

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



ཐྲིམས་འོག་དབྱེར་མེད་བྱང་མཉམ་།
Equal Justice Under Law

འབྲུག་གི་བྱང་ཐྲིམས་ལྷན་ཁྲེ།
Judiciary of Bhutan

Compiled By:

1. Dr. Karma Tshering
2. Dem Zam

Design and Layout:

Langa Tenzin

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Equal Justice Under Law

Vision

“Strive to create a free, fair, just, and harmonious society through effective resolution of disputes and expeditious dispensation of justice.”

Mission

“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 and to enhance access to justice.”

Annual Report 2022

Judiciary of Bhutan

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Chief Justice of Bhutan

Supreme Court

Chief Justice of Bhutan's Foreword

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the Judiciary 2022. It gives us an opportunity to review the previous year in retrospect, celebrate the successes, and reflect on the challenges of the year. Over the past year, the Judiciary studied and introduced measures to improve workplace conduct and ethics, published rules and regulations, and maintained our commitment to excellence in service to the public. Our progress, innovation, and improvement this past year in the face of several challenges is a source of pride for the judicial fraternity and a source of public trust and confidence in the judicial system.

The year 2022 has been a milestone for Bhutan in terms of change and transformation. The Judiciary has taken cognizance of the change outside and around us and instituted a number of measures to improve productivity, efficiency and public trust in our institution. One of the measures to uphold the Judiciary's unwavering ability to adhere to its core Constitutional mandate of dispensing justice in a fair and orderly manner was the publication of the Judiciary Strategic Plan 2022-2032 (Plan). The Plan outlines strategic goals and directions, a strategic plan of action, and implementation arrangements. With this Plan, our hope is to strengthen institutional independence, enhance public trust and confidence, and foster the judicial attributes of efficiency, professionalism and accountability.

We are happy to report that the implementation of the Plan commenced in earnest. The Judiciary formed several Working Group Committees (WGCs) to examine judicial workplace practices that nurture professionalism and accountability. The WGCs submitted draft Rules and Regulations, Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures, which the Judiciary adopted and the courts are actively implementing them. The Judiciary will continue to institute WGCs, from time to time, to ensure responsive reforms in light of the Plan.

Among others, the Judiciary adopted the Judicial Performance Review and Evaluation Rules 2022 to institute a system of review and evaluation of judicial performance. The Rule is aimed at inspiring visionary leadership informed by accountability and professionalism as the guiding principles which are crucial in garnering public trust and confidence in the Judiciary. In light of the Rule, the Judiciary commenced Judicial Performance Review and Evaluation in December 2022. It sought to review and evaluate the professional competency and social relevance of our judges. This exercise will be carried out every year to ensure responsiveness of the judiciary in ever-changing times and needs of the people and the country.

The year 2022 also saw the de-linking of judicial personnel from the Civil Service. This will strengthen the independence and autonomy of the Judiciary, which are fundamental to

shouldering the judicial mandates fairly and independently and fulfilling its vision of creating a free, fair, just and harmonious society.

This Annual Report contains statistics about case, notary and other judicial services rendered by the Judiciary. It also contains information on other key events of the year. While we rejoice in the collective dedication and effort that went into disposing of cases and rendering other judicial services, we must also be equally inspired to work harder and produce better outcomes. With this forward-looking attitude, the Judiciary would be able to build on its strengths and overcome weaknesses in the administration of justice. Like any other system, the Judiciary must evolve constantly with changing times through innovation, and be responsive to the need of the hour in order to take the justice system closer to the people.

Finally, I would like to recognize the exceptional work so many have put in for the improvement of the justice system. In the year of change and challenge, the Judiciary achieved many of its goals and made great progress on others. None of our accomplishments this year would have been possible without our skilled and dedicated judicial personnel. When the nation is undergoing massive challenges caused by the pandemic, exemplary dedication, loyalty, and resilience displayed by our judicial personnel have been modest but inspirational.

Therefore, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to every member of the Judiciary for the successful year.

Just as we publish this Annual Report, the new year 2023 is already upon us, demanding us to continue learning, growing and serving people with the highest level of dedication and professionalism. As a new year resolution, we have adopted a theme of being coordinated, maintaining collegiality, and being connected in our work. Individually, we pledged to make efforts to improve our versions every year, in terms of knowledge, behaviour and service.

I would like to wish everyone the very best of luck in the year 2023.

Tashi Delek!



(Chogyal Dago Rigdzin)

CHIEF JUSTICE OF BHUTAN
SUPREME COURT
ROYAL COURT OF JUSTICE
THIMPHU: BHUTAN

Introduction

The publication of the Annual Report is the celebration of the achievements and the direction for an even more successful year ahead. It also helps the Judiciary to present crucial information about its workload, budget, and overall functioning and key events. The Report as such is comprised of five parts.

The first part of the Report breaks down the judicial year of 2022 into overall figures and statistics, followed by its detailed enumeration in the second part. The first part comprises the total number of cases across all four-tier court systems across the country, which is then compiled and compartmented to demonstrate the workload across all four-tier court systems as well as individual courts in the second part. This provides crucial information for the Royal Judicial Service Council and the Office of Registrar General of the Supreme Court to make important financial and human resource management and other administrative decisions.

Part three of the Report deals with the types of case disposal by the courts. It also contains the total number of cases mediated through Court-Annexed Mediation. This alternative mode of dispute resolution continues to assist courts in managing the caseload in its docket and crucially helps litigants to come together despite their differences and work out more acceptable allocations of rights and duties between them. It has not only proven a fast and inexpensive mode of dissolving the differences but goes far into maintaining social cordiality and cohesion between the parties in particular and the community they live in and the country in general. Following this, part four presents the information on the types and the total number of notary services delivered by the Thimphu Public Notary Office and other courts.

Part five of the Report comprises the key events comprising the appointment of new court registrars, other important initiatives, matters relating to civil service awards, transfers and superannuation. This part also reports on the revenue generated by the courts. One of the notable key achievements was the adoption of numerous Rules and Regulations, Guidelines and Standing Operating Procedures. These Rules and Guidelines were adopted by the Royal Judicial Service Council in its 28th Meeting on 20 June 2022 and came into force on 1 July 2022 upon the notification by the Office of the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan. These Rules and Guidelines will facilitate and revamp the judicial process to ensure fair justice for all litigants by bringing about consistency in the interpretation and application of laws and adjudication of diverse disputes. The Judiciary hopes these Rules and Guidelines will strengthen the public trust and confidence in the Judiciary.

