



Thromde Tshogde Minutes

3rd Thromde Council

**7th Thromde Tshogde
3rd Council**

7th Tshogde Agenda

Date – 20th January 2023

Venue – Conference Hall

Members Present

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Ugyen Dorji	Thrompon
2	Karma Namgyel	Member Secretary
3	Ugyen	Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi
4	Ugyen Penjore	Jungzhin-Pamtsho Thuemi
5	Rinzin Dorji	Changangkha Motithang Thuemi
6	Pema Yangzom	Motithang Thuemi
7	Phub Tshering	Norzin Thuemi
8	Sonam Tshering	Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi
9	Dorji Gyeltshen	Babesa Thuemi
10	Thinley Norbu	Chief, UPD
11	Norbu Dhendup	Chief Finance Officer
12	Kinzang Dendup	Chief TEO
13	Sonam Tobgay	Chief, LRSD
14	Pekar Rabgay	Officiating Chief Engineer
15	Kezang Lham Dorji	Officiating Chief, CiED
16	Penjor Drukpa	Officiating Chief, O&M Division
17	Teknath Kararia	Officiating Chief, CoED
18	Kinga Gyeltshen	Dy. Chief Thromde Health Officer
19	Tsheten Dorji	ICT Developer, ICT Section
20	Karma Dorji	Sr. Planning Officer

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all the members of the Council and the Officials of Thimphu Thromde to the 7th Tshogde. He informed that it's been mid-way through the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year and the plans and programs which are deliberated and decided by the Council have almost been completed even before the end of the Fiscal Year. This was



successful because of everyone's effort and he applauded all for their effort. Going forward, there are just a few programs left to be completed. The Chair also informed that the tapping of water from Yuesipang has been readied to tender out through the water flagship program. This will supply to Lubding areas and Olakha as well if the supply is in excess. Similarly, another water project from the Dechenphu area to supply Jungzhina and Pamtsho areas has been finally decided to be convened soon. There is also another plan for construction of 5mld Water Treatment Plant additional to current plant in Taba since there is adequate supply of water from the source. This will help supply water to upper Taba. Once this is commissioned, the community water supply in Upper Taba can be phased out after doing proper study. Even the water supply network in Babena-Samtenling will be rectified and made functional. The Chair informed that there is no water problem at source, but due to some issues with the network, there are more water losses and hence water shortages. Once all these are in place, it is expected that there will be continuous water supply. It will also be made possible that if one source is being cut off, there shall be a system to supply through other sources so that the water supply is not disrupted.

The Chair also informed that more access roads have been constructed. Since formation cutting is done departmentally, it has to be done phase wise due to shortage of manpower and machineries. Once the entire formation cutting has been done, almost all areas within City will have been connected to the road network. Of course the blacktop will have to be done at later stage. He also informed that the Compliance and Enforcement Division has been asked to develop a manual for all the services the Division render so that there is clarity on how the services are being delivered, especially for the benefits of those availing the services. Since the Division is required to deal with clients on daily basis.

The Jungzhina theumi also thanked the Management and the team for the works being completed in his demkhongs and other areas in time. He also suggested that the existing pipe from Taba to Jungzhina area to be kept as it is even if the new water supply system has been rectified and made functional. According to water section engineer, the decision earlier was to prioritize the core areas since the Samtenling area already has water connection from different source. Hence the water has been diverted to core areas. It has been decided that the existing supply line from Taba to Jungzhina areas will be rectified and left as it is and can be used to supply to Jungzhina areas from Taba WTP when there are water shortages.

Agenda 7.01 -Mid-Year Budget Review Presentation

The Chief Finance Officer presented to the Tshogde the mid-Year Budget review of the FY 2022-2023. He presented the expenditure statements of the recurrent and capital budgets from the CD account. Out of total Nu 278.286 M of current budget, a total of Nu 133.738M has been spent so far. Under the capital budget, from the total approved



budget of Nu 283.621M, a total of Nu 107.104 M has been spent so far. He also presented the details of additional budget requirements for some of the capital works. The total additional budget comes to around Nu 60.29M.

