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# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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འབྲུག་གི་མངོན་མཐོ་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་འདུན་ས།



Supreme Court of Bhutan

༄༅། དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་པའི་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་འདུན་ས།

ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE

### From the Chief Justice of Bhutan

In the pages that follow, we update you on the progress we have made in implementing our plans and objectives for the year 2020. As I write, the spread of corona virus has thrown the world into disarray and dealing with post pandemic will require changes in how we normally function. Post pandemic, no one knows but one thing is absolutely certain is that it will be different. Technology will play a major factor in navigating post pandemic. Judiciary will have to leverage on technology to rewrite the manual on how we function to ensure sustainability.

The pandemic brought about profound changes in the day-to-day operations of courts. In matter of days the courts shifted from in-person to virtual for all but essential court services during the lockdown. Key to the preservation of essential court services has been the cooperation among judges and court personnel across the country, and the IT services and personnel. Courts have shared what works and what hasn't and have worked together to navigate this public health crisis. While this has been a year of unimaginable challenges, it has also been one of great achievements and lessons for the future.

Necessity is the mother of invention. No truer example of this adage exists than the transformation courts underwent in last two lockdowns. Hearings of all sorts went virtual. Judges eventually used a wide range of available audio and video conferencing tools. But this effort required more than just new technology. Judges needed to adopt innovative approaches to conduct court proceedings.

This annual report unlike in past has undergone major changes in the format and structure. The information presented are more structured and presented in a bite size manner for all reader.

This Annual Report documents our evolution and our strategic objectives. I invite you to have a look for yourself and see just how Judiciary is today – nearly 50 years after its establishment. I hope you enjoy reading this report.

(Chogyal Dago Rigdzin)

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF BHUTAN**

**Supreme Court**

**Royal Court of Justice**

**Thimphu: Bhutan**



## INTRODUCTION

The maturing of our democracy has increased the growing need for court services by members of the public. This has necessitated that we find new ways for the public to access the courts in order to augment the traditional access methods. As such, we have increasingly used technology to improve court accessibility and processes. Mindful of the impact this might have on access to justice, plans are underway for automation and digitalization of court records in order to continue to improve efficiency in information.

The Judiciary is one of the pillars of our constitutional democracy and plays a significant role in ensuring that the rights of Bhutanese are protected. The Constitution enshrines the rights of all people and affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom. These democratic values must be respected, protected and fulfilled by the State and all organs of the State. The Judiciary continues to be instrumental in preserving democracy by ensuring that our laws, including the Constitution, are respected and upheld. The Judiciary, as an independent arm of State, has also been instrumental in the fight against corruption. In light of the critical role played by the Judiciary in our constitutional democracy, it is important that it is given the necessary support it deserves. Increasing access to justice remains one of our priorities. It is because of this reason that we have established e-litigation.

The trust of the public must be continually nurtured if it is to survive. Our operations at every level, from individual interactions between judiciary and members of the public to system-wide performance, affect the public's confidence in us.

It has become crucial for Judiciary to develop a strategic plan that provides the Court with a roadmap for improving court users' experience and our ability to serve the public generally.

This report describes just some of what the Court has done and is going to do to achieve them.

As important as the past and planned achievements are in fostering public trust, there is much in the daily business of the Court that inspires confidence. Some of this occurs in public, but much of it does not. Helping parties end a dispute that perhaps once seemed impossible to resolve, listening to a witness carefully and with an open mind, writing reasons for a decision so that the parties and the public can understand the outcome of a trial, and every other part of the Court's day-to-day business are how we deliver justice in accordance with the law.

We hope that this report enlightens readers about the workings of our Court and illustrates both how we have seized the initiative to deliver real improvements over the 2019-2020 period and our ongoing work to remain a trusted, effective institution in an era of great change.





# 2020 AT A GLANCE



JANUARY



1<sup>st</sup> January

Recruitment  
of Court Registrar

Four toppers of Post Graduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) from the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) joined the Judiciary as Court Registrars.

PAGE 23

FEBRUARY



3<sup>rd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> February

Judicial Induction and  
Orientation Program (JIOP)

The Bhutan National Legal Institute conducted a one-week Judicial Induction and Orientation Program (JIOP) beginning from 3rd February 2020 in Thimphu for twenty-two Bench Clerks and four Court Registrars.

PAGE 23

FEBRUARY



27<sup>th</sup> February

Joining of new IT Officer

Ms. Dem Zam joined the Judiciary as the new IT Officer, after being recruited by the RCSC. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering from Jaypee University of Information Technology, India.

PAGE 24

MARCH



11<sup>th</sup> March

Joining of New Finance Officer

Ms. Pema Yangden joined the Judiciary of Bhutan as Dy. Chief Finance Officer. She heads the Finance Division of the Judiciary.

PAGE 24

MARCH

13<sup>th</sup> March

Contribution to COVID-19 Relief Fund

As a gesture of national unity and support to His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo and the Royal Government for fearlessly and tirelessly fighting the COVID-19 at the frontline ever since its detection in the Country, the Judiciary of Bhutan contributed Nu. 0.405 Million to the Royal Government.

PAGE 24

MARCH



20<sup>th</sup> March

Farewell to Justice Rinzin Penjor of the Supreme Court.

The Drangpons of the Supreme Court, High Court, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court, other Judicial staff and members of the BNLI bid farewell to Justice Rinzin Penjor on 20th March 2020.

PAGE 25

MAY



12<sup>th</sup> May

**Completion of term of three High Court Justices**

The Judiciary bid farewell to the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court Sangay Khandu, Justice Lungten Dubgyur and Justice Tshering Namgyel who completed their ten-year term at the High Court.

**PAGE 25**

MAY



27<sup>th</sup> May

**Inauguration of the Bhutan National Legal Institute Office**

His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuck, Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, and His Highness Dasho Jigje Singye Wangchuck graced the inaugural ceremony of the new office of the Bhutan National Legal Institute at the Supreme Court complex. Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court, and officials of the Institute attended the program.

**PAGE 25**

JUNE



11<sup>th</sup> June

**Appointment of the Chief Justice of Bhutan**

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dakyen to appoint His Excellency Chogyal Dago Rigdzin as the Chief Justice of Bhutan at Tashichhodzong on 11th June 2020. The ceremony was graced by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen.

**PAGE 26**

JULY



13<sup>th</sup> July

**The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the 41st Desuung**

The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the 41st Desuung Integrated Batch at Haa as the Chief Guest.

PAGE 26

JULY



13<sup>th</sup> July

**The Chief Justice of Bhutan visits Ha District Court**

Recognizing the need to personally oversee the functioning of the individual courts, learn and address challenges, update judicial personnel on reforms and policies and to inspire and encourage judicial personnel to work towards achieving Judiciary’s objectives, the Hon. Chief Justice made a first maiden visit to Haa District Court.

PAGE 26

JULY



15<sup>th</sup>–17<sup>th</sup> July

**Workshop on Drafting and Finalization of Documents for Electronic Litigation**

The Judiciary of Bhutan in collaboration with the UNDP organized a workshop on “Drafting and Finalization of Documents for Electronic Litigation” from 15th July to 17th July, 2020 in Paro.

PAGE 27



JULY



20<sup>th</sup> July

Appointment of the Attorney General

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo appointed the former Justice of the High Court, Lungten Dubgyur as the Attorney General of the Office of the Attorney General. The AG previously served as the Justice of the High Court and completed his term in May 2020.

PAGE 27

JULY



21<sup>st</sup> July

Training on Interpretation of Laws

On 21st July 2020, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the training on Interpretation of Laws. The BNLI organized the training to further enhance the capacity of bench clerks to discharge their duties professionally.

PAGE 28

JULY



28<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> July

Workshop on ADR/Mediation and Pro bono Legal Services

The Bhutan National Legal Institute conducted a two-day Workshop on ADR/Mediation and Pro bono Legal Services to Enhance Access to Justice from 28th to 29th July, 2020.

