



Annual Report 2019



Highlights from the Royal Address on the 112th National Day

1. Foremost Concerns

- a) Economic Growth: Our neighbours, India and China are experiencing unprecedented economic growth, propelled by technological advances in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Automation, Big Data, Blockchain, Quantum Computers, and FinTech - Digital Currencies, Digital Wallets, Digital Banking.

The world is changing rapidly. We cannot afford to avoid what we don't yet understand, and hope for the best. Such an attitude will cost us our national objective of self-reliance. We have to create economic opportunities for next generation. It's time to recalibrate ourselves to succeed in the fast-paced world. The government, lawmakers, the private sector, the people, and experts in various fields must work collectively to chart out a clear economic roadmap for the 21st Century - this will help every individual and entity to understand their respective roles and work towards a common national objective.

- b) We are yet to take full advantage of our small size, to better organize and manage ourselves. Larger countries are faced with challenges in communication and information sharing, and in building consensus and harmony. These lead to mismanagement, lack of responsibility and accountability, oversight, and failure to achieve results.

As a small country, we should be more efficient and effective than others. We must be able to address challenges and seize opportunities promptly. It is time to acknowledge our shortcomings, and act swiftly to correct them. The government, lawmakers, civil service, and institutions must undertake the responsibility of restructuring and improving our laws, policies and procedures.

- c) Youth: It is in our hands to build a better future for our children. One of our most important national objectives, is to empower every single child in Bhutan for success. Bhutan's future will be mirrored by the strength and capabilities of our youth.

For our children to excel, they must adhere to the highest standards, and have capability, integrity, discipline, 21st century education, unity and solidarity.

2. Gyalsung to be Instituted

To address some of these concerns, Gyalsung (National Service) will commence from 2022. It will be a year-long training for those attaining the age of 18.

The one year training will include a 3-month military style training, and a 9-month program in areas like agriculture sciences, entrepreneurship, computers and coding, health sciences, etc.

Gyalsung will provide direction and encourage our youth to be strong, independent thinkers, capable of serving the country. It will bring the youth of Bhutan together in a shared experience and act as a rite of passage- irrespective of their economic or regional backgrounds.

With this initiative, we are placing an immense responsibility on the shoulders of our children, and assuming an even greater responsibility ourselves, to nurture them and ensure their success.

Moving forward, there will be nationwide consultations and an opportunity for the people to seek clarifications, and propose new ideas and recommendations.

3. **His Majesty The King announced that Their Majesties are expecting the second Royal Child.**

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Supreme Court of Bhutan

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ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Foreword

It is a great honor and deep privilege to present the Annual Report of the Judiciary for the year 2019. The objective of the Annual Report is to disseminate information about the judiciary and its roles and responsibilities. Sharing results of its yearlong service in case management and judicial administration would serve to provide firsthand knowledge of the judicial system, its strengths, weaknesses, vis-a-vis its workload, technical, professional and related capacities to scholars, practitioners, students, and the general public alike. We aspire to grow with time and hope this report serves as a reference point that attracts ideas and criticisms for further innovation, timely interventions and corrective measures in our system so as to cater to the ever growing demands of a technologically driven social era. Winding up time can wisely be used for future forecasts, likewise, the judiciary in keeping with our constitutional mandate to inspire public confidence in the rule of law and increase access to justice, recommit to abide by the twin principles of transparency and 'equality before the law' in both administration and case management.

Roles and Responsibilities

Addressing the august gathering at the Kuenrey of the Tashichhoe Dzong, during the Adoption of our Constitution in 2008, His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo Commanded that, "....this Constitution was placed before the people of the twenty Dzongkhags by the King. Each word has earned its sacred place with the blessing of every citizen in our nation. This is the People's Constitution." Article 21 of the Constitution mandates the Judiciary to safeguard, uphold, and administer Justice fairly and independently without fear, favor, or undue delay in accordance with the Rule of Law to inspire trust and confidence and to enhance access to Justice.

Consequently, the statutory mandate of the Judiciary as per the Judicial Service Act of 2007 is that "In keeping with His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo's vision for enlightened laws to protect the society, to strengthen and promote the independence and accountability of the Judiciary, to ensure Fair Trial, and to promote the Rule of Law."



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ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE

The Supreme Court is supposed to receive cases of substantive questions of Law and Constitutional dimensions. It must set the right precedence and the Drangpons, Officers and the Staff must live up to the mandate provided by the Constitution. To elucidate, we must be able take brave decisions, worthy of the Bhutanese saying “*Drakpai Ngo Chakni dha Zhenpei Kidu tan*”. **“When called upon, decide against powerful and wealthy and if needed come to the rescue of the destitute.”**

Our laws demand that Drangpons exhibit a very high standard of dignity, integrity and professionalism. We cannot deny the public perception of high pendency of cases and the volume and magnitude of appeals. Amongst other reasons, perhaps it is partially testimony to litigants’ waning trust in the courts. Although to be taken with a pinch of salt, it nonetheless, calls for greater vigilance and stronger teamwork within the judiciary.

For, our Courts are the modern ‘Dzongs of Justice’ (*Drangdhen Phodrang*) providing unique spaces for the resolution of disputes of all kinds, it stands foremost amongst our consideration while discharging our duties to ensure the principle of “Equality under Law,” and administer **Justice fairly** without **undue delay**.

Taking stock

A sense of willingness, patriotism and creativity should further improve ours to a responsive, caring and efficient judicial system. Taking initiative and reorganizing are part of its continuous improvement and evolution. We must cultivate an enduring fraternity between the Drangpons and our judicial personnel. The Administrative sector of the judiciary must support and motivate the judicial personnel to do better by providing better equipments and incentives. The work atmosphere must be conducive where everyone must promote confidence in each other and discard suspicion and distrust. For a healthy organization, it is imperative to promote collective wisdom through participatory Judiciary where everyone has a say and given due consideration. Initiative is welcome from anyone, no matter what position level he or she holds; we shall recognize and appreciate such progressive ideas of individuals in the improvement of the institution. The performer must be rewarded and the non-performer dealt appropriately, (emphasis added). Constructive criticism is healthy for the organization while destructive actions shall be abandoned.

Furthermore, the use of Technology is shaping the future of Bhutan and so must the future of the judiciary. With technology our system should be strengthened and judicial process made more effective and efficient. However, Technology is no substitute for human values and imagination. Artificial intelligence cannot replace the human intelligence of trained professional judges who render reasoned judgments.

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ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE

I would like to share the vision of His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, who Commanded that there are two most crucial services among others, namely (1) the Judicial services when people have to approach Courts to resolve their disputes and (2) the health services when people have to approach the hospitals for medical treatment. This Command rings my ear even today after almost two decades whenever I sign any judgment. Therefore, I humbly request all my brother and sister judges and the judicial personnel to bear this noble Command in mind to make a difference in the lives of our people through fair and expeditious judgments.

I would like to express my gratitude to all my brother and sister Judges and the staff who are serving in different parts of the Country with dedication. I greatly appreciate the hard work you put in every day and for your commitment towards building a strong Institution. Further, I urge each one of you to take extra responsibility and put in more effort to achieve the goal of a Just and Harmonious society.

Much has been done thus far, and as we continue to hearken to His Majesty's wisdom and farsighted vision, I am confident that our hopes and aspirations of making the judiciary a vibrant organization will be accomplished starting with the year 2020 by taking advantage of the collaborative intelligence era of the fourth Industrial revolution. The Judiciary pledges to strengthen the security and sovereignty of our beloved nation and shall safeguard its national interest. Justice shall neither be delayed nor denied.

Wishing every one Tashi Delek for 2020.

Kuenlay Tshering
Officiating Chief Justice
Royal Court of Justice
Supreme Court of Bhutan
Thimphu

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Introduction

Judiciary is entrusted with important mandate under Article 21(1) of the Constitution of Bhutan to safeguard, uphold, and administer justice fairly and independently without fear, favor, or undue delay in accordance with the Rule of Law to inspire trust and confidence and to enhance access to justice. By virtue of Article 21(2) of the Constitution, judicial authority is vested with the Supreme Court, High Court, twenty Dzongkhag Courts, and fifteen Dungkhag Courts. Article 1(11) of the Constitution mandates Supreme Court as the guardian and final authority on the interpretation of the Constitution. As per this mandate, Courts provide judicial services both adjudication and non-adjudication such as notary services.