Discussion

The Chair stated while it is agreeable on the escalation of budget for the infrastructure development works in Demkhongs, it is not understandable why the budget for the School construction activities has increased. He questioned whether the new additional structures have been constructed for schools. The construction of Dangrina School is requesting for an additional fund of Nu 12.00M, additional Nu 7.00M for construction of a new academic block for YHS and additional Nu 8.00M for construction of academic blocks for Changzamtog MSS. These are approved under SDP funding however, the additional budgets are from the RGoB. The Officiating Chief Engineer submitted that due to frequent lockdowns in the past, the budget has been escalated due to price adjustments and price escalation. However, there are also few additional site development works being executed and therefore the requirement of additional budget has been submitted. In this case, the Chair stated that it can be submitted to the MoF for funding support if possible since the price escalation was due to price adjustments as a result of the pandemic. If not, Thromde will have to adjust since the works have to be completed once started. Jungzhina Thuemi also submitted that it would be better to first identify the budget escalation due to additional works and due to price adjustments as a result of the pandemic. He submitted that it is also due to lack of coordination within the different divisions and sections. When new works are executed, some of the already developed infrastructures are damaged and hence additional cost he added. This was also supported by Taba Thuemi. The Chair stated that this cannot be continued and moving forward, every project must have a project completion report and the execution must be based on the survey being conducted. The Member Secretary explained in detail that the additional payment is one thing that cannot be controlled since working at the site requires attending to few additional activities somehow. Sometimes there are also damages to existing structures while excavating and hence additional there is cost he submitted.

The Chief Finance Officer also presented that there is a budget balance of Nu 12.805M from those projects which are already completed. If this budget balance is re-appropriated to the additional budget requirement aforementioned, the net additional budget requirement is Nu 47.485M for the additional activities.

Decision

The Tshogde decided:

1. The additional budget requirements must be categorized based on additional works or due to price adjustments as a result of pandemic. For additional budget as a result of price adjustments, it will have to be written to MoF for fund support. If not the additional budget will have to be adjusted from



- internal revenue or other budget balances.
2. The budget balance of Nu 12.805M will be re-appropriated for the additional budget requirements.
 3. Directed the Infra Division to submit project completion reports for all the projects completed immediately after the project has been completed.

Action - FD/ID

Agenda 7.02 -Endorsement of Nu 10.00 for Fuel and Vehicle

The Finance Division also submitted to the Tshogde the endorsement of Nu 10.00 M for fuel and vehicle maintenance for ID and O&MD. The earlier approved budget for ID under vehicle maintenance and fuel was Nu 7.00M. The additional Nu 10.00M has been used as supplementary budget as the approved exhausted before the end of FY. The Jungzhina Thuemi also cautioned that proper monitoring will have to be done when heavy machineries are deployed departmentally.

Decision

Tshogde endorsed Nu 10.00M for fuel and vehicle maintenance for the ID and O&M Division.

Action -FD

Agenda 7.03 –Proposal for a Community Hall

The Thumies submitted that there is a need for community halls in their demkhongs. This was not an old topic that has been deliberated in the council, but the needs are felt quite seriously when they are being approached for public consultation meetings by higher authorities including the Member of Parliament and political candidates. It is very difficult to look for a common place to gather public submitted Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi on behalf of all Thuemis.

Discussion

The Chair stated that the requirement of a community hall for such purposes is genuine in the community. Based on the earlier council decisions, for Taba-Dechencholing demkhong, the sites have been identified and even the design has been completed. Once the estimates have been done, the budget will have to be adjusted even if it is to be financed through internal revenue, he added.

Decision

Tshogde decided:

1. Since the design has been completed for Taba and Dechencholing, the Tshogde directed the ID to prepare estimates.



2. If the estimate is within 2-3M, it can be financed through internal revenue or it can be left open if the community is interested to co-finance the construction of the community hall. This will then serve as a model community hall for other constituencies.

