



Thromde Tshogde Minutes

3rd Thromde Council

12th Thromde Tshogde 3rd Council

12th Thromde Tshogde

Date – 8th August, 2024 Time: 9:30AM

Venue – Thromde Conference Hall

Members present

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Ugyen Dorji	Thrompon
2	Karma Namgyel	Executive Secretary
3	Ugyen	Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi
4	Ugyen Penjore	Jungzhin-Pamtsho Thuemi
5	Phub Tshering	Norzin Thuemi
6	Sonam Tshering	Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi
7	Dorji Gyeltshen	Babesa Thuemi
8	Pema Yangzom	Motithang Thuemi
9	Rinzin Dorji	Changangkha Motithang Thuemi

Invitees

Sl. No.	Name	Designation
1	Kinley Penjore	Specialist, ADM-PIU
2	Thinley Norbu	Chief, UPD
3	Norbu Dhendup	Chief Finance Officer
4	Kinzang Dendup	Chief TEO
5	Yeshi Wangdi	Chief Engineer
6	Tashi Dorji	Chief, O&M Division
7	Sonam Tobgay	Chief, LRSD
8	Teknath Kararia	Chief, CoED
9	Kezang Dorji Jr	Sr Urban Planner
10	Dil Prasad Dhital	Asset Manager
11	Sonam Wangchuk	Chief, CiED
12	Phuntsho Choden	Manager, Changjiji Youth Center



Sl. No.	Name	Designation
13	Youth Center Official	Changjiji Youth Center
14	Karma Dorji	Sr. Planning Officer

Opening remarks

The Chair welcomed all the council members to the 12th Thromde Tshogde. He shared details about the official visit of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen of the Kingdom of Lesotho to Bhutan. Their Majesties will be visiting various locations, including Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, and Wangdue. The Chair outlined some of the preparations that Thromde is required to

undertake for this visit like hoisting of Their Majesties' portraits, students lining up along road sides and of course maintaining the City clean. He emphasized the significance of their Majesties' visit and stated that Thromde, as always, will perform its duties diligently.

Agenda 12.01 - Presentation on Changjiji Youth Center

The Manager of the Changjiji Youth Center presented to the Tshogde about the center, its programs and services. Some of the programs and services include coordinating and supporting youth led groups, youth skilling programs, digital literacy, exchange programs and many other youth related services. The Manager also submitted that there is inadequate space at the current location that hampers service delivery.

Discussion

The Chair expressed gratitude to the officials from the Changjiji Youth Center for their presentation on the center's initiatives and programs benefiting the youths. He acknowledged the hard work of the center in providing services to the youth despite various challenges and directed that these services should continue to support them. He also assured the necessary support from the Thromde council and management, noting that any required assistance could be routed through the Thromde Education Division.

The Chief TEO reported that the services provided by the center have been very successful, with the only challenge being space. He mentioned that the National Housing Development Corporation Limited (NHDCL) has agreed to provide new space for the center. During the 12th Five-Year Plan (FYP), the center served approximately



11,000 youths.

Agenda 12.02 - Endorsement of FY 2024-2025 Budget

The Chief Finance Officer presented to the Tshogde the apportioned budget for the FY 2024-2025 for endorsement. The budget has been apportioned by the Management based on the approved annual grant and it is put up to Tshogde for endorsement. The table below shows the overview of the proposed and the approved budget for FY 2024-2025:

Particulars	Proposal 2024-2025	Approved FY 2024-2025	Remarks
Mandatory Budget (RGoB)	1,201.015	1,178.102	Pay and Allowances, PF and Retirement Benefits for Edu. Division
Controllable (RGoB)	223.356	33.177	For Edu Division including 9.408m for text books and 17.000 m for property tax
Mandatory (Thromde Fund)	168.015	102.340	Pay and Allowances Thromde Staff
Controllable (Thromde Revenue)	263.356	197.660	For meeting the current activities of Thimphu Thromde
Subsidy for city bus services (RGoB)	100.000	57.537	For City Bus services
Capital (RGoB) Grant	3,060.990	451.919	Developmental activities for Thromde and Education Division
Spillover (External Grant)	11.000	11.000	Green Transport and EBA Project
GOI-PTA	1,294.000	167.205	Development of parks (Changangkha and Zulikha)
GOI SDP		56.250	GIO SDP for 13 FYP



