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Thimphu Thromde

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Third Thromde Council



ཁྲོམ་སྡེ་ཚོགས་སྡེ་ ཚོགས་ཐེངས་ ༥ པ།

Fifth Thromde Tshogde

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Venue: Thimphu Thromde Conference Hall

དབྱིན་ཚེས་ ༢༦/༠༧/༢༠༢༢

Date: 26 July 2022

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5th Thromde Tshogde Agenda**Date** – 26th July 2022**Venue** – Thromde Conference Hall**Time** – 9:30AM**Members Present**

1	<i>Dasho Ugyen Dorji</i>	<i>Thrompon</i>	Chair
2	Karma Namgyel	Executive Secretary	Member Secretary
3	Ugyen	<i>Taba Thuemi</i>	Dy. Chair
4	Ugyen Penjor	<i>Jungzhina-Pamtsho Thuemi</i>	Member
5	Rinzin Dorji	<i>Changangkha Thuemi</i>	Member
6	Phub Tshering	<i>Norzin Thuemi</i>	member
7	Sonam Tshering	<i>Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi</i>	member
8	Dorji Gyeltshen	<i>Babesa Thuemi</i>	Member
9	Pema Yangzom	<i>Motithang Thuemi</i>	Member

Invitees

Sl/No	Name	Designation/Division/Section
1	Kinley Penjore	Specialist, Project Manager, ADM-PIU
2	Thinley Norbu	Chief, UPD
3	Yeshe Wangdi	Chief Engineer
4	Kinzang Dendup	Chief TEO
5	Tashi Phuntsho	Chief, DRD
6	Norbu Dhendup	Chief Finance Officer
7	Udesh Chhetri	Dy. Chief Finance Officer
8	Sonam Tobgay	Chief, LRSD
9	Tashi Dorji	Officiating Chief. O&MD
10	Sangay Dorji	Officiating Director, City Bus Service
11	Kezang Lhamo Dorji	Officiating Chief, Environment Division
12	Kinga Gyeltshen	Dy. Chief Thromde Health Officer
13	Dorji Phurba	Sr. ADM Officer
14	Ugyen	Electrical Section, O%MD
15	Lekzang Jayoed Dorji	Environment Officer
16	Sonam Penjor	Revenue Section, Finance Division
17	Karma Dorji	Sr. Planning Officer



Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all the members of the Council and the Thromde Officials to the 5th Thromde Tshogde. It has been one year for the 3rd Thromde council since the assumption of the Office. He also informed that the last one year has been very busy for Thromde and many initiatives are being taken up within Thromde under the kind support and guidance of His Majesty himself. Some of the major activities are the City Greening initiatives geared towards providing a new impression of the City as Bhutan resumes the tourism industry. It includes shifting the Chorten near Thimphu welcome gate to realign the highway, major reform of CFM and development of Park at the Flyover bridge area. The Chair also informed the floor that one of the main issues in Thromde is waste being dumped everywhere and its management. Although the household wastes are being collected and disposed off well, there is illegal dumping of wastes especially in gorges, drains, water bodies and in vacant plots which are very difficult to monitor and penalize. This is one of the things that Thromde will have to find ways to tackle in the coming days.

Agenda 5.1 - 4th Tshogde Minutes Follow up and Formation of Agenda Finalization Committee

The Planning Officer reported to Tshogde the implementation status of the decisions of the 4th Thromde Tshogde. He reported that all the decisions are implemented and the correspondences required to be made to various agencies have been done and are awaiting responses from all. There were no other issues reported.

He also presented that as per the Protocol for the Local Government Proceedings developed by the Department of the Local Governance, the Agenda finalization committee will have to be formed. The main function of the committee is to analyze and finalize the agenda submitted before tabling in the Tshogde. As per the protocol, the members of the committee include:

1. Chair, DASHO THROMPON
2. Executive Secretary
3. Dy. Chair of the Council
4. Chief ADM Officer
5. Planning Officer



Decision

The Tshogde approved the formation of the agenda finalization committee and its members. Henceforth, all agenda shall be finalized by the committee before putting it up to Tshogde.

