

6th THROMDE TSHOGDE MINUTES

THROMDE COUNCIL



Thimphu Thromde
Gongdzin Lam
2/24/2017

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Abbreviation

ADB: Asian Development Bank

BUDP II: Second Bhutan Urban Development Project

BICMA: Bhutan Infocomm and Media Authority

CAO: Chief Administrative Officer

DCD: Development Control Division

E4: Environment Precinct 4

ESP: Elementary Services Personnel

GoI: Government of India

GPS: Global Positioning System

LAPs: Local Area Plans

MoEA: Ministry of Economic Affairs

MTO: Motor Transport Officer

NHDC: National Housing Development Corporation

SIMP: Social Impact Management Plan

TTI: Technical Training Institute

TT: Thimphu Thromde

UPD: Urban Planning Division

WB: World Bank

6thThromde Tshogde Meeting**Venue:** Conference Hall, Thimphu Thromde**Date:** 24th February 2017**Time:** 9:30AM – 8:00 PM**Members present**

1	Dasho Kinlay Dorjee	Thrompon	Chairperson
2	Mr. Pasang Dorji	Executive Secretary	Member Secretary
3	Mr. Namgay Tshering	Member	Deputy Chairperson/Babesa <i>Tshogpa</i>
4	Mrs. Phub Dem	Member	Olekma <i>Tshogpa</i>
5	Mr. Kuenga Yonten	Member	Norzin <i>Tshogpa</i>
6	Mr. Rinzin Dorji	Member	Changangkha <i>Tshogpa</i>
7	Mr. Ugyen Penjore	Member	Jungzhina <i>Tshogpa</i>
8	Mr. Ugyen	Member	Taba-Dechencholing <i>Tshogpa</i>

Invitees

1	Mr. Kinley Penjor	ADB
2	Mr. Sonam Nima	Finance Section
3	Mr. Yeshi Wangdi	Environment Division
4	Mr. Samten Dendup	Infra Division
5	Ms. Kuenlay Yangdon	Infra Division
6	Ms. Ugyen Wangmo	Infra Division
7	Mr. Sonam Namgay	Infra Division
8	Mr. Kesang Dorji	UPD
9	Mr. Sonam Wangchuk	DCD
10	Mr. Ugyen Tshering Dorji	Policy & Planning Section
11	Mr. Yeshey Dorji	Policy & Planning Section

Opening Remarks

Chairperson welcomed and thanked all the members of the council and the officials from Thromde Office for their presence and wished Happy Losar in advance.

Chair then shared concerns raised by the public of Serbithang residing close to the compost plant due to foul odour and flies from the accumulation of organic wastes. He informed the meeting that the quantity of organic waste reaching the compost plant increased manifold after the waste collection and segregation was outsourced to the private (5 truckloads to 100 truckloads every month). Beginning July 2016, the organic waste collected have been

diverted to Memelakha but stacked separately for future use. Now in order to resolve the compost plant issue, he also informed the meeting that the possibility of installation of a bio-gas plant at Memelakha is being explored. A group comprising of the Tshogpas and officials from Thromde led by the Thrompon visited Pune and Ahmedabad to study the feasibility of such plant. The team recommended that the plant be set up immediately and could have many benefit to the environment and the country. The Chair submitted that the Tshogde should endorse the handing over of the land and compost plant to Technical Training Institute (TTI), collocated currently in Lungtenzampa with city bus depot. This will provide adequate space to the City Bus Services and will enhance better services to the Thromde residents. All members supported the release of the Thromde property to TTI in the interest of the public.

The Chair also informed the meeting that there are now 4 excavators in Thromde out of which 3 excavators are bought with support from GoI. One is meant for proper operation and maintenance of the landfill and the other two are for the work of formation cutting and road widening within the city. This will also be helpful in the event of a natural disaster for search and rescue operations. He added that road sweeping machine is being procured through the reserve fund and some four officials were deputed to India to carry out the factory inspection before despatch, the machine will arrive within March 2017. The Tshogde members expressed their support and appreciation to the Thromde management for taking such mechanization initiatives in improving the service delivery to the people.

Agenda 1: Budget proposal for FY 2017-18

The Senior Accounts Officer presented the budget proposal for the fiscal year 2017-18. He briefed the meeting on the budget preparation guidelines, status of 11th Five Year Plan (FYP) outlay and expenditures, revenue forecast for the fiscal year 2017-18.

