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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN

PHUENTSHOLING THROMDE

POST CODE 21101, POST BOX NO. 02, PELKHIL LAM



**Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> Session of 2<sup>nd</sup> Thromde Tshogde  
Phuentsholing Thromde Meeting Hall**

**Date: 17 June, 2020**

**Opening Remarks of Chairperson of the Tshogde**

Dasho Thrompon welcomed all members and observers, and thanked them for making themselves available despite a busy schedule. Dasho thanked His Majesty for his unwavering kindness and guidance showered during these difficult times, Drastshang Lhentshog for their continued prayers and rituals, Phuentsholing Covid-19 task force for their diligent effort and directions towards keeping covid-19 at bay and lastly all those involved including civil servants for collectively working towards fulfilling the vision of the nation.

The primary purpose of the session, Dasho mentioned, is for endorsement of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget. Additionally, Dasho said, it is timely to know spillover activities of FY 2019-20 activities and forthcoming planned activities, and accordingly prioritize the activities to use funds allocated optimally. More importantly, as the housing crunch exists for those repatriated from Jaigoan, ideas and solutions must be deliberated to explore permanent solutions, Thrompon remarked. Dasho informed that this remains a concern of HM and must genuinely look into it. Together with housing, Dasho mentioned, we need to discuss how we can provide municipal services along with it. Thus, Dasho informed the floor that it is a timely platform to discuss these pressing issues.

**Adoption of agenda;**

1. Phuentsholing Maed Thumi purposed to have proper plan for excess land particularly in core area;
2. Increment revision for muster roll employees of Customer service unit;
3. Direct purchase of drinking water materials as there is lack of bidder for such materials;

**Follow-up on 11<sup>th</sup> session of Thromde Tshogde;**

26 agenda were deliberated in 11<sup>th</sup> session, and 15 requires follow-up (details attached);

**Deliberation on Agenda**

1. **Delimitation of Kaleshwar Hill/Dangra under Thromde Jurisdiction (Thromde Maed Thumi);**



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**Submission:** Kaleshwar Dangra is currently under Samtse Dzongkhag. Due to proximity and economic benefits, it is better to be under Thromde. Also the majority of PTDP area about 65% falls under Samtse Dzongkhag (Entire Zone-

C, D & E). Zone-D is entirely planned in Kaleshwar Hill as per PTDP as Eco-tourism.

**Discussion:** The chairman mentioned it was already agreed by Samtse Dzongkhag for including that area under Thromde. Similarly, Chukha Dzongdag recommended Thrompon to discuss in Thromde Tshogde. The chair proposed the Urban Planning Division (UPD) to write to the Ministry of Work and Human Settlement (MoWHS) for inclusion in Thromde boundary.

UPD informed that it has to be comprehensively studied while proposing. Member Secretary mentioned it is a timely proposal as it is now time for delimitation of the Thromde boundary. As they avail all services of Thromde, it would be better to include it in Thromde. UDP shall refer to the earlier letters sent to MoWHS.

**Decision:** UPD is directed to study comprehensively and consult with relevant stakeholders such as DHI and Tading Gewog Administration and accordingly propose to MoWHS in consultation with the management at the earliest.

**Responsible Division:** UPD.

## **2. Proposal of construction of four lane road from RBA junction till Rinchending Integrated Check Point (Rinchending Thumi);**

**Submission:** Owing to the narrow road between the RBA junction and Rinchending, traffic congestion is one of the critical issues confronted by travelers and residents. Moreover, lack of facilities like streetlight, footpath and designated route for bikers/walkers/joggers along that road presents challenges to many users. Having four lane road would heighten safety to commuters and would benefit residents and travelers.

**Discussion:** The Chair mentioned that he was told that GREFF has fund and asked Thromde to propose officially. He also highlighted just having 4 lane road till RBA junction and ICP in Kharbandi; and just having 2 lane road in between, does not make sense of decongesting volume of traffic in future. Therefore, he recommended UPD to study the space availability and propose to MoHWS accordingly.



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UPD said a few would be affected as going by the details of the requirement of four lanes. The Member Secretary mentioned that the highway is under DANTAK. Thromde has written to DANTAK to handover the aforementioned highway Thromde but received no response as of now. The priority should be taking the highway from DANTAK and then accordingly plan for development.