Action – Committee

Agenda 5.2 - Endorsement of Approved Capital Budget and the Current Budget for the FY 2022-2023

The Chief Finance Officer presented to Tshogde the approved budget for the FY 2022-2023 for endorsement. Since the approved budget was already presented to the members of the council in a separate meeting, the Chair directed the Chief Finance Officer to be brief and there is no need for detailed presentation to the Tshogde.

The Chief Finance Officer presented only some of the changes incorporated after the presentation to the Management and the Thuemis. He reported that as per the new guidelines from the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Thromde Workforce is not eligible for Provident Fund (PF) and therefore, Thromde must stop giving PF for Workforces as was decided and spelt out in the Thimphu Thromde Workforce Service Rules and Regulations (TTWFSRR).

The vehicle's expenses under the current budget has been kept at Nu 12.920M for FY 22-23 taking into account the price hike for fuel. He also presented that there is no provision for cash prizes with Ministry of Education (MoE) and therefore a budget of Nu 0.2M has been kept. Henceforth, even the classes VIII and VI will be appearing the board exams like X and XII. The prizes for the National toppers shall also apply to classes VI and VIII.

The Chief Finance Officer also presented the budget details for the education division. It has been worked out based on the initial apportioned budget and this time the budget for some of the heads like purchase of textbooks, sports goods, etc have been centralized to schools based on the number of students in each school.

The Jungzhina Thuemi questioned whether the approved budget for FY 22-23 has been approved based on the amount of budget Thromde has spent in the previous FY. He also submitted that the concerned engineers must inform the area Thuemis if the planned activities are not able to implement due to various reasons so that they can recommend some doable activities in the Demkhongs based on priority. The Chief Finance Officer clarified that most of the budget for the past FY has been spent.



Concerned about the huge current budget deficit, the Chair informed the floor that more revenue enhancement opportunities have to be tapped and start collecting revenue. He proposed that the water tariff can be charged based on the actual consumption and not on a scale basis. Levying water charges based on scale or range incurs huge revenue losses. The Jungzhina and Tabadechencholing Thuemis also supported the concept of levying water charges based on the actual consumption and also submitted that aggressive metering will have to be carried out by Thromde. There are areas where people enjoy free City water without meters, they reported.

The Revenue Section presented the details of revenue collected for the income year 21-22. The total collection is Nu 253.17 M. He reported that the revenue generation is high for FY 21-22 compared to the past years. The Jungzhina Thuemi submitted that there are vacant stalls at Jungzhina vegetable sheds and the concerned Division will have to monitor and make sure that all units are utilized and the rental charges collected.

The revenue section also presented the total amount of refunds to be made to the clients for access collection. It amounts to Nu 23.913 M.

Decision

1. Tshogde endorsed the approved capital budget and current budget for the FY 2022-2023 including the changes presented by the Finance Division.
2. Tshogde also decided to withheld the PF for the Thromde Workforce based on the financial guidelines of the MoF
3. Tshogde also approved the same amount of entertainment budget for all level of Schools
4. Tshogde also directed the Finance Division to rework the expenditure against the total 12th FYP outlay and talk with MoF whether the approved FYP outlay has been provided.
5. The Tshogde directed the O&M Division to levy water tariff based on actual unit consumption (i.e. Nu 4.35 per unit consumption for residential and Nu 11.6 per unit consumption for commercial) and also the metering of those areas where there is Thromde water supply must be carried out instantly.
6. Tshogde endorsed Nu 23.913M, the refund made to the clients from the total revenue collected for the FY 21-22
7. Tshogde endorsed Nu 1,499,826.00 spent for procurement 3 number of Alto cars for Office use



8. The Tshogde decided to form a committee consisting of area Thuemi, Asset Manager, one from Environment Division, one from O&M Division and area building inspector to verify revenue collection from water, vegetable sheds and other revenue sources

Action - Finance Division/O&M Division

Agenda 5.3 - Audit memo on not carrying out Periodical Reconciliations of Revenue Collections

The Sr. ADM Officer presented that from 2014-2016, there is a standing audit memo for the attic and basement regularization fees collection. With the help of an internal auditor, the team has verified based on the available documents and some amount could be reconciled, however the documents for Nu 125,000 for basement regularization and Nu 136,000 for attic regularization could not be traced out. The same has been reported to the Royal Audit team and requested if the amount for which the documents could not be traced could be dropped as it is very difficult to trace the documents as many Officials dealing with the collections have been either transferred or resigned. However, the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) has directed Thromde to get some directives from Tshogde which is the highest decision making body in Thromde.

