

ཐིམ་ཕུ་ཁྲོམ་གྱི།

Thimphu Thromde

ཁྲོམ་གྱི་ཚོགས་གྱི་ ༣ པ།

Third Thromde Council



ཁྲོམ་གྱི་ཚོགས་གྱི་ ཚོགས་བེད་ས་ ༩ པ།

Ninth Thromde Tshogde

ས་གནས་ལ་ཐིམ་ཕུ་ཁྲོམ་གྱི་ཞལ་འཛོམས་ཁང་།

Venue: Thromde Conference Hall

དབྱིན་ཚེས་ ༡༠/༠༨/༢༠༢༣

Date: 10th August 2023

Table of Contents

MEMBERS PRESENT	3
MEMBERS ABSENT	3
INVITEES	3
OPENING REMARKS	3
AGENDA 9.01 -OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET AND REVENUE COLLECTIONS FOR THE FY 2022-2023	4
AGENDA 9.02 -WAY FORWARD FOR CITY ADDRESSING SYSTEM	6
AGENDA 9.03 -FOLLOW UP ON U-TURN AND PROPOSAL FOR TO & FRO WAY FROM OLAKHA UNDERPASS BRIDGE	8
AGENDA 9.04 -ISSUES WITH WATER BILLING CONTROLLED AND MAKEUP BY THROMDE ICT	9
AGENDA 9.05 -PROBLEM OF FREQUENT SEWER OUTBURSTS IN ARMY CAMPUS	10
AGENDA 9.06 -REQUEST FOR WAIVING-OFF SEWER CHARGES IN E4 AREAS	10
AGENDA 9.07 -NO REINSTATEMENT WORKS AFTER CARRYING OUT MAINTENANCE WORK UNDERGROUND	11
AGENDA 9.08 -UPDATE ON WEB-BASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM AS PER PAST TSHOGDE DIRECTIVES TO ICT .	12
AGENDA 9.09- RE-DELIBERATION ON THE ISSUES WITH REGARD TO IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMS	12
AGENDA 9.10 -ROAD MARKINGS REQUIRED IN JUNGZHINA-PAMTSHO AND TABA-DECHECHOLING ROADS	13
AGENDA 9.11 -DRINKING WATER ISSUES IN TABA	14
AGENDA 9.12 -COORDINATION OF VARIOUS EVENTS DURING THIMPHU TSHECHU	14
AGENDA 9.13- CONSTRUCTION OF MEAT SHOP AT CFM AREA	15
AGENDA 9.14 - REQUEST BY DR. TOILET TO REDUCE THE LEASE RENT FOR THE CFM PUBLIC TOILET	15
AGENDA 9.15 -APPROVAL FOR PRE-FINANCED BUDGET FROM TT TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE CO-FINANCING BUDGET FOR EBA PROJECT	16
AGENDA 9.16 -CONTRACT EXTENSION OF THROMDE CONTRACT EMPLOYEES	17
AGENDA 9.17 -REQUEST TO UPGRADE/PROMOTION FOR THROMDE MUSTER ROLL EMPLOYEES	17
AGENDA 9.18 - E4 PLOT CASE	18
AGENDA 9.19 – WAY FORWARD FOR PROPERTY TAX DEFAULTERS	18
AGENDA 9.20 - TPN REQUIRED FOR ALL MUSTER-ROLL EMPLOYEES	18
CONCLUSION	19



9th Thromde Tshogde**Date – 10th August 2023****Venue – Thromde Conference Hall****Time – 9:30AM****Members Present**

Sl/No	Name	Designation
1	Ugyen Dorji	Thrompon
2	Karma Namgyel	Executive Secretary (joined post lunch)
3	Ugyen	Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi
4	Ugyen Penjore	Jungzhin-Pamtsho Thuemi
5	Rinzin Dorji	Changangkha Motithang Thuemi
6	Phub Tshering	Norzin Thuemi
7	Sonam Tshering	Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi
8	Dorji Gyeltshen	Babesa Thuemi