PAGE 28

AUGUST



5<sup>th</sup> August

Visit by PGDNL trainees

The Post Graduate Diploma in National Law trainees (Class of 2020) of the Royal Institute of Management, Semtokha visited the Supreme Court, High Court and BNLI on an educational excursion.

PAGE 28

OCTOBER



14<sup>th</sup> October

Appointment of Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court and five Justices of the High Court.

PAGE 29

OCTOBER



23<sup>rd</sup> October

The Chief Justice of Bhutan grace the launch of DrukLaws app, a mobile application at the Office of the Attorney General

The Chief Justice of Bhutan grace the launch of DrukLaws app, a mobile application at the Office of the Attorney General to provide easy access to Judicial instruments.

PAGE 29

OCTOBER



28<sup>th</sup> October

Appointment of the Chief Justice of High Court

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to appoint Justice Duba Dukpa as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bhutan.

PAGE 29

OCTOBER



30<sup>th</sup> October

Visit to the High Court by the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan

On 30th October 2020, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan visited the High Court for exchange of views and ideas. The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan was received by the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Justices.

PAGE 30

NOVEMBER



5<sup>th</sup> November

Oath or Affirmation of Office and Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy to the newly appointed Constitutional Post Holders

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath or Affirmation of Office and Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy to the Auditor General of the Royal Audit Authority; Chief Election Commissioner & Commissioners of the Election Commission of Bhutan; and Chairperson & Commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

PAGE 30



NOVEMBER



12th November

**Appointment of the Registrar General of the Supreme Court and High Court**

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan appointed Drangpon Gembo Dorji of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court as the Registrar General of the Supreme Court, and Drangpon Phurba Dorji of Bumthang Dzongkhag Court as the Registrar General of the High Court on 12th November, 2020.

PAGE 30

NOVEMBER



17th November

**Appointment of the Director General of Bhutan National Legal Institute**

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan appointed Drangpon Pema Needup of Punakha Dzongkhag Court as the Director General of the Bhutan National Legal Institute on 17th November, 2020. He joined the BNLI on 26th November 2020.

PAGE 31

NOVEMBER



19th November

**Appointment of an Eminent Member of the National Council**

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar and appointed Drangpon Ugyen Tshering of Trongsa Dzongkhag Court as an Eminent Member of the National Council on 19th November, 2020.

PAGE 31

NOVEMBER



25<sup>th</sup> November

Ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Paro Dzongkhag Court

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Paro Dzongkhag Court was held on 25th November 2020. The ceremony was conducted by Paro Rabdey.

PAGE 31

NOVEMBER



26<sup>th</sup> November

Oath of Affirmation

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath of Affirmation to the Hon'ble Dawa, the newly elected Member from the Chhoekhor-Tang constituency of Bumthang.

PAGE 32

NOVEMBER



27<sup>th</sup> November

Appointment of Dzongkhag Drangpons

On 27th November 2020, His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to appoint seven Drangpons.

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# **THE YEAR IN FIGURES**

# The Judicial Year

## All Courts Combined

15979	6998	6832	2873
Miscellaneous Hearing	Cases Registered	Cases Decided	Cases Pending

## Dungkhag Court

2891	1349	1308	398
Miscellaneous Hearing	Cases Registered	Cases Decided	Cases Pending

## Dzongkhag Court

11464	4631	4789	1550
Miscellaneous Hearing	Cases Registered	Cases Decided	Cases Pending

## High Court

1225	926	658	868
Miscellaneous Hearing	Cases Registered	Cases Decided	Cases Pending

## Supreme Court

399	92	77	57
Miscellaneous Hearing	Cases Registered	Cases Decided	Cases Pending

**3657**  
CIVIL CASE

**1205**  
CRIMINAL CASE

Court-Annexed Mediation Report

**8**  
High Court

**325**  
Dzongkhag Court

**112**  
Dungkhag Court

Resources

**173.939M**  
Capital

**284.679M**  
Current

for the 2020 budget

**21.854m**

Revenue Generated by Court

Civil Service Award Recipients

**7**  
Life time Service

**11**  
30 Years of Service

**17**  
20 Years of Service

**31**  
10 Years of Service

Contribution to Covid-19 Relief Fund

**Nu. 405,000**

Notary Services

3637

Marriage Certificate

11

Child Adoption

9

Organ Transplant

1181

Attestations  
of Documents

Visitors

5003

High Court

3526

Supreme Court

99

BNLI

# KEY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE JUDICIARY-2020



## Recruitment of Court Registrars and Bench Clerks

Four toppers of the Post Graduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) from the Royal Institute of Management (RIM) joined the Judiciary as Court Registrars with effect from 1st January, 2020. Thinley Choden and Rinzin Choki have been placed at the Supreme Court. Tashi Dorji joined Chukha Dzongkhag Court while Pemba Shingdan joined the Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI). Six Bench Clerks were recruited on 16th November 2020. Sanga Chezom, Ugyen Lhamo, Pema Wangchuk, Kunzang Norbu, Sangay Ngazom and Kinzang Dema were recruited and placed in various courts.

## Judicial Induction and Orientation Program (JIOP)



The Bhutan National Legal Institute conducted a one-week Judicial Induction and Orientation Program (JIOP) beginning from 3rd February 2020 in Thimphu for twenty two Bench Clerks and four Court Registrars. Justice Kuenlay Tshering graced the program as the chief guest. The JIOP is aimed at orienting the new inductees with the nature of the judicial work, career advancement, opportunities and challenges. They are also familiarized with the judiciary’s mission, vision and objectives, as well as policies, leadership and governance. Most importantly, they are briefed on their roles as Registrars and Bench Clerks while assisting the judges in the adjudication of disputes, and serving as the crucial bridges between the courts and the people in the justice delivery process. The program also includes sessions on judicial ethics, integrity, accountability and code of conduct. The Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court delivered talks on various aspects of judicial life and work. The program also had sessions on Driglam Namzha and educational excursions to Thimphu Dzongkhag Court, the High Court and the Supreme Court. The program concluded on 7th February 2020.

Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck granted an audience to the four Registrars and twenty-two Bench Clerks who underwent the JIOP. Her Royal Highness reminded the inductees that they play significant roles in assisting the courts to deliver efficient judicial services and in winning the trust and confidence of the people. Her Royal Highness wished them good luck as they embarked on their judicial career.

Joining of new IT Officer

27 FEBRUARY



Ms. Dem Zam joined the Judiciary as the new IT Officer, after being recruited by the RCSC. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the Jaypee University of Information Technology, India.

Joining of new Finance Officer

On 11th March 2020, Ms. Pema Yangden joined the Judiciary of Bhutan as Dy. Chief Finance Officer. She heads the Finance Division of the Judiciary. Before joining the Judiciary, she served at the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Brussels for 3 years from 2017 to 2019. She has a Master's degree in Business Administration.

11 MARCH



Contribution to COVID-19 Relief Fund

13 MARCH

As a gesture of national unity and support to His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo and the Royal Government for fearlessly and tirelessly fighting the COVID-19 at the frontline ever since its detection in the Country, the Judiciary of Bhutan contributed Nu. 0.405 Million to the Royal Government. The contribution was made by the Justices and Judges for the Nation's fight against the COVID-19 on 13th March, 2020.

1. Justices of the Supreme Court: Nu. 66,000
2. Justices of the High Court: Nu. 1,02,000
3. Judges of the Dzongkhag Courts: Nu. 1,37,000
4. Judges of the Dungkhag Courts: Nu. 100,000



## Farewell to Justice Rinzin Penjor of the Supreme Court

20 MARCH



The Drangpons of the Supreme Court, High Court, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court, other Judicial staff and members of the BNLI bid farewell to Justice Rinzin Penjor on 20th March 2020. Justice Rinzin Penjor served at the Supreme Court and completed the term of 10 years on 20th February 2020. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, he was the Attorney General. He also served in various courts during his tenure with the Judiciary spanning over three decades.