Total	6,322.679	2,244.190	Thromde Revenue Nu.300 million, RGOB Nu.1,720.735 million and GOI Nu.223.455 million
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The table below shows the apportionment of approved budget amongst the Divisions and Sections:

Particulars	Approved FY 2024-2025 (In Million Nu.)
Spillover Activities	25.770
Infra Division	243.830
Education Division	120.000
Operation and Management Division	45.000
Office Supplies –for furniture, office equipment and computers and peripherals for Thromde	8.000
Environment Division	5.000
ICT – Upgradation of ARMS and G2C system	2.000
Reserve	2.319
Total	451.919

Discussion

The Chair stated that the approved budget of Nu 451 million for Thimphu Thromde is very limited and must be shared with the Education Division. Unlike other Thromdes, Thimphu has 20 schools, requiring the expansion and development of additional infrastructures to accommodate the high demand during admissions. Therefore, the relevant central ministries should allocate a separate budget for the Education Division instead of combining it with Thromde's capital budget.

In line with this, the Member Secretary noted that the property tax of Nu 17.348 million for school infrastructures should be waived since it is a welfare sector, or it should be included under the mandatory budget rather than the capital outlay. He mentioned that this proposal needs to be communicated to the Ministry of Finance, and the Chair supported the proposal.



Norzin Thuemi raised concerns about Nu 25 million in spillover activities and sought clarification on whether the budget had lapsed in the previous fiscal year. He mentioned that spillover activities are affecting the current fiscal year's budget. In support to the Chair, he also emphasized that education is a fundamental right of every child and therefore, the budget for education should be sent separately and not combined with Thromde, as combining reduces the share of budget.

Regarding the apportionment of the budget for the demkhongs (North and South), Olakha Thuemi suggested that the areas where activities are planned should be properly mapped to aid management and monitoring during implementation. The Chair clarified that the concerned engineers are working on mapping all planned activities, which will be ready soon.

Junzhina Thuemi mentioned that while proper consultation with Thuemi is necessary, there are not many issues since the approved budget is allocated to the most needed areas. However, in the future, proper consultation with Thuemis is required, as people approach Thuemis for community issues. The Chair clarified that activity prioritization is based on applications and requests from the public and urgent community needs. The Chair further explained that Nu 47 million has been allocated for black topping (BT) works. However, for chadri works, a separate fund must be released, as Thromde cannot divert funds from planned and prioritized activities.

Along with the budget endorsement, the Finance Division also presented the endorsement of Nu 62,125 and Nu 30,000. The Nu 62,000 has been spent for the participation in the monsoon football tournament which was held in Haa from 26th till 28th July 2024 and Nu 30,000 has been approved to be paid to OxMedia for the publications of children's books.

The Chief Finance Officer also presented the revenue collected in the FY 2023-2024. The table below shows the status of revenue collections till July 7th 2024:

Month	Collections	Apportionment	Balance
			85,477,030.86
July 23	37,919,479.44	67,235,659.00	56,160,851.30
Aug 23	25,236,072.48	535,153.71	80,861,770.07
Sept 23	20,266,212.85	89,229,099.00	11,898,883.92
Oct 23	20,713,570.79	1,764,869.58	30,847,585.13
Nov 23	16,926,015.94	78,188.18	47,695,412.89
Dec 23	17,879,070.72	30,024,419.00	35,550,064.61



Jan 24	20,493,226.73	48,433,963.55	7,609,327.79
Feb 24	21,578,002.11	27,466,747.02	1,720,582.88
Mar 24	24,720,139.19	24,642,414.28	1,798,307.79
Apr 24	26,889,436.61	23,466,026.79	5,221,717.61
May 24	33,143,571.86	36,858,080.01	1,507,209.46
June 24	31,226,089.39	32,710,245.97	23,052.88
	5,270,718.00		
Total	302,261,606.11	382,444,866.09	

Decision

1. Tshogde endorsed the apportionment of annual grants for the FY 2024-2025.
2. Tshogde also directed the Finance Division to write to MoF about the Education budget.
3. For the activities which fall under social and conduct of national events, etc, Tshogde approved Nu 0.7M and directed the Finance Division to create a separate budget head.
4. Tshogde also endorsed Nu 62, 125 spent for football matches and contributions of Nu 30,000 to Ox Media and Consultancy for the publication of children's books. These are approved to be financed from the current savings of FY 2023-2024.