Members Absent

Sl/No	Name	Designation
1	Pema Yangzom	Motithang Thuemi

Invitees

Sl/No	Name	Designation
1	Thinley Norbu	Chief, UPD (joined post lunch)
2	Norbu Dhendup	Chief Finance Officer
3	Kinzang Dendup	Chief TEO
4	Sonam Tobgay	Chief, LRSD
5	Yeshi Wangdi	Chief Engineer
6	Tashi Phuntsho	Chief, CoED
7	Kezang Lham Dorji	Officiating Chief, CiED
8	Tshering Dorji	Officiating Chief, O&M Division
9	Kinga Gyeltshen	Dy. Chief Thromde Health Officer
10	Udesh Chhetri	Dy. Chief Finance Officer
11	Shera Dolkar	Dy. Chief Forestry Officer
12	Omapati Luitel	Dy. Chief ICT Officer
13	Ugyen	O&M Division
14	Dil Prasad Dhital	Asset Manager
15	Dawa Gyeltshen	MRO
16	Karma Dorji	Sr. Planning Officer

Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all the members of the Council and the invitees to the 9th Tshogde and thanked all for their presence. Before moving with the main agenda, the Chair shared some of the insights with regard to public service delivery. Although there have been many issues while delivering the



services, no major hindrances were observed due to strong internal coordination amongst all Divisions/Sections and individuals stated the Chair. People leaving the system from the critical sectors and not being able to get the replacement has also put a lot of pressure on service delivery. He emphasized that such strong coordination and commitments from each and every individual will have to be continued and all must work together towards achieving the common mandates and goal of Thimphu Thromde.

Agenda 9.01 -Overview of the Budget and Revenue Collections for the FY 2022-2023

The Chief Finance Officer presented the overview of the approved budget for the FY 2013-2024.

The table below shows the approved budget overview:

Particulars	FY 2022-2023	Revised Proposal 2023-2024	Approved FY 2023-2024	Remarks
Mandatory Expenses (RGoB)	917.389	924.187	926.293	Pay and Allowances for Edu. Div. and Health
Controllable (RGoB)	33.001	74.490	36.310	For Edu Div. and Health
Controllable (Thromde Revenue)		135.939	219.018	For meeting the current activities of Thimphu Thromde
Subsidy for city bus services (RGoB)	52.046	100.260	57.537	For City Bus services
Capital Grant (RGoB)	437.721	737.823	354.843	For developmental activities
Spillover (External Grant)		82.000	82.000	Green Transport and EBA Project
Total		2,185.181	1,676.001	Including Nu.219.018 million from Thromde Revenue

Discussion

The members stated that the prioritization of the budget must be done sitting together with area Tshogpas. They stated that they are not aware of the activities that are being included in the FY 2023-2024 for their own Demkhongs. The Chair clarified that the budget has been apportioned based on the critical nature of the applications received and those pending issues which required immediate attention.. The Chief of Infra Division also supplemented that the activities are not new and have been included based on the requests and applications put up by the public and are accessed based on the critical nature. However, the Chair recommended to have separate discussions with area Tshogpas to cross check whether their intended activities are included in the activity list prepared by Infra Division or not.

The Chief Finance Officer also presented the status of revenue collections for the FY 2022-2023.

The table below shows the details of revenue collections monthwise:

Month	Collections	Appropriations/ Refunds	Net Collections	Balance
Opening Balance as of June 30,2022 was 169,396,496.15				
July 2022	31,560,571.66	50,295,185.00	(18,734,613.34)	150,661,882.81
Aug 2022	49,267,408.65	0	49,267,408.65	199,929,291.46
Sept 2022	17,130,016.46	66,712,394.52	(49,582,378.06)	150,346,913.40
Oct 2022	31,973,616.75	330,637.11	31,642,979.64	181,989,893.04
Nov 2022	23,386,924.32	150,441.50	23,236,482.82	205,226,375.86
Dec 2022	52,590,129.79	158,873,839.00	(106,283,709.21)	98,942,666.65
Jan 2023	36,946,304.90	153,686.00	36,792,618.90	135,735,285.55
Feb 2023	25,363,111.84	19,093.65	25,344,018.19	161,079,303.74
Mar 2023	18,791,997.41	87,780,124.86	(69,554,825.88)	92,091,176.29
April 2023	22,365,323.34	439,519.00	21,925,804.34	114,016,980.63
May 2023	22,598,646.84	2,012,054.00	20,586,592.84	134,603,573.47
June 2023	19,503,080.71	70,620,572.16	(51,117,491.45)	83,486,082.02
Total collections till date	348,870,872.79	435,913,318.54	-87,042,445.75	