## Completion of term of three High Court Justices

12 MAY



The Judiciary bid farewell to the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court Sangay Khandu, Justice Lungten Dubgyur and Justice Tshering Namgyel who completed their ten year term at the High Court on 12th May 2020. The Judiciary fraternity congratulated the three Justices for successfully completing their tenure with the Judiciary and wished them and their families the best in life.

## Inauguration of the Bhutan National Legal Institute office

27 MAY



On 27th May 2020, His Eminence Vairochana Rinpoche Ngawang Jigme Jigten Wangchuck, Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, Her Royal Highness Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, and His Highness Dasho Jigje Singye Wangchuck graced the inaugural ceremony of the new office of the Bhutan National Legal Institute at the Supreme Court complex. Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court, and officials of the Institute attended the program.

## Appointment of the Chief Justice of Bhutan

11 JUNE



His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dakyen to appoint His Excellency Chogyal Dago Rigdzin as the Chief Justice of Bhutan at Tashichhodzong on 11th June 2020. The ceremony was graced by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen.

Prior to this appointment, the Chief Justice of Bhutan was serving as the Chief Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of Bhutan, having been appointed to the position in 2015. The Chief Justice of Bhutan joined the civil service in June 1990.

## The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the 41<sup>st</sup> Desuung

13 JULY



The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the 41st Desuung Integrated Batch at Haa as the Chief Guest.

## The Chief Justice of Bhutan visits Haa District Court

13 JULY



Recognizing the need to personally oversee the functioning of the individual courts, learn and address challenges, update judicial personnel on reforms and policies and to inspire and encourage judicial personnel to work towards achieving Judiciary's objectives, the Hon. Chief Justice made a first maiden visit to Haa District Court.

Workshop on Drafting and Finalization of Documents for Electronic Litigation

15-17 JULY



The Judiciary of Bhutan in collaboration with the UNDP organized a workshop on “Drafting and Finalization of Documents for Electronic Litigation” from 15th July to 17th July, 2020 in Paro. The opening session of the workshop was graced by Drangpon Tshering Dorji, Registrar General of the Supreme Court and Her Excellency Azusa Kubota, Resident Representative, UNDP. The three-day workshop was attended by the participants from the Judiciary, UNDP, UNICEF, GNHC, NCWC and i-Technologies. With the global pandemic and much felt need to infuse justice with technology, the Judiciary has decided to establish electronic litigation in Bhutan. Therefore, the Judiciary decided to draft the Rules and Regulations on Electronic Litigation, 2020. In addition to developing rules and regulations on electronic litigation, the Judiciary, through this pilot project, aims to upgrade or enhance features of the existing Case Management System (CMS) to support services under electronic litigation. With financial and technical assistance from the UNDP, the Judiciary has decided to establish a pilot project to establish electronic litigation in Bhutan. The objective of the project was to establish a pilot electronic litigation system in selected courts to enhance easy access to justice for people of Bhutan. The workshop was the first step towards developing and establishing electronic litigation in Bhutan. The purpose of the workshop was to develop and finalize three essential documents for electronic litigation namely: (1) Rules and Regulations on Electronic Litigation; (2) Action Plan for Implementation of Electronic Litigation; and (3) Terms of Reference for Technical Assistance.

Appointment of the Attorney General

20 JULY



On 20th July 2020, His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo appointed the former Justice of the High Court, Lungten Dubgyur as the Attorney General of the Office of the Attorney General. The AG previously served as the Justice of the High Court and completed his term in May 2020.

His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to the Attorney General on 19th November, 2020. The formal Dhar ceremony was postponed to a later date in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Training on Interpretation of Laws

21 JULY



On 21st July 2020, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the opening ceremony of the training on Interpretation of Laws. The BNLI organized the training to further enhance the capacity of bench clerks to discharge their duties professionally. They were trained in determining the true intention or the purpose of the Legislature in enacting the particular laws; and familiarized with the various rules and principles of interpretation of laws.

### Workshop on ADR/Mediation and Pro bono Legal Services

28-29 JULY



The Bhutan National Legal Institute conducted a two-day Workshop on ADR/Mediation and Pro bono Legal Services to Enhance Access to Justice from 28th to 29th July, 2020. The Workshop was facilitated by Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court, international and national experts. It was attended by 25 professional practicing lawyers. The opening ceremony was graced by Justice Kuenlay Tshering of the Supreme Court.

### Visit by PGDNL trainees

On 5th August 2020, the Post Graduate Diploma in National Law trainees (Class of 2020) of the Royal Institute of Management, Semtokha visited the Supreme Court, High Court and BNLI on an educational excursion. The delegation was led by Justice Kuenlay Tshering, who teaches Constitutional law at the RIM as a Visiting Faculty. The trainees learned about judicial procedures and appellate norms of adjudication and trials. The program was aimed at making the course more experiential and immersive by familiarizing the trainees with the court related functioning and judicial profession.

5 AUGUST



Appointment of Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court

On 14th October 2020, His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court and five Justices of the High Court. Justice Sangay Khandu, the former acting Chief Justice of the High Court was appointed as the Justice of the Supreme Court. Drangpon Jangchuk Norbu (PhD) of Haa Dzongkhag Court; Drangpon Pasang Wangmo of Family & Child Bench, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court; Drangpon Bir Bahadur of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court; Drangpon Tshering Dorji, the Registrar General of the Supreme Court; and Drangpon Lobzang Rinzin Yargay, the Director General of Bhutan National Legal Institute were appointed as the Justices of the High Court. His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court on 28th October 2020. The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath or Affirmation of Office and Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy to the newly appointed Justices.



The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the launch of DrukLaws app, a mobile application at the Office of the Attorney General



The Chief Justice of Bhutan graced the launch of DrukLaws app, a mobile application at the Office of the Attorney General to provide easy access to Judicial instruments.

Appointment of the Chief Justice of High Court

On 28th October 2020, His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to appoint Justice Duba Dukpa as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Bhutan. Justice Duba had been serving as the officiating Chief Justice of the High Court. In accordance with Article 21(11) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Chief Justice of the High Court is appointed from among the Drangpons of the High Court or from among eminent jurists by His Majesty on the recommendation of the National Judicial Commission.



## Visit to the High Court by the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan

On 30th October 2020, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan visited the High Court for exchange of views and ideas. The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan was received by the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Justices.



## Oath or Affirmation of Office and Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy to the newly appointed Constitutional Post Holders

5 NOVEMBER



On 5th November 2020, the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath or Affirmation of Office and Oath or Affirmation of Secrecy to the Auditor General of the Royal Audit Authority; Chief Election Commissioner & Commissioners of the Election Commission of Bhutan; and Chairperson & Commissioners of the Anti-Corruption Commission. The Oath was administered in accordance with Article 31(6) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

## Appointment of the Registrar General of the Supreme Court and High Court

12 NOVEMBER



The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan appointed Drangpon Gembo Dorji of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court as the Registrar General of the Supreme Court, and Drangpon Phurba Dorji of Bumthang Dzongkhag Court as the Registrar General of the High Court on 12th November, 2020.

Drangpon Gembo Dorji joined as the Registrar General of the Supreme Court on 17th November, 2020. Drangpon Phurba Dorji joined as the Registrar General of the High Court on 3rd December 2020.



## Appointment of the Director General of Bhutan National Legal Institute

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan appointed Drangpon Pema Needup of Punakha Dzongkhag Court as the Director General of the Bhutan National Legal Institute on 17th November, 2020. He joined the BNLI on 26th November 2020.

