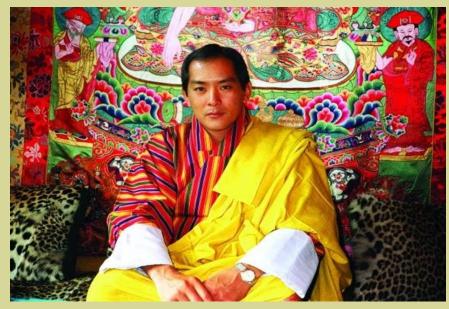


Volume 1, issue III





The Dragon King of Bhutan the fourth Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuck was born at Dechencholing palace, Thimphu on 11th November 1955, to the 3rd Druk Gyalpo Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck. It is a National holiday to observe His Majesty's 62nd Birth Anniversary.

The Gasa Dzongkhag family wishes His Majesty The Fourth King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, a long healthy life and once again pledges Utmost loyalty to the Wangchuck Dynasty.

"In all his actions, His Majesty was a farsighted visionary, a benefactor of His people, whose strategies for the country demonstrated impeccable clarity of thought, and whose realization of National objectives bespoke of unassailable determination and excellent statesmanship"

This is why we revere His Majesty as the "Father of the Nation "- His Majesty The King, 11th November 2015

"Bhutan will develop. Yes but the Bhutanese people will keep faith with their traditional human values. They will move to the future as united people, not as people divided and disarrayed by ethnic and other hatreds. We are not in a hurry. Time is a friend and an ally. While other nations are concerned with raising their Gross National Product, our concern in Bhutan is raising the Gross National Happiness"

-His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo Jigme Singye Wangchuk, 1988

Tashi Delek!!!

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- मैंग.यह्र्य.ण.व.मयु.रेबोयः ह्र्ये हर्भं³ तो
- मानेर विस्तर मार्नेय क्री तुन इत यन देश
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His Majesty grants land kidu to 1,157 in Gasa Source: Kuensel Corporation



As part of His Majesty's land reform exercise, His Majesty The King granted land kidu to 1,157 thram holders from four gewogs in Gasa on October 23. The beneficiaries received a total of 433.58 acres of land as Kidu, as well as excess cost exemption and refund of Nu 3.368 million.

With Gasa, land kidu to resolve accumulated land issues across the country has been granted in 16 dzongkhags.

The land reform exercise began in 2007 with the Royal Command from His Majesty to carry out a National Cadastral Resurvey Programme (NCRP). His Majesty Commanded that, "Land issues must be resolved once and for all – if we do not take it upon ourselves today to carry out a massive and all encompassing exercise, then like in the past, we will only make small improvements on the existing system but leave the biggest problems unresolved burdening the future generations."

The National Land Commission began this comprehensive survey from June 2008 and completed it by December 2013.

The NCRP brought to light various discrepancies in land use, records and ownership across the country.

The discrepancies are being resolved conclusively with His Majesty's granting of land Kidu to those people who have been using state land for generations without ownership.

A total of 132,026.738 acres of land have been granted in 156 gewogs to 113,637 beneficiaries in Lhuentse, Bumthang, Mongar, Wangduephodrang, Haa, Dagana, Punakha, Trongsa, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse, Zhemgang, Pemagatshel, Samdrupjongkhar, Thimphu, Chukha, and Gasa since 2010. Beneficiaries have also been granted exemption of excess cost amounting to over Nu 2,201.43 million, in the 16 dzongkhags.

At the ceremony, the dzongkhag and gewog officials, and the people of Gasa offered Mendrel Ku Sung Thuk Ten to His Majesty The King.

His Majesty The King was escorted to the Langothang Plateau, an open-air natural stadium 4,000m metres above sea level, in a picturesque chipdrel, and was welcomed by the highland communities from five dzongkhags, visitors from other parts of the country, and tourists and trekkers. Langothang was the venue for the 2nd Royal Highland Festival, where over 1,500 men, women, and children gathered to celebrate the rich nomadic culture and lifestyle across the kingdom' northern belt.

The atmosphere of festivity which is natural to the highlanders, all dressed in a blaze of their unique colours, was highlighted by special features introduced to encourage sportsmanship and stamina, traditional lifestyle and culture, livestock, music and the arts, handicrafts, and the spirit of community living.

Contd.. His Majesty grants land kidu to 1,157 in Gasa - Staff reporter

This year, on the request of village elders excited by last year's run, a senior Layap relay was organised with men and women above 60 years from five chiwogs running an entertaining relay race.