The chair informed that while we agreed to deposit and disburse our revenue through ePMS system is totally with the understanding to have common platform for proper accounting and recording, any decision taken by Thromde Tshogde and Thromde Management for budget allocation to new critical activities or ad-hoc activities from the revenue shall not be questioned by any agency or Finance Ministry and there should not be any bureaucratic procedure added affecting our service delivery. The chair further apprised that our budget is public money accountable for giving effective and efficient services back and also our account is auditable unlike other account holders. Since, our account is auditable which is audited every year by the OAG, it is not necessary to pull centrally creating levels in processing and jeopardising the whole idea of decentralization and autonomy for improved services. To this Chief Finance Officer confirmed that will not arise such

issues and others have no right over it. In fact, the job of Finance is to release what we deposit in their system for our own expenditure.

Decision

1. The Council directed the Infra Division to sit together with all the Tshogpas and verify the activities to be implemented in their demkhongs in the FY 2023-2024. The council also decided that had there been any hurdles through new system i.e. ePMS, Thromde will opt for the earlier system or decide to use from revenue accounts.
2. Tshogde endorsed Nu 100,000 offering made on Thromde's behalf from internal revenue for the kurim at Tashichhodzong which was held in June this year.

Action - Infra Division

Agenda 9.02 -Way forward for City Addressing System

The GIS unit under UPD presented the status of the City Addressing System (CAS). The discussion was included in the meeting due to the instruction to incorporate major changes in the guideline by the Department of Human Settlement. The Department had issued a letter vide letter No. MoIT/DHS/G&LD/Thimphu Thromde dated July 27, 2023. It stated that the City Addressing System Guideline has been approved in the 4th PPCM of the Ministry on July 20, 2023 subject to changes as stated:

1. Removing the use of direction in the naming of streets such as SE or NE. The Ministry feels that is not really necessary and might create confusion for the users
2. Replace unit numbering convention in the Guideline with the one adopted by the Department of Human Settlement for the whole country.
3. Replace the Dzongkha alphabets such as Ka or Kha assigned to the tertiary/access roads since translation into English will get complicated, especially if there are several roads branching out from the Zur Lam. Instead, the recommendation is to use English alphabets
4. Hereafter, seek GocTech Agency's approval prior to hosting the revised CAS in the open source platform such as google maps, maps.me etc.

After giving it due consideration, it was found that these changes would require redoing the whole system from a scratch as the fundamental basis of the system adopted was to be changed. The GIS Officer informed the floor that the data has already been updated into google maps and people are using it. Even the occupancy certificate will be issued based on the data in the CAS.



On point No.1, She demonstrated that the assignment of building numbers and addresses were done based on the 4 quadrants taking Doebun Lam and Thori and Chhugo Lams as baseline streets.

1) This system is instrumental in further assignment of building number, should the city extend in any direction. 2) Removal of directions would result in duplicate addresses for streets crossing the reference points or the baseline streets. The number increase towards the periphery following the street order and starting number is taken from the higher order street. The absence of direction will not only cause confusion but also redoing the whole system. As for the users, addresses have been shared 9th July, 2022 and people have been using it for navigation and delivery purposes, since then no confusion has been reported.

