



# Newsletter

Ministry of Works and Human Settlement

2020-21 FY / Volume 2/Issue 4

## INAUGURATION OF KALAPANG INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY



His Royal Highness Gyaltshab Jigme Dorji Wangchuck accompanied by Ashi Yeatso Lhamo inaugurated the Kalapang Integrated Water Supply Project in Saling Gewog in Monggar on 11 May 2021. (Photo: BBS)

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His Royal Highness the Gyaltshab accompanied by Ashi Yeatso Lhamo graced the handing-over of the Kalapang Integrated Water Supply Project to the Saling Gewog Administration on May 11 2021.

His Royal Highness the Gyaltshab handed over the by-law on sustainable water management to the gewog administration.

The Kalapang Integrated Water Supply Project was initiated on December 17 2020 at the cost of Nu. 5.12 million under the RGoB-DeSuung Partnership Program. A total of 65 DeSuups were engaged in the execution of the project. The DeSuups were awarded certificates and medals by His Royal Highness.

## MID-TERM REVIEW OF 12 FIVE YEAR PLAN AND 2021-2022 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT



Dasho Secretary presenting the 12 Five Year Plan Mid-Term Report to the Government

The Ministry's Mid-Term Review of the 12 Five Year Plan (FYP) was held on 18 April 2021 in Zhichenkhar. The Annual Performance Agreement (APA) for the 2021-2022 Financial year was also presented to Hon'ble Prime Minister.

In the MTR presentation Hon'ble Dasho Secretary highlighted five major activities that Ministry worked on in the past years. The highlights were professionalization of construction sector, Drafting of construction

Industry Road Map, enhancement of sustainable human Settlements, ensuring of 24x7 Drinking Water supply and irrigation water, and construction of planned and critical ad hoc roads and bridges.

In the professionalization of the construction industry, the government has approved the National Construction Industry Policy 2020. The National Construction Industry Bill which is being drafted was reported to be

completed by June 2021.

Construction Manager Software (CMS), which is aimed to professionalize the construction management and do away with old "Measurement Book" system was launched and institutionalized. Technical professionals from both public and private sectors are trained to adopt the software. The training of the private sector personnel is spearheaded by Construction Association of Bhutan (CAB) in collaboration with the Ministry of Works

## LAYING OF GRANULAR SUB-BASE ON FARM ROADS

**On 1st June, in the 5th Session of the Third Parliament, Hon'ble Zhabtog Lyonpo responded to the question regarding the government's policy of laying GSB to all farm roads. The following is an excerpt of Hon'ble Lyonpo's response.**

There are about 12000 km of farm roads in the country. Farm roads are critical infrastructure that directly benefits people and contributes to socio-economic development.

Past governments have prioritized and sufficiently constructed farm roads throughout the country. There is need to construct more but, currently it is critical to improve the existing farm roads which are mostly in poor condition. To improve the quality of these roads, the cur-

providing GSB to farm roads to improve riding-quality.

Providing a GSB does not require import of any materials. All the materials are locally available and can be carried out by local people. The progress of the works will not be hampered and it is also going to boost the economy.

The GSB will be provided in phase wise. In phase one, about 1564 km of farm roads have been identified for GSB under 201 Gewogs. The estimated cost of providing 1 km of GSB is estimated to cost Nu. 1.6 million. The estimated cost figure was derived from the past contract works. Phase 1 is estimated to cost about Nu. 2.6 billion, and the 4000 km of farm roads to be identified under phase 2 is estimated to cost about Nu. 6 billion.

administration wants to do more, they can top up their budget and even carry out black-topping. The Dzongkhag and Gewog administration was asked to use the allocated funds for only providing GSB to the identified farm roads and not to divert it to other activities.

The laying of GSB for about 30 farm roads is reported to have been completed. The GSB works have been temporarily stopped to see its performance against the rainy season. Based on the findings, specification may have to be changed accordingly to improve the quality.

The 'one farm road for one gewog' has not been fair to smaller gewogs particularly if the gewogs have a number of farm roads under 1 km. The government is considering providing GSB to some 4 - 5 different roads to make it equitable. ■



1 A Farm road in one of the village. (Photo: BBS)



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which provides technical resource people.

Interim Engineering Council has been established to lead the formation of the full-fledged “Council” to oversee the development of the engineering professionals. All preliminary works have been completed for the establishment of the “Engineering Council” to register and certify engineering professionals.

To bring together all technical professionals in the country, working under different agencies, to come under one roof and deliberate on issues affecting the construction sector, the 10th Engineers, Architects and Planners’ Conference was held in December 2019 in Panbang, Zhemgang, from which many critical recommendations have been implemented.