17 NOVEMBER



## Appointment of an Eminent Member of the National Council

19 NOVEMBER



His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar and appointed Drangpon Ugyen Tshering of Trongsa Dzongkhag Court as an Eminent Member of the National Council on 19th November, 2020. He has an LL.M in International and Comparative Law from George Washington University, Washington D.C., USA. He has also served as Drangpon at Thimphu Dzongkhag Court and Gelephu Dungkhag Court. He is one of the five Eminent Members of the National Council appointed by His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo in accordance with the Article 11 (1) of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

## Ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Paro Dzongkhag Court

The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of Paro Dzongkhag Court was held on 25th November 2020. The ceremony was conducted by Paro Rabdey. Mr. Gerhard Adams, Head of the Austrian Coordination office, Thimphu and few representatives of the Paro Local Administration attended the ceremony in observing the Covid Protocol. The construction of the court is funded by Austrian Development Agency through the Justice Sector Strategic Program.

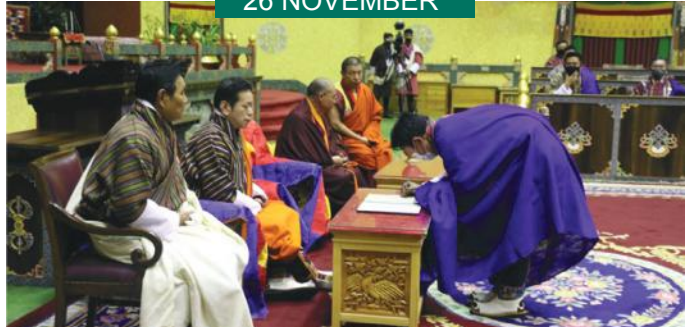
25 NOVEMBER



## Oath of Affirmation

The Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan administered the Oath of Affirmation to the Hon'ble Dawa, the newly elected Member from the Chhoeckhor-Tang constituency of Bumthang.

26 NOVEMBER



## Appointment of Dzongkhag Drangpons

27 NOVEMBER



On 27th November 2020, His Majesty The Druk Gyalpo granted Dhar to appoint seven Drangpons. The former Justice of the High Court, Tshering Namgyel was appointed as the Drangpon of the Royal Bhutan Armed Forces Court of Justice in Lungtenphu, Thimphu. The Director of Office of the Attorney General, Kinley Tenzin was appointed as Zhemgang Drangpon; Drangpon Rabjam Dechen Wangmo of Public Notary Office, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court was appointed as Lhuentse Drangpon; Drangpon Thongjay of Gelephu Dungkhag Court was appointed as Dagana Drangpon; Drangpon Singye Wangdi of Phuentsholing Dungkhag Court was appointed as Tashi Yangtse Drangpon; Drangpon Jigme Lodey of Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court was appointed as Mongar Drangpon; and Sangay Chedup, the Personal Secretary to Her Royal Highness Azhi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck was appointed as Gasa Drangpon.



**Transfer of Dzongkhag Drangpons**

Sl. No.	Name	Transferred from	Transferred to
1.	Tharchean	Gasa	Wangdue Phodrang (Bench I)
2.	Kinley Namgay	Thimphu (Bench I)	Paro (Bench I)
3.	Rinchen Penjor	Paro (Bench I)	Thimphu (Bench I)
4.	Ugyen Jamtsho	Samtse	Punakha
5.	Sonam Gyeltshen	Mongar	Bumthang
6.	Tashi Dorji	RBA Court	Haa
7.	Norbu	Zhemgang	Thimphu
8.	Chador Phuntsho	Dagana	Thimphu
9.	Gembo Tashi	Chukha	Sarpang
10.	Pelden Wangmo	Sarpang	Thimphu
11.	Lhindup Zangpo	Lhuentse	Trongsa
12.	Tashi Yangzom	Tashi Yangtse	Tsirang
13.	Karma Dorji	Tsirang	Samdrup Jongkhar
14.	Pema Dechen	Thimphu	Paro (Bench II)
15.	Kesang Choden	Thimphu	Samtse

**Transfer of Dungkhag Drangpons and Drangpon Rabjams**

Sl. No.	Names	Transferred from	Transferred to
1.	Khandu	Weringla	Paro
2.	Singye	Wamrong	Weringla
3.	Chodup	Panbang	Lingzhi
4.	Sonam Phuntsho	Phuentsholing (Bench I)	Tashichholing
5.	Ugyen Dorji	Paro (Bench II)	Phuentsholing (Bench I)
6.	Phuntsho Wangdi	Supreme Court	RIM
7.	Ugyen Nima	Lingzhi	Dorokha
8.	Damchoe Lhendup	Tashichholing	Samdrup Choling
9.	Bolanath Dahal	Lhamoizingkha	Thrimshing
10.	Sonam Tshering	Thrimshing	Panbang
12.	Purushottam Ghimiray	Dorokha	Lhamoizingkha
12.	Tenzin Dorji	Sakteng	Phuentsholing (Bench II)
13.	Richa Gurung	Supreme Court	Wamrong
14.	Phuntsho Wangchuk	Supreme Court	Gelephu
15.	Dungay Tshering	Mongar	Sakteng

**Transfer of Court Registrars**

Sl. No.	Names	Transferred from	Transferred to
1.	Tshoejab Mephram Denlen	High Court	Supreme Court
2.	Garab Yeshe	Supreme Court	Notary Public Office (Thimphu)
3.	Dorji Wangmo	Phuentsholing	Supreme Court
4.	Dawa Gyeltshen	Supreme Court	Phuentsholing
5.	Jigme Gyaltsen	Thimphu (Criminal Bench I)	High Court Registry
6.	Jigme Singye	Gelephu	Supreme Court
7.	Thinley Choden	Supreme Court	BNLI

**List of Civil Service Award Recipients.****Life Time**

SL#	Name	Designation	Court	Remarks
1	Wangchuk Tshering	Accounts Asst	Haa Dzongkhag Court	Life Time Medal
2	Chimi Rinzin	Bench Clerk	Mongar Dzongkhag Court	Life Time Medal
3	Penjor	Bench Clerk	Gelephu Dungkhag Court	Life Time Medal
4	Wangdi	Bench Clerk	Bumthang Dzongkhag Court	Life Time Medal
5	Dasho Rinzin Penjor	Justice	Supreme Court of Bhutan	Life Time Medal
6	Dasho Tsheltrim Tempa	Dungkhag Drangpon	Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court	Life Time Medal
7	Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk	Chief Justice	Supreme Court of Bhutan	Life Time Medal

**30 years and above**

SL#	Name	Designation	Court	Remarks
1	Chogyal Dago Ridgzin	Chief Justice of Bhutan	Supreme Court	30 years
2	Govinda Nirola	Bench clerk	Sarpang Dzongkhag Court	30 years
3	Dumo Choden	Bench clerk	Tsirang Dzongkhag Court	30 years
4	Dasho Blola Nath Dahal	Drangpon	Lhamoyzingkha Dungkhag Court	30 years
5	Tashi Lhamo	Bench clerk	Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	30 years

6	Kinley Bidha	Bench clerk	Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	30 years
7	Dasho Tobgay	Drangpon	Sangbaykha Dungkhag Court	30 years
8	Dasho Kuenlay Tshering	Justice	Supreme Court	30 years
9	Drakpa	Bench clerk	PemaGatshel Dzongkhag Court	30 years
10	Dasho Sonam Phuntsho	Dungkhag Drangpon	Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court	30 years
11	Tashi Phuntsho	Bench Clerk	Dorokha Dungkhag Court	30 years