Decision

Tshogde decided to submit to RAA that it will be difficult to trace the documents on the amount which could not be reconciled as it has been quite a long time now. Moreover, the lapses could have been due to inconsistency in the revenue collection system which now has been made systematic.

Action - ADM Officer

Agenda 5.4 - Reinforcing Plastic ban in Thimphu Thromde

The Environment Division presented to Tshogde the need for reinforcing the plastic ban initiated by the National Environment Commission (NEC) earlier. This is mainly due to the increasing amount of plastic bags being used by the public. The plastics are non-degradable and therefore have huge impacts on the environment. The Division proposed that the focus is on plastic carry bags. For this, there has to be proper and affordable alternatives for plastic carry bags and proper education and awareness programs will have to be carried out. The Division also proposed to develop the awareness materials from July 26- Jul 31, 2022, create awareness and sensitization in the August month and reinforce the ban from September 2022 onwards.



Discussion

The Chair said it would be better if at least the ban on plastics bags and doma wrappers could be reinforced. For this, it is important to have the best alternatives explored. He said that the ban has been initiated a long time ago but could not be reinforced and the impact it has on the environment is huge. Therefore, it is important to initiate and support. The member secretary submitted that the ban on plastic has failed twice in the past even when spearheaded at the national level. Therefore, it is doubtful if it will be successful. But if there are proper, reliable and affordable alternatives being presented to the users, it might work. He also submitted that when we reinforce the ban, it must be labeled as banned items and must not be allowed to enter from the border gates and for this, it must be thoroughly discussed and come to consensus with Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) and Customs Office of MoF. This multi-sector combined effort could help sustain the ban. The Taba-Dechencholing thuemi also stated that all Thuemis have full support for the idea of reinforcing the ban. He said that it will be difficult however, if proper alternatives are made readily available in the market, the idea should work. The Norzin thuemi also supported the idea however, there has to be reliable alternatives.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Environment Division to first explore a few reliable alternatives from different sources and work out the processes and approaches to be adopted. Tshogde also decided to render full support wherever required. Also, list out all stakeholders involved and the talks can be initiated on whatever the kind of support required.

Action - Environment Division

Agenda 5.5 - Purchase of LED Street light Luminaries/Fittings

The Electrical Section presented to the Tshogde that the total revenue (charges) collected from streetlights is Nu 1,628,000.00 per year whereas the total bill (only bill and maintenance not included) comes around Nu 8,945,000.00 per year. The Section also presented there is a need to replace a total of 367 street lights and amounts to Nu 1,952,440.00. The total charges levied is Nu 5 per year for Building Class I, Nu 4,3 and 2 respectively for building classes II, III and IV. For house class I, II, III and IV, the total charges levied are Nu 20, 15, 10 and 5 per year respectively.



Discussion

The Chair proposed similar to that of water charges as discussed above, doing away with the classification of charges based on building or house. It could be one uniform charge for any kind of building. He also submitted that it is high time to revise the charges as the collection is very less compared to expenditure. The Jungzhina Thuemi submitted that he supports the levying of uniform charges for all kinds of building but proposed if the revision of charges could be deferred as Thromde has already revised the waste and UV precincts fees and charges recently. Babesa Thuemi supported the revision of the charges as the charges had not been revised since 1992. This was also supported by Norzin Thuemi. The Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi supported the revision of the charges but recommended discussing with the people first.

Decision

1. Tshogde decided to levy Nu 5 for residential and Nu 20 for commercial entities per year.
2. Tshogde also approved Nu 1,952,440.00 from internal revenue for replacement of electric luminaries/fittings.
3. Tshogde also directed O&M Division to collect all old poles and pile them up at one site.