As health is important for people in life, so is justice for people in the society. Justice ensures peace, stability and unity in the society. Judiciary is one of the important institutions which deals with life, liberty, property, and rights of the people on a daily basis to uphold the principle - 'Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done'. It is obvious that miscarriage of justice will not only bring disharmony in the society but will also impact generations as injustice lasts for long opposed to medication error that costs only one life.

Judiciary is always guided by its vision of inspiration of trust and confidence of people and access to justice. When Courts decide the cases, it divides the people and as a result, judicial decisions appear unpopular unlike political decisions. Nevertheless, justice being one of the most important factors that inspire trust and confidence of the people, the Judiciary - without being swayed by emotions of the weak, power of the wealthy, public outcry and media out lash - always strives to deliver justice in accordance with the Rule of Law.

In this essence, this annual report provides details of services, plans and programs of the Judiciary of Bhutan for the year 2019. Publication of this report is a mandate of the Judiciary as per our Judicial Service Act, 2007. It is important for judiciary to inform the public on the functioning of judiciary, its services, plans and programs, and challenges. Through providing right information to public, it exhibits the transparent functioning of the Judiciary, and at the same time it goes a long way in building the trust and confidence of the people in the Judiciary.

1. Case Report

1.1. Case Statistics of Dungkhag Courts

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	TOTAL	Decided	Pending	Pending >12 Months
1	Dorokha	Bench I	308	30	107	137	109	28	0
2	Gelephu	Bench I	1259	76	357	433	349	84	0
3	Jomotshangkha	Bench I	210	7	41	48	43	5	0
4	Lhamoy Zinkha	Bench I	293	3	45	48	40	8	0
5	Lingzhi	Bench I	34	4	20	24	24	0	0
6	Nganglam	Bench I	613	6	110	116	100	16	0
7	Panbang	Bench I	131	16	45	61	43	18	5
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	1902	53	263	316	290	26	0
		Bench II		75	296	371	304	67	3
9	Sakteng	Bench I	77	1	33	34	31	3	0
10	Samdrupcholing	Bench I	275	13	112	125	99	26	0
11	Sibsoo	Bench I	713	25	200	225	175	50	6
12	Sombeykha	Bench I	109	1	46	47	47	0	0
13	Thrimshing	Bench I	94	1	48	49	49	0	0
14	Wamrong	Bench I	225	6	106	112	96	16	0
15	Weringla	Bench I	63	4	29	33	28	5	0
	Total		6306	321	1858	2179	1827	352	14

1.2. Case Statistics of Dzongkhag Courts

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	TOTAL	Decided	Pending	Pending >12 Months
1	Bumthang	Bench I	669	58	342	400	324	76	2
2	Chukha	Bench I	395	20	147	167	111	56	0
3	Dagana	Bench I	714	28	351	379	327	52	0
4	Gasa	Bench I	104	1	29	30	27	3	0
5	Haa	Bench I	367		109	109	107	10	0
6	Lhuentse	Bench I	556	23	120	143	131	12	0
7	Mongar	Bench I	674	66	393	459	364	95	0
8	Paro	Bench I		173	264	437	261	176	35
		Bench II	3079	167	345	512	270	242	51
9	Pemagatshel	Bench I	361	18	115	133	118	15	0
10	Punakha	Bench I	1511	66	442	508	437	71	0
11	Samdrupjongkhar	Bench I	836	23	264	287	273	14	0
12	Samtse	Bench I	847	36	222	258	210	48	1
13	Sarpang	Bench I	477	43	183	226	187	39	0
		Criminal Bench I		90	206	296	214	82	4
		Family and Child Bench		69	462	531	493	38	0
14	Thimphu	Commercial Bench	6095	177	579	756	632	124	0
		Criminal Bench II		76	206	282	220	62	2
		Civil Bench		260	465	725	514	211	8
15	Trashigang	Bench I	518	28	192	220	204	16	0
16	Trashiyangtse	Bench I	409	17	169	186	160	26	0
17	Trongsa	Bench I	559	27	187	214	147	67	8
18	Tsirang	Bench I	580	20	167	187	168	19	0
19	Wangdiphodrang	Bench I		78	271	349	276	73	0
		Bench II	1895	83	306	389	354	35	0
20	Zhemgang	Bench I	290	25	88	113	77	36	6
	Total		20936	1672	6624	8296	6606	1698	117

1.3. Case statistics of High Court

Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Appeal to Larger Bench	Appeal To Supreme Court	Pending >12 Months
High Court	Bench I	1676	93	228	321	175	146	78	0	2
	Bench II		96	228	324	242	82	104	0	2
	Bench III		123	228	351	218	133	113	0	7
	Larger Bench		64	304	368	129	239		68	17
			376	988	1364	764	600	295	68	28

1.4. Case Statistics of Supreme Court

Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending >12 Months
Supreme Court	Langchen	571	4	19	23	7	9	0
	Tachog		6	17	23	3	13	
	Maja		5	16	21	4	7	0
	Khading		5	19	24	5	13	0
			20	71	91	19	42	0

1.5. Appeals

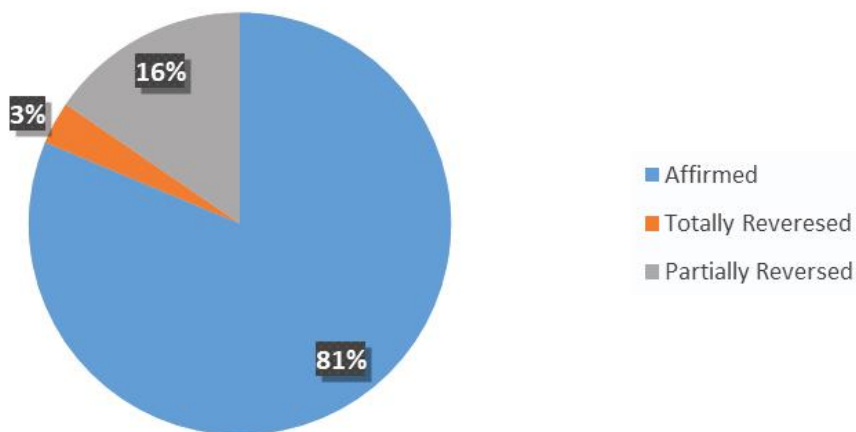
1.5.1. Appeal from Dungkhag Courts to Dzongkhag Courts

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal To Dzongkhag
1	Dorokha	Bench I	109	2
2	Gelephu	Bench I	349	33
3	Jomotshangkha	Bench I	43	1
4	Lhamoy Zinkha	Bench I	40	4
5	Lingzhi	Bench I	24	0
6	Nganglam	Bench I	100	3
7	Panbang	Bench I	43	5
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	290	24
		Bench II	304	29
9	Sakteng	Bench I	31	2
10	Samdrupcholing	Bench I	99	5
11	Sibsoo	Bench I	175	1
12	Sombeykha	Bench I	47	1
13	Thrimshing	Bench I	49	0
14	Wamrong	Bench I	96	3
15	Weringla	Bench I	28	2
	Total		1827	115

1.5.2. Appeal from Dzongkhag Courts to High Court

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal To High Court
1	Bumthang	Bench I	324	22
2	Chukha	Bench I	111	29
3	Dagana	Bench I	327	20
4	Gasa	Bench I	27	3
5	Haa	Bench I	107	16
6	Lhuentse	Bench I	131	4
7	Mongar	Bench I	364	10
8	Paro	Bench I	261	32
		Bench II	270	32
9	Pemagatshel	Bench I	118	7
10	Punakha	Bench I	437	36
11	Samdrupjongkhar	Bench I	273	17
12	Samtse	Bench I	210	13
13	Sarpang	Bench I	187	28
14	Thimphu	Criminal Bench I	214	14
		Family and Child Bench	493	39
		Commercial Bench	632	105
		Criminal Bench II	220	31
		Civil Bench	514	117
15	Trashigang	Bench I	204	7
16	Trashiyangtse	Bench I	160	7
17	Trongsa	Bench I	147	4
18	Tsirang	Bench I	168	7
19	Wangdiphodrang	Bench I	276	22
		Bench II	354	17
20	Zhemgang	Bench I	77	7
			6606	646