Action - FD and ID

Agenda 7.04 –Calling for Dzomdu is a Challenge – Seeking Way Forward

The Norzin Thuemi submitted to the Tshogde that it is a challenge to call people for zomdus. The attendance is very poor even after informing in person. Therefore, Thuemis proposed to conduct virtual sessions if face to face is a challenge or if the views of the public can be collected through digital platforms without having to call for zomdus.

Decision

Tshogde directed the ICT developer to create a platform demkhong wise where people can submit their proposals on Thomde webpage.

Action - ICT

Agenda 7.05 –Re-deliberation on Utilities Fees and Charges

The Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi submitted that the taxes have been revised recently by the parliament and might have an impact especially to the urban taxpayers. On top of that, Thomde has also recently increased the service fees and charges which will be in addition to revised tax by the government. Therefore, he submitted what would be the way forward for the Thomde fees and charges especially for the water, sewer, streetlights and solid wastes which have been raised recently by the council. Will it be kept as it is or will the decision be reconsidered?

Discussion

Although the land and property tax has been revised by the parliament, the Thomde service charges and fees will not change, however, if the charges and fees are to be raised in future, it will have double impact for the tax payers. Therefore, in order to meet the current expenses through internal revenue, Thomde will have to be compensated through the land taxes and others which will go to the central government. Many members were of the view that if the services are to be improved, the service charges and fees will have to be raised. Therefore, if the land taxes are being collected by the central government after revising, a certain portion for the improvement of Thomde services will have to be shared with Thomde.



Decision

The Council decided to keep the service fees and charges as decided by the last council meeting. However, in future, if the services are to be improved, a certain portion of revenue collected through taxes by the central government will have to be kept as service improvement charges for Thromdes without having to raise the actual fees and charges of the services.

Action - Finance Division

Agenda 7.06 - shifting of Main Sewer Line Post at Olakha Bridge

The Changbangdu Thuemi submitted that if the sewer post below the Olakha Bridge can be shifted, it would ease the traffic flow. Currently only one car can pass at a time and if it is being shifted, two cars can easily ply. He also submitted that a group of technical team has also made a site visit and recommended for shifting. Therefore, it is put to Tshogde for further directives and for fund support if it is to be shifted or relocated.

Decision

Tshogde felt the need to shift/relocate the sewer post for smooth traffic flow and even directed that the budget can be used from O&M budget. However, all technical aspects and technical feasibility will have to be taken into consideration before shifting and shall not have any disruption to the sewer services.

Action - O&MD

Agenda 7.07 –Proposal for U-turn at Expressway near Jigme Mart

There are around 50 buildings below the expressway around the Jigme Mart area. The Changbangdu-Olakha thuemi submitted that people living in this area have to either make a U-turn from Oakha Bridge or from Changjiji Bridge to go to their residences. Therefore, the Thuemi proposed a U-turn in that area for the benefits of the residents there.

Decision

Tshogde supported the proposal, however decided to write to RBP-Traffic Division to study the feasibility of making U-turn in the proposed location or any other location nearby that is feasible for the benefits of those 50 buildings in that area.

Action - Infra Division



Agenda 7.08 -Updates on NRW (non-revenue water), Repairs and Rectifications of Streetlights and Revenue before and after Increasing Utility Fees and Charges

The concern of non-metering of Thromde water supply has been put forth by the Changbangdu- Olakha Thuemi in the Babesa-Semtokha and Changbangdu areas. Water has been supplied a long time back in these areas but the water meters have not been installed. Hence it is a revenue loss for Thromde he submitted. Thuemis also requested for update on the repairs and rectification of streetlights and also on the revenue collections before and after the service fees and charges have been increased.