Action - Finance Division

Agenda 12.03 - Endorsement of 13th FYP and Resource allocation

The Planning Officer from the Policy and Planning Section presented the 13th Five Year Plan (FYP) of Thimphu Thromde to the Tshogde for endorsement. He also outlined the national goals and programs established for the next 10 years, including those set for the 13th FYP period. He detailed the 7 Local Government Key Results Areas (LGKRAs) on which the Thromde's plans and programs are based.

He reported that Thimphu Thromde proposed a total budget of more than Nu 11 billion for the 13th FYP, with over 50% allocated to the Education Division. However, according to the Resource

Allocation Formula (RAF), the total approved 13th FYP grants for Thimphu Thromde amount to Nu 6,212.2 million. This figure excludes project funds through Small Development Projects (SDP) funded by the Government of India (GOI) and Project Tied Assistances (PTA).

The Planning Officer also presented the list of SDP and PTA project proposals submitted



by Thromde, along with those proposed by central agencies. He submitted that the approved grant of Nu 6,212.2 million will need to be apportioned among the five programs of Thromde.

Decision

1. Tshogde endorsed the 13th Five Year Plan for Thimphu Thromde including the Small Development Project (SDP) and Project-Tied Assistance (PTA) project proposals.
2. Tshogde also approved the apportionment of the approved grant of Nu 6212 as shown in the table below

Program	Percentage Allocation	Total Outlay (In Million Nu)
Program 1 - Urban mobility and public transport system enhancement	30%	1864.00
Program 2-Quality education through better education facilities and services and skills enhancement	40%	2500.00
Program 3 – Enhancing health and wellbeing of urban residents	20%	1242.00
Program 4 - Preservation and promotion of culture and enhancing safety including disaster preparedness	3%	176.20
Program 5 – Improving public service delivery	7%	430.00
Total	100%	6212.20

Action - PPS/All Divisions/Sections concerned

Agenda 12.04 - Requirement of various documents for PP admission in schools is causing inconveniences

Norzin Thuemi submitted to the Tshogde the need to review the admission process for Thromde schools. He mentioned that various documents, such as a letter from the employer, are required if the applicant is employed. He suggested that these requirements could be minimized, as all necessary information and authentication can be verified through the family tree.



Discussion

The Chief Thromde Education Officer submitted that if it is policy issues, the Division will not be able to resolve and must be referred to the Ministry. If it is the procedural rectifications, we can

correct it, he added. However, the requirement of documents for is required by a policy and hence there is nothing the Division could do so than just to refer to the Ministry.

Decision

The Tshogde directed the Thuemi concerned to directly approach the Education Division and clarify the doubts and see if there is anything that could be done to improve the processes.

Action - Thromde Education Division and Thuemi concerned

Agenda 12.05 – Change of Location and Rental charges for the STCBL Fuel Station Proposal

The Urban Planning Division presented to the Tshogde that the earlier identified site for STCBL fuel station needs to be proposed for plot relocations affected by the intended green space proposal and now as per new Thimphu Structure Plan (TSP). The Division also presented the new location for fuel station behind Jungzhina Community Police Station.



The Planner also submitted that the STCBL did not agree with the earlier Tshogde approved rental charges of Nu 100,000. They have proposed Nu 31,597 as per the state land lease rate. Considering the land tax for the identified site, developing infrastructures like roads, drains, etc for the station and O&M cost thereafter, the Division proposes Nu 50,000 per month.

Decision

The Tshogde:

1. approved the new site proposed and endorsed the relocation of the plots affected at the crematorium area immediately, in the earlier proposed STCBL fuel station.
2. approved Nu 50,000 per month as rental charges and directed the Division concerned to strictly follow the provisions of Tenancy Act shall be reflected in the rental agreement.

Action – UPD

Agenda 12.06 - Re-tendering of archery ranges within Thromde

The Chair mentioned about the leasing out of archery ranges within the Thromde. There are approximately 13 ranges within the Thromde. Previously, the Thromde allowed those who were renting unofficially to manage the archery ranges for two years, after which they would be tendered out again. He noted that if the ranges are to be tendered out, the Thromde would have to provide all basic infrastructure, such as roads and parking.

There are also discussions ongoing between the Bhutan Indigenous Games and Sports Association (BIGSA) and other relevant agencies about whether all archery ranges (bachos) should be operated and maintained by BIGSA. Until a final decision is made, he proposed extending the current lessees' contracts for another year.