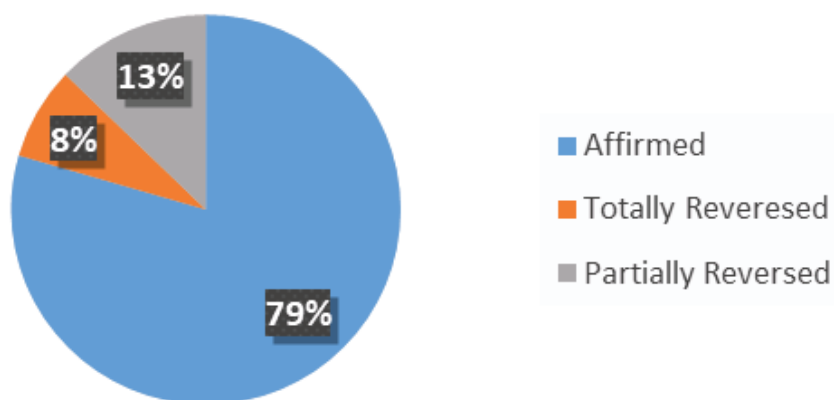
Types of case disposal of Benches of High Court



1.5.3. Appeal from Benches to Larger Bench of High Court

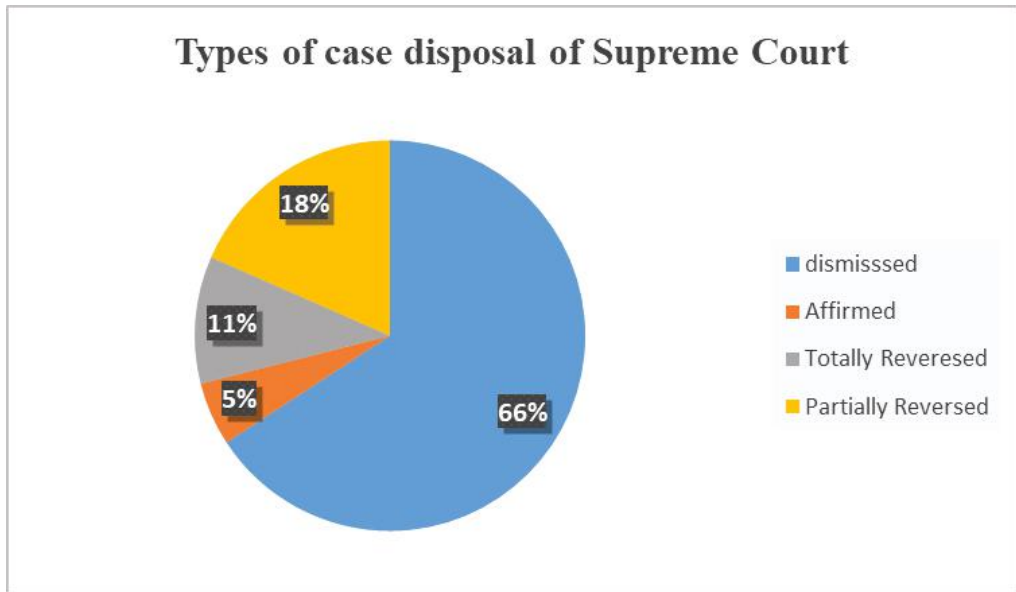
Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Decided	Appeal to Larger Bench
High Court	Bench I	1676	175	78
	Bench II		242	104
	Bench III		218	113
Total			635	295

Types of case disposal of Larger Bench of High Court



1.5.4. Appeal from Larger Bench of High Court to Supreme Court

Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal To Supreme Court
High Court	Larger Bench	129	68



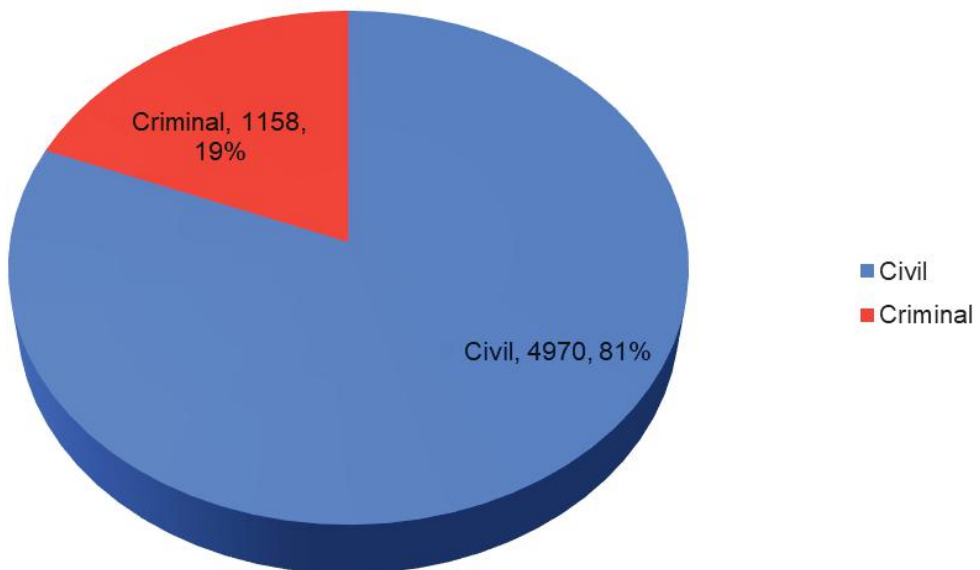
1.6. Summary of overall case statistics

Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Decided	Pending	Appeal to Dzongkhag	Appeal to High Court	Appeal to Larger Bench	Appeal to Supreme Court	Pending beyond 12months
29489	2389	9541	9216	2692	115	646	295	68	159

1.7. Case Statistics Summary 2016 to 2019

Trends of cases 2016 to 2019				
Year	Case Registered	Case Decided	Total Case Pending	Cases pending beyond 12 months
2016	7910	7783	1622	83
2017	7669	6917	2361	216
2018	8577	8543	2400	202
2019	9541	9216	2692	159

1.8. Number of Civil and Criminal Cases



1.9. Types of Civil and Criminal Cases

	Civil Cases	
1	Constitutional	1
2	Family and Child Justice	25
3	Land	260
4	Inheritance	119
5	Environment	1
6	Monetary	3185
7	Contract	84
8	Matrimonial	1266
9	Miscellaneous	23
	Criminal Cases	
10	Homicide	12
11	Assault, Battery and related	377
12	Kidnapping and related	3
13	Sexual Offences	74
14	Arson and related	3
15	Burglary, Trespass and related	78
16	Larceny, Robbery, Armed Robbery and related	255
17	Smuggling and related	19
18	Forgery and related	43
19	Defamation and related Offences	9
20	Offences against Cultural and National Heritage	11
21	Prostitution and related Offences	1
22	Drugs and related	82
23	Offences against the Public Welfare	24
24	Offences related to Public and Civic Duties	9
25	Offences related to Public Order and Tranquility	24
26	Computer Offences	2
27	Offences related to Firearms and Weapons	11
28	Offences related to Protected Species, Controlled and other harmful substances	41
29	Traffic	11
30	Bribery	1
31	Embezzlement	12
32	Abuse of Function	2
33	False Claims	2
34	False Declaration	2
35	Embezzlement In Pvt. Sector	7
36	Tobacco	24
37	Environment	1
38	Family and Child Justice	18
39	Defamation Suit	6
	Total	6128

1.10. Case Analysis

a) Overview

In 2019, 2389 cases were carried forward from 2018 and 9541 new cases were registered including the appeal cases in the High Court and Supreme Court. In the Dungkhag Courts and Dzongkhag Courts, in total, 8482 cases were registered. Thimphu and Phuentsholing Courts had the highest number of registered cases among the Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts respectively. The total case pending for 2019 stood at 2692 cases of which 159 cases are pending for more than 1 year. In total, 9216 cases were decided.