Action - ICT/O&M Division

Agenda 5.6 - Marking of newly Constructed Bus Shelters and Roads in and around City

The Manager of the City Bus Service (CBS) reminded that as per the agreement signed while CBS is transferred to Thromde, the operation and maintenance of CBS, the role of Thromde is to construct the infrastructures for City Buses. He submitted that Traffic police are penalizing the City Bus drivers as there are no traffic signs installed in and around City. There are 13 bus shelters completed but some of the shelters are not accessible, it is not marked and the City Bus drivers are being warned by the Traffic Police for parking on the road which is not marked. He also reported that the CBS has spent around Nu 0.53M to construct the store at the old Thromde store at Lungtenzam site but the store could not be utilized by CBS as there still is one structure being occupied by Thromde.

The Thuemis also submitted that there is a need for road marking for all those newly resurfaced roads. The old markings have also faded away, especially for parking spaces and require marking again. Thuemis pointed out that when there is no proper road marking, people park along the roadsides and affect traffic flow.



Discussion

The Chair informed that the old store area could be immediately vacated and be given to the CBS. The Sr. ADM Officer reported that it will be difficult to shift the store immediately as there are flag poles and other things in huge quantities and first a place has to be identified to shift these. The City Bus Manager submitted that the area will be used to store the server and server is required to be stored in the well ventilated room. If the server crashes, the whole smart cart system used by some 7000 City Bus users will not function. The Chair also proposed that it is not necessary for the roads to be marked for the Traffic Police to penalize those parking on the road. As the road marking takes time, this rule of not allowing road side parking can be adopted even if not marked, he suggested.

Decision

The Tshogde:

1. Directed the O&M Division to install the signage in all completed bus stops and bus shelters. The works can be awarded to one of the contractors and shall commence from 1st August 2022.
2. Directed the AFD to shift the procurement store immediately in the main office building and shift all Thromde properties to one location.
3. Directed the Urban Planning Division to develop a comprehensive road marking plan and submit to Infra Division to develop a contract framework immediately.
4. Meanwhile, announcements will be made through Thromde facebook page and BBS stating that henceforth no cars will be allowed to park along the road whether marked or not and that the Traffic Division of Royal Bhutan Police will impose a penalty for noncompliance.

Action - O&M Division/UPD/Infra Division/MRO

Agenda 5.7 - North Bus Depot Construction to be Expedited

The CBS Manager also requested the Tshogde for the construction of North Bus depot as there is a requirement of constructing 2 electric charging stations, one each in North and South. Also in the absence of bus depots in the North, it is very difficult to park City buses. He also informed that during peak hours, the left lane of the expressway has been agreed to dedicate for City Bus services.



Decision

Tshogde decided to level up the North Bus depot using Thromde excavator and directed the O&M Division to carry out the works immediately.

Action - O&M Division

Agenda 5.8 - Detail report on Labor Camps within Thromde

The Sr. ADM Officer presented to Tshogde the report on the labor camps within Thromde. The 4th Thromde Tshogde has directed the ADM Section to submit the overall report of labor camps, especially the ones in Motithang and Changidaphu.

In Motithang camp, there are 39 families out of which 4 are ex- Thromde employees and 35 are still working with Thromde. In Changidaphu labor camps; there are 108 families out of which 30 are not the employees of Thromde. Few of them are ex-Thromde employees.

Discussion

The Changangkha Thuemi submitted that it would be better to construct low income housing like any other areas. The Chair recommended constructing 2-3 stories rather than constructing 1 story like other areas due to space shortage.

Decision

Tshogde directed the ADM Section to submit the list to the Chair so that the construction of low income housing can be planned accordingly.

Action - ADM Officer

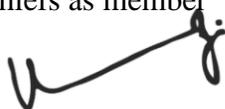
Agenda 5.9 - Formation of Healthy City Committee in Thimphu Thromde

The Dy. Chief Thromde Health Officer presented to the Tshogde that as per the Health City Action Plan (HCAP), there is a need for a HCAP committee to spearhead the plan implementation. Therefore, he requested the Tshogde to decide upon the members of the committee.

Decision

The Tshogde decided Thromde Health Office as the secretary to the committee. The members of the HCAP committee approved are:

1. Thrompon as Chair
2. Executive Secretary as Vice Chair
3. Thromde Health Officer as member secretary
4. Division Chiefs as member



5. Planning Officer as member
6. Taba-Dechencholing and Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemis as the members

Action - Thromde Health Office

Agenda 5.10 - Proposing a survey on Disposing of Rain Gutter into the Sewer System

The Norzin Thuemi submitted that Thromde has been providing waste collection services as per the signed contract but there still are issues being pointed out by the public that the waste collection services are not efficient. Therefore, it is better to study where the problems lie. The issues are mostly observed along the Norzin Lam and other core areas. The study would provide the number of population to be served based on which the frequency and number of vehicles to be deployed can be decided.