Discussion

The Officiating Chief of O&MD clarified that in the Babesa and Semtokha areas, the water supply could not be supplied to the buildings as the saddle could not be supplied by the supplier. Saddle is a pipe support used at the connection points of the main line and the supply line. If the saddle isn't in place, the joints burst due to water pressure. In Changbangdu areas, the water supply has reached building points but during testing, there were bursting in two points and therefore it could not be installed. Once the rectification works have been completed, it will be installed soon in Changbangdu areas. He has also informed that the required number of saddles has been communicated to the supplier in India and the supplier has agreed to supply within next 2 months.

The Thuemi also raised concern with regard to building owners bringing in new private water supply lines.

Decision

Tshogde directed:

1. The O&MD to explore alternative sources for supply of saddles if the current supplier is taking a long time than required.
2. If there are no other options, the Tshogde directed the Division to explore other alternatives like even changing the HDPE pipes with GI pipes for which the saddles aren't necessary.
3. Henceforth, no new private supply line will be allowed since Thromde on one hand is working towards phasing out the community water supply system once the Thromde water supply system is made reliable.

Action - O&MD



Agenda 7.09 –Sewer Connections for uncovered areas at Changangkha & Motithang Areas

The Changangkha and Motithang Thuemis requested the council that there are few areas and buildings which could not be connected to the sewer networks in their demkhongs. They requested if these areas can be covered in the coming FY.

Decision

Tshogde directed the IPDS under Infra Division to plan and prepare estimates in consultation with the area Thuemis. It will be carried out in the coming FY.

Action - Area Thuemis and IPDS, ID

Agenda 7.10 -Conversion of Changangkha Lhakang hilltop Car Parking into Tshechu Courtyard

Changangkha Thuemi submitted to the Tshogde that Changangkha Temple conducts a 2 day annual Tshechu and it is very congested in the small courtyard inside the temple. Therefore, the request of the Lam is to convert the existing parking outside the temple into Tshechu courtyard. Amidst discussion the member secretary informed the floor that there seems to be a greater plan by the Department of Culture (DoC) for the site development of Changangkha Lhakang and therefore, it would be better first to consult the Department.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Infra. Division to write to DoC to share with Thromde the plan for the site development works for Changangkha temple.

Action - ID

Agenda 7.11- Land tax is to be paid to the Central Government- Way Forward

Thuemis raised concern about the recent resolution of Parliament with regard to depositing Land Tax to the central government. Since Land Tax is one of the greater sources of revenue for Thromde, it will affect the Thromde financial sustainability goal. As per the LG Act, Thromde has been authorized to collect local taxes, fees and charges added the Thuemis.

Discussion

The Chair submitted that once it has been centrally deposited, the government might have different modality to finance Thromde including the recurrent budget. If the government does not support recurrent budgets for Thromdes, it will be very difficult for Thromdes to meet the recurrent expenses. The members also submitted



that whatever has been collected from Thromde must be used for the development purposes of Thromde for the benefits of the Thromde taxpayers. If the tax payer's money from Thimphu Thromde is being used for the development of other areas, it is not fair to the taxpayers of Thimphu Thromde. The Member secretary submitted that it would be better to write to Hon. Finance Minister even before the collection has been centralized sharing the concerns raised by the public through area Thuemis.

Decision

Since it is of great concern for Thromde and more so for the taxpayers, Tshogde decided to write to Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Finance in detail for reconsideration of the decision to collect Land tax centrally from Thromdes. Thimphu Thromde finances the recurrent budget through internal revenue.

Action - Finance Division

Agenda 7.12 -Endorsement of Academic Excellence Award for classes VI and VIII and top School Performer

The Chief TEO submitted that in the recent Management meeting, like the Classes X and XII, the academic excellence award for the National toppers for the Classes VI and VIII have been approved. In addition, he also proposed for the award for the top school performer. The 13th Management Meeting has approved the awarding of a certificate and Nu 100,000 for the top school as per the MoE rating. However, he submitted that the MoE rating has been discontinued and therefore proposed that the Schools which produce more National toppers can be rewarded as well. He also proposed if the schools which bring Gyalsey Mathematics National toppers can be rewarded as well. Last year, the math topper was from Loselling School but the School was not recognized he added.