As reported in 2018 annual report, the reason for some courts having higher numbers of registered cases is attributed to higher population and concentration of economic and social activities. It must be highlighted that a high disposal rate of cases among all the courts can be attributed to the in-house rule of disposing the cases within one year. The cases pending for more than a year is due to circumstances such as waiting for the forensic report, signature or thumb impression verification from experts outside the country, complexities of cases, absconding respondents, and inability to trace witnesses.

b) Category of Cases

In 2019, a total of 4970 civil cases were registered out of which monetary cases top the list with 3185 cases. Compared to 2018, there is decrease of one percent in monetary cases. On the other hand, 1158 criminal cases were registered in 2019, which is a drop of 6 percent as compared to 2018. Amongst the criminal cases, Assault and Battery top the list with 377 cases.

1.11. Statistics of Marriage Certificates and Other Notary Services – 2019

#	Court Name	Marriage Certificate	Name Change	Affirmation of MC	Lost Documents	Single Status/ Marital Status	Child Travel Documents	Attestation of Documents	Child Adoption	Organ Transplant	Closing and Transfer of shares and accounts	Attest Agreements,Wills, contracts and Testaments
1	Bumthang	139	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Chukha	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Dagana	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Gasa	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Haa	104	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
6	Lhuentse	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
7	Mongar	59	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	0	7	0
8	Pemagatshel	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Paro	248	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Punakha	247	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Samdrup Jongkhar	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	Samtse	244	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	7	0
13	Sarpang	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	Trashig Yangtse	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Thimphu	1539	2	1760	2	21	85	5269	12	25	52	1
16	Trashigang	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	Trongsa	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	Tsirang	141	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0
19	Wangduephodrang	1435	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	17	0
20	Zhemgang	56	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
21	Dorokha	94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	Gelephu	168	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	0
23	Jomotshangkha	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
24	Lhamoyzingkha	48	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	Lingshi	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nganglam	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Panbang	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	Phuentsholing	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1
29	Sakteng	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Samdrupcholing	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
31	Sibsoo	381	1	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	6	0
32	Sombekha	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
33	Thrimshing	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Wamrong	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Weringia	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		6486	3	1763	2	52	85	5272	12	25	147	2

1.12. Revenue generated by Judiciary in 2019

The following table provides an overview of the revenue generated by the Courts through court fees, thrimthue, fines and penalties:

Sl. No.	Courts	Revenue (Nu.)
1.	Supreme Court	590375
2.	High Court	52743
3.	Thimphu	6921485
4.	Paro	2565721
5.	Tsirang	944747
6.	Sarpang	419675
7.	Haa	143057
8.	Chukha	2614593
9.	Gasa	65500
10.	Dagana	402,680
11.	Lhuentse	429575
12.	Mongar	327863
13.	Samtse	776600
14.	Samdrup Jongkhar	455550
15.	Trashigang	423200.
16.	Wangdue Phodrang	2217825
17.	Panbang	282950
18.	Lhamoyzingkha	320725
19.	Gelephu	1042775.
20.	Phuentsholing	6091616
21.	Dorokha	144000
22.	Jomotsangkha	57325
23.	Nganglam	466975
24.	Thrimshing	148125
25.	Wamrong	51300
26.	Tashichhoeling (Sibsoo)	198150
27.	Sakteng	7875
28.	Trashiyangtse	161100
29.	Punakha	1121325
30.	Samdrupcholing	148025
31.	Weringla	3700
32.	Bumthang	216175
33.	Trongsa	426,850/
34.	Pemagatshel	262,764.62
35.	Zhemgang	280900
Total		30356994.62

2. Plans and programs executed by Judiciary

Judiciary executes plans and programs to carry out the constitutional mandate of safeguarding, upholding, and administering justice fairly and independently without fear, favor in accordance with Rule of Law. All the programs are guided by the 12th Five-year Plan and under 12th Five Year Plan, there are five key areas that Judiciary is required to achieved; public service delivery enhanced, public satisfaction in judicial services, timely justice services delivered, access to quality infrastructure, and capacity development of judicial personnel. All the events that Judiciary undertook in 2019 are directed to achieve 12th Five Year targets in the aforementioned five key areas. The details of events are provided hereunder:

1. Public Service Delivery enhanced

In the 12th Five Year plan, public service delivery has been identified as one of the important areas for improvement. Judiciary being one of the service sectors, it has been always in pursuant of expeditious, humble and quality judicial services to the people. To this end, it has taken various initiatives which includes; establishment of Public Notary Office in the Mongar Dzongkhag Court, institution of Court Annexed Mediation, appointment of new Drangpons and Drangpon Rabjams, Bench Clerks, and transfer of judicial personnel.

Supreme Court Drangpons' visit to Dzongkhag & Dungkhag Courts





*Drangpon Norbu Tshering's visit to
Lhuntse Court*



*Law Enforcement Joint Coordinating
Committee Members*



*Senior Most Justice of Supreme Court, Drangpon Kuenlay Tshering at the Swearing in
ceremony of 47th Chief Justice of India, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde*



New Public Notary Office, Mongar



Court Annexed Mediation Inauguration



Appointments



Awards

1.1. Establishment of Notary Public Office

In pursuant to Hon. Chief Justice's order issued on October 29,2019 Notary Public office was opened in Mongar on November 20, 2019. It was opened for the purpose of rendering Notary services to the Public in the Eastern Dzongkhags. With Notary office in Mongar, people in Eastern Dzongkhags do not need to travel to Thimphu. Mongar Dzongkhag Court now provides services like certification and authentication of documents, issuing of marriage certificate, orders related to a lost document, closure of accounts and transfer of shares and change of name.

1.2. Establishment of Court Annexed Mediation (CAM)

The Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) was instituted in all Dzongkhag and Dungkhag courts in Bhutan. The CAM was initiated as a part of judicial reform upon the directives of Highness, Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck and H.E.Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan to enhance access to justice; and promote harmony and peace in the society. CAM service is aimed to provide opportunity for litigants to opt for negotiated settlement with an assistance of neutral in-house judicial mediators during the process of litigation until the final judgment is rendered. The inauguration of CAM was held in Punakha Dzongkhag Court on October 28, 2019 which was graced by Her Royal Highness Azhi Sonam Dechan Wangchuk. Led by Hon. Chief Justice, Drangpons of High Court, Registrar General of Supreme Court, Drangpons of Punakha and Wangduephodrang, officials from Bhutan Legal Institute attended the inauguration.

1.3 Swearing in Ceremony of 47th Chief Justice of India

Senior Most Drangpon of the Supreme Court, Justice Kuenlay Tshering attended the Swearing in Ceremony of 47th Chief Justice of India, Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde , at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on November 18,2019. He attended the Swearing Ceremony upon the invitation of Supreme Court of India. He also attended the ceremony in the Supreme Court of India. In the ceremony, he conveyed the greeting of judiciary of Bhutan to the new Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court of India. It is hoped that relation between two judiciaries is further strengthened in the years to come.

1.4. Appointment of Drangpon and Drangpon Rabjams

His Majesty the King appointed Drangpon Rabjam Tenzin as Drangpon of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court on February 18, 2019. Drangpon Tenzin was the Personal Secretary to the Hon. President of Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI), Her Royal Highness Azhi Sonam Dechhan Wangchuk at the BNLI.

Hon. Chief Justice appointed Mr. Chimi Dorji Shartsho, Senior Court Registrar of the High Court; Mr. Chimi Dorji, Senior Court Registrar of Supreme Court, Mr. Phuntsho Wangchuk, Senior Court Registrar of the Supreme Court; and Mr. Dungay Tshering, Senior Court Registrar of Mongar Dzongkhag Court as Drangpon Rabjams on February 18, 2019. Drangpon Rabjam Chimi Dorji Shartsho has been transferred to Punakha Dzongkhag Court, Drangpon Chimi Dorji to Research and Reform Division of Supreme Court, Drangpon Rabjam Phuntsho Wangchuk to Thimphu Dzongkhag Court, and Drangpon Rabjam Dungay Tshering continued to serve in the Registry Section of Mongar Dzongkhag Court.

