promote our spiritual heritage and culture, and conserve our environment. Most importantly, we must ensure and uphold good governance.

Now if we examine the state of GNH through its four pillars:

First, our small economy, with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Nu. 227 billion, is rooted in the principles of equality and sustainability. The economy has grown by 4.5 percent in 2023, indicating a steady growth trajectory. However, its small size poses inherent challenges and risks.

Bhutan has seen remarkable social progress over the decades. Our literacy rate stands at 70.6 percent with every child going to school, and our healthcare services have improved significantly, with life expectancy now exceeding 70 years. These achievements are the results of His Majesty The King's commitment to providing free education and healthcare services, along with extensive Kidu programs. We, the people of Bhutan owe an eternal debt of gratitude to His Majesty the King and our institution of Monarchy.

In the realm of spiritual heritage, the Buddha Dharma, specifically the Vajrayana tradition, continues to flourish and thrive in our nation, under the compassionate leadership and guidance of His Holiness the Je Khenpo, the Five Lopens, Zhung Dratshang, Rabdeys, Lams, and Trulkus from various monastic institutions. I take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to His Holiness the Je Khenpo, the Five Lopens, Zhung Dratshang, Rabdeys, Lams, and Trulkus, and the Hindu pundits for their devout conduct of prayers and rituals for the long life of His Majesty The King and the prosperity and wellbeing of our country and people.

In addition, our rich and unique tradition and culture not only continue to thrive and evolve but stand as a cornerstone of our national pride and identity.

On the environmental front, Bhutan owes its global acclaim for environmental conservation and outstanding green credentials to the wise and farsighted policies of our successive Monarchs. Bhutan stands uniquely distinguished as being a carbon-negative country in the world, further demonstrating our commitment to sustainable development.

The most important pillar of GNH is good governance, which is fundamental to the effectiveness of the other three pillars. In essence, good governance is the gift of democracy bestowed upon the people of Bhutan by His Majesty The King and His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, ensuring both present and future interests of the country.

Since the advent of parliamentary democracy, we have successfully conducted a total of 12 elections, covering four rounds each for the National Council, the National Assembly, and Local Governments. Additionally, several by-elections have been held. With four rounds of National Assembly elections held, we have witnessed the change of four governing parties and three opposition parties, along with many members of parliament. The seamless nature of these transitions is a testament to the firm foundation of our democracy, guided by the wisdom and blessings of His Majesty the King. To this end, our people have also stepped forward with a greater sense of responsibility to participate in the democratic process.

Our constitutional bodies such as the judiciary, the Royal Civil Service Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Royal Audit Authority, and the Election Commission of Bhutan continue to grow strong and resilient. Similarly, the Royal Monetary Authority, as the Central Bank, has grown stronger, providing stewardship to the financial institutions in the country.

On the same note, Local Government, the government closest to the people, has grown from strength to strength, and continues to benefit the people immensely.

Similarly, civil society organisations and media institutions have become robust. In particular, several organisations established under the Royal Patronage of the Queen Mothers including the Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan Youth Development Fund, Bhutan Nuns Foundation, RENEW, and the Royal Textile Academy have significantly contributed to community welfare and social well-being. I pay tribute to Their Majesties The Queen Mothers for their Royal Patronage of these organisations. I extend a special tribute to Her Majesty The Queen Mother Tseyring Pem Wangchuck on the silver jubilee of the Bhutan Youth Development Fund.

When considering the four pillars of GNH outlined above, it becomes evident that our country is in a good state. In just one generation, we have witnessed remarkable socio-

economic development, transforming our nation from medieval age to a modern prosperous society. Such a rapid and profound change is unprecedented in the world.

What I have outlined above offers a broad perspective on the state of GNH through its four pillars. For a more detailed analysis, we need to look at the GNH index, developed by the Centre for Bhutan and GNH Studies. The Centre carries out an extensive survey every five years, interviewing Bhutanese people from thromdes, dzongkhags, gewogs, chiwogs, and villages, providing a comprehensive assessment of GNH.