The thuemi also submitted the issues with regard to connection of gutter into the sewer line causing sewer outburst during rainy seasons. Therefore, a proper study will have to be carried out to prevent such illegal connections.

Discussion

The Officiating Chief of O&M Division submitted that the issue of gutter connecting to sewer is not new and it has been there for quite a long. He submitted that there is no right of way but to connect to the sewer line especially in the core areas. The Chair also stated that unless total redevelopment of Norzin Lam is taken up, such issues will not be resolved. With regard to waste collection, the Chair stated that the only way is to develop concept-note and approach DeSuups to supplement the waste collection contractors especially in Norzin areas where huge wastes are being generated. The Officiating Chief of Environment Division reported that a survey on the bulk waste collection system has been carried out and few are willing to comply with the system while many are not. She also reported that a letter has been sent to the waste service providers stating to assure the continuity of services.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Environment Division to wait for the response from the waste collection service providers and decide accordingly. For the gutter issues, it will be decided along with the Agenda 5.17.

Action - Environment Division



Agenda 5.11 – Issues with Teacher Resignation in the middle of the Academic Year

The Thuemis submitted to the floor that there is no way by which the teacher resignation can be prevented but it would be better if they have plans to leave the profession, they must leave before the academic session begins or at the end of academic sessions. When they leave in the middle of the academic session, it is impacting the students.

Discussion

The Chief TEO reported that it is of great concern for all and there is nothing they could do to solve it completely; however they are required to inform a month earlier. As per the study, it is reported that at least a teacher resigns each day. He informed the floor that it is difficult to replace Technical teachers especially. The good news is the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) and Ministry of Education (MoE) have given the authority to Dzongkhags and Thromdes to recruit the teacher replacement, but it takes a minimum of 2 months. Also it is difficult to recruit trained/experienced candidates. Thuemis requested to write to MoE and RCSC that if the teachers have plans to leave the profession, they must be allowed to leave at the beginning or end of academic session.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Education Division to take up the matter with the relevant agencies and look into the matter and take necessary actions required. This is submitted as a public concern by the Thuemis.

Action - Chief TEO

Agenda 5.12 - Managing and Maintaining of existing Infrastructure should be included in Constituency Programme

Norzin Thuemi submitted to the floor that it is important to maintain all infrastructures within Thromde before any mishap happens. Through effective monitoring, all maintenance must be carried out immediately so that the incidences of drain blockages, sewer outburst, flooding and slides can be prevented. There are instances of the issues not being resolved even if the issues are reported. When the reported issues are not being attended to, that is when people lose trust in the organization reported the Thuemi.

Discussion

This was also supported by the Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi and he submitted that area Thuemis are better off to know the field situations better than any other people since they are involved in



monitoring the area. They report any issues observed in their constituencies to concern Officials but the response is poor, he submitted. The Chair urged all to work with full coordination and involve area Thuemis in whatever ways possible while dealing with any issues in the constituency.

Decision

Tshogde directed all Divisions and Sections to work in coordinated way and render full support as and when the issues are being reported.

Action - All Concerned Divisions/Sections

Agenda 5.13 - Need for Stringent Rules and Regulations to tackle the Non-revenue Water

Norzin and Olakha Thuemis submitted that there has to be proper strategies developed to curb the non-revenue water losses. The recent study by the Ministry of Works and Human Settlements (MoWHS) has pointed out that the non-revenue water losses are huge in Norzin and Olakha areas they reported. In order to enhance revenue, such losses will have to be monitored and minimized through strict rules and regulations.

Decision

Tshogde directed the O&M Division to keep track of all those areas and buildings which are connected to Thromde Water Supply but are not metered and ensure full meter connections.

Action - O&M Division

Agenda 5.14 - Issues with Issuance of Occupancy Certificate for Old Traditional Buildings

The Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi submitted that there are issues with issuance of Occupancy Certificates (OC) to the old traditional buildings. When the buildings are old, Thromde is not issuing OC but during property transactions, there is a need for OC as one of the requirements. He proposed that for old buildings, such requirements could be exempted in case of transactions.