1. Judicial Year in Figures

1.1 The Total Figures

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8,239 Cases Registered | 8,262 Cases Decided | 1,779 Cases Pending |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

1.2 Dungkhag Courts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1,455 Cases Registered | 1,369 Cases Decided | 387 Cases Pending |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Dzongkhag Courts

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5,911 Cases Registered | 5,848 Cases Decided | 1,135 Cases Pending |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|

1.4 High Court

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 169 Miscellaneous Hearings | 561 Cases Registered | 586 Cases Decided | 65 Cases Pending |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|

1.5 Supreme Court

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 640 Miscellaneous Hearings | 285 Cases Registered | 449 Cases Decided | 139 Cases Pending |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.6 Total Cases Decided Through Court-Annexed Mediation

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 High Court | 1,246 Dzongkhag Courts | 226 Dungkhag Courts |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

1.7 Other Important Figures

(i) Budget

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nu. 110.080 M Capital | Nu. 291.452 M Current | Nu. 401.532 M Total |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

(ii) Revenue Generated by Court

Nu. 24.4 M

(iii) Notary Services

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11,025 Marriage Certificates | 8,504 Attestation of Documents | 9,660 Affirmation of MC | 109 Child Travel Documents |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

(iv) Civil Service Award Recipients

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 4 Life Time Service | 3 30 Years of Service | 6 20 Years of Service | 41 10 Years of Service |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|

(v) Retirements and Resignations

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 Superannuation | 20 Voluntary Resignations |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

2. Case Statistics

2.1 Case Statistics of Dungkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | | Opening Balance | Registered | | Total | Decided | Pending | Pending Beyond 12 Months |
|---------|----------------|----------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Dorokha | | 3 | 68 | | 71 | 57 | 14 | 0 |
| 2 | Gelephu | | 108 | 263 | | 371 | 320 | 51 | 0 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | | 2 | 24 | | 26 | 24 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | | 5 | 28 | | 33 | 31 | 2 | 0 |
| 5 | Lingzhi | | 4 | 11 | | 15 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | Nganglam | | 7 | 98 | | 105 | 102 | 3 | 0 |
| 7 | Panbang | | 2 | 36 | | 38 | 37 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | Phuentsholing | Bench I | 92 | 273 | | 365 | 185 | 180 | 17 |
| | | Bench II | 60 | 279 | | 339 | 245 | 94 | 7 |
| 9 | Sakteng | | 0 | 38 | | 38 | 30 | 8 | 0 |
| 10 | Samdrupcholing | | 2 | 120 | | 122 | 109 | 13 | 0 |
| 11 | Sombeykha | | 0 | 32 | | 32 | 30 | 2 | 0 |
| 12 | Tashicholing | | 6 | 95 | | 101 | 100 | 1 | 0 |
| 13 | Thrimshing | | 1 | 29 | | 30 | 28 | 2 | 0 |
| 14 | Wamrong | | 9 | 44 | | 53 | 48 | 5 | 0 |
| 15 | Weringla | | 0 | 17 | | 17 | 9 | 8 | 0 |
| Total | | | 301 | 1,455 | | 1,756 | 1,369 | 387 | 25 |

2.2 Case Statistics of Dzongkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | | Opening Balance | Registered | | Total | Decided | Pending | Pending Beyond12 Months |
|---------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Bumthang | | 50 | 148 | | 198 | 178 | 20 | 0 |
| 2 | Chukha | | 35 | 149 | | 184 | 165 | 19 | 0 |
| 3 | Dagana | | 9 | 206 | | 215 | 153 | 62 | 0 |
| 4 | Gasa | | 0 | 61 | | 61 | 58 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 | Haa | | 11 | 153 | | 164 | 141 | 23 | 0 |
| 6 | Lhuentse | | 9 | 74 | | 83 | 70 | 13 | 0 |
| 7 | Mongar | | 38 | 383 | | 421 | 381 | 40 | 0 |
| 8 | Paro | Bench I | 57 | 235 | | 292 | 218 | 74 | 0 |
| | | Bench II | 125 | 223 | | 348 | 272 | 76 | 0 |
| 9 | Pemagatshel | | 49 | 177 | | 226 | 208 | 18 | 0 |
| 10 | Punakha | | 66 | 387 | | 453 | 405 | 48 | 0 |
| 11 | Samdrupjongkhar | | 8 | 66 | | 74 | 69 | 5 | 0 |
| 12 | Samtse | | 44 | 188 | | 232 | 191 | 41 | 1 |
| 13 | Sarpang | | 24 | 190 | | 214 | 177 | 37 | 0 |
| 14 | Thimphu | Criminal Bench | 46 | 253 | | 299 | 169 | 130 | 1 |
| | | Family and Child Bench | 59 | 419 | | 478 | 446 | 32 | 0 |
| | | Commercial Bench I | 54 | 437 | | 491 | 434 | 57 | 0 |
| | | Commercial Bench II | 49 | 317 | | 366 | 214 | 152 | 11 |
| | | Civil Bench | 218 | 576 | | 794 | 693 | 101 | 0 |
| 15 | Trashigang | | 8 | 235 | | 243 | 231 | 12 | 1 |
| 16 | Trashiyangtse | | 13 | 178 | | 191 | 179 | 12 | 0 |
| 17 | Trongsa | | 13 | 166 | | 179 | 155 | 24 | 0 |
| 18 | Tsirang | | 18 | 270 | | 288 | 261 | 27 | 0 |
| 19 | Wangdue Phodrang | Bench I | 39 | 146 | | 185 | 145 | 40 | 0 |
| | | Bench II | 11 | 180 | | 191 | 125 | 66 | 1 |
| 20 | Zhemgang | | 19 | 94 | | 113 | 110 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | | | 1,072 | 5,911 | | 6,983 | 5,848 | 1,135 | 15 |

2.3 Case Statistics of Time-Bound Bench

| Sl. No. | Court | Opening Balance | Registered | | Total | Decided | Pending | Pending Beyond 12 Months |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Time-Bound Bench | 36 | 27 | | 63 | 10 | 53 | 0 |

2.4 Case Statistics of High Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Bench | Miscellaneous Hearing | Opening Balance | Registered | | Total | Decided | Pending | Pending Beyond 12 Months |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1 | High Court | Bench I | 169 | 22 | 169 | | 191 | 165 | 26 | 0 |
| | | Bench II | | 38 | 197 | | 235 | 205 | 30 | 0 |
| | | Bench III | | 30 | 195 | | 225 | 216 | 9 | 0 |
| Total | | | | 90 | 561 | | 651 | 586 | 65 | 0 |