1.5. Recruitment of Court Registrars and Bench Clerks

Four Post Graduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) graduated from the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) joined the Judiciary as Court Registrars with effect from January 1, 2019. Mr. Tshering Dorji, Mr. Yeshe Dorji, Mr. Jigme Singye, and Ms. Tshering Dago Wangmo. Mr. Tshering Dorji is appointed as Registrar of Paro Dzongkhag Court, Mr. Yeshe Dorji as Registrar of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court, Mr. Jigme Singye as Registrar of Gelephu Dungkhag Court, and Ms. Tshering Dago Wangmo has been deputed to Bhutan National Legal Institute.

Ten Bench Clerks were recruited through open competition. All of them completed their studies from Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu, with Diploma in National Law (DNL). They were posted to different Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts. The list is proved in annexure.

1.6. Superannuation of Drangpons and Bench Clerks

Drangpon Sonam Dorji and Drangpon Adap Chador superannuated on July 1, 2019, after 43 years of public service. Drangpon Sonam Dorji superannuated from Gasa Dzongkhag Court and Drangpon Adap Chador from Supreme Court. They started their career in the judiciary in July 1, 1977 as a Bench Clerk in the High Court. Thereafter, they served in the judiciary in various capacities in different places. They were the last nonprofessional judges to superannuate from Dzongkhag Courts as sitting Judges.

Two Senior Bench Clerks also superannuated. Mr. Nima S. Gyeltshen and Mr. Tenzin Dendup. Mr. Nima S. Gyeltshen started his career in the judiciary on August 1, 1982. He superannuated from Supreme Court after serving 37 years as Bench Clerk in different Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts.

Mr. Tenzin Dendup started his career in the judiciary on July 1, 1986. He superannuated from Nganglam Dungkhag Court after serving 33 years as Bench Clerk in different Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts.

1.7. Lectures

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan delivered the ‘Legacies of the Monarchy Lecture Series 2019 ‘ at Paro College of Education on April 24, 2018, and College of Natural Resources, Lobessa on April 26, 2019, on ‘The Constitution, Democracy and the Rule of Law in Bhutan’. The Lecture was a continuation of the lecture series initiated by the Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck in 2014 coinciding with the 60th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo. The aim of the lecture series is to highlight the legacies of our monarchs, particularly of the Fourth Druk Gyalpo for gifting the people of Bhutan our Constitution.

The Hon. Chief Justice delivered a lecture on Constitutionalism and Rule of Law to all the batches of Desuung Training in 2019 at Tencholing in Wangduephodrang. He also delivered the same lecture to all batches of leadership training at RIGSS in Phuntsholing.

1.8. Transfers of Judicial Personnel

Eight Drangpons, two Drangpon Rabjams, six Court Registrars and eleven Bench Clerks were transferred to different Dungkhag and Dzongkhag Courts. Drangpons and Bench Clerks are transferred mainly to avoid prolonged association with the community as prolonged association may affect the delivery of judicial services to the people. The detailed list is provided in the annexure.

1.9 Law Enforcement Joint Coordinating Committee

Law Enforcement Joint Coordinating Committee was formed to resolve issues related to implementation of laws. It is being chaired by senior most Justice of Supreme Court, Justice Kuenlay Tshering. The Committee is formed by representatives from all law enforcement agencies, which includes members from Judiciary, Royal Bhutan Police, Department of Law and Order, Office of Attorney General, Department of Revenue and Custom, Anticorruption Commission, Department of Forest, Department of Immigration and Bhutan Narcotics Control Authority

1.10 Supreme Court Drangpons’ visit to Dzongkhag Courts

Drangpons of the Supreme Court visited to different Dzongkhag Courts to evaluate the performance of judges. Drangpon Kuenlay Tshering visited Thimphu, Paro, and Chukha Dzongkhag Courts and Dungkhag Courts under these Dzongkhags. Drangpon Rinzin Penjor visited Punakha, Wangduephodrang, and Dagana Dzongkhags Courts and Dungkhag Courts under these Dzongkhags.

Similarly, Drangpon Tashi Chhozom visited Trongsa, Zhemgang, and Bumthang Dzongkhag Courts and Dungkhag Courts under these Dzongkhags. Drangpon

Norbu Tshering visited Pemagatshel, Trashigang, Trashiyangtse and Lhuntse Dzongkhag Courts and Dungkhag Courts under these Dzongkhags.

1.11. Award of Service Medals

Sixty-Two Judicial officials were awarded service medals; thirty-seven bronze, fifteen silver, eight gold and two life time award in recognition of their public service. The Honorable Officiating Chief Justice awarded the medals to the Supreme Court officials and other officials of different Dungkhag and Dzongkhag Court officials were awarded by Drangpons of respective courts. Service medals were awarded in recognition and appreciation of their dedicated service to Tsa- Wa-Sum. This recognition also serves as an incentive and motivation for the officials to continue their dedicated service to Tsa – Wa –Sum. The detailed name list is provided in the annexure.

1.12. South Asian Legal Education Excellence Award

Hon. Chief Justice Tshering Wangchuk as a Chairperson of the Governing Council of JSW School of Law was awarded a SILF-MILAT South Asian Legal Education Excellence Award 2019 by the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) in partnership with Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training (MILAT) on September 7,2019.

An award was presented at the International Symposium on “Prof. Madhava Menon’s Contribution to Law: Merging Modern and Contemporary Education with Traditional Values & Ethics” coinciding with the 11th Indian Law Teachers’ Day Celebration at the Rajiv Gandhi Convention Centre, Leela Raviz Hotel, Kerala, India. The Award was presented in recognition of His Excellency’s selfless service and continued effort in promotion of JSW School of Law as a center of excellence in the country. Nearly 200 participants - Judges, Lawyers, Jurists, Law Teachers and Students from all over India and from SAARC Region along with Policy Makers participated in the Symposium and in the Award Ceremony. The Society of Indian Law Firms and Menon Institute of Legal Advocacy Training organizes an award ceremony every year to recognize the contributions in the field of legal education.

2. Public satisfaction in judicial services

Judicial services comprise of adjudication and non-adjudication services like notary services. Public satisfaction in its services can be drawn from the statistics of appeal cases before different appeal courts. In 2019, Dungkhag Courts decided 1827 cases, and of which 6 percent of the total cases were appealed to Dzongkhag Courts and remaining 94 percent were satisfied with the judgment of the Dungkhag Courts. Dzongkhag Courts decided 6606 cases, and of which 10 percent of the total cases were appealed to High Court and remaining 90 percent were not appealed to High Court.

Similarly, three Benches of High Court decided 635 cases, and of which 46 percent appealed to Larger Bench of High Court and remaining 54 percent were satisfied with judgments. Larger Bench of High Court decided 129 cases, and of which 52 percent of the total cases were appealed to Supreme Court and remaining 48 percent were satisfied with judgments. Comparing the cases decided by all tiers of courts, on average, 72 percent were satisfied with judgment, which can be link to mean that 72 percent of public who comes to court are satisfied with judicial services.

3. Timely Justice services delivered

Timely justice services delivery can be measured through statistics of pending cases. In 2019, 9541 cases were registered and including 2389 pending cases of 2018, there were 11930 cases before the judiciary. Of total cases, 77 percent of cases were decided and only 22.7 percent of cases were pending, and of which 5 percent were pending more than a year. Statistics of pending cases can be link to mean that 77 percent of adjudication services are delivered in a year and only 5 percent takes more than a year.

4. Access to quality infrastructure

In the past, all courts were housed inside the Dzong along with Dzongkhag administration and, today there is only Paro Court which is housed inside the Dzong. Though all courts do not have new structure, all other courts other than Paro have independent structure. Of fifteen Dungkhag Courts and twenty Dzongkhag Courts, only Paro, Chukha, Thimphu, Lingzhi and Weringla have no separate court building while all other courts have independent new court buildings.