On Point No.2, The numbering convention was shared much later after the guideline has been formulated. Although, Thromde is yet to see the approval status of the convention. An alternate solution can be worked out whereby, data uploaded in the national platform would conform to the DHS convention but the internal standards will be maintained within the Thromde to ease enforcement regulations with regard to parking, habitability and hazard.

On Point No. 3, The translation of Ka, Kha to A, B or otherwise would still require translation since both Dzongkha and English will be used for signage. In fact, it's easier to translate Dzongkha alphabets to English given that the spellings are already available. It would be a whole new task involving DDC to spell English alphabets in Dzongkha.

Finally on Point No.4, Regarding the approval from GovTech Agency, Thromde did seek support from the erstwhile Department of Information and Technology (GovTech was not established then) to upload data into Google maps, as it was the most popular app used for navigation all over the world. She contacted the Google Domain team to enquire the relevant office to seek support formally. She was informed that DIT had tried to get access in the past and was unsuccessful. Thromde could approach Google directly for access.

Disucssion

The Chair informed that in fact this need not be put out now. Even a budget of Nu 6.5 M has been apportioned in the FY 2023-2024 for signage installation. It was put to re-deliberate as there has been some confusion internally due to the recent letter from MoIT stating that the current system proposed by Thromde needs to be reviewed based on their directives. The members of council acknowledged the concerns raised by the Ministry, however, this was the plan that has been long overdue and huge amounts of time and resources have already been spent. Moreover it has been



updated into the google map system, people are using it and redoing it wholly now would entail huge time and resources and will never materialize.

Decision

Since it was based on intensive field work by the team, the Council decided to go ahead with the initial proposal of Thromde.

Action - GIS-UPD

Agenda 9.03 -Follow up on U-turn and Proposal for to & fro way from Olakha underpass Bridge

The Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi submitted a proposal to have a two way traffic at the Olarongchu bridge. Currently the road (marked with yellow color in the picture below) leading to the automobile workshop and one moving from under the bridge and joining the other side of the expressway at the Pelkhil School junction is a one way traffic. Currently the traffic moving towards the old ECB office colony have to take a detour from above and if the aforementioned road is made 2 way, traffic can be diverted from lower (the road depicted in green in the picture below) as well as minimizing the congestion from above.



The second proposal he submitted was the follow up of the previous council's decision on the feasibility of U-turn at the helipad area along the expressway. The UPD submitted that the U-turn near Dr. Tobgyal is currently under review and once it is done, the feasibility of the U-turn proposal near the helipad area will be looked at.

Decision

1. For the 2 way road from Olakha bridge proposal, the council decided that a team of representatives from Infra Division, Urban Planning Division, area Tshogpa, RSTA and RBP shall make a site visit and study the feasibility.
2. The council even directed UPD that the feasibility of the U-turn near the helipad to be taken up once the U-turn below Dr. Tobgyal has been studied and revamped. OR it can be taken up during the site visit by the above team.

Action - UPD and area Tshogpa to coordinate and form a team

Agenda 9.04 -Issues with water billing Controlled and makeup by Thromde ICT

The Changbangdu-Olakha Thuemi submitted that there are issues with water meter reading. People in his constituency have been complaining that Thromde has the admin right to change the bill amount even after the amount has been put into the system and the bill has been printed. People have questioned the accountability and transparency in such cases.

Discussion

The ICT acknowledged that there have been many issues from Olakha areas and even the meter reader of the area has been changed. Earlier when people complained of huge amounts as a result of wrong meter reading, it had to be changed. However, now the meter reading has been handed over to O&MD and bill corrections will not be done by ICT now. If it is system error, the ICT will interfere only after receiving the internal memo from O&MD. The O&MD submitted that there are issues with the water charges. If there is one hotel in a building, the whole building is charged on commercial rate and people are complaining about this. The Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi stated that these issues are throughout Thromde and it must be rectified even if it is the system error or the error with the meters. This was also supported by Jungzhina Thuemi. He submitted that this issue has been deliberated even in past Tshogdes but there is no improvement. He added that the individual meter reading must be held accountable of such issues and lapses.