2.5 Case Statistics of Supreme Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Bench | Miscellaneous Hearing | Opening Balance | Registered | | Total | Decided | Pending | Pending Beyond 12 Months |
|---------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|--|-------|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Supreme Court | Langchen | 640 | 61 | 74 | | 135 | 108 | 27 | 5 |
| | | Tachog | | 82 | 71 | | 153 | 123 | 30 | 5 |
| | | Maja | | 84 | 70 | | 154 | 110 | 44 | 11 |
| | | Khading | | 76 | 70 | | 146 | 108 | 38 | 3 |
| Total | | | | 303 | 285 | | 588 | 449 | 139 | 24 |

2.6 Overview of Case Report

Dungkhag Courts registered 1,455 new cases in addition to 301 cases carried forward from 2021. The Court disposed of 77.96 per cent of the total cases, of which 7.67 per cent appealed to Dzongkhag Courts. The year saw a total of 387 cases pending before the Dungkhag Courts, of which 6.46 per cent is pending beyond 12 months.

Dzongkhag Courts registered 5,911 new cases in addition to 1,072 cases carried forward from 2021. The Court disposed of 83.74 per cent of the total cases, of which 1.79 per cent appealed to the High Court. The year saw a total of 1,135 cases pending before the Dzongkhag Courts, of which 1.3 per cent are pending beyond 12 months. Likewise, the Time-bound Bench registered 27 new cases in addition to 36 pending cases from other courts. Of that, the Bench decided 15.87 per cent of cases with no cases pending beyond 12 months.

The High Court registered 561 new cases in 2022 in addition to 90 cases pending from 2021. Of that, the High Court disposed of 90 per cent of the total cases with no cases pending beyond 12 months. Of 586 cases decided, 42.83 per cent appealed to the Supreme Court.

The topmost court had an opening balance of 303 cases with 285 new registrations in 2022. The Supreme Court decided 76.36 per cent of cases. Of the total 139 cases pending, 17.26 per cent are pending beyond 12 months.

Overall, the Judiciary registered 8,239 new cases with 1,806 cases carried forward from 2021. Of this, the Judiciary disposed of 82.24 per cent. Of the total 1,779 cases pending in 2022, 3.59 per cent of cases are pending beyond 12 months. Beside these figures, the courts across the country are also engaged heavily in hearing and deciding miscellaneous matters, which includes cases registered as well as those dismissed and matters relating to the issuance of Marriage Certificates and notarization of documents.

2.7 Appeals from High Court to Supreme Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Bench | Appeals to Supreme Court |
|---------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | High Court | Bench I | 78 |
| | | Bench II | 89 |
| | | Bench III | 84 |
| Total | | | 251 |

2.8 Appeals From Dzongkhag Courts to High Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Decided | Appeals |
|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Bumthang | 178 | 6 |
| 2 | Chukha | 165 | 19 |
| 3 | Dagana | 153 | 4 |
| 4 | Gasa | 58 | 1 |

| | | | | |
|-------|------------------|------------------------|-------|-----|
| 5 | Haa | | 141 | 13 |
| 6 | Lhuentse | | 70 | 0 |
| 7 | Mongar | | 381 | 15 |
| 8 | Paro | Bench I | 218 | 12 |
| | | Bench II | 272 | 58 |
| 9 | Pemagatshel | | 208 | 15 |
| 10 | Punakha | | 405 | 52 |
| 11 | Samdrupjongkhar | | 69 | 3 |
| 12 | Samtse | | 191 | 17 |
| 13 | Sarpang | | 177 | 35 |
| 14 | Thimphu | Criminal Bench | 169 | 21 |
| | | Family and Child Bench | 446 | 16 |
| | | Commercial Bench I | 434 | 61 |
| | | Commercial Bench II | 214 | 23 |
| | | Civil Bench | 693 | 93 |
| 15 | Trashigang | | 231 | 10 |
| 16 | Trashiyangtse | | 179 | 4 |
| 17 | Trongsa | | 155 | 4 |
| 18 | Tsirang | | 261 | 5 |
| 19 | Wangdue Phodrang | Bench I | 145 | 6 |
| | | Bench II | 125 | 2 |
| 20 | Zhemgang | | 110 | 8 |
| Total | | | 5,848 | 503 |

2.9 Appeals from Dungkhag Courts to Dzongkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | Decided | Appeals |
|---------|---------------|---------|---------|
| 1 | Dorokha | 57 | 2 |
| 2 | Gelephu | 320 | 44 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | 24 | 0 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | 31 | 1 |
| 5 | Lingzhi | 14 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|-------|----------------|----------|-------|-----|
| 6 | Nganglam | | 102 | 20 |
| 7 | Panbang | | 37 | 1 |
| 8 | Phuentsholing | Bench I | 185 | 8 |
| | | Bench II | 245 | 20 |
| 9 | Sakteng | | 30 | 0 |
| 10 | Samdrupcholing | | 109 | 2 |
| 11 | Sombeykha | | 30 | 0 |
| 12 | Tashicholing | | 100 | 3 |
| 13 | Thrimshing | | 28 | 0 |
| 14 | Wamrong | | 48 | 2 |
| 15 | Weringla | | 9 | 0 |
| Total | | | 1,369 | 105 |

2.10 Pending Case Statistics of Past 5 Years

| Year | Cases Pending | Cases Pending Beyond 12 Months |
|------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 2018 | 2,400 | 202 |
| 2019 | 2,692 | 259 |
| 2020 | 2,873 | 342 |
| 2021 | 1,806 | 100 |
| 2022 | 1,779 | 64 |

2.11 Classification of Registered Cases

(i) Dungkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | Civil Cases | Criminal Cases |
|---------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 | Dorokha | 57 | 11 |
| 2 | Gelephu | 194 | 69 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | 15 | 9 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | 23 | 5 |
| 5 | Lingzhi | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | Nganglam | 93 | 5 |
| 7 | Panbang | 34 | 2 |
| 8 | Phuentsholing | 395 | 157 |

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 9 | Sakteng | 35 | 3 |
| 10 | Samdrupcholing | 112 | 8 |
| 11 | Sombaykha | 35 | 3 |
| 12 | Tashicholing | 68 | 27 |
| 13 | Thrimshing | 4 | 25 |
| 14 | Wamrong | 28 | 16 |
| 15 | Weringla | 16 | 1 |
| Total | | 1,112 | 343 |