A freezing afternoon of sleet and winds did not dampen a highland favourite – the horse race. Sangay Tenzin from Laya outran four other horsemen in the final race. Other sporting events were an inter-chiwog women's tug-o-war.

The cultural program included a yak dance and songs and dances that are unique to the highland community.

Dignitaries attending the festival included the ambassador of India to Bhutan, Jaideep Sarkar, UNDP Deputy resident representative, Niamh Collier Smith, expatriates living in Bhutan, and tourists on various treks passing through Laya.

Contributed by: Staff Reporter, Kuensel Corporation

INSTALLATION OF ULTRASOUND MACHINE IN GASA BHU-I -Sonam Choden, Radio-sonographer ,Gasa BHU

17th august 2017, Gasa BHU-I received its first ever type II ultrasound machine costing nu 11,03600/- funded by the royal government of Bhutan, MOH

Ultrasound is soundwaves with frequencies higher than the upper audible limit of human hearing. Ultrasound is no different from normal sound in its physical properties, except in that humans cannot hear it. Ultrasound is used in many different fields. Ultrasound used in medicine is also known as diagnostic Sonography or Ultrasonography. it is used to see internal body structures such as tendons, muscles, joints, blood vessels and internal organs. The diagnostic process aims to find a source of a disease or to exclude any pathology.

BENEFITS OF ULTRASOUND-

Ultra-sonography offers many advantages-

- The processes are generally painless and do not require needles, injections, or incisions
- Patients aren't exposed to ionizing radiation, making the procedure safer than diagnostic techniques such as x-rays and CT- scans. in fact, there are
- No known harmful effects when used as directed by your health care provider
- It captures images of soft tissues that doesn't show up well on X-Rays.
- It is widely accessible and less expensive than other methods
- helps in scanning of pregnant mothers and unborn babies





Education: Benchmarking towards change for 2017 and beyond.

Sherub Gyeltshen, Dy. Chief DEO

The 18th National Education Conference aimed to bring a big leap of reform in the entire Education system has resounded well with numerous ongoing programs in the schools across the Nation already indicating beneficial from implementation of Value Orientation Week (VOW) to text-book less history lessons to infusion of EVS in English and Dzongkha to Summer Professional Development Program to National Drama Festival and now to Performance of International Students Assessment (PISA-D) program.



PISA-D, with the signing of MoU on 12th January, 2017 at Phuentsholing in presence of HPM Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Education Minister, Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk is intended to check the health of our Education system through international assessment of



the knowledge and skills of 15 year old students from 2017. While benchmarking and comparative studies may be viewed as purposes of the PISA-D program by majority of stakeholders, it must be firmly seen as the strategies for developing education opportunities and building policies for improving learning outcomes through major interventions in creativity and critical thinking skills.

Bjishong CS is gearing towards facing a huge challenge of PISA-D assessment in November, 2017 engaging fifty six (56) children who are constantly given guid-

ance and support by the school PISA-D team headed by Mrs. Kencho Lhamo, teacher on varying scientific, literary and matical skills.

Fortunately, Bjishong CS is aspiring to appear on global significance in support of adopting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal 4-Education. We can now proudly participate in international benchmarking systems to reveal our standard and the state of education in the Nation against the international standards although it may stir emotions with our cynical outcomes being lately declared as new entrant in the international testing system. The outcome will assist us to jack up more relevant interventions that will truly expose our foundational strategies/programs and competencies accomplished through school learning.

Education: Benchmarking towards change for 2017 and beyond.

Sherub Gyeltshen, Dy. Chief DEO



Let's wait and see our PISA-D assessment influence policy makers and relevant thinkers to align our educational policies to international standard with strong foundational set up through resource allocation, infrastructure development, equity/equality in education, proper education delivery systems, building institutional capacity systems and others.

PISA-D, therefore, must be looked through the lenses of creating opportunities to make best education system in the world as one of the new initiatives in reforming our Education system under the able leadership of Sherig Lyonpo, Norbu Wangchuk in fulfilling the Royal vision and aspiration of this great Nation.

Contributed by: Sherub Gyeltshen Dy. Chief DEO

Driving Dzongkhag Development Centre, DDDC in Progress

-Jamyang Pelmo, Manager

The Vision Good to Great Gasa, has now reached a new level after the establishment of Driving Dzongkhag Development Centre (DDDC). This DDDC is the first step towards the attainment of the vision. The DDDC is in a full swing with Gasa Soechu as its first product.