Discussion

The Chief of DRD reported that the reason the Occupancy certificate is issued is to certify that the house is habitable and safe. But when the house is very old and in absence of drawings and design, it is difficult to issue an OC. The Chief of LRSD informed that even if the OC is not



being issued, a remark stating that the house is old and therefore no OC has been issued would work for the purpose of transaction.

Decision

Tshogde decided that henceforth no OC will be issued for old traditional buildings but only mention that a structure exists.

Action - DRD

Agenda 5.15 - Quality issues with Annual Contract Frameworks

The Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi reported that there are issues with the annual contract framework. Since there are more sites allotted for one contractor, it is difficult for that one contractor to cover up all sites and therefore delays the work and also compromises the quality. He also recommended if community contractors can be allowed to carry out the annual contract framework like in Gewogs

Discussion

The Chair stated that it is difficult to get a contractor working for a smaller amount and less number of works. Just to make the amount high so that bigger and able contractors can participate, the smaller works have been awarded as a package. He said that it will be easier if there are willing and able contractors from the community. The member secretary submitted that the contractors in the Gewogs are being trained by the MoWHS and it would be difficult in the case of Thimphu. The Chair also said that it would be perceived as favoring someone if we award directly to the contractors from the community and therefore better to keep it open so that all can compete.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Infra Division to explore the possibility of contracting to multiple contractors for an annual framework especially for the South constituencies where the area is bigger.

Action - Infra Division

Agenda 5.16 - Need for an appropriate SOP for Voluntary works Carried out by the Community

The Babesa Thuemi submitted that there are community people who are willing to come forward for voluntary services in the community. However, there is no clear SOP and there are chances of future consequences.



Discussion

The Chair said that sometimes community people come together to carry out certain activities since they want it to have it urgently while it takes time for *Thromde* to implement due to budget constraints and priority based implementation. In such cases, *Thromde* must render support.

Decision

Tshogde decided to waive off any clearance or fees if the community voluntarily carries out the activities which were supposed to have been executed by *Thromde*. *Tshogde* also directed the Infra Division to develop SOP and present it to the Management

Action - Infra Division

Agenda 5.17 - Approval of Penalties for illegal activities within *Thromde*

The O&M Division presented to *Tshogde* the various offenses and the proposed penalties. The list of offenses and associated penalties are as shown in the table below.

Sl. No	Public Property Non-Compliance	Fine amount Nu.
1	Illegal connection of water supply	45,000/-
2	Usage of water by Meter bypass	45,000/-
3	Tampering/mishandling of water meters	45,000/-
4	Storage Water tank overflows	45,000/-
5	Digging of Blacktop Road	45,000/-
6	Damage & Blockage of Drainage	45,000/-
7	Damage to Footpath	45,000/-
8	Parking on Footpath	5,000/-
9	Roof water connection to sewer mains	45,000/-
10	Kitchen & Bathroom waste water connection to sewer mains	45,000/-
11	Illegal household sewer connection to sewer mains	45,000/-
12	Carwash on roadside	10000/-
* The above penalty is one-time fine excluding the cost of reinstatement, Reinstatement cost should be borne by the defaulter, for 2nd time the amount will be with 25% on first offence		

Decision

Tshogde approved the offenses and penalties as proposed but proper education and awareness programs for a month at least will have to be carried out before implementing it. The penalty will be levied by the concerned Divisions and Sections based on the offenses.



Action - MRO/O&M Division/CoED

Agenda 5.18 - Clarity on the Budget |Expenses on Catering Services

The *thuemis* sought clarifications on the selection of *Thromde* catering services; how the selection is being and for how long they. The Chief Finance Officer clarified that it is selected through annual quotation by the tender committee. And it is carried out every Financial Year. The Chief Finance Officer also requested all the catering must be done from the selected catering service as it is selected based on the quotation rates they have submitted.

Decision

Tshogde decentralized the catering for *Thromde* schools and for *Thromde* Office; it has to be done from the selected catering service.