According to the GNH survey report, the state of GNH has shown improvement, with the GNH index increasing from 0.743 in 2010 to 0.756 in 2015. Although the index was not generated in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the GNH survey in 2022 revealed an unexpected increase in the GNH index to 0.781. Despite the challenges brought about by the pandemic, Bhutan experienced a rise in the GNH index during this period, which can be directly attributed to the selfless leadership and sacrifices of His Majesty the King, who was at the frontlines combating the crisis. His Majesty's relief Kidu program and a series of support measures, significantly cushioned the people of Bhutan from enduring substantial hardships. Such increases in the GNH index are indicators of the progress of GNH and the overall state of the country.

Our country has progressed and grown stronger under the wise leadership and guidance of our successive monarchs. We are profoundly grateful and pray for the long life of His Majesty The King and the continuity of our hereditary monarchy. Under the blessings of the Wangchuck Dynasty, may our nation continue to prosper.



Chapter 2: Challenges Facing the Country

As the Bhutanese adage, “Wherever the dharma flourishes, Mara abounds” cautions, great progress comes with significant challenges. It is important we recognize the challenges and address them as we advance.

The most pressing issue facing our nation today is our people leaving the country in search of better employment opportunities overseas. To date, approximately 64,000 Bhutanese, which is around nine percent of our population, have migrated. While it offers our people opportunities to find jobs, acquire skills, and earn income to support their families, it would also present potential risks and challenges if this trend continues.

In a tiny country with a small population, human resources are pivotal, especially for economic progress. Any further decrease in our population could adversely impact the foundations of our economy and potentially lead to an economic downturn. As the skilled workforce leaves the country, it not only impacts the economy but also disrupts the effective delivery of public services. For instance, resignations among teachers affect the quality of education, while departures of doctors and nurses lead to deteriorating health services. Moreover, the ongoing shortage of skilled professionals, including technicians, engineers, and experts in banking and law, exacerbates the current situation and impedes our country’s development.

If we are not able to address the situation today, our youth abroad will not be motivated to return home. Should these challenges persist, there is a real possibility of our country becoming increasingly depopulated. Under ideal circumstances, our people would choose to stay back in Bhutan. However, many endure the challenges of travelling and living abroad due to limited job opportunities and business prospects in the country.

This issue ultimately relates to the small size of our economy. As mentioned, despite its size, our economy has grown steadily, guided by principles of sustainability and equality. However, we have faced challenges in aligning economic progress with social development. For example, after completing their education, many of our youth struggle to find meaningful employment. They are well-educated, proficient in English, hardworking, and trustworthy. As a result, foreign countries eagerly recruit and employ them, leading to a growing number of Bhutanese youth seeking opportunities abroad.

Whether we can provide meaningful employment opportunities for our youth within the country will be determined by the current state and growth prospects of our economy.

However, our small economy has not yet fully recovered from the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many businesses continue to remain adversely affected. Those who wish to

expand their businesses are unable to secure loans, and many are struggling to repay existing loans. This has led to imports outstripping exports, a sharp decline in foreign reserves, and an increase in external debt.

Today, Bhutan stands at a crossroads. If we are not able to unite, work together and choose the right path, our country will suffer serious repercussions. Our beloved country faces an unprecedented existential crisis. Make no doubt about it. We ignore this crisis at our own peril.

To address this urgent crisis, we must first acknowledge the challenges and risks we face. To overcome them, we must unite as one people to fortify and protect our country. This is our most urgent responsibility, our most sacred duty. Each and every one of us must take part in nation-building, for the simple reason that no one else will do it for us.



Chapter 3: Strategies to Address Challenges

There is only one solution to addressing the aforementioned challenges: reviving and expanding our economy at the earliest. At the forefront of our strategies is the historic Gelephu Mindfulness City, conceived from His Majesty The King's profound wisdom. The Gelephu Mindfulness City is a precious gift to the people of Bhutan that will ensure the nation's present well-being and future security. It holds the promise of economic prosperity, opportunities for the private sector, solutions to the challenges facing our youth, employment opportunities, markets for agricultural produce, motivation for Bhutanese living abroad to return to the country, and security for future generations.