(ii) Dzongkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | Civil Cases | Criminal Cases |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bumthang | 136 | 12 |
| 2 | Chhukha | 128 | 21 |
| 3 | Dagana | 165 | 41 |
| 4 | Gasa | 47 | 14 |
| 5 | Haa | 129 | 24 |
| 6 | Lhuentse | 57 | 17 |
| 7 | Mongar | 332 | 51 |
| 8 | Paro | 327 | 131 |
| 9 | Pemagatshel | 160 | 17 |
| 10 | Punakha | 298 | 89 |
| 11 | Samdrup Jongkhar | 47 | 19 |
| 12 | Samtse | 131 | 57 |
| 13 | Sarpang | 151 | 39 |
| 14 | Thimphu | 1,693 | 309 |
| 15 | Trashigang | 198 | 37 |
| 16 | Trashiyangtse | 159 | 19 |
| 17 | Trongsa | 133 | 33 |
| 18 | Tsirang | 235 | 35 |
| 19 | Wangdue Phodrang | 257 | 69 |
| 20 | Zhemgang | 78 | 16 |
| Total | | 4,859 | 1,050 |

3. Types of Case Disposal

3.1 High Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Bench | Affirmed | Fully Reversed | Partial Reversed | Remand | Negotiation | Withdrawal |
|---------|------------|--------------|------------|----------------|------------------|----------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | High Court | Bench I | 84 | 17 | 57 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | | Bench II | 129 | 20 | 48 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| | | Bench III | 90 | 25 | 96 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| | | Total | 303 | 62 | 201 | 4 | 7 | 7 |

3.2 Supreme Court

| Sl. No. | Bench | Dismissed | Affirmed | Partially Reversed | Fully Reversed |
|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Langchen | 85 | 12 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | Tachog | 84 | 7 | 15 | 12 |
| 3 | Maja | 89 | 11 | 11 | 4 |
| 4 | Khading | 69 | 23 | 8 | 7 |
| Total | | 327 | 53 | 38 | 31 |

3.3 Report on Court-Annexed Mediation

(i) Dungkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | No. of Cases Mediated |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Dorokha | 1 |
| 2 | Gelephu | 49 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | 5 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | 9 |
| 5 | Lingzhi | 0 |
| 6 | Nganglam | 41 |
| 7 | Panbang | 4 |
| 8 | Phuentsholing | 33 |
| 9 | Sakteng | 10 |
| 10 | Samdrupcholing | 9 |
| 11 | Sombaykha | 4 |
| 12 | Tashicholing | 41 |
| 13 | Thrimshing | 14 |
| 14 | Wamrong | 15 |
| 15 | Weringla | 1 |
| Total | | 226 |

(ii) Dzongkhag Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | No. of Cases Mediated |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Bumthang | 23 |
| 2 | Chhukha | 38 |
| 3 | Dagana | 53 |
| 4 | Gasa | 12 |
| 5 | Haa | 34 |
| 6 | Lhuentse | 17 |
| 7 | Mongar | 157 |
| 8 | Paro | 129 |
| 9 | Pemagatshel | 46 |
| 10 | Punakha | 52 |
| 11 | Samdrup Jongkhar | 23 |
| 12 | Samtse | 30 |
| 13 | Sarpang | 26 |
| 14 | Thimphu | 274 |
| 15 | Trashigang | 141 |
| 16 | Trashiyangtse | 30 |
| 17 | Trongsa | 45 |
| 18 | Tsirang | 60 |
| 19 | Wangdue Phodrang | 20 |
| 20 | Zhemgang | 36 |
| Total | | 1,246 |

(iii) High Court

| Sl. No. | Court | Bench | No. of Cases Mediated |
|---------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | High Court | Bench I | 0 |
| | | Bench II | 1 |
| | | Bench III | 1 |
| Total | | | 2 |

4. Notary Services

| Sl. No. | Court | Marriage Certificates (MC) | Name Change | Affirmation of MC | Lost Documents | Marital Status | Child Travel Documents | | Attestation of Documents | Child Adoption | Organ Transplant | Closing and Transfer of Shares and Accounts | Attestation of Agreements, Wills and Contracts and Testaments | Affidavit |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|---|---|-----------|
| 1 | Dorokha | 67 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 14 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| 2 | Gelephu | 615 | 1 | 353 | 1 | 25 | 0 | | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 147 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | 38 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 4 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | 43 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 12 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 48 |
| 5 | Lingzhi | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 32 |
| 6 | Nganglam | 78 | 2 | 44 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 42 |
| 7 | Panbang | 25 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 82 |
| 8 | Phuentsholing | 793 | 0 | 512 | 1 | 119 | 5 | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 62 |
| 9 | Sakteng | 52 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| 10 | Samdrupcholing | 90 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 77 |
| 11 | Sombaykha | 24 | 0 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 23 |
| 12 | Tashicholing | 201 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 34 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 117 |
| 13 | Thrimshing | 19 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 37 |
| 14 | Wamrong | 34 | 0 | 21 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 42 |
| 15 | Werringla | 15 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | Bumthang | 260 | 0 | 200 | 0 | 4 | 0 | | 47 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 | Chhukha | 299 | 1 | 232 | 0 | 3 | 1 | | 152 | 3 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 18 | Dagana | 234 | 2 | 154 | 1 | 13 | 0 | | 40 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 19 | Gasa | 134 | 2 | 143 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 17 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 20 | Haa | 404 | 0 | 358 | 0 | 7 | 0 | | 71 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 2 |
| 21 | Lhuentse | 100 | 0 | 58 | 0 | 4 | 0 | | 27 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| 22 | Mongar | 266 | 4 | 169 | 0 | 2 | 1 | | 60 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| 23 | Paro | 72 | 0 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 10 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 5 |
| 24 | Pemagatshel | 866 | 0 | 350 | 5 | 14 | 3 | | 310 | 2 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| 25 | Punakha | 710 | 0 | 699 | 0 | 7 | 5 | | 239 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Samdrup Jongkhar | 166 | 0 | 55 | 0 | 8 | 0 | | 30 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 27 | Samtse | 322 | 0 | 168 | 0 | 110 | 0 | | 24 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| 28 | Sarpang | 208 | 0 | 23 | 0 | 4 | 0 | | 17 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 29 | Public Notary, Thimphu | 2,721 | 7 | 4,186 | 7 | 18 | 88 | | 6,630 | 17 | 26 | 49 | 0 | 2 |
| 30 | Trashigang | 126 | 0 | 45 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | 18 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 31 | Trashiyangtse | 206 | 0 | 124 | 0 | 13 | 0 | | 28 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 | Trongsa | 337 | 0 | 253 | 0 | 3 | 2 | | 78 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| 33 | Tsirang | 275 | 4 | 171 | 0 | 29 | 0 | | 53 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 34 | Wangdue Phodrang | 1,111 | 0 | 1,025 | 0 | 3 | 4 | | 291 | 2 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 4 |
| 35 | Zhemgang | 112 | 0 | 98 | 0 | 3 | 0 | | 14 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 11,025 | 23 | 9,660 | 15 | 458 | 109 | | 8,504 | 32 | 32 | 326 | 3 | 23 |