Discussion

The Chair informed that the schools with the best overall results for Classes VI, VIII, X and XII at the National level can be recognized. Many members also felt that it is the student's performance that Thromde is recognizing and therefore, it is not necessary to recognize each and every school from which National toppers come. Schools in general can be assessed based on overall performances of the common exams and be recognized as approved by the Management. The Chief TEO submitted that the student's performance is based on the learning environment in the school and also the hard work put forth by the teachers. Therefore, it will be an incentive for the school to work hard in producing more national toppers in the coming academic years.



Decision

Tshogde:

1. Endorsed the academic excellence award for National toppers for classes VI and VII i.e. Nu 40,000 for 1st National Topper, Nu 30,000 for 2nd National topper and Nu 20,000 for 3rd National topper from among Thimphu Thromde RGoB Schools.
2. For Schools, it was decided that the school will be accessed at Classes VI, VIII, X and XII levels and the Schools with best overall performances in board exams and based on other relevant criteria as framed by the Thromde Education Division will be recognized as approved by the 13th Management.

Action - CTEO

Agenda 7.13 -Follow up on 6th Tshogde Decisions

Staff Quarter for YHS-STP – The 6th Tshogde has directed the O&M Division to submit the design and estimate for the semi-permanent structures and submit to the 7th Tshogde for budget approval. The O&M Division submitted that the design and estimate are ready and the total budget requirement is Nu 1.732 M. The 7th Tshogde directed the Division to go ahead with the construction and also approved the budget to be used from budget balance of the Division and if there is no budget balance, it can be financed through internal revenue.

Action – O&MD and Finance Division

Late night hawker issues – Since there is no basis to allow or disallow such businesses, the 7th Tshogde directed the City Environment Division to write to concerned authority or agencies based on the nature of problems anticipated as a result of hawkers. Thromde monitors from 9:00AM till 9:00PM and beyond that it is difficult to monitor. It is the waste related issues that Thromde is concerned of and it is being taken cared.

Action – CiED

Rapporteur – Karma Dorji, Sr. Planning Officer



Annexure – Presentation Slides



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REPORT OF EXPENDITURE FROM CD TILL DATE

Particulars	Revised Budget (In million Nu.)	Expenditure (In million Nu.)	Balance (In million Nu.)	Percentage
Current	278.286	133.738	143.548	48%
Capital	283.621	107.104	176.517	38%
Total	561.907	240.842	320.065	42.862

ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT TO TOP-UP ON THE ACTIVITIES

Sl No.	Activity	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in million)	Budget Balance (Nu. in million)	Additional Budget requirement	Details
1.	Construction of 12 classroom block at <u>Dangrino PS (5146)</u>	14.805	6.488	8.317		Revised contract amount Nu.83m from Nu.62.208m. Start date: Jan 3, 2020 Revised completion date: April 2023 from Jan 6, 2023. Reported sufficient to clear the bills during the 1 st GR.
	<u>RCiGB top-up</u>	21.000	21.000	0.00	12.000	
2.	Construction of Integrated Academic Block at <u>Changzamroik HSS (5141)</u>	1.858	0.480	1.378		Revised Budget Nu.82 m from Nu.74.100 m Contract Amt: Nu.64.599 m Start date: July 27 2020 Completion date: April 2023 from Jan 6, 2023
	<u>RCiGB Top-up</u>	24.100	15.327	8.773	8.000	
3.	Construction of Classroom and administrative block at <u>YHS (5145)</u>	32.288	12.279	20.009		Revised Budget Nu.38 m from Nu.51.000 m Contract Amt. Nu. 48.201 m Start date: Dec2, 2020 Completion date: April 2023 from Dec 2022

ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT TO TOP-UP ON THE ACTIVITIES CONTD....