**20 years and above**

SL#	Name	Designation	Court	Remarks
1	Chencho Gyem	Bench Clerk	High Court	20 years
2	Kezang Dawa	Bench Clerk	Supreme Court	20 years
3	Jigme Dorji	ICT Associate	Supreme Court	20 years
4	Tenzin Rabgay	Bench Clerk	Trashigang Dzongkhag Court	20 years
5	Ngawang Phuntsho	Bench Clerk	Tsirang Dzongkhag Court	20 years
6	Tshering Yangay	Bench Clerk	Wangdue Dzongkhag Court	20 years
7	Kuenga Thinley	Bench Clerk	Gelephu Dungkhag Court	20 years
8	Phuntsho Chhoden	Bench Clerk	Gelephu Dungkhag Court	20 years
9	Pema Lhamo	Bench Clerk	Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court	20 years
10	Yonten Thinley	Bench Clerk	Lhuntse Dzongkhag Court	20 years
11	Dorji Wangdi	Bench Clerk	Lingzhi Dungkhag Court	20 years
12	Mendel Dorji	Bench Clerk	Lingzhi Dungkhag Court	20 years
13	Tshering Lham	Bench Clerk	High Court	20 years
14	Dorji Wangmo	Bench Clerk	High Court	20 years
15	Tshencho Dema	Bench Clerk	Paro Dzongkhag Court	20 years
16	Jampel Dorji	Bench Clerk	Lhamiozingkhag Dungkhag Court	20 years
17	Tshering Norbu	Bench Clerk	Dagana Dzongkhag Court	20 years

**10 years and above**

SL#	Name	Designation	Court	Remarks
1	Kelzang Thinley	Dispatcher I	Bumthang Dzongkhag Court	10 years
2	Rinchen Dema	Bench Clerk	Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court	10 years
3	Kelzang Dolkar	Bench Clerk	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	10 years
4	Kencho wangmo	Accounts Asst.IV	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	10 years
5	Sangay Wangdi	Bench Clerk	Sarpang Dzongkhag Court	10 years
6	Dasho Tenzin	Drangpon	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	10 years
7	Ugyen Tshering	Bench Clerk	Mongar Dzongkhag Court	10 years
8	Sergi Yangzom	Dispatcher I	Wamrong Dungkhag Court	10 years
9	Karma Choden	Telephone Operator	Wangdue Dzongkhag Court	10 years
10	Karma Yangzom	Bench Clerk	High court	10 years
11	Tashi Yangzom	Bench Clerk	High court	10 years
12	Norbu Jamtsho	Bench Clerk	Wangdue Dzongkhag Court	10 years
13	Tshering Yangzom	Bench Clerk	Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court	10 years
14	Sonam Yuden	Bench Clerk	Chukha Dzongkhag Court	10 years
15	Jamyang Chopel	Bench Clerk	Wangdue Dzongkhag Court	10 years
16	Tshewang Choden	Bench Clerk	High court	10 years
17	Phub Wangmo	Bench Clerk	High court	10 years
18	Needup Gyeltshen	Bench Clerk	Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	10 years
19	Jigme Zangmo	Bench Clerk	Thimphu Dzongkhag Court	10 years
20	Dorji Wangchuk	Bench Clerk	Paro Dzongkhag Court	10 years
21	Sangay Wangchuk	Bench Clerk	Paro Dzongkhag Court	10 years
22	Dorji Wangchuk	Bench Clerk	Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court	10 years
23	Tshering Wangdi	HRO	Supreme Court	10 years
24	Pema Deki	Personal Assitant	Supreme Court	10 years
25	Kezang Yangdon	Personal Assitant	Supreme Court	10 years
26	Pema Lhaden	Personal Assitant	High court	10 years
27	Chado Wangmo	Personal Assitant	Supreme Court	10 years
28	Dawa Tshering	Store Keeper	High court	10 years
29	Tshering Zangmo	Personal Assitant	High court	10 years
30	Chengala	Driver	Haa Dzongkhag Court	10 years
31	Bhakti Maya Giri	Bench Clerk	TashiCholing Dungkhag Court	10 years

## 1. Major Achievements of the Judiciary

### Institutional Strengthening

To strengthen the Judiciary and to enhance trust and confidence of the public, His Majesty The King appointed the Chief Justice of Bhutan, the Chief Justice of High Court followed by the Justices of the Supreme Court and High Court.

The High Court now has nine Justices including Chief Justice to set the required quorum as mandated by the Constitution of Bhutan.

### Establishment of Court Annexed Mediation (CAM)

CAM was instituted in Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts. It was initiated as a part of judicial reform to enhance access to justice and promote harmony in the society. It is aimed at providing opportunity for litigants to opt for negotiated settlement with an assistance of a neutral in-house judicial mediators at any time during the process of litigation. Her Royal Highness Azhi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck graced the inauguration of CAM in Punakha Dzongkhag Court on 28th October, 2019.

### Infrastructure Development

To provide access to justice for people in the remote corners of Bhutan and to promote structural independence of the Judiciary of Bhutan, the office has started construction of Courts and residences for judicial personnel in Gasa, Sakteng and Weringla, the remotest places in the country. The Courts are not only expected to provide a dignified office for judicial personnel to work but also give prominent access point for our litigants in times of difficulties.

Under the funding of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Judiciary has also started the construction of a Dzongkhag Court in Paro.

### Electronic Litigation (e-litigation)

The launching of the first phase on a pilot basis took place in April 2013 at the Commercial Division of the Supreme Court. The system will be extended to other divisions of the Supreme Court (except for the Family and the Criminal Divisions). The e-judiciary will be implemented in these Divisions and in all subordinate courts during Phase II of the modernization of the Judiciary. As a measure to provide unimpeded access to justice for all during the COVID-19 times, The Judiciary of Bhutan in collaboration with the UNDP has initiated a pilot e-litigation. The works started since July 2020 with the incorporation of e-litigation process in the existing Case Management System of the Judiciary. We have also developed rules and regulations to facilitate the process once it rolls out by the end of January 2021.

In this pilot project, fourteen Courtrooms throughout the country will be equipped with audio visual equipment to hear cases online/remotely. The litigants can attend hearings from the place they reside without having to travel all the way to Court breaching COVID-19 protocols and health instructions. If this pilot project becomes a success, the Judiciary envisions establishing remote hearings in all Courts.

## Development of Judiciary Strategic Plan (21st Century Judiciary Roadmap)

The Judiciary is one of the branches of the Government with the constitutional mandate to safeguard, uphold and administer justice fairly and independently without fear, favour or undue delay in accordance with the Rule of Law to inspire trust and confidence. The Judiciary must uphold and protect the freedom and rights of the citizens against the strong and marauding power of the state, the wealthy and the powerful.

The proliferation of Acts and the increasing awareness in the public has increased the case load of the Courts around the country. With such magnitude of cases, it is imperative that the Judiciary take proactive measures in meeting the challenges presented before it. The Judiciary must evolve with the changing needs of the public and be relevant.

In the current 12th FYP, the Royal Government of Bhutan is striving towards creating a just, harmonious and sustainable society. Strengthening justice services and institutions is one of the National Key Result Areas to create a just society where every citizen is treated equal and has access to justice without any impediments. It is therefore, immensely important that there is a strong Rule of Law where laws are prospective that fulfils the changing needs of the time and people.

During the 112th National Day Celebration at the Changlingmithang in Thimphu, His Majesty The King decreed that "The government, lawmakers, civil service, and institutions must undertake the responsibility of restructuring and improving our laws, policies and procedures." Inspired by this profound statement of His Majesty the King, the Judiciary of Bhutan has started to draft our Strategic Plan (21st Century Judiciary Roadmap) in line with the development of 21st Century Economic Roadmap by the Government. Currently, we are conducting public and stakeholder consultations to garner wider views and expectations. The Strategic Plan which is for a span of ten years (2020-2030) is expected to provide direction and guidance to evolve Judiciary as a 21st Century Judiciary easily accessible and open to constructive feedbacks.

## Development of Child Justice Concept Paper

As a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Bhutan has the obligation to pursue its objectives. Besides, the Child Care and Protection Act, 2011 (CCPA), which was enacted in pursuant to the objectives of the CRC, lays down provisions for an efficient and responsive child justice system. The fourth paragraph of the Preamble of the CCPA provides that the Act is enacted "In order to consolidate and provide care, protection, guidance, counseling, treatment, development, rehabilitation, adjudication and disposition of matters relating to children in conflict with law in the most favorable manner and in the best interest of the child..."