Framework for Quality Assurance and Quality Control was developed and circulated for implementation with the Local Governments.

With the escalation of construction material and labour costs triggered by the pandemic, Covid-BSR was published in December 2020 to facilitate the correct cost estimation of construction works.

In the human settlement sector, various institutional and legal framework for enhancing the sustainability of the human

settlements were approved by the government; National Human Settlement Policy 2019, National Housing Policy 2020, National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2020, and Comprehensive National Development Plan for Bhutan 2030 were important policies. Nine settlement plans were developed by the Ministry for six dzongkhags. To construct safe and resilient infrastructures, Seismic resilience of buildings for 4 Dzongkhags were studied and various flood protection and management activities were carried out.

Under the Water Flagship Program, to ensure 24x7 Water Supply, 11 dzongkhags and 4 Thromdes are targeted with 420 water supply schemes under the phase 1. Since the start of the water flagship program, 44 rural schemes was reported to be completed benefiting 975 households and 120 rural schemes ongoing, and 15 urban water supply projects ongoing. To mitigate the shortage of labour in implementing the water supply schemes, caused by the pandemic, a collaboration between RGoB and DeSuung office was forged under the banner, RGoB-DeSuung Partnership Program. So far, 1500 DeSuups have been trained and 10 schemes have been started under the partnership with the help of some 584 DeSuups. It was reported that to sustainably manage the water resources, a blueprint for establishing a Bhutan Water Agency is being worked out by the Ministry as per the government’s directive. A new Water

Act is also pursued to be drafted.

The ministry sought the endorsement for changing Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for water, waste and shortening of national highways through the construction of the bypass roads. The Ministry reported that with the initiation of the Water Flagship Program, the Ministry felt it necessary to adopt the targets and KPIs of the Water Flagship Blueprint. Similarly for the waste, with the adoption of the **Waste Management Flagship Programme** by National Environment Commission Secretariat (NECS), the NECS will be the lead agency for waste related activities. As the waste related KPIS will be reported by NECS, the Ministry will no longer be taking lead of the waste management. With respect to the KPI relating to roads, the Ministry reported that the bypass roads initially identified for shortening the highways were later prioritized to make fiscal space for other critical activities. The indicator as such could be removed from the Ministry’s 12 FYP. After the Mid-Term Review presentation, Dasho Secretary presented the APA 2021-2022. Followed by Dasho Secretary, the head of the departments presented their respective APA.

The ministry should calculate return of investment for road projects.

Hon’ble Prime Minister favorably considered the Ministry’s proposal to complete invitation

of all tendering works by September. He said that the KPI should be adopted by all budgetary agencies and suggested to shorten the target by weeks or month.

It was high time that we should be able to pinpoint households that do not have proper water supply and sanitation facilities. Many data and statistics are inaccurate and unreliable. It is critical to have accurate and reliable data for informed planning and decision-making.

The geotechnical studies and surveys for the development of human settlement plans can be outsourced to universities and colleges. The arrangement

will benefit in terms of building the capacities of the colleges and the students.

The Ministry should explore how to reduce the unit cost of the constructions and should also have rule of thumb for calculating the depreciation of roads.

The water infrastructures were constructed in 1990s and it was high time to replace the old infrastructures.

The Ministry should strengthen the monitoring of the work sites and the ministry should be held accountable for the lapses in quality.

Given that Bhutan's population

is small the high road fatalities is a huge cause of concern.

We must have an optimal length of road for the country. The expansion of roads add to huge fiscal burden in terms of maintenance cost. The Ministry must explore build and maintain modalities.

The Ministry must consider to delay the implementation of noncritical activities that do not directly improve the productivity of the economy and temporarily also reshuffle the human resources to other more needy sectors. ■

	Programme	12 FYP Outlay	Revised outlay after reprioritization
1	Enhance Sustainability of Human Settlement	693.010	417.600
2	Pursue Green Growth in Construction Industry	312.000	228.500
3	Improve and Maintain Climate Resilience of Road Network	10,731.140	12609.228
	Total	11,736.240	13255.328
		Difference	1519.088

**The above outlay does not include Nu. 95 million proposed under Safe and sustainable human settlement.**

## SIGNING OF RECORD OF DISCUSSION FOR PROJECT FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE SOUTHERN CENTRAL REGIONAL PLAN



The Record of Discussion for the Project for the Formulation of the Southern Central Regional Plan was signed on 27 April 2021 in the Ministry of Works and Human Settlement by DASHO Secretary and Chief Resident Representative of the Bhutan JICA office and witnessed by Director of GNHC, Director of DHS, representatives of the JICA head office in Tokyo (virtual) and officials of MOWHS.