Decision

1. Henceforth, the meter reading and related issues will be dealt by O&MD and it will come to ICT only for system error. The O&MD shall be held accountable henceforth for all meter related issues.



2. The Council approved Nu 20% of the penalty as an incentives for meter readers if they report illegal water connections with full proof and if found true. This is mainly to reduce NRW.
3. Tshogde also directed O&MD and ICT to work towards reducing all meter related issues and bring to the Management and Council if there is anything to be done to improve it including the budget requirement.
4. Tshogde also directed the O&MD to study well how the water meters are being manufactured by the manufacturers. Whether the meter serial number provided is the same or different for all meters.
5. Tshogde also directed O&MD to find ways and means to categorize and levy charges for residential and commercial units separately in the cases where a building has just 1 or 2 commercial entities.

Action - ICT and O&MD

Agenda 9.05 -Problem of frequent sewer outbursts in Army Campus

The Olakha-Bangdu Thuemi submitted that the frequent sewer outbursts from Lungtenphu army camp area is creating nuisance for the residents of Lungtenphu areas. The sewer outburst starts from the camp and goes till Wangchu River. He also submitted that even the site visits have been carried out by the technical team and the ROW has been cleared out. This was also supplemented by Dy. Chief Thromde Health Officer.

Decision

Tshogde directed the Infra Division to include this package into the critical sewer budget of Nu 12.0M in the FY 2023-2024, if this is not enough, Nu 1.0 M from 5.0M saving from CiED has been approved for this.

Action - ID/Finance Division

Agenda 9.06 -Request for waiving-off sewer charges in E4 areas

The Babesa Thuemi submitted that there is no sewer services in E4 areas but are levied sewer charges. It includes the whole of the E4 areas within Thromde. Even the vacuum tankers services are being charged, he added. He submitted that this will have to relooked and considered.

Discussion

The Chair informed that the case must be seen in broader terms. When there is no sewer network in E4 areas, it does not mean that there are no sewer management services at all. The vacuum



tankers also dispose-off the sewer into the treatment plants and therefore it is being treated in the Thromde Waste Water Treatment Plants. The charges are 50% of water charges annually which is minimal must contribute to the operation cost of all sewer related infrastructures and also the impacts of all greywater being discharged from the building which are currently being disposed off openly or through drains. Moreover, it will be temporary and the services might reach E4 areas very soon. This was also supported by other members.

Decision

Although there is no sewer network, people still rely on Thromde sewer management services like treatment plants. The charge must also cover the counter measures for the negative impacts of other forms of the sewer related discharges from the building which are disposed-off openly like greywater. Hence, Tshogde could not do away with the sewer charges for the E4 areas.

Action - Tshogpas to inform public clearly

Agenda 9.07 -No Reinstatement Works after carrying out Maintenance work underground

The Norzin Thuemi submitted that the road in CFM Zangdopelri area has not been attended for a long period of time once the maintenance works have been carried out in the areas. The public was viewed it as a grave negligence by Thromde. The issue has been brought to the concerned Division/Section but was informed that they can only use the cold-mix for road pothole maintenance and the current roads maintenance demands hot-mix. For which the Section has very limited budget. It has become a public eyesore and the Thuemi requests Thromde to carry out the maintenance at the earliest as the road is being used daily and is causing inconveniences to the commuters.

Discussion

The O&MD submitted that due to budget constraints, the road maintenance in the area could not be carried out. The pothole maintenance gets only around Nu 5M a year and it is very difficult to cover all Thromde areas. If Tshogde appropriates the required budget, it can be carried out immediately. The Chair informed that the reinstatement works must be carried out by O&MD and even the budget will have to be used from O&M budget.



Decision

Tshogde directed O&MD that henceforth, all reinstatement works as a result of maintenance works must be carried out by O&MD. The budget for such bigger reinstatement works can be booked under the emergency restoration budget from the capital budget of Thromde.