**Decision:** Thromde to pursue with DANTAK to take over the highway from them and then accordingly have a comprehensive plan to develop the four lane highway incorporating amenities like footpath and greenery. Infrastructure Division to follow up with Dantak/MoWHS on taking over the highway and plan for construction after alignment is finalized by UPD.

Meanwhile, UPD to study the details on the possibility of a four lane road between NBR-II bridge and ICP, Rinchening at the earliest.

**Responsible Division:** Infrastructure Division and Urban Planning Division.

### **3. Improvement of Pekarshing border Road (Pekarshing Thuemi);**

**Submission:** The current road is in bad condition. This not only affects the residents of Pekarshing, it has also become inconvenient for those deployed on covid-19 border patrolling duty.

**Discussion:** The initial proposal of constructing a road along that border was objected by the Department of Law and order, and Dungkhag citing security reasons. Of late, however, it was found necessary during recent times- in the wake of covid-19 outbreak.

UPD informed the floor that 15M buffers are kept along the border within which 6M road is planned and other landscaping activities/cycling tract could be developed as per evolving need.

The chair instructed the Infrastructure Division to work out the detailed cost estimation of the road and propose for further discussion in the Thromde Technical Committee for implementation in accordance with the Pekarshing Local Area Plan.

**Decision:** Infrastructures division to work out the details and propose estimates to the management after finalization of DPR currently under preparation by the consultant.

**Responsible Division:** Infrastructure Division.



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**4. Requirement of proper City bus terminal  
(Phuentsholing Toed Thumi);**

**Submission:** City buses are handed over to the Thromdes by Bhutan Post under the instruction of MoF. The official handing-taking of documents is done between Bhutan Post and Thimphu Thromde but could not be done for Phuentsholing due to covid-19 pandemic outbreak. At present, the

Phuentsholing branch office of Bhutan post is pressuring Phuentsholing Thromde to take over the city buses as per the mandatory document set by

MoF but due to inconvenience at the time of covid situation, thromde has verbally requested Bhutan Post to operate on behalf of thromde to continue the public transportation facility. Therefore, the proper city bus terminal is required to accommodate all the buses in the future.

**Discussion:** Thromde will be soon handed over the operation of city bus services. It is thus timely to prepare on how Thromde can provide efficient city bus services to residents.

In continuation, Thromde also requires workshops for minor maintenance of buses and service/utility vehicles. It is better to plan and explore having a terminal and workshop together.

UPD pointed out that with relocation of BAFRA quarantine station and Thromde labour camp, the area would be available for workshop and bus terminal together.

**Decision:** UPD to explore area Bus terminal and workshop and present to the management for review and endorsement.

**Responsible Division:** UPD.

**5. Incorporation of urban greening in every new construction in the LAPs and reforestation in the new road construction. This clause should be included in respective division's building permit or tender Bill of Quantity (BOQ) Package (Environment Division);**

**Submission:** All developmental activities were carried out by engineers. However, urban greening is not captured. Thus, if the urban greening and reforestation in every developmental activity could be captured in the BoQ package. If this proposal could be initiated from this FY and environment division will monitor it.



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**Discussion:** The Thromde lacks greening and often no reforestation was taken care of. The beautification of the urban city has become a necessity to keep the city clean and green. It was also reminded that there is an explicit indication from the highest authority that the Phuentshlong city has to be beautiful with flowers and organised greeneries all year round without having to conduct

separate Flower Exhibition given the favourable conditions and strategic location.

Bioengineering component/ greenery should be accompanied in all developmental activities. Thromde should collaborate with Private developers for the greening of the city.

Gelephu Thromde (GT) has good practice of engaging the public (public developers) in the contribution of urban greenery and reforestation. GT has made it mandatory to have at least 15 plantations within the premise of a private construction site prior to issuance of occupancy certificates.

**Decision:** All developmental activities should have bio-engineering and urban greenery aspects in BoQ.

The new private construction owners should at least plant 10 numbers of plants which will be specified in the approval documents and verified during issuance of occupancy certificates (OC) by DRD. For the ongoing constructions, the owners shall be notified through the media of the new requirements which shall be verified during the issuance of OC and for the existing buildings, the owners shall be notified of the requirements to do the plantations prior to renewal of OC. If no such plantations, DRD shall not renew the occupancy certificate. The details of species of plants and location shall be given by the Environment division if not able to accommodate within one's registered boundary. DRD and ED shall revise the checklist for OC according to the decisions. All the plantation works in public places outside the private properties shall be managed by Thromde.