Further, Section 6 of the same Act provides that "The child justice system is essential to uphold the rights of children keeping them safe and promoting their physical and mental well-being."

For an efficient child justice system, both legal framework and infrastructures are equally important. While Bhutan has adequate legal arrangement in the form of the CCPA, which provides for child justice in detail, it lacks the infrastructures that are necessary to administer child justice. Some features of this aspect of child justice are child-friendly courtrooms and waiting rooms, detention rooms, and technological facilities that ensure the protection of children's privacy especially during trials.

Projects that are proposed towards realizing the goals of an efficient child justice system require adequate fund. The fund, in turn, requires a clear plan and programme for its efficient utilization and functioning. Therefore, the Judiciary has developed a Concept Paper to address this and strengthen child justice system in accordance with the aims and objectives of the CCPA.

Bhutan, as a developing country, has not been able to implement the CCPA provisions as much as the concerns relating to child justice. However, some initial steps have been taken beginning with the establishment of a specialized Family and Child Bench in Thimphu District Court. Infrastructures, facilities and procedures that are vital for a child-friendly court are instituted in the Bench. However, the other courts of the country do not have such facilities. In this regard, it has become important for the Judiciary to develop and promote infrastructures for child-friendly courtrooms for an efficient child justice system in other courts of Bhutan too.

The Concept Paper will act as the basic framework document for projects geared towards an efficient child justice system. The Judiciary is expected to play an important role as an institution administering justice to provide services befitting the ideals of an efficient child justice system. Since Bhutan is in its initial stages of establishing the child justice system, other countries with well-developed child justice system can be a source of inspiration to begin with. Study visits to familiarize with exemplary child justice system and courtrooms are an important aspect of training for establishment of child justice system. Similarly, procurement of equipment that are integral to development of child-friendly courtrooms is an equally important aspect. With the concept paper endorsed, the Judiciary has already started implementing it.

### **Development of Concept paper for Justice Garden and Waste Management**

While granting audience to the officials from the Royal Bhutan Army, Royal Bhutan Police, Secretaries of Ministries of Education and Works and Human Settlements, CEO of Druk Holdings and Investments, Judiciary, Thimphu Thromde, National Environment Commission, Dessups, National Housing Development Corporation Limited, and Non-Governmental Organizations on 30 October 2020, His Majesty The King commanded on tackling waste management in the country to contribute to the national pride and cleanliness. His Majesty commanded that the first and the foremost thing we could do is to have our own backyards cleaned and well managed. In this regard, His Majesty emphasized embarking on waste management in a phase manner as follows:

**Phase I:** Individual institutions to take responsibility of waste management within their area.

**Phase II:** Develop and implement sustainable waste management based on the zones created during the Covid-19 lockdown period.

**Phase III:** Landfill management and installation of practical infrastructures and technologies.

In obedience to His Majesty the King's command, the Judiciary has developed the Standard Operating Procedure to be implemented by Courts around the country. The document has been approved and we are exploring for funds to take up the activity for effective management of waste and strive towards zero-waste in the Judiciary.

Similarly, in obedience to His Majesty The King's command, the Judiciary has developed a Justice Garden project paper for beautification and gardening projects for the Royal Court of Justice which is soon going to be implemented.

### **Video Conferencing System (VCS)**

The Bail and Remand hearings conducted through VSC enables most accused persons on remand and witnesses, particular the “vulnerable” ones to be heard without the need to be physically present in the courtroom. The VCS obviates the need to incur time and expense of transporting accused persons to the Court and the associated risks thereto. In order to function properly the VCS has been upgraded with better top notch equipments. This has cut down the operating costs by communicating with the prisons through internet and provide for a more secure communication between the Prisons and the Courts.

## **2. Challenges**

The following are some of the Challenges of the Judiciary that needs to be addressed.

1. A perceived lack of trust and confidence in the courts and justice sector with a social stigma existing if people need to go to court. This is related to limited awareness of laws and the role of an independent Judiciary.
2. Consistency in decision-making and in the application of procedures and systems also provide challenges to accessing the courts (including the standardization of process across all courts). These have the potential to impact on the quality of decision-making and to create uncertainty in the system as a whole.
3. Ongoing professional capacity development at all levels is seen as a challenge within the Judiciary. While all judicial officers have law degrees, and a significant number have masters of law, court administration capacity is lower. The secretariat/administration need to be strengthened both in terms of number and professionalism to allow judges to adjudicate cases effectively. Besides, it is a challenge to keep the lower level judicial personnel motivated. Added to this, with increasing complexity in the cases being heard, and the establishment of several specialized benches, specialization is seen as a necessity.
4. While the Judiciary is seen as being independent in its decision-making function, it is not independent in terms of its administration (both personnel and financial) and finances. Registrars, Bench Clerks, and Administrative/finance Personnel are administered by the Royal Civil Service Commission and are governed by the Bhutan Civil Service Rules. This results in the Judiciary not being able to directly and effectively manage its non-judicial human resources. Additionally, financial independence of the institution is limited as budgets are subject to approval, refinement, and prioritization by the Ministry of Finance. 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 Dungkhangs. Despite it, the share of budget it receives from the government to undertake its mandates continue to remain less than a Ministry. 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.



5. Recognizing the threat posed with the nature of job, strengthening security for judges and justices to protect them from threats by parties is imperative. In this way judicial officers will be able to perform their professional functions more effectively without fear from threats, intimidation, hindrance, harassment, or improper interference.
6. Improving utility of the case management system is also a key challenge for the Judiciary to: i) inform the planning, management, and operations (internal); ii) data is integrated with other justice institution's (coordination), and iii) case, performance, and accountability-related data is available to the public.
7. Low levels of legal literacy and limited access to legal advice result in most litigants appearing in Court in person as pro se (unrepresented) litigants. This is exacerbated by a lack of operational legal aid and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms/centers.

## CASE REPORT

a) Overview In 2020, 2707 cases were carried forward from 2019 and 6998 new cases were registered including the appeal cases in the High Court and Supreme Court. In the Dungkhag Courts and Dzongkhag Courts, in total, 5980 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 2020 stood at 2873 cases of which 342 cases are pending for more than 1 year. In total, 6832 cases were decided. The reason for some courts having higher numbers of registered cases can be 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 2020, a total of 3657 civil cases was registered out of which monetary cases top the list with 1674 cases. Compared to 2019, there is decrease of more than fifty percent in monetary cases. On the other hand, 1205 criminal cases were registered in 2020, which is an increase of 3 percent as compared to 2019. Amongst the criminal cases, Assault and Battery top the list with 307 cases.

Case Statistics of Dungkhag Courts

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending >12 Months
1	Dorokha	Bench I	170	28	62	90	62	28	5
2	Gelephu	Bench I	1143	84	284	368	241	127	0
3	Jomotshangkha	Bench I	109	5	28	33	27	6	0
4	Lhamoy Zinkha	Bench I	12	8	12	20	18	2	2
5	Lingzhi	Bench I	12	0	12	12	10	2	0
6	Nganglam	Bench I	231	16	62	78	64	14	3
7	Panbang	Bench I	63	18	24	42	34	8	2
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	378	29	191	220	177	43	1
		Bench II		70	187	257	181	76	11
9	Sakteng	Bench I	43	3	43	46	39	7	0
10	Samdrupcholing	Bench I	179	26	65	91	70	21	0
11	Sibsoo	Bench I	321	49	259	308	259	49	5
12	Sombeykha	Bench I	41	0	41	41	41	0	0
13	Thrimshing	Bench I	74	0	29	29	28	1	0
14	Wamrong	Bench I	104	16	39	55	43	12	0
15	Weringla	Bench I	11	5	11	16	14	2	0
Total			2891	357	1349	1706	1308	398	29