Action - O&MD/FD

Agenda 9.08 -Update on Web-based public engagement Platform as per past Tshogde directives to ICT

Norzin Thuemi requested for the progress of development of the web based public engagement platform. It was decided in the earlier council that a web based public engagement platform will be developed so that people can share their views and ideas without having to call for a public meeting. He added that the platform or the digital app will at least help engage public in the development and management if their own wellbeing. This was decided because it was very difficult for physical presence of the public during zomdus.

Discussion

The ICT submitted that the platform has been developed and it could not be formalized since there are few hiccups to be rectified. He requested a week's time for the platform to be finalized.

Decision

Tshogde directed ICT to formalize and roll out the platform within 1 week's time and will improve based on user experiences.

Action - ICT

Agenda 9.09- Re-deliberation on the issues with regard to implementation of Plans and Programs

The Thuemi submitted that it was earlier decided that Tshogpas will be totally kept in the loop while carrying out any kind of development activities in their areas. If they are not informed and later when a related issue arises, they are not able to comprehend and show the possible solutions. He requests the Thromde Management to issue an office order requiring all concerned Officials to inform or involve area Tshogpas of all development activities. The first one is to the issue a copy of work order and site plan, involving them during site handing over and even during the scheduled site inspections. This will help reduce many implementation hurdles at sites. Even as per the LG Act, representatives are required to monitor all development activities and issues and report to the



administration for necessary actions. Therefore, it is very important to know and understand the activities being carried out in their areas submitted the Thuemi.

Discussion

The Chief Infra submitted that the Division is still practicing and a copy of work orders are being shared with areas Tshogpas. However, for some urgent works which are required to be carried out immediately, it is difficult to issue work orders and therefore, it is difficult to share the information.

Decision

Tshogde once again directed the ID and other Division/Sections concerned to share the work orders or letter of award for all contract works and information of any activity being carried out departmentally in demkhongs to respective Tshogpas. Also involve area Tshogpas during handing taking of the activities.

Action - ID and other concerned Officials

Agenda 9.10 -Road markings required in Jungzhina-Pamtsho and Taba-Dechecholing roads

The Jungzhina and Taba-Dechencholing Thuemis submitted that there is a need for proper road marking especially in their demkhongs. When there is no road markings, even the Traffic Police doesn't care to monitor for roadside parking. This is creating traffic congestion affecting the smooth flow of traffic. There are no proper pedestrian crossings and therefore, it is very risky for the commuters when pedestrians cross the road wherever they like.

Decision

Tshogde decided:

1. that the earlier team identified for the Olakha road and U-turn site visit in Agenda 9.03 shall also be responsible to study the need for zebra crossings.
2. The road markings in other areas must be carried out by Infra Division wherever required.
3. Parking along roads shall not be allowed even if there is no road marking. If there is no marking as designated parking along road, it must be considered as no parking zone and same must be communicated to RBP- Traffic

Action - The Team and ID



Agenda 9.11 -Drinking water issues in Taba

Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi submitted that there is a drinking water issue in Taba areas. Earlier the Taba community water was enough for Taba residents and there were no issues of water shortages. However, when the community water is being used to cater to other areas, the people of water shortages have come up. Therefore, he requested the Management that the community water source for Taba should not be diverted to other areas.

Decision

It was decided that if the community water is enough and is in access for Taba residents, only then it will be used as backup for other areas. Similarly, if the community water is not enough for the Taba residents, Dodeyna water supply system shall be used as back up.

Action - Taba-Dechencholing Thuemi

Agenda 9.12 -Coordination of various events during Thimphu Tshechu

The Chair submitted that Thromde has received a huge number of proposals for setting up various events during Thimphu Tshechu. However, none has been accorded the approval as there is a need to have a proper plan and Thromde organize such events so that it is easy to coordinate among stakeholders and beneficial to all parties and society at large. Therefore, it has been put to Tshogde for deliberations on how to go about organizing such events.