In order to have structure independence for access to justice as well for enabling the efficient service delivery on the part of Judicial Personnel, Judiciary has been continuously developing an independent infrastructure with modern amenities. In 2019 construction of two Dzongkhag Courts were completed and construction of three new court structures were started.



New Court Building Inaugurations



Ground breaking Ceremonies of new court constructions

4.1. Inauguration of new court building.

In 2019, two court constructions were completed. Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court and Haa Dzongkhag Court. His Royal Highness the Gyaltsab, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, inaugurated the Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court on March 5, 2019, which was consecrated by His Holiness the Gyelsay Truelku Jigme Tenzin Wongpo. The court was constructed with the funding of Nu. Nu.29 million from The Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). Hon. Chief Justice, Register General officials, staff members, and public of Trashiyangtse attended the inauguration ceremony.

Haa Dzongkhag Court was inaugurated by Hon. Chief Justice Tshering Wangchuk on March 28, 2019. The court was constructed with the funding of Nu. Nu.29 million from

Royal Government of Bhutan. Justices of Supreme Court, Register General, officials, staff members, and public of Haa attended the inauguration ceremony.

4.2. Ground breaking ceremony of new court constructions

In 2019, constructions of three new court structures were tendered and started. Sangbeykha Dungkhag Court and Gasu Dzongkhag Court. Ground breaking ceremony of Sangbeykha Dungkhag Court construction and Gasu Dzongkhag Court construction were graced by Honorable Chief Justice on September 17, 2019 and November 1, 2019. Both the constructions are funded by Royal Government of Bhutan. Construction of Sangbeykha Dungkhag Court is expected to be completed by end of 2020 while construction of Gasu Dzongkhag Court is expected to be completed by end of 2021.

Justice Lungten Dubgyur and Justice Pema Rinzin of High Court graced the ground breaking ceremony of Weringla Dungkhag Court construction on November 5, 2019. The construction is funded by Royal government of Bhutan and is expected to be completed by end of 2021. Officials from Supreme Court, Dungkhag Administration and Public of Weringla attended the ceremony.

5. Capacity development of Judicial Personnel

With socio economic development and amendment and enactment of new laws, judicial personnel are faced with new legal issues and challenges. Hence, it is important that judicial personnel are updated with new skills and knowledge to keep abreast with new legal issues and challenges in the country and around the globe. The capacity development of judges, Court Registrars and Bench Clerks are aimed for fair and independent administration of justice without fear, favor and undue delay. It is also important for effective, timely and efficient delivery of judicial services to the people. Judiciary carried out capacity development programs through trainings, workshops, seminars, international visit exchanges, higher studies etc.,



Orientations and Trainings



Trainings





Trainings and Workshops



MoU with Constitutional Court of Thailand

Hon. Chief Justice ends his term

5.1. Orientation for the newly appointed Drangpon Rabjams and Bench Clerks

Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI) in collaboration with the Supreme Court conducted a five-day judicial induction and orientation program for the newly appointed Drangpon Rabjams and twelve Bench Clerks from March 4-8, 2019 at the Supreme Court Conference Hall. The participants were briefed on several aspects including judicial processes of registration, hearings and adjudication of cases; electronic case management system; FIRAC (Facts, Issues, Rules, Analysis and Conclusion) model of judgment drafting; judicial code of conduct; judicial roles and responsibilities; and judicial leadership, protocol, etiquette, teamwork and collaboration. The Department of Culture trained the participants on both theoretical and practical aspects of Driglam Namzha.

5.2. Court Annexed Mediation (CAM) training

Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI) in collaboration with Supreme Court, Senior Bench Clerks were trained on Court Annexed Mediation at Paro from June 18-23, 2019. Hon. Chief Justice Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk graced the opening ceremony of six day training. This CAM was initiated as a part of reform judicial upon the directives of Highness, Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck and H.E. Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan to enhance access to justice; and promote harmony and peace in the society. CAM service is aimed to provide opportunity for litigants to opt for negotiated settlement with an assistance of neutral in house judicial mediators during the process of litigation until the final judgment is rendered.

The training for second batch was held from July 19-24, 2019, at Supreme Court Conference Hall. One-day workshop was also organized in Thimphu on December 9, 2019 for all the judges in the country to familiarize and sought clarification on operational Procedures of the Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM).

5.3. Workshop on professional ethics

Drangpons, Drangpon Rabjams, Registrars of the Judiciary attended the workshop on Professional Ethics on July 10, 2019. The workshop was conducted by Bhutan National Legal Institute with aim of promoting Continuing Legal Education and Professional Development of the judicial personnel. The opening ceremony of the Workshop was graced by Her Royal Highness, Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, and the Hon. President of the Institute. The Workshop was facilitated by Professor Pooja Parmar, Faculty of Law, University of Victoria, Canada; and Ms. Kezang Wangmo, Lecturer, Jigme Singye Wangchuck School of Law, Thimphu.

5.4. Training on Ethics and Integrity

The Judiciary in collaboration with Anticorruption Commission (ACC) conducted a training on the theme “Ethics and Integrity Ethics in the Justice Service; Enhancing Trust” and Integrity to two batches of Bench Clerks. First batch of 55 Bench Clerks attended from 2nd -4th July and second batch of 49 Bench Clerks attended from 16th -18th July, 2019. The training was facilitated by ACC officials on various topics, which included spiritual discourse on Ethics & Integrity, Ethics & Integrity in the Justice Service, Corruption offences, prevention tools, National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy, 12th FYP, case studies and ethical dilemmas among others.

5.5. Training on interpretation of statutes

Bench Clerks from the Supreme Court, High Court, Dzongkha Courts and Dungkhag Courts attended a two-day training on “Interpretation of Laws” from November 21-22, 2019 organized by Bhutan National Legal Institute at Paro. The opening program was graced by the Honorable President of the Institute, HRH, Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck at Paro. The training was for imparting the legal analysis and interpretation skills to the Bench Clerks. The Bench clerks were trained on the rules, principles, maxims, philosophies and best practices of interpretation and construction of laws. The interpretation skills serve as the keys to unlocking the legislative intent in enacting the particular Acts or statutes by the Parliament.

5.6. MoU with Constitutional Court of Kingdom of Thailand

Honorable Chief Justice visited Bangkok from November 4-9, 2019 at the invitation of the President of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand. During the visit, on November 7, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand and the Supreme Court of Bhutan was signed. The MoU is mainly to promote bilateral co-operation between the two Parties related to their works, to share knowledge and experiences and to enhance their institutional capacities.

5.7. Hon. Chief Justice’s Visit to New Delhi (The Sustainable Environment and Energy Summit)

Hon’ble Chief Justice of Bhutan graced The Sustainable Environment and Energy Summit 2019 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi as the Chief Guest on 13th June 2019. The one-day summit was initiated by Social Responsibility Council (SRC) in association with Environment Law and Development Foundation (ELDF). The SRC has been established to create awareness about the various facets of social responsibility of persons/groups/societies/corporates in India and abroad.

The Summit was graced by notable speakers including Hon’ble Justice Swatanter Kumar, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India, Hon’ble Dr. Anand Mohan Bhattarai, Justice, Supreme Court of Nepal and Hon’ble Justice Peter Mohan Maithree Peiris, Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Sri Lanka.

The Summit deliberated on pertinent topics of Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Environment, Sustainability and Energy, Green Business and Smart Energy Resources and Sustainable Environmental management and Pollution Control.

5.8. 15th United Nations Day of Vesak.

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan visited Bangkok, Thailand to attend the 15th United Nations Day of Vesak from May 15-17, 2019.

The International Day of Vesak recognized by the United Nations became a reality on 15th December 1999. Vesak falls on a full moon day of May, and is the most important Buddhist holiday, which celebrates the three important events – the birth, full awakening and the passing away of the Lord Buddha.

5.9. Higher Studies

Ms. Pema Yechang, Court Registrar, completed her LL.M in International Law from George Washington Law School, Washington DC and joined back to Supreme Court. Mr. Dawa Gyeltshen, Court Registrar, left for pursuing LL.M in George Washington University Law School, USA. He will complete his studies by mid of 2020.