Action - CTEO/All Divisions and Sections

Agenda 5.19 - Endorsement of Contract of the Dodeyna –Taba Mainline Caretaker

The O&M Division submitted that the contract of Dodeyna-Taba main line Technician ended in 30th June 2022. Since he has been working as a Technician for Dodeyna transmission line for the past many years starting the laying of the main line, he has a very good knowledge on where the line passes through and what needs to be done. Therefore, the Division proposes *Tshogde* for his contract extension for 2 years.

Decision

Tshogde approved the contract extension for 2 years with Nu 25,000 salary per month with the effect from 1st July 2022. The salary increment was approved as he is not eligible for TA/DA as per new financial rule. *Tshogde* also directed the Division to deploy one staff along with him to learn and gain experience.

Action - O&M Division

Agenda 5.20 - Proposal for *Thromde* Annual *Rimdro*

Thuemis proposed for annual *Thromde rimdro*. It has been quite long without conducting annual *rimdo* and for the betterment of all and the organization; a *rimdo* is a must submitted the *Thuemis*.

Decision

Tshogde approved to conduct the *rimdo* and will be held in Office. *Tshogde* directed the Secretariat Division/AFD to look for a good day and do the necessary preparations



Action - AFD**Agenda 5.21 - Endorsement of property Valuation fees for VISA Purposes and Tenancy Dispute Resolution fees**

Since there are increasing numbers of people availing the services, much of the time has been wasted carrying out the property valuation and certification for the VISA purposes. Therefore, to cover up some administrative cost, the Compliance and Enforcement Division (CoED) proposed for the lump-sum charges to be levied.

Decision

Tshogde approved to charge Nu 500 for property certification and Nu 1000 for property valuation. Together with this, Tshogde also approved Nu 500 as tenancy dispute resolution fees and shall be charged to the one who appeals/submits the application.

Action - LRSD, CoED, Legal Division and Revenue Section

Agenda 5.22 - Strategies to Address the Shortage of ECCD Facilitators in the Vacant ECCD Centers

The Ministry of Education has sent a letter to all districts and Thromdes to address the shortage of ECCD facilitators. The Chief TEO submitted that the ECCD facilitator to children ratio is 1:15 and therefore the requirement is 4 facilitators for Babesa new ECCD and 2 for Changangkha.

Decision

Tshogde decided to write to Ministry of Education (MoE) requesting for support for few facilitators and rest to be recruited by Thromde. Otherwise it can be decentralized so that Thromde can manage it independently.

Action - Thromde Education Division

Agenda 5.23 - Penalty for State Land Encroachment at CFM areas

The Chair reported to the floor that in earlier discussions, it has been decided that the penalty for the encroachment onto state land in CFM areas to be based on the PAVA rate. However, in some cases based on the field situation it doesn't work and separate charges will have to be proposed. In some cases, since the encroached structure is aligned with the main structure, it is difficult to dismantle the structure. Therefore, the deviation penalty of Nu 20,000 has been levied similar to the illegal conversion/construction within the plot as per the decision of the 4th Tshogde. Since



the CFM case is on state land and not within the legal plot, it is not fair to keep the same. Therefore, the need for separate penalty system has been proposed.

Decision

Tshogde approved to levy Nu 30,000 per year as a deviation penalty for state land encroachment in case of CFM and similar nature in other areas while other decisions remain same as earlier.

Action - CoED

Agenda 5.24 – 2023 Flower Exhibition

The Chair informed the floor that the flower exhibition 2023 has been commanded to be held in Thimphu next year. In this regard, the Chair urged every individual to be responsible in maintaining the Thimphu City clean and green. Even the area Tshogpas have been urged to pass on the messages to their respective *demkhongs* and contribute in making City clean and Green. The members also felt the need to have uniform building roof color coding to blend with the clean and green surroundings. Therefore, the members deliberated that the decision of the 2nd *Thromde Tshogde* of the 3rd council regarding roof colors must upheld and implemented.

Decision

The Tshogde as per the decision of the 2nd *Thromde Tshogde* unanimously decided:

1. To implement the building roof color coding, i.e. Green for residential and commercial buildings and Red for institutional and government buildings.
2. The roof color to be completed before 31st December 2022 and failing to do so within this deadline shall result in levying a penalty of Nu 50,000.