Decisions:

- a. The meeting observed that the 11FYP outlay and expenditures have not been captured properly. The expenditures from the World Bank and ADB have not been reflected. The meeting directed Sr.Accounts Officer to update the report properly including the expenditures made through ADB and WB funding **(Sr. Accounts Officer)**
- b. The meeting deliberated the budget proposal, prioritized them and endorsed budget proposal with current budget at Nu. 130 million and capital budget at Nu.150million **(Sr. Accounts Officer)**
- c. On the issue of fuel consumption of worth Nu. 30,000/- in two days by the two excavators an investigation team to be formed and investigate the case, to ascertain the ground reality and set the benchmark on the daily consumption of each machine. The members also expressed that if proper monitoring is not put in place, there can be huge manipulations with many heavy machines being procured and works being carried out departmentally. **(Executive Secretary)**

- d. Explore the possibility of installing GPS in all the earthmoving machines to monitor movement and fuel consumption. Also assess the performance of GPS from the garbage collection trucks and if performances are good, Thromde should install GPS equipment even in all earthmoving machines (**Executive Secretary**)
- e. Work on the optimization and re-deployment of muster roll staff and ESP to be carried holistically and submit to the next Tshogde meeting (**Executive Secretary**)
- f. Issue office order to install water meter and electricity meters in all the city camps. The meters should be installed at the expense of occupants. The occupants should pay for the water and electricity consumed (**Executive Secretary**)
- g. Evict all illegal residents in the city camps and also not to allow any new construction of labor camps/sheds on the government land especially in Kalabazar (**CAO**).
- h. Increase the cattle impounding charge to Nu. 500/- day. If the horses are not collected by the owners within three days after impounding, then we should auction them off. With Regarding to the cattle, if the owners do not collect them within three days after impounding then make arrangements to handover them to MoAF, to be relocated to Wangkha, Chukha. (**MTO**)
- i. Discuss with the RICB on the modality of rural life insurance collection and disbursement to finalise on the budget maintained to cover the costs on insurance paid to families of the demised. (**Sr.Accounts Officer**)
- j. Now that most of the basic amenities such as roads, water, electricity, garbage collections etc have been provided in the E4 areas, the tax rate shouldn't be decreased as per the circular of the ministry. Instead based on the locations, a proposal on tax increase in the E4 areas to be submitted to the forthcoming Thromde Tshogde for review and approval(**UPD**)

Agenda 2: Approval of signage guideline

The urban planning division presented the draft signage guideline to the meeting. The guidelines have been prepared after thorough consultation with the relevant stakeholders namely Dzongkha Development Commission, BICMA, MoEA, private sectors and others.

Decision: The meeting endorsed the draft signage guideline as proposed. The Environment Division should be responsible for implementing the guideline. Accordingly, public announcements should be made

Agenda 3: Approval for engagement of Gonefel Consultant to carry out the HH survey and SIMP for Hejo/Samtenling and Jungshina integrated infrastructure work under the World Bank funding.

Based on the decision of an internal meeting organized by the World Bank PIU, the representative of UPD submitted a proposal on the agenda and ToR for discussion and endorsement by the meeting. The proposal clearly highlighted the following:

- a. Mandatory requirements of World Bank to submit Social Assessment report to avail the World Bank funding for the project. Non submission of these requirements would result in loss of the fund available from the savings of the ongoing urban project BUDP II.
- b. The savings from the ongoing World Bank projects was confirmed only during their mission visit in February 2017. There is very limited time to access this savings and implement the project before June 2019.
- c. Gonefel consultancy has the required knowledge/skills/manpower and has been also involved in the Dechencholing, Langjophakha and Central Water supply projects to take up this task within the very limited time, agreed time of one month.

Decision:

In view of the urgency of this work, the meeting deliberated and approved the engagement of Gonefel Consultancy. However, the members instructed the management to look at the possibility of limiting the time to 20 days considering the fact that the land pooling scheme for the LAP has been implemented and there will not be any social issues now.

Agenda 4 : Proposal to increase plot coverage in Zilukha E-4

The representative of DCD, Mr. Sonam Wangchuk apologized to the meeting that a formal presentation on the agenda can't be done as the presentations are with Mr. Karma Singay who is on leave. He however, submitted the following for the review of the members:

- Currently, there are only four plots remaining undeveloped with semi-permanent structures on three of them in this E4 area.
- Three plots belonging to private individuals have been following up for construction approvals before the issuance of the cabinet directives in 2012, requesting for 3 storied with 40% coverage as done in the case of other buildings in the same area.

Decision:

The Tshogde decided to consider as a special case having received the cases before the cabinet decision. DCD was instructed to study the buildings built in the area and look at the coverage considered. Acknowledging that the plots have been already levelled and are ready for construction, DCD should collect the information on the existing buildings in the area and accordingly decide what coverage should be considered and how many floors.