JICA supported the formulation of the Comprehensive National Development Plan 2030 (CNDP 2030) in 2017 - 2019 to reduce regional disparity and promote balanced development in Bhutan. The CNDP 2030 proposes a series of strategies such as the concept of Regional Centers (RCS) through Linked Urban Centers (LUC) in various parts of the country to promote balanced development between the urban and rural areas.

The Sarpang/Gelephu LUC is

one of the five LUC's identified in the CNDP 2030 for development. A preliminary study conducted by the Department of Human Settlement along the Sarpang-Gelephu corridor also supplemented the need for such a region-wide plan due to its huge future growth potential.

To facilitate orderly and systematic development and growth of the region, JICA through its Technical Cooperation will assist the Department of Human Settlement to carry out the

preparation of the Southern Central Regional Plan.

The project will be first of its kind to showcase as an example of the Regional Spatial Plan and will also focus on the collaboration between the Ministry, Local Governments, JICA and other agencies.

The duration of the project is for 29 months (July 2021 to November 2023).



## SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

Two days sensitization workshop was organized by Water and Sanitation Division of the Department of Engineering Services in Paro for the technical people working in the Dzongkhags and other relevant agencies. The officials were mainly Dzongkhag Engineers and technical people engaged in municipality works. The sensitization workshop was mainly to create awareness on the National Public Toilet Guideline prepared by the Ministry with the funding support from the UNICEF. The participants raised concerns

that while the dzongkhags put in every effort to provide people with functional and clean public toilet services, they faced challenges in terms of recruiting and paying toilet care takers in small towns where revenue generated is insufficient. They suggested that together with the guideline it was important to have some well laid out plan in terms of maintenance and operation of the toilets including how to personnel to care of the toilets.

Thimphu Thromde being the largest Thromde that produce

largest quantities of wastes and with most private waste collection service providers, an official from the Environment Division of the Thromde presented how waste management service is coordinated by the management.

The Ministry also sensitized the participants on National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2020, National Construction Industry Policy 2020, National Housing Policy 2020, SoP for WASH in Emergencies, and SoP for Sustainable Waste Management of the Ministry. ■



The sensitization workshop in progress





## DOUBLE LANNING OF 12.00 KM NORTHERN EAST-WEST HIGHWAY (NEWH) FROM VIEWPOINT TO TRONGSA COMPLETED

The Double Lanning of 12 km Northern East-West Highway (NEWH) from Viewpoint to Trongsa was completed and handed over to the Department of Roads, Regional Office Trongsa on the auspicious 25<sup>th</sup> day of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lunar Bhutanese month by M/s Hi-Tech Company Pvt. Ltd., Punakha. Two contract packages viz Viewpoint to Bjeezam and Bjeezam to Trongsa amounting to about Nu. 85 million and Nu. 50 million respectively

were awarded in December 2019 and January 2020 respectively. The steady progress was hampered by nationwide lock-downs. With the completion of this stretch of NEWH, 233 km of highway from Semtokha (Thimphu) to Nangar (Bumthang) have double lane, 7.5m carriage width. The time taken to travel from Thimphu to Trongsa (180 km) has drastically reduced to a minimum of 4½ Hours.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL REGULATIONS

The Ministry has observed that the Development Control Regulations of Spatial Plans are not strictly enforced and some of the DCRs are amended without following the established procedures. Therefore the Ministry would like to issue this notification to all the 20 Dzongkhags and four Thromdes for strict compliance.”



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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT  
THIMPHU : BHUTAN

"Construction Industry: Solution through innovation and improved technology"



MoWHS/DHS/CDRD/Adm/2020-2021/ 2506

April 9, 2021.

### NOTIFICATION

**Subject: Implementation of Development Control Regulations.**

It has been observed that the Development Control Regulations (DCRs) of the Spatial Plans are not strictly enforced and some of the DCRs are amended without following the established procedures during implementation.

Cognizant of the implications of such practices in the fulfillment of the vision and objectives of the spatial plans, the Ministry would like to inform that the DCR is an integral part of the spatial plans and DCRs shall be enforced strictly as approved and any changes in the DCRs will have to be proposed to the Ministry for approval.

This notification is issued for strict compliance and will come into effect from the date of its issue.

(Chencho Dorji)  
**SECRETARY**

**Copy to:**

1. Honorable Zhabtog Lyonpo, for kind information.
2. Dasho Dzongdas, 20 Dzongkhags for kind information and necessary actions.
3. Dasho Thrompons, 4 Thromdes for kind information and necessary actions.

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