Case Statistics of Dzongkhag Courts

Sl. No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending >12 Months
1	Bumthang	Bench I	218	75	218	293	234	59	9
2	Chukha	Bench I	112	58	112	170	56	114	30
3	Dagana	Bench I	435	51	143	194	177	17	0
4	Gasa	Bench I	36	3	31	34	27	7	0
5	Haa	Bench I	322	10	101	111	104	7	0
6	Lhuentse	Bench I	277	12	83	95	85	10	1
7	Mongar	Bench I	456	96	201	297	255	42	0
8	Paro	Bench I	1613	176	233	409	274	135	40
		242		418	492	901	231	505	261
9	Pemagatshel	Bench I	346	14	163	177	134	43	0
10	Punakha	Bench I	902	76	348	424	323	101	0
11	Samdrup jongkhar	Bench I	89	13	89	102	88	14	0
12	Samtse	Bench I	224	50	224	274	249	25	0
13	Sarpang	Bench I	141	39	141	180	165	15	0
14	Thimphu	Bench I	4298	82	139	221	155	66	0
		Bench II		38	353	391	293	98	3
		Bench III		124	366	490	390	100	2
		Bench IV		62	138	200	137	63	5
		Bench V		211	339	550	402	148	2
15	Trashigang	Bench I	577	17	177	194	169	25	3
16	Trashiyangtse	Bench I	109	26	109	135	127	8	0
17	Trongsa	Bench I	303	70	90	160	112	48	0
18	Tsirang	Bench I	411	19	114	133	109	24	2
19	Wangdi phodrang	Bench I	418	71	197	268	205	63	3
		37		108	258	526	235	440	23
20	Zhemgang	Bench I	177	36	51	87	53	34	0
	Total	11464	1708	4631	6339	4789	1550	188	

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	1225	146	179	325	166	159	93	0	14
	Bench II		82	192	274	156	118	104	0	8
	Bench III		133	192	325	162	163	64	0	8
	Larger Bench		239	363	602	174	428	0	76	95
Total			600	926	1526	658	868	261	76	125

Case Statistics of Supreme Court

Sl.No	Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending
1	Supreme Court	Khading	399	13	23	36	19	17
		Langchen		9	24	33	15	18
		Maja		7	23	30	20	10
		Tachog		13	22	35	23	12
Total				42	92	134	77	57

**Appeal from Dungkhag Courts to Dzongkhag Courts**

Sl.No	Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal to Dzongkhag
1	Dorokha	Bench I	62	1
2	Gelephu	Bench I	241	40
3	Jomotshangkha	Bench I	27	0
4	Lhamoy Zinkha	Bench I	18	0
5	Lingzhi	Bench I	10	1
6	Nganglam	Bench I	64	6
7	Panbang	Bench I	34	3
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	177	28
		Bench II	181	23
9	Sakteng	Bench I	39	2
10	Samdrupcholing	Bench I	70	2
11	Sibsoo	Bench I	259	5
12	Sombeykha	Bench I	41	1
13	Thrimshing	Bench I	28	0
14	Wamrong	Bench I	43	2
15	Weringla	Bench I	14	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>1308</b>	<b>114</b>

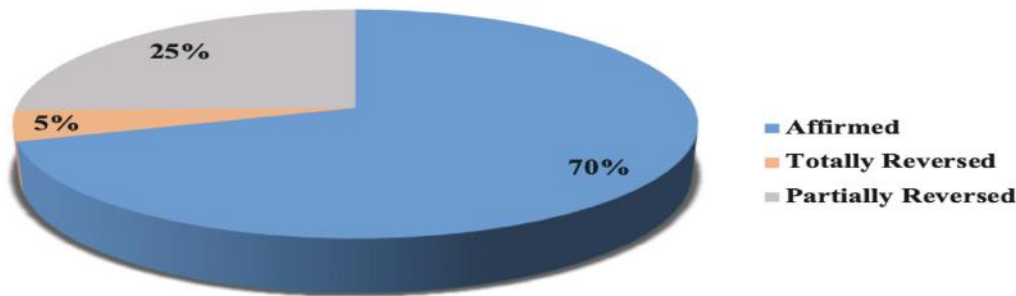
**Appeal from Dzongkhag Courts to High Courts**

Sl.No	Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal to High Court
1	Bumthang	Bench I	234	18
2	Chukha	Bench I	56	17
3	Dagana	Bench I	177	8
4	Gasa	Bench I	27	2
5	Haa	Bench I	104	14
6	Lhuentse	Bench I	85	9
7	Mongar	Bench I	255	4
8	Paro	Bench I	274	98
		Bench II	231	
9	Pemagatshel	Bench I	134	5
10	Punakha	Bench I	323	17
11	Samdrupjongkhar	Bench I	88	8
12	Samtse	Bench I	249	17
13	Sarpang	Bench I	165	29



14	Thimphu	Bench I	155	24
		Bench II	293	13
		Bench III	390	71
		Bench IV	137	22
		Bench V	402	111
15	Trashigang	Bench I	169	19
16	Trashiyangtse	Bench I	127	15
17	Trongsa	Bench I	112	8
18	Tsirang	Bench I	109	11
19	Wangdiphodrang	Bench II	205	13
20	Zhemgang	Bench I	235	17
		Bench I	53	1
Total			4789	571

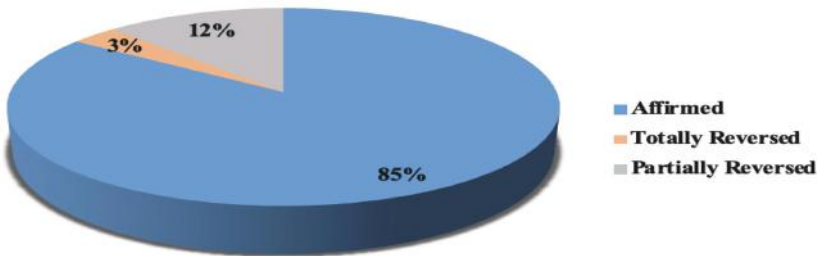
**Types of Case Disposal of Benches of High Court**



**Appeal from Benches to Larger Bench of High Court**

Court	Bench	Miscellaneous Hearing	Decided	Appeal to Larger Bench
High Court	Bench I	1225	167	93
	Bench II		156	104
	Bench III		162	64
<b>Total</b>			<b>485</b>	<b>261</b>

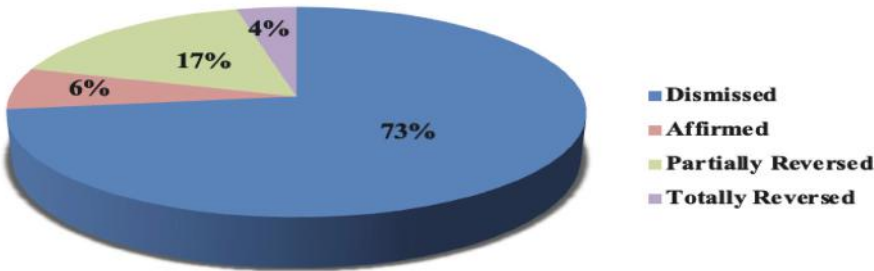
**Types of Case Disposal of Larger Bench, High Court**