Agenda 5 : Presentation and discussion on proposal to review un-authorized structures

The representative of DCD presented the set of criteria to assess and review the un-authorized structures within the Thimphu Thromde. The Executive Secretary informed the meeting that in the absence of clear criteria, there is no basis to assess and review the un-authorized structures. Assessing, reviewing and approving the un-authorized structures without clear objectives and criteria are not fair and just. He therefore, submitted that it is very important to have a clear criteria to assess, review and approve/reject any request for regularization of un-authorized structures.

The Chairperson also pointed that the failure on Thromde for not implementing the rules and regulations, to effectively monitor such cases should be held accountable on respective inspectors. Wherever such failures occur, investigations should be carried out and responsible officials should be held accountable. Then only collusion and corruptions can be prevented.

To serve notification for no parking in core areas within March 2017.

Decision: The meeting acknowledged the importance of having a clear basis to assess, review and approve/reject the request for regularization of un-authorized structures. The meeting therefore, directed the DCD to compile the list of all un-authorized structures on government land and actions to demolish such structures should be started first. After all such structures are removed, then move on to assess the illegal structures within private boundary. However, the cases in private boundaries can be more complex and hard decisions will have to be taken. Therefore, proper inventory of all such cases to be studied thoroughly and presented before coming up with any criteria. In the next Tshogde meeting, DCD can present the action taken report and also submit the preliminary criteria for the illegal structures in private boundaries if proper inventory is available. (DCD).

Agenda 6: Low income housing

The Norzin Tshogpa reported to the meeting that there are many residents in Thimphu Thromde who are registered citizens but do not own any land or house in the city. They are predominantly people living as tenants and do not own any property within the Thromde. They have submitted an appeal letter to Thromde requesting for purchase of flats built by the Thromde in state land within the city boundary.

Decision: The meeting noted the concern of Tshogpa and deliberated on the issue. The meeting however, felt that housing is not the mandate of Thromde, it is the mandate of NHDC. It will be very difficult to provide housing to every such resident considering hundreds of them already registered. It was also highlighted that in order to transfer any census to the Thromde now, they have to have property. Further, we are fortunate to have our benevolent King who grants Kidu for the poor people. The meeting therefore instructed to compile a list of such people with clear background and submit to the Dzongkhag Kidu Officer. The CAO in consultation with the Tshogpas must submit the list and report in the next Tshogde meeting (CAO).

Agenda 7: Budget proposal for Zomdus

The Tshogpas submitted their request for a budget for zomdus. They submitted that as a Tshogpa they have to conduct zomdus with the people of their constituency regularly to discuss development plans, collect agenda for Tshogde meeting, and disseminate the decision of Tshogdes. With no proper meeting hall and budget for refreshment, it is very difficult to mobilize community and conduct zomdu.

Decision: The meeting noted the concern of Tshogpas and deliberated issue thoroughly. Following are the decision of the meeting:

- a. Teas/refreshment shall be provided by the Thromde meeting twice a year. The meeting calendar should be prepared and shared with all in advance. A tentative number of participants must be indicated along with the calendar.
- b. A community meeting hall each shall be proposed in the 12FYP, wherever space is available.
- c. A zomdu in each Demkhong chaired by Thrompon will be held last Saturday of every month. The Executive Secretary and all division heads should attend the meeting. CAO to issue office order and coordinate the meeting (CAO).

Agenda 8: Incentives for Midey Tshogpas

The tshogpas submitted that Midey Tshogpas are playing a very important role in the development management of Thimphu city and must be provided with some incentives.

Decision: The meeting acknowledged and thanked the Midey Tshogpa for the very productive role they are playing in the development management of Thimphu city. Some members acknowledged that the Midey Tshogpas have been instituted based on the concept of volunteerism and community participation, the question of giving incentives should not arise. They also said that it has not even been a year since the establishment of Midey Tshogpas, it is too early to think of giving incentive to them. Their performances and contribution to their respective community should be gauged and success of the initiative should be ascertained before thinking of the incentives. May be in the near future, depending upon their contribution, the thromde can revisit the idea of giving incentives to the Midey Tshogpas.

Agenda 9: Labour and Lajab for each Demkhong

The tshogpas submitted the need for a lajab and adequate labors for each Demkhong. Without a Lajab and adequate labors, it is very difficult to keep respective Demkhong clean.

Decision: The meeting deliberated and directed that there is no need for Lajabs. The management is directed to look into the possibility of providing adequate labors as requested. With the introduction of road sweeping machine, some labor would be free for redeployment. The environment division should prepare a detail plan and route map for the deployment of road sweeping machine. **(Env. Division)**

Minutes recorded by:

Ugyen Tshering Dorji

Sr. Planning Officer, TT