5.10. End of Hon. Chief Justice's term

Hon. Chief Justice Tshering Wangchuk completed his tenure as the Chief Justice on November 28, 2019. He was appointed as Chief Justice on November 28, 2014. He started his career as a trainee officer at the High Court in 1987. Prior his appointment as the Chief Justice in 2014, he served as a Justice of Supreme Court, Justice of High Court, Drangpon of Samdrupjongkhag Dzongkhag Court, and militia officer. He was awarded the Coronation Gold Medal in 2008, and the Red Scarf in December 2013 by His Majesty the King. During his tenure as the Chief Justice, he initiated various infrastructural and systemic reforms, which among others includes:

- i. Establishment of specialized Benches in Thimphu Dzongkhag Court
- ii. Establishment of Additional Benches in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court
- iii. Institution of Notary Public Office in Mongar Dzongkhag Court,
- iv. Replacement of gavel with Drilbu in the Court rooms.
- v. Introduced the evaluation system for Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Court judges to maintain their track record.
- vi. Court annexed mediation was also instituted in all courts.
- vii. Orders were also issued for uniform application and interpretation of laws.
- viii. Issued the order for establishment of specialized Benches for corruptions cases in four regions, Thimphu, Punakha, Trongsa and Trashigang.

6. Challenges

Judiciary as one of the branches of the government is mandated to uphold the Constitution, rights and liberties guaranteed under it, and the policies and principles embodied under it. Being a dispute resolution forum, the Judiciary's mission is to ensure that the people have access to the highest standard of justice attainable. It has to ensure equitable and expeditious resolution of all cases and controversies brought before the courts.

In order to deliver the highest standard of justice, it is imperative for the office to be well equipped both in terms of financial and human resource capacities. However, these form the following core challenges:

6.1. Human Resource Development Challenges

The organizational structure of the Judiciary is unique from other Constitutional Offices. Drangpons and Drangpon Rabjams are governed by the Judicial Service Act 2007 whereas the AFD personnel, Court Registrars and Bench Clerks are under the Bhutan Civil Service Act 2012. The existence of these two Acts in one institute poses the greatest challenge to human resource development and management. Further, with limited authority of the Judiciary over the human resource management, creating conducive environment for enhanced performance through improved and structured organizational incentives for the judicial personnel remains a challenge. Although the Judicial Service Act of 2007 defines the Royal Judicial Service Council as the body to formulate policies related to human resource management within the Judiciary in terms of defining staffing pattern, strength, classification and gradation of services, performance evaluation and appraisal including reward and incentives for judicial personnel, the inclusion of the support judicial personnel under the Civil Service Act of 2012 has limited the Council in exercising its mandates. Consequently, the Judiciary experiences rising attrition of senior and experienced judicial personnel from the service of the Judiciary to better financial and professional opportunities in corporate sector and private law firms.

With change in time, expansion in the Judiciary calls for additional human resources for specific trainings and skills to shoulder the increasing caseload in the courts. The Judiciary must strive to resolve these policy inconsistencies to ensure growth in Judiciary's organizational capacity for an autonomous human resource management and development strategy.

6.2. Financial Constraints

The Judiciary has no financial and budgetary independence. This still continues to be a major challenge in the independent functioning of the office. Judiciary is one of the branches of the government whose mandates spread across 20 Dzongkhags and 15 Dungkhags. Despite it, the share of budget it receives from the government to undertake its mandates continue to remain less than a Ministry. For the 11th Five Year Plan, the overall budget ceiling allocated to Judiciary was Nu. 623 Million. This was way below our proposal. The Judiciary received a meager increment of 20% in the 12th Five Year Plan despite the need for more budgets. Given such constraints, the Judiciary is not able to build adequate infrastructure across the country and develop its human resource capacity through provision of timely training and skill development opportunities.

7. Annexures

7.1. Over all case statistics

Statistics on the Institution, Disposal and Pendency of cases in the courts of the Kingdom of Bhutan as of 31st December 2019												
S/No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Decided	Pending	Appeal To Dzongkhag	Appeal To High Court	Appeal to Larger Bench	Appeal To Supreme Court	Pending >12 Months
1	Bumthang	Bench I	669	58	342	324	76	0	22	0	0	2
2	Chukha	Bench I	395	20	147	111	56	0	29	0	0	0
3	Dagana	Bench I	714	28	351	327	52	0	20	0	0	0
4	Gasa	Bench I	104	1	29	27	3	0	3	0	0	0
5	Haa	Bench I	367		109	107	10	0	16	0	0	0
6		Bench I			228	175	146	33	0	78	0	2
7		Bench II		93 96	228	242	82	0	0	104	0	2
8	High Court	Bench III	1676	123	228	218	133	0	0	113	0	7
9		Larger Bench		64	304	129	239	0	0		68	17
10	Lhuentse	Bench I	556	23	120	131	12	0	4	0	0	0
11	Mongar	Bench I	674	66	393	364	95	0	10	0	0	0
12		Bench I		173	264	261	176	0	32	0	0	35
13	Paro	Bench II	3079	167	345	270	242	0	32	0	0	51
14	Pemagatshel	Bench I	361	18	115	118	15	0	7	0	0	0
15	Punakha	Bench I	1511	66	442	437	71	0	36	0	0	0
16	Samdrupjongkhar	Bench I	836	23	264	273	14	0	17	0	0	0
17	Samtse	Bench I	847	36	222	210	48	0	13	0	0	1
18	Sarpang	Bench I	477	43	183	187	39	0	28	0	0	0
19	Supreme Court	Langchen		4	19	7	9	0	0	0	0	0
20	Supreme Court	Tachog		6	17	3	13	0	0	0	0	
21	Supreme Court	Maja	571	5	16	4	7	0	0	0	0	0
22	Supreme Court	Khading		5	19	5	13					0

23	Thimphu	Criminal Bench I		90	206	214	82	0	14	0	0	4
24	Thimphu	Family and Child Bench	6095	69	462	493	38	0	39	0	0	0
25	Thimphu	Commercial Bench		177	579	632	124	0	105	0	0	0
26	Thimphu	Criminal Bench II		76	206	220	62	0	31	0	0	2
27	Thimphu	Civil Bench		260	485	514	211	0	117	0	0	8
28	Trashigang	Bench I	518	28	192	204	16	0	7	0	0	0
29	Trashiyangtse	Bench I	409	17	169	160	26	0	7	0	0	0
30	Trongsa	Bench I	559	27	187	147	67	0	4	0	0	8
31	Tsirang	Bench I	580	20	167	168	19	0	7	0	0	0
32		Bench I		78	271	276	73	0	22	0	0	0
33	Wangdiphodrang	Bench II	1885	83	306	354	35	0	17	0	0	0
34	Zhemgang	Bench I	290	25	88	77	36	0	7	0	0	6
35	Dorokha	Bench I	308	30	107	109	28	2	0	0	0	0
36	Gelephu	Bench I	1259	76	357	349	84	33	0	0	0	0
37	Jomolshangkha	Bench I	210	7	41	43	5	1	0	0	0	0
38	Lhamoy Zinkha	Bench I	293	3	45	40	8	4	0	0	0	0
39	Lingzhi	Bench I	34	4	20	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
40	Nganglam	Bench I	613	6	110	100	16	3	0	0	0	0
41	Parbang	Bench I	131	16	45	43	18	5	0	0	0	5
42	Phuentsholing	Bench I	1902	53	263	290	26	24	0	0	0	0
43	Phuentsholing	Bench II		75	296	304	67	29	0	0	0	3
44	Sakteng	Bench I	77	1	33	31	3	2	0	0	0	0
45	Samdrupcholing	Bench I	275	13	112	99	26	5	0	0	0	0
46	Sibsoo	Bench I	713	25	200	175	50	1	0	0	0	6
47	Sombeykha	Bench I	109	1	46	47	0	1	0	0	0	0
48	Thrimshing	Bench I	94	1	48	49	0	0	0	0	0	0
49	Wamrong	Bench I	225	6	106	96	16	3	0	0	0	0
50	Weringla	Bench I	63	4	29	28	5	2	0	0	0	0
	Total		29489	2389	9541	9216	2692	148	646	295	68	159