5. Key Events

5.1 Recruitment of Court Registrars

Four new Court Registrars were recruited after they completed the Post Graduate Diploma in National Law (PGDNL) from the Royal Institute of Management in Thimphu in 2021.



(i) Mr Leki Tshering

From Goshing, Panbang under Zhemgang district, he graduated from the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, which is located in Odisha, India.

He is currently serving in the Civil Bench of Thimphu District Court.

(ii) Mr Namgay Dorji

Hailing from Wangdue Phodrang, he graduated from Jagran Lakecity University, which is located in Bhopal.

He is currently working at the Punakha District Court.



(iii) Mr Ngawang Yonten

Ngawang Yonten also completed his law degree from the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha, India.

He is currently working at the Wangdue Phodrang District Court.

(iv) Mr Ugyen Tshering

From Narang in Mongar, Ugyen Tshering graduated from the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Odisha, India.

He is currently placed at the Thimphu District Court.



5.2 Establishment of Media and Communication Unit

The Media and Communication Unit (Unit), housed in the Supreme Court Complex, was inaugurated on 14 May 2022. The Unit strives to disseminate factual information to the public whenever necessary, and streamline communication between the courts and other key actors of the justice sector. Another important task the Unit carries out is to minimize the percolation of unverified information to the public, which in the long run will have an adverse impact on the level of public trust and confidence in the Judiciary. It has become highly necessary to verify any information that we have access to in the age of widespread social media platforms, where fake news and half-baked information spread easily.

5.3 Establishment of Enforcement Unit at Thimphu District Court

A separate Enforcement Unit (Unit) in Thimphu District Court was long overdue. Recognizing its long-standing need, the Unit at Thimphu District Court was established on 14 May 2022. As the court is situated in the capital city, it continues to see the highest number of cases being registered year after year. The court has five Benches in total presided over by a Drangpon each. Without a separate Unit, enforcement of judgments by the respective issuing courts required considerable time and resources. The Judiciary hopes this pilot initiative is able to enforce judgments in a more organized and systematic manner.

5.4 Establishment of Grievance Cell

The Grievance Cell was established in the Supreme Court on 19 June 2022. It was established with the main purpose of understanding the challenges and grievances of the litigants and the general public so that the Judiciary can learn from such grievances and devise appropriate mechanisms to address them. This process, in turn, will help the Judiciary to grow and improve efficiency in the delivery of its services.

5.5 Appointment of Dasho Tashi Chhozom as Eminent NC Member

His Majesty the King appointed Dasho Tashi Chhozom as an Eminent Member of the National Council on 15 July 2022. She formerly served as a Drangpon at the Supreme Court of Bhutan. Five Eminent Members are appointed by His Majesty the King to the National Council under Article 11 of the Constitution.

5.6 Time-Bound Bench at the Supreme Court

The Judiciary established a Time-Bound Bench at the Supreme Court to hear and decide cases involving one Phajo Nidup. His dubious business plans resulted in multiple mortgages of various same properties with both financial institutions and private individuals.

The order constituting it ordered courts across the country to forward case files involving this individual to this Bench to avoid the risk of multiple and conflicting court decisions and ensuing difficulties of enforcing those decisions vis-à-vis competing and conflicting claims. The Judiciary hopes that the Bench constituted solely for purpose is able to ensure justice wherever due and necessary.

5.7 Allocation of New Office for Public Notary Office

To maximize the utilization of existing public resources through effective collaboration among the government institutions, the Public Notary Office, formerly housed in the Thimphu District Court's premise, was moved to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) Building in Motithang on 19 October 2022. It is expected that the new office will be able to enhance public convenience and ease the delivery of notary services that are on the rise due to the increase in the number of Bhutanese seeking opportunities to study and work abroad.

5.8 Adoption of Rules and Regulations, Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs)

The Royal Judicial Service Council formed several Working Groups to research and draft different Rules and Regulations, Guidelines and SoPs to bring about reforms and improvements in judicial process in order to ensure fair justice for the litigants as well as efficient overall administration of the Judiciary even as the country undergoes a major transformation.

The Council adopted the above documents and they came into force on 1 July 2022 upon notification by the Chief Justice of Bhutan. These instruments are aimed at revamping and systematising the conventional judicial and administrative processes. With a precise system in place, the Judiciary hopes that it would foster accountability, transparency and professionalism as the thematic means and target for the judicial personnel to follow and achieve through their respective mandates.

Brief accounts of the Rules, Guidelines and SoPs, including their primary objectives and purpose, are provided below.

(i) SoP for the Media and Communication Unit of the Judiciary, 2022

The Judiciary has witnessed a new trend of print, social and other online media platforms maligning Judiciary and its employees, often levelling allegations of bias, injustice, and miscarriage of justice. Gradual feeding of such unverified information to the public has a drastic effect on the level of public trust and confidence in the Judiciary as the impartial and neutral judicial authority upholding the rule of law.

In view of this, the Judiciary established the Media and Communication Unit at the Supreme Court. Functioning under this SoP, this Unit strives to disseminate factual information to the public whenever necessary, ensure timely access to judicial information to foster transparency and accountability, and streamline communication between the courts and other key actors of the justice sector and enhance trust and confidence in the Judiciary.

(ii) SoP for the Adjudication of Banking Cases, 2022

This SoP was framed with the main aim of ensuring uniform application of laws and court procedures specifically dealing with the loan and mortgage-related disputes. There were instances where certain matters relating to loan cases were not practised uniformly leading to perceived injustice and unfair court procedures. Besides addressing this pressing issue, the SoP also reiterates the importance to expedite the loan cases, where there are no complex legal issues, as allowed under the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, through summary or ex-parte judgments. It also provides guidance to the courts regarding those cases where there are administrative lapses on the part of the banks, sometimes even with elements constituting a criminal offence.