The decision shall be implemented with effect from August, 2020. Notifications shall be issued immediately.

**Responsibility:** Environment Division and DRD.



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**6. Additional fund for beautification work for carrying out concept and technical design of all empty pockets in Thromde to facelift city (Environment Division):**

**Submission:** Thromde is often informed by higher authorities to beautify Thromde. With limited funds, thromde is not able to beautify extensively. Thus, in consultation with the relevant technical person (Dzongkhag Beautification Officer), 3.3M is proposed for carrying out the concept and technical design of empty pockets within Thromde.

**Discussion:** Concept and technical design preparation is pivotal. At the same time, it should be implemented simultaneously.

**Decision:** Nu. 3.3 M approved as proposed.

**Responsible:** Environment Division

**7. Funding for Omchu DPR for Asian Development Bank (ADB) Project (Thrompon);**

**Submission:** Huge money was spent on preparing Omchu DPR. With the proposal being put to ADB, the Thromde is recommended to review the earlier DPR to make it robust- capturing economic aspects.

**Decision:** Budget of 3.0 million earmarked in FY 2020-21.

**8. Collection of Nu. 100 from each household from Amochhu Temporary Shelter for waste and sewer services (Environment Division):**

**Submission:** 1.2 Metric Ton of waste are collected daily from Amochhu Temporary Shelter. As Waste management in Thromde is outsourced, the contractor has applied for additional charge for rendering service at Amochhu Temporary shelter. Of Nu. 89000/- estimates proposed by the Contractor, it was discussed in management. Both contractors and Thromde mutually agreed on Nu. 60,000/- as a service charge for rendering waste collection services.

At the same time, sewer services are required continually. Thromde proposes collection of minimal fee of Nu. 100/- for sewer and waste collection services from the residents of Amochhu Temporary Shelter- from which 60% shall be taken by Contractor and other will be retained in Thromde for recurring expenditure for sewer services.

**Discussion:** There exists a Management committee including the relevant officials and representatives of the residents. The expenses were studied on



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provision of waste collection services and sewer services based on past two months experience. The minimal fee was considered being a Kidu Shelter.

Similarly, fees for drinking water services should be included. Water supply section proposed to charge as per the reading of master Meter. However, it was discussed to charge as a lump sum of Nu. 200 per unit per month as charges may vary drastically during different seasons.

**Decision:** Nominal lump sum charges of Nu. 300/- monthly per household (unit) approved for sewer service, waste collection services and drinking water for the residents of Amochhu Temporary Shelter.

From Nu. 300/-, Nu. 100/- shall be levied for waste collection and sewer service (Nu. 60/- for waste collection and Nu. 40 for sewer service) and Nu. 200 for water.

The rate is agreed based on maintenance cost, electricity charges and laborer charges.

**Responsible:** Environment Division

**9. Augmentation of water supply scheme for Kabraytar (Water supply Section);**

**Submission:** Nu. 4.571M was proposed in management and earlier Tshogde. It was endorsed in earlier Tshogde as well and the work is ongoing.

**Decision:** Endorsed.

**10. Maintenance of water treatment plants under Thromde (WSS);**

**Submission:** Nu. 2.739M proposed for maintenance of water treatment plants.

**Decision:** Endorsed.

**11. Procurement of standby submersible pumps (WSS);**

**Submission:** Nu. 2M was proposed for procuring standby submersible pumps.

**Decision:** Endorsed



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**12. Water supply to Amochhu Temporary shelter and evacuation centers (WSS);**

**Submission:** Nu. 6.845M was spent for constructing a water supply network at Amochhu Temporary Shelter and evacuation centers (Covid-19). The activity was carried out during Pandemic.

**Decision:** Endorsed.

**13. Increment of salary for the two muster roll engineers (infrastructure Division);**

**Discussion:** The Chair proposed to give the incentives decided by earlier Tshogde. Meanwhile, the management and HRC shall come with a proposal and see the possibility of recruiting engineers in contract.

The incentives shall be given for the earlier months from where it has stopped.