Discussion

The Chair submitted that if it is to be allowed along Norzin Lam, it must be well coordinated. Only one side towards the shops will be used for pitching tents and only restaurants/cafes and cloth shops shall be allowed. It can be allowed from 2nd junction from BOD till Taj Hotel junction. Some members submitted that the setting up of stalls along Norzin Lam shall be left open to all and not just to the shops along Norzin Lam. While others stated that not just Thimphu, it must be kept open for all across Bhutan which are interested.

Decision

Tshogde decided:

1. One side of the Norzin Lam shall be used for stall establishments from 2nd junction from BOD side till Taj junction including the clock tower area..
2. Registration shall be open to all within a given time bound and it will be allotted based on lucky dip.
3. Only food and clothing stalls shall be allowed along Norzin Lam



4. Tshogde directed the CiED and UPD to come up with proper design of the space, tent size and rate and propose to Management and Council.
5. For the events in Changlingmethang parking, a stakeholder consultation meeting will be carried out. For this, Tshogde appointed the DCTHO as the overall event Manager and Mr. Teknath Kararia and Asset Manager to assist to coordinate stakeholder consultation meetings immediately.
6. The revenue generated shall be used immediately after the event for any critical infrastructure upon prioritization by Thromde Management and Tshogde members.

Action - CiED, UPD and DCTHO, Asset Manager and Mr. Teknath Kararia

Agenda 9.13- Construction of meat shop at CFM area

The meat shops in CFM areas have been requesting for a proper meat shop as the rents in the current meat shops in the private residential units are very high. If Thromde provides them the space, the meat shop owners are ready to take up the construction themselves and their request is to give them certain years to run the meat shops for free. The top floor of the current public toilet area can be turned into meat shops and the lower part can still be used as a public toilet.

Discussion

The Executive Secretary submitted that the plan will have to be checked with Kaja Thromde management whether they have any other plan as major reforms have come up in the CFM area.

Decision

Tshogde directed CoED to come up with a design for meatshop at the current public toilet area in the CFM area. The decision to construct a meat shop has been considered to regulate the prices, to maintain cleanliness in the current locations and also to improve aesthetics in the CFM area. However, the plan will be coordinated with the current major renovation happening at CFM.

Action - CoED and Thrompon

Agenda 9.14 - Request by Dr. Toilet to reduce the lease rent for the CFM Public Toilet

The Asset Manager submitted that the Dr. Toilet organization who manages and operate around 15 public toilets within Thimphu Thromde has requested for some reconsideration of the lease rent especially for the one in CFM area. They have also submitted that in Phuntsholing, it has been based on social lease rate and therefore, it is less compared to Thimphu where the rent has been



decided as a lump sum amount. The organization submitted that it is very difficult to even meet the operation cost at the current rate.

Decision

Since there is no room for negotiations from other areas, Tshogde decided to decrease 50% of the lease rent from CFM public toilets. Even if they are not able to operate with 50% down, the agreement can be terminated.

Action - Asset Manager

Agenda 9.15 -Approval for pre-financed budget from TT to be incorporated in the co-financing budget for EbA project

The EBA focal person, Dy. Chief Forestry Officer submitted that for the EbA project, Thromde is required to co-finance about Nu 1.5M USD (Nu 110.04M) as per the initial project agreement. Thromde has not co-financed any activity till date, however, as Thimphu Thromde pre-financed three activities for the EbA project due to delay in release of budget by the UNEP HQ, the focal Official of the project suggested the prefinanced amount to be converted into co-financing budget for the project. Thromde in total has prefinanced Nu 4,226,396 and still requires to co-finance Nu 105.814M as per the initial agreement deducting the prefinanced amount.

Discussion

The Executive Secretary stated that such information will have to be brought to the Management earlier even before the execution of the project. There was no discussion on co-financing earlier he added. The EbA focal official submitted that the talk about co-financing surfaced only during the 3rd regional office meeting. Even the Chair stated that he was not aware of co-financing despite attending several meetings.

Decision

Tshogde decided:

1. The pre-financing amount of Nu 4,226,396 will be considered as part of co-financing.
2. That the remaining amount and the affected projects will be put to the next PSC meeting for way forward.