Gasa Soechu is spring water bottled in a glass bottle. It is purified and treated with the state of the art technology comprising of multistage filtration, ozonation and ultraviolet treatment to ensure pure and safe drinking water. Gasa Soechu contains valuable minerals by nature.

The spring water is believed to be Drupchu by Drupthob Therkhungpa in 12th century. Drupthob Therkhungpa was the founder of the site on which Gasa Thongmoen Dzong stands today. Later this water is said to be used as the drinking water of Zhabrung Rinpochhe and also used as water offering for Ap Gomo- the protecting deity of Gasa.

The DDDC, a community owned company was inaugurated on 28th of August and its product was first brought in the market from 1st of September. It is the first company which empowers the community to manage and utilize the natural resources. Gasa Soechu aims to meet the current water consumption requirement within the Dzongkhag. Gasa Soechu will substitute the water import in the long run.

Apart from the domestic market, it is made available in some of the stores in Thimphu. We are still in the process of expanding our market.

Enhancing self-sufficiency of Vegetables though Construction of Low Cost **Poly House in Lunana Gewog** -Agriculture Sector

Situated at 2800-4500 meters above sea level, Lunana is one of the remotest geog in extreme northwestern part of Gasa Dzongkhag. The geog comprises of five chiwogs which are sparsely distributed to each other. It has total of 183 households with a population of approximately 1000 people residing in the geog. Lunaps eventually experienced in shortage of fresh vegetables for consumption almost throughout the year due to harsh climatic condition to grow vegetables and lack of improved technology and knowledge in high altitude farming. Thus, in order to combat such situation, Dzongkhag Administration and Agriculture sector of Gasa has



Figure 1: Low cost poly house

conceived the concept in promotion of vegetable cultivation through constructing low cost poly house as paramount importance in same geog. The Dzongkhag Administration and Agriculture of Gasa has distributed 53 numbers of low cost poly house during the financial year 2016 - 2017 and has planned to distribute 80 numbers in this current financial year (2017-2018). Distribution of low cost poly house in the geog has paved the farmers of Lunana geog in gearing for vegetable diversification. By the end of 2017-2018 FY, 70% of households under Lunana geog envisage benefits from low cost poly house in enhancing

vegetable diversification for improving nutrition and self-sufficiency in geog. As a result their dependence on dried vegetable products would ultimately decline in coming years.

Prior to introduction of low cost poly house, they produced very little from their kitchen garden whereby mostly depending on dried vegetable products that coupled with underprivileged

diet. However, with the installation of low cost houses, it is expected to enhance self-sufficient in vegetable as well as to cater demand to visitors. The open pollinated vegetable seed have been also distributed in preceding years and has planned to continue supply in coming years.

The conceptualization of low cost poly house construction in highland region for vegetable cultivation was observed to be promising one, however upper villages of Lunana geog is situated at tree line region experiencing strapping wind whereby trench-poly house construction is



Figure 2: Semi-trench poly house

recommended to the community. These activities will not only reduce imports but also help in achieving food sufficiency in the gewog and Dzongkhag.

Contributed by- Agriultture Sector

Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA) on Measles Elimination

-Chuki Wangmo, Health Assistant, Gasa BHU-I

Measles is one of the highly contagious disease affecting mostly children under 5 years of age group. Unlike other diseases measles is very easy to catch and spread. It can be contagious through coughing and sneezing. 90% of unvaccinated children will become infected if they are exposed to someone with measles.

Globally, measles is the leading cause of childhood morbidity and mortality. Although Bhutan has high immunization coverage through routine immunization, substantial number of children remains unprotected due to various reasons, with the current scenario of Bhutan making an afford to eliminate Measles by the end of 2018, supplementary immunization activities has been taken jointly by the government and the developed partner besides surveillance mechanism through routine reporting including 'zero' reporting for measles, rubella and maternal and neonatal tetanus in places.

In reference to the above note Gasa BHU - I has initiated Supplementary Immunization Activities coinciding with National SIA campaign phase-I with effect from 1/08/2017 - 14th/08/2017 and phase-II with effect from 28/10/2017 - 8/11/2017.

fect from 28/10/2017 – 8 /11/2017.

During phase-I of the SIA Campaign we have vaccinated 493 total population including the health staffs, civil servants, monks, students, national and non-national laborers along with their family members working at Dzong Renovations Project and various construction sites including the migrant workers with in our catchment area. During phase-II MR Vaccination we have vaccinated 89 total population including the second batch of national and non-national laborers working at various construction sites and road side

along with advocacy. We provided the vaccination services to them by going at their work site.