7.2. List of Bench Clerks recruited in 2019

Sl. No.	Name of the Bench Clerks	Courts
1	Tsheten Phuntsho	Gasa District Court
2	Dechen Choden	Nganglam Dungkhag Court
3	Phuntsho Choden	Thimphu District Court
4	Sonam Choden	Thimphu Dzongkhag Court
5	Gayley Peldon	Nganglam Dungkhag Court
6	Chimi Lhaden	Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag Court
7	Yesel Lhamo	Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag Court
8	Tshewang Zangmo	Chukha Dzongkhag Court
9	Thinley Jamtsho	Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag Court
10	Dorji Yuden	Wangdiphodrang Dzongkhag Court

7.3. Transfer list of Drangpon and Drangpon Rabjams

Sl. No.		Transferred from	Transferred to
1	Drangpon Tharchen	Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court	Gasa Dzongkhag Court
2	Drangpon Wangchuk Drukpa	Trashigang Dzongkhag Court	Commercial Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court
3	Drangpon Pema Choden	Commercial Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	Trashigang Dzongkhag Court
4	Drangpon Rabjam Ugyen Dorji	Sakteng Dungkhag Court	Bench II, Paro Dzongkhag Court
5	Drangpon Rabjam Lhendup Dorji	Sombeykha Dungkhag Court	Bench II, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court
6	Drangpon Rabjam Tobgay	Ngalam Dungkhag Court	Sombeykha Dungkhag Court
7	Drangpon Rabjam Gyelpo	Bench II, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court	Ngalam Dungkhag Court
8	Drangpon Rabjam Tenzin	Bench II, Paro Dzongkhag Court	Sakteng Dungkhag Court
9	Drangpon rabjam Chimi Dorji Shartsho	High Court	Punakha Dzongkhag Court
10	Drangpon Rabjam Phuntsho Wangchuk	Supreme Court	Thimphu District Court

7.4. Transfer list of Court Registrars

Sl.No.	Court Registrars	Transferred from	Transferred to
1.	Chojab Mehpha Delen	Criminal Bench I, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	High Court as Acting Registrar General
2.	Pema Yechang	Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court	Supreme Court
3.	Tshering Pelden	Gelephu Dungkhag court	Supreme Court
4.	Langa Tenzin	Civil Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	Khading Bench, Supreme Court
5.	Dorji Wangmo	Criminal Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court
6.	Tshering Yangzom	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	Criminal Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court

7.5. Transfer list of Bench Clerks

Sl.No.	Bench Clerks	Transferred from	Transferred to
1	Jigme	Sombeykha Dungkhag Court	Weringla Dungkhag Court
2	Leki Wangdi	Weringla Dungkhag Court	Sombeykha Dungkhag Court
3	Pema Wangmo	Paro District Court	Sakten Dungkhag Court
4	Dechen Pelmo	Gasa District Court	Punakha District Court
6	Sonam Drugyel	Gasa District Court	Thimphu District Court
7	Passang	Punakha District Court	Gasa District Court
8	Govindhra Nerulal	Dagana District Court	Sarpang District Court
9	Leki Yangzom	Lhuntse District Court	Thimphu District Court
10	Sangay Wangchuk	Sarpang District Court	Gelephu Dungkhag Court
11	Tshering Penjor	High Court	Bumthang District Court
12	Nidup Gyeltshen	Phuntsholing Dunkhag Court	Thimphu District Court

7.6. List of Award recipients for the dedicated award year as of 15th Nov 2019

SL#	Name	Designation	Court	Remarks
1	Jigme Tshewang	Bench Clerk	Trashigang Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
2	Chimi Rabten	Bench Clerk	Trashigang Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
3	Thinley Wangmo	Bench Clerk	Trashingang Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
4	Singye Namgyel	Attendant	Nganglam Dungkhag Court	Bronze
5	Dawa Tshomo	Messenger	Samdrup Choling Dungkhag Court	Bronze
6	Mohan Kumar Tamang	Telephone Operator	Supreme Court	Bronze
7	Tempa Tshering	Driver	Supreme Court	Bronze
8	Tashi Tshering	Driver	Supreme Court	Bronze
9	Kinley Tenzin	Accounts Asst.	Mongar	Bronze
10	Sangay Khandu	Attendant	Sakteng Dungkhag Court	Bronze
11	Dorji Rinchen	Sweeper	Sakteng Dungkhag Court	Bronze
12	Sonam Tobgay	Executive Engineer	Supreme Court	Bronze
13	Kinley Gyem	Bench Clerk	Tashicholing Dungkhag Court	Bronze
14	Taran Gurung	Bench Clerk	Tashicholing Dungkhag Court	Bronze
15	Dhendup Tshering	Accounts Asst.	Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
16	Sangay Wangmo	Attendant	Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
17	Nima Tshering	Driver	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
18	Kinzang Tshomo	Attendant	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
19	Tshering Pelmo	Draughts Woman	Supreme Court	Bronze
20	Jurme Wangmo	Bench Clerk	Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
21	Habil Soren	Sweeper	Samdrup jongkhar Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
22	Ugyen Thinley	Accounts Asst.	Dagana Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
23	Tshering Jamtsho	Research Asst.	Supreme Court	Bronze
24	Jamyang	Bench Clerk	Trongsa Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
25	Cheki Wangmo	Attendant	Trongsa Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
26	Tshering Yangzom	Attendant	Panbang Dungkhag Court	Bronze
27	Bhanu Bhakta Rai	Driver	High Court	Bronze
28	Ngawang Chogyel	Accounts Asst.	Punakha Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
29	Tshering Yangzom	Bench Clerk	Trashyangtse Dzongkhag Court	Bronze
30	Jangchuk Dema	Dispatcher	Saprang Dzongkhag Court	Bronze

31	Dorji Selden	Bench Clerk	Thimphu	Bronze
32	Kinzang Tshering	Accounts Asst.	Thimphu	Bronze
33	Karma Yangdon	Adm Asst.	Supreme Court	Bronze
34	Kuenga Wangmo	Personal Asst.	Wangdue	Bronze
35	Om Prakash Rai	Accounts Asst.	High Court	Bronze
36	Sonam Dorji	Bench Clerk	High Court	Bronze
37	Tshering Pelmo	Draughts Woman	Supreme Court	Bronze
38	Karchung	Driver	Supreme Court	Silver
39	Gyeltshen	Driver	Supreme Court	Silver
40	Singay Chojay	Accounts Asst.	Supreme Court	Silver
41	Jigme Dorji	Bench Clerk	Mongar	Silver
42	Shiri Man Ghalley	Driver	Supreme Court	Silver
43	Chencho Dorji	Registrar	Tashicholing Dungkha Court	Silver
44	Kinley Wangdi	Bench Clerk	Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Court	Silver
45	Mindu Wangmo	Dispatcher	Dagana Dzongkhag Court	Silver
46	Tshering Gyeltshen	Adm Asst.	Tsirang Dzongkhag Court	Silver
47	Dawa	Bench Clerk	Punakha Dzongkhag Court	Silver
48	Ugyen Zangmo	Bench Clerk	Punakha Dzongkhag Court	Silver
49	Kuengala	Bench Clerk	Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court	Silver
50	Kezang Thinley	Messenger	Thimphu	Silver
51	Kinga Yangden	Bench Clerk	High Court	Silver
52	Sonam Choki	Accounts Asst.	High Court	Silver
53	Tandin Wangchuk	Messenger	Samdrup jongkhar Dzongkhag Court	Gold
54	Sonam Choden	Accounts Asst.	Trongsa Dzongkhag Court	Gold
55	Khemraj Rai	Messenger	Samtse	Gold
56	Gyempo Tshering	Bench Clerk	Paro	Gold
57	Rinzin Penjor	Justice	Supreme Court	Gold
58	Dorji Cheda	Bench Clerk	Gelephu	Gold
59	Duptho Dorji	Dispatcher	Gelephu	Gold
60	Pemba	Bench Clerk	High Court	Gold
61	Karma Tshephel	Drangpon	Supreme Court	Life Time
62	Sonam Dorji	Drangpon	Gasa	Life Time