This historic initiative by His Majesty The King not only inspires and motivates us, it has also garnered worldwide admiration. It places a strong sense of responsibility on each of us. We remain fully reassured that all endeavours undertaken or led by His Majesty The King consistently yielded results beyond our expectations. As His Majesty The King leads the plans, policies, programs, and strategies for the Gelephu Mindfulness City, it is the duty of the government and the people to align our thoughts and beliefs, and fulfill our roles with utmost sincerity and dedication.

While it is impossible to present the countless noble deeds of His Majesty The King, the following are a few examples: the establishment of the Druk Holding and Investments, the establishment of De-suung, His leadership in combating the Covid-19 pandemic, citizenship Kidu, land Kidu, health Kidu, disaster management, and the Gyalsung project born of His Majesty's wisdom and farsighted vision. The profound benefits of these deeds for the country and people are clearly visible, and therefore, we are confident that the Gelephu Mindfulness City will be successful.

However, we must not be complacent and place the responsibilities solely on His Majesty The King. We must actively work towards rebuilding our economy, creating jobs and business opportunities, exploring income-generating initiatives, and raising salaries for our workforce.

To achieve this, we need to work hard and revive our economy, which has been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We must inject cash flow into the economy. To this end, we have instituted a Nu. 15 billion Economic Stimulus Programme, with generous support from the Government of India. I wholeheartedly thank the Government of India and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the support.

The fund will be distributed as low-interest loans through financial institutions, to various sectors. This will help revive our economy by stimulating the growth of our private sector and businesses, small industries, tourism, agriculture, livestock, construction industry, transportation, and media and film industries.

In 2013, when the second elected government took office, we successfully implemented an economic stimulus plan of Nu. 5 million to revive the economy with support from the Government of India. The plan greatly helped rebuild our economy. Therefore, we must leverage the opportunity presented by the Government's Economic Stimulus Programme, shoulder added responsibility and work hard towards achieving concrete results. The Economic Stimulus Programme can immediately address our ailing economy. In addition, the 13th Five Year Plan will further strengthen our economic foundation. The 13th Five Year Plan is markedly different from all previous plans, with a budget nearly double that of the 12th Five Year Plan. Moreover, the primary objective of the 13th Five Year Plan is to double the size of our economy and make it robust and stable. From the total of Nu. 512 billion in the 13th Five Year Plan, Nu. 267 billion has been allocated for recurrent expenditure and Nu. 245 billion for capital expenditure.

We have numerous development partners supporting us, with the Government of India being the largest among them. The Government of India's support of Nu. 85 billion for the 13th Five Year Plan is double its support for the 12th Five Year Plan. We wholeheartedly thank the government and people of India for this generous support.

Likewise, we extend our gratitude to all other partners, including the European Union, the Government of Japan, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations, and various other governments and agencies.

The 13th Five Year Plan has been presented to Parliament and deliberated exhaustively. The guidance and advice received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament will significantly improve the Plan. I thank you all for your contributions. Therefore, I believe it may not be necessary to make a detailed presentation of the Plan today.

However, I will present a summary of how the 13th Five Year Plan will directly strengthen the economy.

First, we have allocated Nu. 68 billion for infrastructure development. This includes widening of national highways and building new ones, constructing bridges, blacktopping gewog centre roads, building schools and hospitals, and constructing irrigation canals. These initiatives will stimulate economic growth and directly benefit those in construction industries.

Second, we have allocated Nu. 10 billion for ICT development, to not only stimulate growth of the ICT industry but also enhance the technological infrastructure, thereby strengthening our economy.

Third, we have allocated Nu. 72 billion for the local government. This will support the construction of chiwog roads, installation of chain-link fencing, and maintenance of irrigation canals. These initiatives will improve the livelihoods of rural residents and enhance agricultural and livestock production.

Fourth, we have allocated Nu. 60 billion for human resource development. Recognizing that human resources are key to boosting the economy, we will expand health, educational, vocational, and technical training institutes. This, in turn, is expected to drive economic growth.