Action - CoED

Conclusion

The Tshogde adjourned at 6:30PM. The Chair thanked all members for their presence and great contributions to the discussions. Several issues have been deliberated and very significant resolutions have been passed.

Rapporteur – Karma Dorji, Sr. Planning Officer



Annexure – Presentation Slides for reference

REINFORCING THE PLASTIC BAN



Lekzang Jayoed Dorji
Assistant Environment Officer
City Environment Division

Contents:

1. History
2. Issues
3. Importance of the ban reinforcement
4. Reinforcement in Thimphu Thromde

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lekzang Jayoed Dorji'.

History

- 1999 Plastic Ban Initiative notification issued by Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- Ban on the sale/use of plastic carry bags, doma wrappers and homemade ice cream pouches in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, NEC and the Bhutan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).
- The ban on the use of plastics was reintroduced twice in 2005 and 2009. A new waste regulation was also implemented in 2012.
- NEC issued notification on reinforcement of plastic ban to all relevant stakeholders on April 1, 2019.
- business establishments or person found selling or using plastic items would be fined Nu 500 for the first offence and Nu 1,000 for the second offence. Subsequent violation will result in cancellation of the business license and increase of penalties for individuals.

Issues

- Lack of monitoring.
- Lack of proper, sustainable alternatives.
- Lack of adequate multistakeholder support



WHY REINFORCE THE BAN IN THIMPHU THROMDE?

Waste Dumped at Landfill

2019			
Month	Total	days	Total
Jan	1307.5	31	42.2
Feb	893.6	28	31.9
Mar	1250.9	31	40.4
Apr	1271.7	30	42.4
May	1400.6	31	45.2
June	1492.1	30	49.7
July	1482.3	31	47.8
Aug	1355.1	31	43.7
Sept	1226.0	30	40.9
Oct	999.9	31	32.3
Nov	832.1	30	27.7
Dec	1312.1	31	42.3
Total	14823.9	365	40.6

2020			
Month	Total	days	Total
Jan	1077	31	34.7
Feb	1262	29	43.5
Mar	1234	31	39.8
Apr	1192	30	39.7
May	1373	31	44.3
June	1387	30	46.2
July	1265	31	40.8
Aug	986	31	31.8
Sept	1552	30	51.7
Oct	1849	31	59.6
Nov	1987	30	66.2
Dec	1117	31	36.0
Total	16280.4	366	44.5

2021			
Month	Total	days	Total
Jan	1536	31	49.6
Feb	1299	28	46.4
Mar	1598	31	51.6
Apr	1444	30	48.1
May	1685	31	54.4
June	1648	30	54.9
July	1682	31	54.3
Aug	1705	31	55
Sept	1760	30	58.7
Oct	1911	31	61.6
Nov	1805	30	60.2
Dec	1493	31	48.2
Total	19567	365	53.6

Importance of the Reinforcement

- Current average daily amount of waste dumped at landfill is 43.9 MT (Jan 2022 – May 2022).
- Reduction could be due to lockdowns early in the year, and due to waste collection issues, such as vehicular breakdowns (Thromde receives complaints everyday regarding the waste collection vehicles).
- A common observation is that plastic carry bags are littered all around the city.
- Plastics bags are also non-biodegradable and remain in the environment for a long time. They pollute the land and water, even air (when burnt or when heated). They are harmful to animals, plants, and humans (can be bio-accumulated and are carcinogenic).

Reinforcement in Thimphu Thromde

What are we banning?

- Plastic carry bags

What is needed for this ban to be successful?

- Sustainable, affordable alternatives
- Sustained awareness
- Strict monitoring (more people need to be involved)
- Need multi-stakeholder collaboration (for awareness, monitoring, and provision of alternatives)
- Proper channel for the imposition and collection of fines



Reinforcement in Thimphu Thromde

Proposed Timeline

- July 26 – July 31: Preparation of awareness materials for the reinforcement
- August 1 – August 31: Awareness and sensitization on the plastic carry bag ban
- September 1 onwards: Reinforcement of the ban; imposition of fines; zero tolerance

Informal dialogue:

- CiED talked with RENEW and YDF about the possibility of collaboration in creating alternatives to the plastic ban. They are willing, but would require incentives and aid (such as possible tax holiday/exemption or financial aids)

THANK YOU