Action - EbA Focal Official



Agenda 9.16 -Contract extension of Thromde Contract Employees

The HRO through HRC has submitted for the contract extension of Ms. Srijana Mongar who works as Architect with Urban Planning Division and Mr. Ugyen who works as technician with O&M Division.

Decision

Tshogde without further deliberations approved the contract extensions for both the Officials with immediate effect for another 2 years.

Action - HRO

Agenda 9.17 -Request to upgrade/promotion for Thromde Muster Roll Employees

The O&M Division submitted that Mr. Kami who has been recruited as muster roll with a lower category with Nu 234 daily has been working as Driver most of the time and not the regular master roll workers. Therefore, the Division requested Tshogde to recruit him under the special muster roll category. Similarly, the Executive Secretary submitted that Ms Tandin Zam, who is working as inspector with CiED to be upgraded to either highest category under muster roll as consider her under special category. Since both of them are found to be working with dedication, it is submitted to Tshogde for recognition. The special category muster roll workers are paid Nu 500 per day and the highest muster roll category receives Nu 324 per day.

Discussion

With regard to Mr. Kami, since he is skilled, can be upgraded to the highest muster roll category. With regard to Ms. Tandin, it was found out that she is already at the highest category of the muster roll. The members said that there are standing audit memos for having paid Nu 500 per day for the muster roll of Thromde and if Thromde Tshogde still endorses the special category, it will be pointed out that Thromde has no regard for the audit observations. Therefore, going forward, a detailed study will have to be carried out before approving.

Decision

1. Tshogde approved to upgrade Mr. Kami to the skilled category with Nu 324 per day.
2. The Tshogde could not approve Ms Tandin Zam for special category (i.e. Nu 500 per day) at this sitting and directed that a thorough study will have to be carried out by the Division and propose in future sittings.

Action - HRO/FD and CiED



Agenda 9.18 - E4 Plot case

One of the plot owners from Semtokha area whose plot falls within the buffer has been requesting Thromde for relocation of his plot if he is not allowed to construct. The other reason cited was the Thromde water pipe which falls on his plot. The Thromde water pipe affects around 1000 sqft. It was also found out that few other neighboring plots have been developed.

Decision

Tshogde decided:

1. The first option, either the Thromde water pipe realignment or land compensation for 4 plot owners, whichever less is approved by Tshogde.
2. That the land Transaction is allowed
3. That any development on the plot will be guided by precinct

Action – UPD/LRSD

Agenda 9.19 – Way forward for Property Tax defaulters

The Finance Division and ICT section submitted that there are a huge number of tax defaulters who have not paid the taxes despite reminders being sent. Even the Audit has pointed out this as one of the observations. This was put to Tshogde for further directives.

Decision

Tshogde:

1. decided to send one Final notice to the defaulters.
2. directed the ICT and Finance Division to provide plot wise details of all the defaulters to all Tshogpas. Tshogpas in turn will work towards locating and informing the plot owners.
3. decided that if the taxes are not paid within 1 month from the date of final notification, Thromde shall be withheld the lagthram as per the Land Act for those who have not paid for 3 years or more and those who have not paid for 2 years or less, Thromde services will be cut off.
4. Last final notice shall be written to all institutions to pay the tax as well.

Action - ICT and Finance Division

Agenda 9.20 - TPN required for all Muster-roll Employees

There is a requirement of TPN and email ID for all muster rolls as per the new financial system adopted. Since most of the muster roll employees are illiterate and are not required to pay taxes, it will be difficult to provide them with the TPN number.



Decision

Tshogde decided to write to Ministry of Finance to reconsider decision of requiring the TPN for muster roll since they do not fall under taxable slab and if it cannot be done, at least consider their CID number in place of TPN.

Action - Finance Division

Conclusion

The Chair thanked all the members of the council and all Thromde Officials for their presence and for fruitful deliberations and coming up with possible solutions. The 9th Tshogde adjourned at 5:00PM.

Rapporteur - Karma Dorji, Sr. Planning Officer