IMPLEMENTATION OF GUDEUL AT GASA

-Ugyen Lhachey, GDCP Project engineer

Dr. (Kenneth) Kisoo Kim, who is the Dean of International Affairs in Ugyen Academy(UA), Punakha and also a Founder and Secretary General of KOBA(Korea-Bhutan Agency) acting as Bhutan agent. Dr. Kim was in Bhutan for the last 20 years and he has learned many things about Bhutan. Besides, Dr. Kim was curious to know about the seasonal migration of the Highlanders. He found most of the Highlanders shifting down to Punakha during the cold winter.

So, Dr. Kim thought to himself that if he could do something new which would help the Highlanders to stay back home. So, during the vacation, he went back to his home country and learned the Gudeul room heating system, which would absolutely benefit the Highlanders.

After his return to Bhutan, he had made a prototype of Gudeul room heating System using Ssa-marp (Red mud) and Dolep(Flat Stone). He has displayed the prototype to many in Bhutan. He has received many appreciations and acknowledgment from many officials and finally it was piloted in Gasa Dzongkhag, this year 2017.

Subsequently, for reasons of cost time and convenience the dzongkhag decided to pilot the system in one of the smallest rooms at official Dzongda's residence. So, if the system works well then the Dzongkhag plans to introduce a system in Lunana and Laya Gewogs

Very efficiently Dr. Kim managed to get support from his master (Dongha Kim) in Korea. Master Dongha Kim and his Wife Madam Gyeshook-yoo has agreed to visit Gasa dzongkhag to implement and formulate the Guduel system. Their visit to Bhutan was fully supported by Dr. Kim. Accept that during the course of hand-on training at Gasa they were accommodated at Dzongda's residence. Hence their visit to Gasa dzongkhag was truly non-commercial.

The piloting was also used as an opportunity for on the job training of the Dzongkhag Engineers under the guidance of Master. Dongha. The number 2 Guduel master in korea.

It took about two weeks with about 10 staffs to install the Guduel room heating system in one room

Compiled by:

Ugyen Lachey, GDCP Project engineer



GGG News Views EDITORIAL TEAM

Chief Editors- Dzongda, Dental Surgeon (English), Culture Officer (Dzongkha)

Chief Coordinator- Dzongrab

Chief Design and Layout- ICT officer & Dental Surgeon

VEN'BLE DORJI LOPEN'S SACRED VISIT TO LAYA

Source: Gasa Dzongkhag

While the hustle and bustle of the festivity of the 2nd Royal Highland Festival (23 to 24 Oct) is yet to settle down, Laya was blessed with the sacred visit of Ven'ble Dorji Lopen from 31st Oct to 1st November 2017.





Ven'ble Dorji Lopen performed Jinsek (fire ritual), granted Bardo Thoedroel Lung

(root initiation) and Tsepamoed Wang (long life blessing) to the Layaps. With such positive trends of drawing attention to such remote areas, it is only a matter of time that our precious Highlands and their custodians take the Centre stage.



IMPORTANT UPCOMMING DZONGKHAG EVENTS, 2017

- ♦ Gyelpoi Kadren Mesey Zhabtog program on Birth Anniversary of Druk Gyel Zhepa—11th November
- Her Majesty Gyalyum Ashi Sangay Choden WAngchuck, Royal Visit on 18 November 21stt/11/2017

HEALTH STATUS OF BJISHONG CENTRAL SCHOOL AT LARGE

- Dr. Tandin Om, GDM, Gasa BHU-I



Dated from 2nd October to 5th October ,2017 a team of medical health staffs comprising of A Medical officer, a Dental Surgeon, An ophthalmic technician and 2 staff nurses from Gasa BHU-I carried out the annual school health program for Bjishong central school, Damji, Khamoed Gewog . Total no of 499 students with 256 males and 243 females were screened and advocated on importance of good health and maintenance of good Oral hygiene. Out of which 203 students were treated accordingly.





GRATITUDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF 2ND HIGHLAND FESTIVAL

Thank you all the supporters and visitors for making the 2nd Royal Highland Festival – 23 to 24 October 2017 a grand success. The festival brought to Laya around 500 guests representing from all walks of life. The festival gave the guests their once in a lifetime opportunity to see and experience the otherwise an inaccessible Highland lifestyle and that too all in festivity and carnival atmosphere adorned with the Royal Presence of His Majesty The King.