**Appeal from the Larger Bench of the High Court to the Supreme Court.**

Court	Bench	Decided	Appeal to Supreme Court
High Court	Larger Bench	174	76

**Types of Case Disposal of Supreme Court**

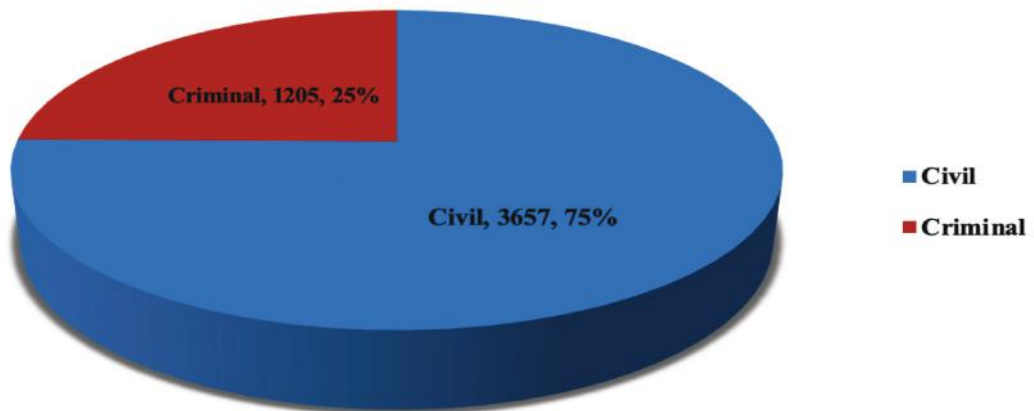


**Summary of overall case statistics**

Miscellaneous Hearing	Opening Balance	Registered	Decided	Pending	Appeal to Dzongkhag	Appeal to High Court	Appeal to Larger Bench	Appeal to Supreme Court	Pending beyond 12 Months
15979	2707	6998	6832	2873	114	571	261	76	342

**Case Statistics Summary 2016 to 2019**

Year	Case Registered	Case Decided	Total Case Pending	Case Pending beyond 12 months
2016	7910	7783	1622	83
2017	7669	6917	2361	216
2018	8577	8543	2400	202
2019	9541	9216	2692	259
2020	6998	6832	2873	342

**Number of Civil and Criminal Cases**

**Types of Civil and Criminal Cases**

	Civil	
1	Family and Child Justice	34
2	Land	308
3	Inheritance	66
4	Environment	8
5	Monetary	1674
6	Contract	101
7	Matrimonial	1184
8	Mortgage	2
9	Miscellaneous	253
	<b>Criminal</b>	
10	Homicide	18
11	Assault, Battery and related	307
12	Kidnapping and related	3
13	Sexual Offences	69
14	Arson and related	4
15	Burglary, Trespass and related	51
16	Larceny, Robbery, Armed Robbery and related	148
17	Smuggling and related	36
18	Forgery and related	39
19	Defamation and related offences	25
20	Offences against Cultural and National Heritage	3
21	Drugs and related	107
22	Offences against the Public Welfare	54
23	Offences related Public and Civic Duties	15
24	Offences related to Public Order and Tranquility	188
25	Computer Offences	2
26	Offences related to Firearms and Weapons	5
27	Offences related to Protected Species, Controlled and other harmful substances	32
28	Traffic	6
29	Bribery	2
30	Embezzlement	9
31	Abuse of Function	2
32	Embezzlement in Pvt. Sector	1

33	Tobacco	42
34	Family and Child Justice	46
35	Defamation Suit	9
36	Treason, Terrorism and related	1
37	Illegitimate	1
38	Immigration	1
39	Harassment	1
40	Malicious Mischief	2
41	Drinking Water Dispute	2
42	Suit for child Defamation	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4862</b>

### Collection of Court-Annexed Mediation Report 2020 from the Courts

#### A. High Court

Disputes mediated at CAMU, High Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	3
2	Monetary	1
3	Land	1
4	Inheritance	1
5	Footpath	1
6	Child maintenance	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

#### B. Dzongkhag Court

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Bumthang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	18
2	Monetary	6
3	Land	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Chhukha District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Dagana District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	10
2	Monetary	8
3	Maintenance of House	1
4	Taxi	1
5	Price of Cardamom	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>21</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Gasa District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Haa District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	6
2	Monetary	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Lhuentse District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	8
2	Monetary	2
3	Illegitimate Child	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Mongar District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	46
2	Monetary	12
3	Inheritance	1
4	Footpath	1
5	Illegitimate Child	1
6	Cattle-related	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>62</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Paro District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Monetary	2
3	Land	1
4	Wages	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>29</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Samdrup Jongkhar District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Sarpang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	7
2	Monetary	1
3	Land	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>



Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Trashigang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	53
2	Monetary	23
3	Inheritance	3
4	Land	3
5	Child maintenance	5
6	Enforcement of agreement	1
7	House rent	1
8	Motorable road	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>90</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Trashi Yangtse District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	3
2	Monetary	2
3	Wage	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Trongsa District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	19
2	Land	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Tsirang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	8
2	Monetary	3
4	Rented house and security deposit	1
5	Defamation	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Wangdue Phodrang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Zhemgang District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

### C. Dungkhag Court

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Dorokha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Gelephu Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	4 (2019) + 25=29
2	Monetary	3 (2019) +13=16
3	Child maintenance	3
4	Land	1
5	Agreement	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Nganglam Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	11
2	Monetary	3
3	Compensation	1
4	Wages	2
5	Business (Tshongrin)	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Panbang Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Sakteng Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Samdrup Choling Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Land	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Sombaykha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Tashichholing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Thrimshing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	7
2	Monetary	3
3	Land	1
4	Wages	2
5	Child maintenance	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Wamrong Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	11
<b>Total</b>		<b>11</b>

Table 3. Disputes mediated at CAMU, Weringla Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2020)
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

## Statistics of Marriage Certificates and Other Notary Services – 2020

#	Court Name	Marriage Certificate	Name Change	Affirmation of MC	Lost Documents	Single Status/Marital Status	Child Travel documents	Attestations of Documents	Child Adoption	Organ Transplant	Closing and Transfer of share and accounts	Attest Agreements,Wills, Contracts and Testaments	Affidavit
1	Bumthang	110	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
2	Chukha	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
3	Dagana	102	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
4	Gasa	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Haa	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
6	Lhuentse	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
7	Mongar	98	0	20	0	2	2	20	0	0	16	0	2
8	Pemagatshel	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Paro	253	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	11	0	0
10	Punakha	163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Samdrup Jongkhar	48	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
12	Samtse	72	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	Sarpang	52	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0
14	Trashigang	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
15	Thimphu	963	7	556	1	2	19	1159	4	9	43	1	0
16	Trashigang	100	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	21	0	2
17	Trongsa	62	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
18	Tsirang	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	4

19	Wanduephodrang	380	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Zhemgang	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
21	Dorokha	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
22	Gelephu	137	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
23	Jomotsangkha	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
24	Lhamoyzingkha	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
25	Lingshi	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	Nganglam	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
27	Panbang	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
28	Phuentsholing	232	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	Sakteng	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	Samdrupcholing	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
31	Sibsoo	140	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
32	Sombeykha	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33	Thrimshing	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34	Wamrong	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	Weringla	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		3637	10	592	1	15	21	1181	11	9	227	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	11

**Revenue generated by Judiciary in 2020**

Sl.No	Court	Revenue (Nu.)
1	Supreme Court	2700
2	High Court	296,600
3	Thimphu	5,805,321
4	Paro	1050220
5	Tsirang	688,469
6	Sarpang	354,475
7	Haa	578,100
8	Chukha	1,035,242
9	Gasa	57,233
10	Dagana	540,025
11	Lhuentse	445,505
12	Mongar	327613
13	Samtse	1,545,410
14	Samdrup Jongkhar	350,225
15	Trashigang	58,100
16	Wangdue Phodrang	1,471,250
17	Panbang	21500
18	Lhamoyzingkha	36,675
19	Gelephu	1,098,024
20	Phuentsholing	1,623,607
21	Dorokha	273,475
22	Jomotsangkha	47,450
23	Nganglam	430425
24	Thrimshing	266150
25	Wamrong	210850
26	Sibsoo	204,175
27	Sakteng	103,800
28	Trashiyangtse	321,075
29	Punakha	739,050
30	Samdrupcholing	244650
31	Weringla	4100
32	Bumthang	748,525
33	Trongsa	1,100,975
34	Pemagatshel	852975
35	Zhemgang	18,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,854,445.00</b>