(iii) SoP for the Grievance Cell of the Judiciary, 2022

The SoP for the Grievance Cell was formulated with the main aim of taking into consideration the need to understand and appreciate the needs, difficulties and aspirations of the justice service consumers, address their aspirations and meet their expectations and enhance and improve judicial service. Functioning under this SoP, the Cell manages the grievances of the public or consumers of justice stemming out of judicial processes and court proceedings and submits recommendation for further actions to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan or the Council as the matter may relate to. The Cell is, however, not authorised to entertain any grievance or complaint against a judicial order or judgment.

(iv) SoP for Private Money Lending, 2022

This SoP, drafted pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Financial Services Act of Bhutan 2011, is another mechanism in the concerted efforts to prevent private money lenders from taking undue advantage of the borrowers by charging high interest rates or by disguising the money lending-borrowing transaction as a sale or other like transactions.

While the SoP accepts that money lending for non-business purposes is an age-old and traditional practice, it prohibits money lending at the disadvantage of a borrower, who would not have equal bargaining power with the lender.

(v) Sentencing Guideline of the Judiciary of Bhutan, 2022

It is vital that the criminal laws are unambiguous with limited discretion for the judges, who are expected to apply such laws in a uniform and consistent manner to ensure that it serves the purpose of sentencing, while also ensuring a rational and consistent sentencing practice.

The Sentencing Guideline of the Judiciary of Bhutan was adopted to enhance uniformity and consistency and clarity and rationality of sentencing standards, keeping in mind various factors that are integral elements of the criminal justice system.

(vi) Rules on Declaration of Conflict of Interest by Drangpon, 2022

Without a robust system of declaring a conflict of interest by Drangpons, the Judiciary will be seriously challenged by a lack of accountability and transparency in court orders and decisions, which will have a lasting impact on the affected litigants and citizens.

In view of the above, this Rule was promulgated with the main aim of instituting a system of declaration of conflict of interest by Drangpons to achieve the aims of justice and protect the integrity of the Judiciary. The Rule will allow Drangpons to perform their judicial duties without fear, favour, or bias and in accordance with the Rule of Law.

(vii) Rules of Procedure of the Royal Judicial Service Council, 2022

The Royal Judicial Service Council is a pivotal decision-making body concerning judicial personnel regarding their recruitment, management, promotion and transfer. It is set to play an even more important and proactive role hereafter since the judicial personnel have been de-linked from the Civil Service.

This Rule was promulgated to lay down procedures for the fair conduct of the business of the Council.

(viii) Rules and Guidelines on *Semso*, Gifts, Ushering and Exiting Programs for Judicial Personnel, 2022

Until recently, the Judiciary lacked a proper system to ensure the well-being of its personnel. With this systemic gap in view, the Rule was promulgated to set a standard procedure for the following:

- a) Claiming *semso* during the demise of a member of his/her immediate dependants;
- b) Organising welcome programs for officials joining Judiciary;
- c) Providing gifts to officials exiting Judiciary; and
- d) Organizing farewell programs.

(ix) Judicial Performance Review and Evaluation Rules, 2022

Regular review and evaluation of employees' performance, particularly those occupying leadership positions, are imperative to nurture a judicial system where professionalism and accountability are the top priorities, and where competency and merit are the primary criteria for career advancement and promotion.

To institutionalise a system of objective performance review and evaluation in the Judiciary, the Rule was promulgated with the following primary objectives to:

- a) Promote transparency, efficiency and accountability in the dispensation of justice;
- b) Enable fairness in career advancement and promote talent, merit, productivity and morale;
- c) Enhance both organizational and individual effectiveness by introducing objective measures of performance targets and results; and
- d) Maintain a track record to determine eligibility for promotion or elevation, regularization of service and other incentives.

(x) Guideline on Expeditious Adjudication Proceedings, 2022

Timely delivery of justice without undue delay is an important aspect of the efficient administration of justice.

Guided by this overarching principle, the Guideline was promulgated mainly to:

- a) Facilitate expeditious disposal of cases;
- b) Overcome backlog of cases;
- c) Effectuate the right of parties to a speedy hearing/trial;
- d) Enhance efficiency in the administration of justice; and
- e) Ensure effective and optimal utilization of the resources.

(xi) Guideline on Appeal, 2022

Various aspects of the appeal procedure needed to be streamlined to ensure that it followed the prescribed procedural requirements under the Civil and Criminal Code. As much as it is important on the part of the judiciary to facilitate an exhaustive appeal procedure, it must also ensure to take a firm stand against frivolous appeals, which are solely aimed at buying time and/or harassing the respondent by the appellant.

The primary purpose of this Guideline is to:

- a) Enhance access to justice;
- b) Streamline and ensure uniformity of the appeal procedure; and

- c) Prevent frivolous appeals.

(xii) Guideline for *Sothue* – Child Support Allowance, 2022

Although the Marriage Act 1980 prescribes the payment of monthly *sothue* amounting to twenty percent of a parent's monthly income, it does not define or expressly define 'net income'. This has led to inconsistent interpretations and application of the provisions of the Marriage Act, which is further complicated by the ever-changing nature and heads of income.

Keeping this in mind, the Guideline was promulgated to rationalise the determination of *sothue* vis-à-vis a parent's monthly income. This, in turn, will ensure a consistent and uniform interpretation and application of provisions of the law relating to *sothue*.

(xiii) Guideline for Prevention and Protection of Judicial Service Personnel from Sexual Harassment at the Work Place, 2022

Among many forms of harassment and intimidating practices at workplace, sexual harassment of the women employees especially continues to dominate the news headlines around the world. A free and safe workplace is the starting point for an efficient and productive working environment. Despite the Judiciary being an institution anchored by principles of the Rule of Law, fairness and justice, it lacked a regulatory framework against sexual harassment at workplace.

Against this backdrop, this Guideline was adopted with the following main purpose:

- a) Eliminate all forms of sexual harassment at workplace;
- b) Enhance understanding of sexual harassment at workplace;
- c) Create a safe and conducive working environment for all individuals working within the court system; and
- d) Provide guidance and mechanism to deal with sexual harassment complaints.