The Laya Run with the theme – "Run for the Highlands" was almost an event by itself was also a big success.

As envisioned it was also an opportunity for the locals to make some income from homestays, food stalls, porter and pony, sale of local products, besides the great chance to interact with the guests, make new friends and exchange of ideas, culture, tradition and experiences.

Thank you all once again. Let's all look forward to even a more successful 3rd Royal Highland Festival.

Palden Drukpa Gyalo! Tashi Delek!

Dorji Dhradhul, Dzongda





त्यःम्टिमाश्रुव्यःम्चीःश्रुःके

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE— NOVEMBER 2017

JUNE

6TH- VOLUME I, issue III Gasa News view was published to celebrate the 27th birth anniversary of Her majesty the Gyaltsuen

13th– First supply of organic products were sent to those eleven hotels/restaurants who signed MOU with Gasa dzongkhag 110 days ago

23rd- The Royal Audit Authority had its conference at Jawathang, khatoed gewog led by the Auditory General and officials from RAA

JULY

14TH- Gasa Dzongkhag intiated the first pilot study of "GUDUEL- the room heating system"

17th- 1st cordycep auction for Gasa dzongkhag started at Khatoed Gewog

19th- 2nd cordycep auction for Gasa Dzongkhag continued at khamoed Gewog

21st- The clean green Gasa mass Cleaning was led by Dzongda and Sr.Dzongrab and other Dzongkhag staffs

24th- The steering committee meeting was held for Gasa Dzong Conservation Project led by the Director General, Department of Culture, MOHCA

AUGUST

- 1ST- A follow up meeting was held between Gasa organic team and and the hoteliers at Thimphu
- 12th– The Dzongkhag Tshogdu of the 2nd Local government of Gasa Dzongkhag was held at khatoed Gewog centre
- 15th- Gasa Dzongkhag joins the nation in celebrating the 71st Independence day for our Neighboring country and the people of India
- 15th- Gasa Rabday led by the Lam. Neten initiated a cleaning camp contributing to Clean green Gasa
- 28th- The first community owned company "GASA SOECHU" was inaugurated in presence of H.E Lyonpo Damchoe Dorji, MOFA

SEPTEMBER

- 1st- The first few products of GASA production center was brought in the market
- 6th- Annual Performance Agreement, 17/18 was signed for Khamoed Gewog
- 6th- The Bank of Bhutan Connect agent was started at Damji, Khamoed Gewog for easy Banking services to the people
- 7th- 2016/2017 FY- assessment of APA coordination meeting was held at the Dzongda's Chamber
- 13th- The Dzongkhag APA in presence of Dzongda and sector heads were signed
- 15th- Gasa Primary School marked the National Voters Day
- 20th- H.E Lyonpo Dorji Choden, MOWHS Visited Gasa Dzongkhag
- 21 st 2 nd female Civil servant appointed for Lunana Gewog
- 28th- The Dzongkhag Live stock department joins the world in celebrating the "WORLDS RABIES DAY'
- 30th– Students of Bjishong central school successfully staged a national competition drama themed- "THE GREED" at the capital city

Contd... HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE— NOVEMBER 2017

OCTOBER

- 3rd- H.E the Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay visited Gasa Dzongkhag 13th- The NATIONAL LAND USE ZONNING team visited Gasa Dzongkhag
- 13th- Gasa Dzongkhag joins the nation in celebrating the 6th Anniversary of the Royal Wed-
- ding of His Majesty the fifth Druk Gyalpo and Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen 21st- His Majesty the 5th Druk Gyalpo made a Royal visit to Gasa Dzongkhag to Grace the 2nd Royal Highland Festival held at LAYA
- 22nd- The Indian Ambassador to Bhutan graced the 2nd Royal Highland festival held at
- 23rd-24th- Dzongkhag celebrated the "2ND ROYAL HIGHLAND FESTIVAL AT LAYA"
- 27th- People of gasa Dzongkhag received Land kidu from His majesty the Fifth Druk
- 27th- The Kidu Medical Team Visited Gasa BHU-I to offer easy medical services to the people of Gasa Dzongkhag
- 29th- The NAZHOEN SCOUTS CAMP was held at Jawathang, Khatoed Gewog with the theme "EMPOWERING NAZHOENS"

NOVEMBER

- 1st- Gasa Dzongkhag joins the nation to celebrate the Coronation day of His Majesty the 5th Druk Gyalpo
- 2nd- Ven. DORJI Lopen made a scared visit to Laya