Discussion

Jungzhina Thuemi added that even if the operation and management of the bacho are transferred to BIGSA, the Land Use Certificate (LUC) must remain with the Thromde since it is in the Thromde's name. This suggestion was supported by other members and the Chair. The Member Secretary also supported the Chair's proposal to extend the current lease agreement by another year to resolve any confusion regarding the operation and management of the bacho.

The Chief of the Land Records and Survey Division (LRSD) noted that some archery ranges, such as the one in the Kawajang/Zilukha area, are no longer operational. In response, the Chair stated that such bachos, where only 1-2 people play leisurely, are not considered formal bachos, and therefore, the Thram can be surrendered.



Decision

1. Tshogde decided to extend the current lease agreement of Archery Ranges within Thromde by another year..i.e. till June 30, 2025 to settle down all confusions pertaining to operation and maintenance of bachos. The Asset Manager is directed to write to the lessee formally citing all reasons for extending.

2. Those archery ranges (bachos) which are not commonly used or are used by few individuals during leisure time shall not be considered as formally approved bachos and therefore, the Thram can be surrendered.

Action - Asset Manager and LRSD

Agenda 12.07 - Need for new soil dumping area as it is not allowed to dump in the

Debsi side and in the Babesa area

The Chief of the City Environment Division (CiED) reported that the previously identified area for soil dumping in Debsi could not be approved because the Chang Gewog Administration informed the Dzongkhag Administration that the bridge connecting Debsi and Babesa is old and may not be able to support the weight of soil dumping trucks. He also mentioned that soil dumping in the old Babesa STP area had to be stopped because park development works will begin soon. Therefore, he has requested further directives from the Tshogde.

Discussion

The Chief Urban Planner suggested that it would be advisable to first verify the bridge's tonnage capacity with the Department of Surface Transport, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT). However, some members argued that the concerns raised by the Gewog Administration are valid and should be taken into account. The Chair stated that a request should soon be sent to the Dzongkhag Administration to help identify a suitable dumping site within the Dzongkhag area. Babesa Thuemi mentioned that there are some areas in his constituency where a few truckloads of soil could be dumped. Similarly, the Chair directed other Thuemis to look for sites that need filling and to inform the CiED.

Jungzhina Thuemi suggested that the current satellite town area in Dechencholing, where there are temporary structures, could be used for soil dumping to level the land, which could later be converted into a park. However, Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi pointed out that this would not be feasible since there are plot owners who have yet to construct buildings on their allotted plots. The Chair instructed that those who



have completed their construction should be shifted, and their structures removed immediately. Since the area is prone to natural calamities like floods and fire hazards, Thromde had previously communicated to all plot owners to move to their allotted plots, but many have not yet done so.

Decisions

1. C&D waste can go to the Memelakha landfill area. The Tshogde directed each area Tshogpa to identify sites for soil dumping within their constituency till a new dumping site has been established.
2. Tshogde also decided to serve the eviction notice stating that the plot owners of Dechencholing satellite town must shift to new allotted areas within 6 months from the date of serving the notice and dismantle the current temporary structures.

Action - CiED and UPD/LRSD

Agenda 12.08 - Endorsement of ELC monitoring fees

The Officiating Chief of the CoED proposed to the Tshogde a fee of Nu 1500 for each member of the inspection team for entertainment centers at night. He explained that the inspection team consists of five members from relevant agencies, including the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), Trade, Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA), and Thromde. The proposal was made after thorough discussion within the Entertainment Licensing Committee.

Since the team is required to inspect entertainment centers within Thimphu Thromde at night once every three months, the proposed fee would cover their travel, refreshments, and dinner. This proposal also considers the risks associated with this task and the fact that it is additional to their normal official duties.

Decision

Tshogde approved Nu 1500 for each team member for every inspection. And the team will have to carry out inspection once in 3 months initially and based on the situation thereafter. Tshogde also directed that the team shall submit a detailed report for every inspection.

Action - Inspection team and Finance Division



Conclusion

The Chair expressed gratitude to all Council members for their attendance and valuable contributions to the discussions and resolutions. He also extended his thanks to the officials of the Thimphu Thromde Office for their support and participation in the 12th Thromde Tshogde.

The 12th Thromde Tshogde adjourned at 3:00PM.

Rapporteur – Karma Dorji, Sr. Planning Officer