(xiv) Contempt of Court Rules and Regulation of Judiciary of Bhutan, 2022

The courts of justice must be able to maintain their dignity and garner public regard to ensure that they conduct their proceedings in a fearless and impartial manner without fear or favour in accordance with the Rule of Law.

Guided by the above primary considerations, this Rule was promulgated with the following objectives:

- a) Uphold the dignity and authority of the court;
- b) Ensure compliance with the directions of the court;
- c) Ensure respect for the due process of law;
- d) Preserve an impartial system of justice; and
- e) Maintain public trust and confidence in the administration of justice.

5.9 Transfers, Civil Service Awards and Superannuations

(i) Transfer of Judicial Personnel

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Transferred From | Transferred To | Date of Transfer |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Jigme Choden | Bench Clerk | Pemagatshel | Thimphu | 01/01/2022 |
| 2 | Ngawang Phuntsho | Bench Clerk | Tsirang | Wangdue Phodrang | 01/01/2022 |
| 3 | Nima Zangmo Sherpa | Bench Clerk | Dagana | Punakha | 01/01/2022 |
| 4 | Rinzin Wangdi | Bench Clerk | Nganglam | Pemagatshel | 01/01/2022 |
| 5 | Sonam Wangmo | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | Punakha | 01/01/2022 |
| 6 | Tenzin Nedup | Bench Clerk | High Court | Paro | 01/01/2022 |
| 7 | Thinley Zangmo | Bench Clerk | Chukha | Thimphu | 01/01/2022 |
| 8 | Ugyen Lhamo | Bench Clerk | Samdrup Jongkhar | Trashiyangtse | 01/01/2022 |
| 9 | Lhab Gyem | Bench Clerk | Dagana | Paro | 01/01/2022 |
| 10 | Kelzang Choden | Bench Clerk | Punakha | Thimphu | 01/01/2022 |
| 11 | Dorji Yuden | Bench Clerk | Wangdue Phodrang | Thimphu | 01/01/2022 |
| 12 | Yeshe Dorji | Court Registrar | Wangdue Phodrang | High Court | 07/01/2022 |
| 13 | Karma Yangzom | Bench Clerk | High Court | Supreme Court | 10/01/2022 |
| 14 | Tshering Lham | Bench Clerk | High Court | Supreme Court | 10/01/2022 |
| 15 | Chencho Dorji | Bench Clerk | Tashicholing | Phuentsholing | 18/04/2022 |
| 16 | Dawa Zam | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | Sarpang | 18/04/2022 |
| 17 | Sonam Dechen | Bench Clerk | Phuentsholing | Thimphu | 18/04/2022 |
| 18 | Tashi Dorji | Court Registrar | Chukha | Tsirang | 18/04/2022 |
| 19 | Tshering Choden | Bench Clerk | Gasa | Thimphu | 18/04/2022 |
| 20 | Tshewang Dema | Bench Clerk | Panbang | Zhemgang | 18/04/2022 |

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 21 | Tshewang Zangmo | Bench Clerk | Chukha | Paro | 18/4/2022 |
| 22 | Dorji Wangchuk | Bench Clerk | Lhamoizingkha | Thimphu | 15/6/2022 |
| 23 | Pema Seldon | Bench Clerk | Jomotsangkha | Gasa | 15/6/2022 |
| 24 | Phurpa Gyeltshen | Bench Clerk | Paro | Thimphu | 23/6/2022 |
| 25 | Leki Tshering | Court Registrar | Supreme Court | Thimphu | 30/6/2022 |
| 26 | Ugyen Tshering | Court Registrar | Supreme Court | Thimphu | 30/6/2022 |
| 27 | Lungten Wangmo | Personal Assistant | Thimphu | Lhamoizingkha | 1/9/2022 |
| 28 | Lungten Zam | Personal Assistant | Dorokha | Thimphu | 15/9/2022 |
| 29 | Wangchuk Tshering | Bench Clerk | Tsirang | Lhuntse | 16/9/2022 |
| 30 | Tshering Wangda | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | Supreme Court | 30/9/2022 |
| 31 | Tsheten Phuntsho | Bench Clerk | Gasa | Bhutan National Legal Institute | 1/11/2022 |

5.10 List of Civil Service Award Recipients

(a) Life Time

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Court | Total Years of Service |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dasho Lhundup Dorji | Drangpon Rabjam | Wangdue Phodrang | 38 |
| 2 | Dasho Singye | Drangpon Rabjam | Weringla | 39 |
| 3 | Pemba | Bench Clerk | Public Notary | 33 |
| 4 | Late Norbu Wangdi | Bench Clerk | High Court | 35 |

(b) 30 Years and Above

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Court | Total Years of Service |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dasho Sangay Khandu | Drangpon | Supreme Court | 30 |
| 2 | Dasho Sonam Tshering | Drangpon Rabjam | Panbang | 30 |
| 3 | Leki Wangmo | Sr. Personal Assistant IV | Supreme Court | 30 |

(c) 20 Years and Above

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Court | Total Years of Service |
|---------|----------------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dasho Gembo Tashi | Drangpon | Sarpang | 20 |
| 2 | Namgay Dema | Messenger | Supreme Court | 20 |
| 3 | Dorji Wangdi | Cleaner | Mongar | 20 |
| 4 | Leki Dema Bal Tamang | Cleaner | Dagana | 20 |
| 5 | Younten Phuntsho | Messenger | Gelephu | 20 |
| 6 | Tenzin | Cleaner | Gelephu | 20 |

(d) 10 Years and Above

| Sl. No. | Name | Designation | Court | Total Years of Service |
|---------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Dasho Thongjay | Drangpon | Dagana | 10 |
| 2 | Dasho Jigme Loday | Drangpon | Mongar | 10 |
| 3 | Dasho Singye Wangdi | Drangpon | Trashiyangtse | 10 |
| 4 | Dasho Sangay Chedup | Drangpon | Gasa | 10 |
| 5 | Dr. Karma Tshering | Sr. Court Registrar | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 6 | Pema Wangda | Bench Clerk | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 7 | Tandin Nidup | Bench Clerk | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 8 | Tashi Choden | Bench Clerk | High Court | 10 |
| 9 | Pema Dema | Bench Clerk | High Court | 10 |
| 10 | Sherab Lhamo | Bench Clerk | High Court | 10 |
| 11 | Karchung | Bench Clerk | High Court | 10 |
| 12 | Sonam Tshering | Bench Clerk | High Court | 10 |
| 13 | Karma Tenzin | Bench Clerk | Trongsa | 10 |
| 14 | Sonam Gyelpo | Bench Clerk | Trongsa | 10 |
| 15 | Sonam Dechen | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 16 | Sangay Dema | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 17 | Tandin Om | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 18 | Tshering Dema Sherpa | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 19 | Sonam Decho | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 20 | Dawa Lhamo | Bench Clerk | Thimphu | 10 |
| 21 | Karma Tshering | Bench Clerk | Wamrong | 10 |