Recognizing that hydropower is one of the key pillars of our economic development, we have planned to increase the installed capacity of hydropower generation by 3,119 MW over the next five years, bringing the total installed capacity to approximately 5,500 MW. For this ambitious initiative, we have allocated a budget of Nu. 527 billion, outside the 13th Five Year Plan.

Similarly, we have also put in place strategies to increase foreign direct investment to Nu.500 billion.

Furthermore, acknowledging that tourism brings cash income to communities in diverse ways, we have put in place special plans and priorities for tourism development.

I extend my gratitude to our civil servants for undertaking extensive research to draft a comprehensive 13th Five Year Plan. As we implement the plan, I will be counting on the support and cooperation of civil servants to fulfil the plan objectives.

As I previously mentioned, our economy is small and has faced challenges in achieving the anticipated growth rates. It is our duty to accelerate economic development, guided by the GNH principles of sustainability and equality. This responsibility is critical, and we must approach it with utmost seriousness.

During the 112th National Day, His Majesty The King commanded that we chart a clear roadmap for a 21st-century economy to accelerate our economic development. In accordance with this Command, the previous government developed an economic roadmap for the country. We are now comprehensively improving this roadmap by engaging both national and international experts.

In summary, our country is at a crossroads, facing unprecedented times. The Gelephu Mindfulness City is our key strategy in addressing and overcoming the pressing challenges. Furthermore, the Economic Stimulus Programme and the 13th Five Year Plan are poised to significantly boost our economic development. Additionally, hydropower projects, tourism initiatives, and foreign direct investments will further stimulate economic growth.



Chapter 4: Government Plans and Priorities for 2024-2025

To achieve the objectives of the 13th Five Year Plan, it is imperative to begin the first year with the implementation of well-organised plans and priorities. I will present a few of the key plans, priorities, policies, and programs for this financial year.

The foremost priority is the Gelephu Mindfulness City. This historic project, conceived from the wisdom of His Majesty The King, is personally overseen by His Majesty in its policies, plans, programs and strategies. Therefore, we will submit our commitment to His Majesty, and coordinate with project officials to ensure that the government and the people wholeheartedly support this project.

Other key plans and priorities of the government include...

Economic revival and development:

First, to support private sector development, we will lift the moratorium on loans, through the Economic Stimulus Programme. Additionally, we will facilitate low-interest loans to revive and expand businesses, and to encourage new business startups. We will also implement business friendly policies, regulations and guidelines to strengthen the private sector and improve the ease of doing business.

Second, to enhance public infrastructure, we will widen 11 national highways and construct seven new highways. To this end, the government will establish dedicated monitoring teams to ensure timely completion and quality public infrastructure.

Third, to develop and diversify tourism, we will improve on policies, systems, and services. Additionally, we will focus on identifying and tapping into new tourism markets.

Fourth, to support the development of the ICT sector, we will facilitate business opportunities for ICT companies. Additionally, we will initiate the establishment of a third Internet gateway and work towards reducing internet tariff charges.

Fifth, to attract and enhance foreign direct investments in the country, the Economic Development Board will actively explore and identify diverse economic opportunities. We will also review and enhance the Foreign Direct Investment Policy, and create special investment opportunities for Bhutanese living abroad.

Sixth, to increase the country's hydropower generation, we will start transmitting power from the Punatsangchhu-2 Hydroelectric Project this year. Furthermore, construction activities for the Punatsangchhu-1 Hydroelectric Project are scheduled to resume soon. Concurrently, we have initiated construction on several other hydroelectric projects, including the Kholongchhu, Suchhu, Burgangchhu, Yungichhu, Druk Bindu-1, Druk Bindu-2, Gamri-1, Begana, and Jomori.

Seventh, we will formalise the 21st-century economic roadmap towards strengthening the economy and advancing its growth and development.

This year, we will undertake the following initiatives to enhance agriculture and livestock:

First, we will provide low-interest agriculture and livestock loans to farmers through the Economic Stimulus Programme.

Second, we will repair and blacktop 20 gewog centre roads to improve transport services. Similarly, we aim to repair and carry out maintenance of a total of 200 chiwog roads.