Customer service unit proposed increment for Helpers for Water tankers to have Nu. 2000/- increments (as proposed) with effect from July 2020 as an ad hoc agenda.

**Decision:** Two Engineers on Muster roll shall be given Nu. 5000/- (approved by earlier Tshogde) as an incentive on retrospective approval (with effect from May 2020) until further notice.

Nu. 2000/- for helpers of water tankers endorsed with effect from July 2020 as overtime incentives until final decision is taken.

**14. Construction of laborers and staff shelter for sewer section (Environment Division)**

**Submission:** Proposed semi-permanent shelter for sewer section laborers.

**Discussion:** Thromde laborers generally are not given proper accommodation. Consequently, the working convenience and hardworking laborers were not so encouraged to work for Thromde.

With recent experience of Covid-19, having laborers house scattered and some being in Jaigaon, Thromde faced difficulty in giving continual services to the residents.

Accommodation is one important aspect of keeping our laborers encouraged and provide services efficiently to the residents.



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**Decision:** Approved 20M from overall saving for construction of Laborers' Shelter for all divisions and sections.

UPD to explore available land.

**Responsible Division:** UPD to explore land and Infrastructure Division & DRD to prepare design and estimates.

**15. Utility service vehicle for Environment Division;**

**Submission:** Environment Division has 45 Laborers and 20 employees for five critical services (five sections). Additionally, Forestry services, disposal of unclaimed dead bodies, disposal of expired goods, services of environment clearance, disaster units, dengue activities were all taken care of by the Environment Division. The nature of work at the environment division is mostly outdoor.

Thus, vehicle requirement is critical and proposes a requirement of one vehicle. The fund proposed is Nu. 0.75M from Internal Revenue of the Thromde

**Decision:** Environment Division to purchase one vehicle based on the earlier Tshogde decision.

**16. Presentation of accounts statement of FY 2019-20 and endorsement of budget for FY 2020-21 (Finance Division);**

**Submission:** Closing balance of capital subsidy is 220M for 2018-19FY.

Current Budget of FY 2020-21: 163M Mandatory and 9.2M controllable Expenditure. Total of 169M;

Capital Budget FY 2020-21: 249.86M (RGoB), 181.5M (GOI), 137.5 M(SASEC)

**Decision:** Endorsed. Purchase of vehicle from the overall saving shall be sought from the MoF for Environment Division.

**17. Phuentsholing Maed Thumi purposed to have proper plan for excess land;**



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**Submission:** Thromde instructed to demolish structures on excess land. Some have done and some have not. Those areas where structures were demolished are now being used as dumping areas.

**Discussion:** Trap land and excess land were identified by the Land Record and Survey Division. The floor discussed the need to see the feasibility of giving on lease, some for beautification and so forth if Thromde cannot use efficiently because of size and other reasons. The DRD and LRSD have been working on it to be demolished by the Demolition team but was halted because of the Pandemic. The demolition team has been already established for the task.

**Decision:** DRD and LSD to verify at the site and update the list that requires to be dismantled and make a presentation to Thuemi (s).

In continuation to earlier notification, final Notice to be served after verification. If not complied, the Demolishing committee should demolish illegal structures.

The plan of demolishing (earlier work) should be revisited and dealt case by case.

**Responsibility:** DRD and LSD

**Participants Present:**

1. Dasho Uttar Kumar Rai, Thrompon as the Chaiperson
2. Lungten Jamtsho, Executive Secretary as the Member Secretary
3. Sharmila Limbu, Thuemi of Phuentsholing Toed as the Dy. Chaiperson
4. Nar Bdr Rai, Thuemi of as the Member
5. Pravat Rai, Thuemi of Pasakha as the Member
6. Passang Norbu Tamang, Thuemi of Rinchending as the Member
7. Tertha Maya Mongar, Thuemi of as the Member
8. Chungku Dawa, Thuemi of Phuentsholing Mead as the Member
9. Chief of Divisions as observer

**Minute of the Tshogde Approved by:**

**Members:**

1. Dy. Chairperson (Phuentsholing Toed Thuemi)
2. Thuemi, Rinchending
3. Thuemi, Pekarshing



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4. Thuemi, Pasakha
5. Thuemi, Phuentsholing Maed
6. Thuemi, Nyedra

(Dasho Thrompon)  
**Chairperson.**