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----|
| 22 | Tshewang Chopel | Bench Clerk | Samdrup Jongkhar | 10 |
| 23 | Sonam Tenzin | Bench Clerk | Punakha | 10 |
| 24 | Karma Chenzom | Cleaner | Wangdue Phodrang | 10 |
| 25 | Sangay Wangmo | Cleaner | Weringla | 10 |
| 26 | Sangay Wangmo | Messenger | Weringla | 10 |
| 27 | Chimi Dema | Gardener | Jomotsangkha | 10 |
| 28 | Ngache | Cleaner | Phuentsholing | 10 |
| 29 | Ugyen Wangchuk | Driver | Lhuentse | 10 |
| 30 | Shacha Zangmo | Gardener | Gelephu | 10 |
| 31 | Bir Bahadur Tamang | Messenger | High Court | 10 |
| 32 | Sonam Yangchen | Messenger | Wamrong | 10 |
| 33 | Kelzang Phuntsho | Driver | Sarpang | 10 |
| 34 | Shakti Rai | Sr. Technician III | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 35 | Kelzang Choden | Sr. Technician III | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 36 | Chado Wangmo | Personal Asst. II | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 37 | Kinley Zangmo | Admin Asst. I | Supreme Court | 10 |
| 38 | Lungten | Driver | Thimphu | 10 |
| 39 | Lam Zomba | Cleaner | Trongsa | 10 |
| 40 | Karma Wangmo | Cleaner | Trashiyangtse | 10 |
| 41 | Tshering Wangchuk | Messenger | Mongar | 10 |

5.11 List of Superannuated Judicial Personnel

| Sl. No. | Name | Postition Title | Court | Date of Superannuation |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Gyempo Tshering | Sr. Bench Clerk III | Supreme Court | 09/15/2022 |
| 2 | Gyempo Tshering | Bench Clerk I | Paro | 01/01/2022 |
| 3 | Tashi Phuntsho | Bench Clerk I | Dorokha | 06/05/2022 |
| 4 | Jangchub Norbu | Dispatcher II | Samtse | 06/1/.2022 |
| 5 | Zakorla | Driver | Phuentsholing | 01/01/2022 |

5.12 Voluntary Resignations

| Sl. No. | Name | Postition Title | Court | Date of Resignation |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Meera Devi Darjee | Accounts Asst. IV | Supreme Court | 1/1/2022 |
| 2 | Norbu Dorji Tamang | Personal Asst. II | Weringla | 1/1/2022 |
| 3 | Phurba | Driver | Trongsa | 1/1/2023 |
| 4 | Balang Dema | Sr. Bench Clerk III | Wangdue Phodrang | 1/1/2022 |
| 5 | Sonam Dorji | Driver | Pemagatshel | 9/3/2022 |
| 6 | Tshewang Rinzin | Bench Clerk III | Trashiyangtse | 31/3/2022 |
| 7 | Tshering Wangdi | Sr. HR Officer | Supreme Court | 1/4/2022 |
| 8 | Pema Lhadon | Personal Asst. II | High Court | 2/5/2022 |
| 9 | Yezer Dema | Executive Engineer | Supreme Court | 1/7/2022 |
| 10 | Tshewang Zangmo | Bench Clerk I | Thimphu | 18/7/2022 |
| 11 | Rinchen | Dispatcher II | Thrimshing | 8/8/2022 |
| 12 | Jampel Tshering | Bench Clerk I | Bumthang | 12/9/2022 |
| 13 | Sonam Penjor | Sr. Bench Clerk II | Supreme Court | 30/9/2022 |
| 14 | Karma Lhamo | Bench Clerk II | Thimphu | 31/10/2022 |
| 15 | Lhamo | Bench Clerk I | Thimphu | 31/10/2022 |
| 16 | Sonam Phuntsho | Caretaker | Trongsa | 30/11/2022 |
| 17 | Jamyang Lhamo | PA | Trongsa | 23/12/2022 |
| 18 | Daza | Dispatcher II | Nganglam | 30/12/2022 |
| 19 | Dema | PA | Thimphu | 31/12/2022 |
| 20 | Hodo | Sweeper | Punakha | 31/12/2022 |

5.13 Revenue Generated by Courts

| Sl. No. | Court | Revenue (Nu.) |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Dorokha | 146,000 |
| 2 | Gelephu | 477,175 |
| 3 | Jomotsangkha | 59,700 |
| 4 | Lhamoizingkha | 896,587 |
| 5 | Nganglam | 211,875 |
| 6 | Panbang | 21,000 |
| 7 | Phuentsholing | 1,523,635 |
| 8 | Sakteng | 118,875 |
| 9 | Samdrupcholing | 170,000 |
| 10 | Taschicholing | 55,775 |
| 11 | Thimshing | 32,145 |
| 12 | Wamrong | 212,400 |
| 13 | Weringla | 5,100 |
| 14 | Bumthang | 130,000 |
| 15 | Chukha | 458,175 |
| 16 | Dagana | 345,475 |
| 17 | Gasa | 160,250 |
| 18 | Haa | 597,350 |
| 19 | Lhuentse | 861,950 |
| 20 | Mongar | 903,400 |
| 21 | Paro | 2,097,875 |
| 22 | Pemagatshel | 272,250 |
| 23 | Punakha | 1,186,625 |
| 24 | Samdrup Jongkhar | 104,850 |
| 25 | Samtse | 260,700 |
| 26 | Sarpang | 210,225 |
| 27 | Thimphu | 8,636,970 |
| 28 | Trashigang | 134,900 |
| 29 | Trashiyangtse | 1,615,900 |
| 30 | Trongsa | 559,887 |
| 31 | Tsirang | 288,194 |
| 32 | Wangdue Phodrang | 894,315 |
| 33 | Zhemgang | 97,100 |
| 34 | High Court | 1,065,588 |
| 35 | Supreme Court | 504,100 |
| Total | | 24,419,759 |

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