Third, we will initiate a total of 56 irrigation projects within this financial year, of which 47 are new irrigation projects.

Fourth, we plan to install chain-link fencing in about 200 chiwogs.

Fifth, we will formulate a new policy and programs to identify and prioritise cereals, fruits, and livestock products, and ensure access to market. This initiative will greatly help generate income for our farmers.

Sixth, we will introduce a low interest loan program to enable our farmers to purchase power tillers.

Seventh, we will develop policies and plans for crop and livestock compensation and insurance.

This year, we will focus on the following priorities for human resource development:

First, His Majesty The King will inaugurate the Gyalsung program on 5 September 2024. This historic milestone will have immense benefits to our nation's future. The government is fully committed to supporting the Gyalsung program in every possible manner to ensure its success.

Second, in keeping with the Royal Kasho on Education Reforms, we will enhance and strengthen education policies, plans and programs. Additionally, we will initiate upgradation of 63 schools to central schools, with formulation of new policies, systems, and guidelines for this purpose.

Third, we will start the Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck Mother and Child Hospitals in Thimphu and Mongar, to further enhance healthcare services. We will also develop a detailed project report for a specialised cancer hospital in the country. In addition, we will explore new ideas and strategies to expand the Health Trust Fund.

Fourth, we will upgrade and promote all vocational training institutes to impart essential vocational skills to Bhutan's youth.

Fifth, we will develop and implement national sports plans, in collaboration with the Bhutan Olympic Committee. We will also provide necessary facilities and support to schools to promote sports.

Sixth, we will develop policies and plans to support interest-free loans to our youth pursuing higher studies abroad.

Seventh, recognizing the serious issue of substance abuse in the country, we are committed to addressing and eradicating it through collective action. Our plan includes establishing a new school tailored for students struggling with substance use, and creating a specialized center dedicated to rehabilitating and treating individuals affected by substance abuse.

The following are our priorities for preserving our spiritual heritage and culture:

First, we will continue the construction of Sarpang Dzong. Additionally, we will renovate and expand sacred temples such as Rigsum Gonpa, Sangag Choekhor, and five others. We will also construct Dechen Phodrang Monastic School and provide and improve educational facilities for the monks.

Second, we will prioritise the development and promotion of Dzongkha through ICT.

Third, we will institute specialised training programs in performing arts.

Our priorities for foreign policy and relations include:

First, we extend our profound gratitude and respect to His Majesty The King for prioritizing state visits to foreign countries, despite His demanding schedule. His Majesty's overseas visits have not only strengthened our international relations but also immensely contributed to increased tourist arrivals in the country.

His Majesty The King's conferral of the highest national award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo, to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has inspired great admiration and recognition of His Majesty's noble deeds among the people of India, bringing them immense joy. We are grateful to His Majesty The King for strengthening Bhutan's friendly relations with India through His steadfast leadership and visionary actions.

Second, during my two visits to India within a short period of time, I was able to carry out numerous activities related to our bilateral relations and development plans. Recently, I visited India as a representative of His Majesty The King and the people of Bhutan to offer our felicitations to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the National Democratic Alliance, on winning the elections. In particular, I offered congratulations to Shri Narendra Modi for assuming the office of the Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive term. We pray that India continues to grow from strength to strength under his wise leadership.

Last week, on the invitation of the Prime Minister of Thailand, I made an official visit to Bangkok. I had the honour of receiving a Royal Audience, and held successful meetings with the Thai Prime Minister, Ministers, business leaders and travel companies.

This year, my plan is to travel to some of our neighbouring countries and donor nations to strengthen our relations with them. I also plan to participate in the United Nations General Assembly later this year, and explore valuable opportunities for our country's development.

We have planned the following activities in preparation for the 13th Five Year Plan and to improve public service delivery:

First, in keeping with the Royal Kasho on civil service reforms, we will closely work with the Royal Civil Service Commission to advance the reforms.

Second, we will develop policy, system, and guidelines and start delivering timely and quality public services through an integrated service centre.

Third, we will consult with the members of local governments, and soon roll out orientation training on the 13th Five Year Plan for the local governments.