No.	Activity	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in Million)	Budget Balance (Nu. in million)	Additional Budget requirement	Status
4.	Construction of vegetable sheds, parking areas and site development works at <u>Bobeso</u> (514a)	5,000	4,366	0,634		Approved Budget Nu.35,370 m, Revised Contract Amt. Nu. 45,370 m, Start date: Aug 8, 2020 . Completion date: Nov end 2022
	<u>Briab</u> Top-up	10,000	8,688	1,312	6,000	Top-up done Nu.10 million. Additional required 6 million
5.	Infrastructure development within <u>Taba Dechenchoing</u> <u>Demkhong</u>	33,627	17,023	16,608	0,300	Revised amount Nu.43,864 m from Nu.41,865 m, Start date April 25, 2022 and completion date Oct 20, 2022. Final bill payment requires Nu.1,700 m top-up from revenue in then 1 st quarter.
6.	Infrastructure development between <u>Bobeso</u> <u>Somaring</u> area	30,914	30,914	0,00	9,500	Revised amount Nu.55,002 m from Nu.45,397 m. Nu.6,849m topped up from revenue for the adjustment of the negative figures of prior years advance in the 1 st quarter.

ADDITIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT TO TOP-UP ON THE ACTIVITIES CONTD....

No.	Activity	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in Million)	Budget Balance (Nu. in million)	Additional Budget requirement	Status
7.	Infrastructure development within <u>upper Jungkhin</u> Area	28,722	21,654	7,067	15,200	Revised amount Nu.63m from 41.85m. Contract amount Nu.43 million, Start date May 19, 2022 and revise deadline March 2023 from Nov 19, 2022. Additional required Nu.6 topped up from revenue in the 1 st qtr.
8.	Infrastructure development within <u>Kawalangia</u> <u>Langduphakha</u> Area	24,244	17,116	7,128	2,190	Physically completed, Revised amount Nu.46,634m from Nu.44,345 m. Contract amount Nu.33,780 million, Start date May 10, 2022 and completion date Oct 2022.
	Total				60,290	

REVIEW ON THE CAPITAL BUDGET BALANCE DURING THE MTBR

Sl No.	Activity	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in Million)	Budget Balance (Nu. in million)	Balance available for prioritization.	Status
1.	Development of four lane road from Bhutan Telecom to <u>Jundshing</u>	15,500	15,346	0.154	0.154	Work completed and closed
2.	Construction of Drainage system at <u>Marthang</u> and <u>Changangkha Demkhong</u>	4,581	3,913	0.668	0.668	Work completed and closed
3.	Infrastructure development within <u>Semtokha Bobesa Demkhong</u>	25,737	4,677	21,060	2,000	Work completed. Final bill not paid. Likely balance from the activity.
4.	Construction of storm water drain, sewer lines and retaining wall in <u>Semtokha Bobesa Demkhong</u>	4,980	4,228	2,136	0,752	Completed and closed

CAPITAL BUDGET BALANCE FROM THE COMPLETED WORKS

Sl No.	Activity	Revised Budget (Nu. in million)	Expenditure (Nu. in Million)	Budget Balance (Nu. in million)	Balance available for prioritization.	Status
5.	Construction of prefabricated Zincalume water tank at <u>Kawalangsa, Dechencholing and Chakha</u>	3,620	2,241	1,379	1,379	Completed and closed
6.	Construction of drain and resurfacing of road at central <u>Demkhong, Changangkha, Norzin</u> and <u>Marthang Demkhong</u>	18,909	12,524	6,385	6,385	Work completed and closed
7.	Divider and bridge paintings works	4,425	2,958	1,467	1,467	Completed and closed
Total					12,805	

SUMMARY OF CAPITAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT FOR ENDORSEMENT

Total Budget requirement	Nu. 60.290 million
Savings available for allocations	Nu. 12.805 million
Additional Budget requirement	Nu. 47.485 million
Available budget in the revenue as of 19 th January 2023.	Nu.127.774 million

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