Additionally, here are a few more important priorities for this financial year:

- We will formulate policies and plans to facilitate home ownership for individuals without homes, offering low-interest loans
- We will formulate policy and plans to increase rural life insurance.
- We will develop policies, guidelines, and plans aimed at providing allowances for mothers who give birth to a third child.



Chapter 5: Government's Legislative Plans for 2024-2025

For the first session of the Fourth Parliament, aside from financial and money bills and an aviation agreement, the government has not tabled any other legislative bills. This year, the government has no plans to introduce new legislative bills unless there is a real need.

However, we plan to table the Tax Amendment Bill in the winter session to support private sector development and economic growth.

In addition to this, we will continue improving existing policies and formulating new ones as mentioned above.



Conclusion: Gratitude and Prayers

Despite numerous commitments both within and outside the country, His Majesty The King graciously presided over the opening ceremony of the first session of the Fourth Parliament. This exemplifies His Majesty's profound commitment toward Parliament and the legislative body. We express our deepest gratitude to His Majesty The King for His continued generosity with the utmost humility in Body, Speech, and Mind.

His Majesty the King places great importance on our civil servants and public servants, providing them invaluable advice, guidance, and support to inspire and motivate them in their dedicated service to the Tsa-Wa-Sum. Additionally, acknowledging the financial challenges faced by civil and public servants, His Majesty graciously allocated a total of Nu. 8 billion (Nu. 4 billion last year and Nu. 4 billion this year) for their salary increments from His special project fund, separate from the government's exchequer.

In recognition of His tireless dedication and sacrifices for our country and people, and His exemplary global leadership, His Majesty The King has been honoured with honorary doctorates from India, Japan, Canada, and Thailand. On 19 June 2024, seven universities in Thailand simultaneously conferred honorary doctorates upon His Majesty The King. On behalf of all the people of Bhutan, I offer our heartfelt Tashi Delek to His Majesty with immense delight and reverence. Such an honour from seven prestigious universities at a time is unprecedented. On behalf of all Bhutanese people, I extend our gratitude to the universities in Thailand.

His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo pioneered the development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, ensuring a happy and peaceful nation. He steadfastly safeguarded the country's security and sovereignty, even risking His own life. We remain forever grateful for His leadership, wisdom and continued guidance.

At the tender age of eight years, His Royal Highness The Gyalsay has already begun serving the country and people. His noble deeds inspire awe, reassurance, and pride among all Bhutanese. These deeds reflect the noble counsel and guidance of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen. We pay our deepest respects to Their Majesties, and pray for the continued success of His Royal Highness The Gyalsay in all his noble endeavours for the nation's future.

We humbly pay tribute to Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen for working tirelessly alongside His Majesty The King to realise His noble vision and for nurturing our princes and princess for the nation's future. Additionally, we express our gratitude for Her Majesty's

Royal Patronage and leadership in socially beneficial initiatives such as The PEMA Center, Bhutan Red Cross Society, Selwa, One Gewog One Product, and environmental conservation efforts.

The smooth and productive proceedings of the first session of the Fourth Parliament reflect the leadership of the Hon'ble Speaker and the active participation of the Hon'ble Members of Parliament. I extend my Tashi Delek and heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed House.

In conclusion, we, the people of Bhutan, unite in prayers for His Majesty The King's long life. May His Majesty's noble deeds flourish, and may the nation of Palden Drukpa continue to enjoy peace and happiness under His Majesty's wise and visionary leadership.

Thank you and Tashi Delek.

This State of the Nation report is offered to His Majesty The King for His precious counsel, guidance, and assent.

Submitted on the 29th Day of the 5th Month of the Wood Male Dragon Year, corresponding to 4th July 2024, by Humble Servant Tshering Tobgay.

Copies to:

1. Hon'ble Speaker
2. Hon'ble Chairperson
3. Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
4. All Hon'ble Members of Parliament

སློན་ཆེན།

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ལྗོངས་འདི་འཇམ་གླིང་ཀྱན་གྱི་ཀྱན་གྱུར་ཅིག།

