



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ཐྱིམས་འོག་དབྱེར་མེད་དང་མཉམ།  
EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW

འབྲུག་གི་དང་ཐྱིམས་ལྷན་པེ།  
Judiciary of Bhutan



## 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 2023  
JUDICIARY OF BHUTAN**



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མདོན་མཐོ་ཁྲིམས་ཀྱི་འདུན་ས།



CHIEF JUSTICE OF BHUTAN  
SUPREME COURT

## FOREWORD

In an era characterized by remarkable opportunities and significant challenges, we, as a nation and as the custodians of justice, find ourselves skillfully navigating the intricate balance between progress and adversity. The pages of this Annual Report vividly depict a nation dynamically responding to economic shifts, a demographic evolution, and the resilient spirit of our citizens in their pursuit of enhanced opportunities and knowledge.

In the face of these multifaceted challenges, the dedication exhibited by the members of the judiciary is nothing short of awe-inspiring. The men and women who tirelessly serve the cause of justice have, against the backdrop of economic uncertainties and demographic shifts, demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the principles that underpin our judicial system. It is their resilience, their unyielding sense of duty, that has been the bedrock upon which the edifice of justice in our nation stands tall.

In the course of the past year, we, the judiciary, were graced with His Majesty's visit to the Supreme Court on August 31, 2023. This momentous occasion was a confluence of wisdom and grace, as His Majesty shared insights that continue to resonate with us. The transformative leadership exemplified by His Majesty serves as a constant source of inspiration, urging us to evolve and adapt to the changing landscape of our nation.

I am honored to reflect upon the inspiring address delivered by His Majesty the King on the auspicious occasion of National Day 2023. His Majesty's unwavering commitment to the prosperity of Bhutan, exemplified by the bold initiation of the Gelephu Mindfulness City project, serves as a beacon for our collective dedication to this noble cause. The establishment of the Special Administrative Region (SAR) and the Mindfulness City, rooted in the principles of Gross National Happiness (GNH) and Bhutanese identity, necessitates a resilient legal framework to preserve our cultural heritage and values. The judiciary stands prepared to assume a pivotal role in facilitating the success of this transformative endeavor. As we draw inspiration from the SAR, we commit to the evolution and growth of the judiciary, aligning with the dynamic demands and landscape of our nation. Our shared responsibility is to contribute to the lasting legacy envisioned by His Majesty, forging a future that not only thrives economically but is also firmly grounded in the principles of justice and happiness for all Bhutanese citizens.

As we reflect on the year 2023, a year marked by both challenge and opportunity, it is heartening to observe the concerted efforts of the judicial personnel who have worked tirelessly to fulfill the institutional goals of our esteemed judiciary. Their endeavors, often in the face of adversity, reflect the spirit of service that is the hallmark of a robust and responsive judiciary.



This Annual Report serves as a testament to the collective dedication, the trials, and the triumphs that have shaped our judicial landscape over the past year. It is a record of our shared journey toward justice, guided by the principles of fairness, equity, and the pursuit of truth. As we navigate the complexities of the present and prepare for the uncertainties of the future, let us draw strength from the achievements and lessons of the past.

In the enduring pursuit of justice, let us stand united, fortified by the wisdom imparted by His Majesty and driven by the collective commitment of the judiciary. May this report inspire confidence in our shared vision for a just and equitable society, and may the challenges we face serve as catalysts for innovation and progress.

Wishing everyone a year filled with prosperity and success in 2024. TashiDelek!



**CHIEF JUSTICE OF BHUTAN**  
**Supreme Court**  
**Royal Court of Justice**  
**Thimphu: Bhutan**

## INTRODUCTION

This report pays tribute to the unwavering commitment of the Judiciary to transparency, accountability and the pursuit of Justice. It is published with the utmost reverence for the Constitutional duty of the Judiciary to inspire public trust and confidence, upon which the legitimacy of the Institution rests.

The report intricately encapsulates the myriad facets of the Institution's operations, highlighting the accomplishments and challenges encountered throughout the year 2023. It comprises of five parts that reflects upon the milestone achieved and the continuous strides taken towards a fair and equitable judicial system.

Upholding the vision for a speedy, fair and equitable Justice, Part One of this report presents a comprehensive overview of the judiciary's operational metrics. This section encapsulates the holistic statistics pertaining to judicial functions, encompassing budget allocations, revenue generated, and notable accomplishments in human resource management.

Furthermore, Part Two provides a detailed breakdown of case reporting within each Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts. This section delineates the nuanced and specific data associated with the functioning of these courts, providing a granular insight into their individual performances and contributions to our overarching goal of delivering justice swiftly and fairly across our jurisdiction.

Part Three of the report details the commendable strides made in court-annexed mediation services. It highlights the efforts undertaken by the courts where mediation has been employed as a means to facilitate harmonious resolutions to disputes, emphasizing the courts' commitment to providing a forum for constructive dialogue, reconciliation and restorative Justice. Following this, Part Four presents the diverse and the total number of notary services rendered, underscoring the multifaceted support provided by the judicial system beyond adjudicatory functions.

Finally, Part Five of the report serves as a chronicle of pivotal milestones and notable events that have marked the Judiciary throughout the year 2023. These significant occurrences serve as guiding beacons illuminating the path towards an even more robust and steadfast judiciary in the forthcoming years. By utilizing these events as touchstones for progress, this report emphasizes the judiciary's unwavering commitment to continual enhancement and its unwavering dedication to serving society with integrity, resilience and a vision for an unwavering future.

# 1. JUDICIAL YEAR IN FIGURES

## 1.1. The Total Figures

**9,837**  
Cases Registered

**9,989**  
Cases Decided

**1,621**  
Cases Pending

## 1.2 Dungkhag Courts

**2,019**  
Cases Registered

**1,966**  
Cases Decided

**437**  
Cases Pending

## 1.3 Dzongkhag Courts

**6,981**  
Cases Registered

**7,128**  
Cases Decided

**985**  
Cases Pending

## 1.4 High Court

**547**  
Cases Registered

**563**  
Cases Decided

**49**  
Cases Pending

## 1.5 Supreme Court

**249**  
Cases Registered

**380**  
Cases Decided

**70**  
Cases Pending

## 1.6 Total Cases Decided Through Court-Annexed Mediation

**13**  
High Court

**1,629**  
Dzongkhag Courts

**282**  
Dungkhag Courts

## 1.7 Other Important Figures

### (i) Budget

**298.351M**

Capital

**87.652M**

Current

**386.183M**

Total

### (ii) Revenue Generated by Court

**Nu. 37,314,540.62**

### (iii) Notary Services

**10,195**

Marriage Certificates

**9,344**

Attestation of Documents

**7,550**

Affirmation of MC

**277**

Child Travel Documents

### (iv) Civil Service Award Recipients

**6**

Life Time Service

**3**

30 Years of Service

**19**

20 Years of Service

**60**

10 Years of Service

### (v) Retirements and Resignations

**1**

Superannuation

**28**

Voluntary Resignations

## 2. Case Statistics

### Case Statistics of Dungkhag Courts

Sl. No.	Court		Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending Beyond 12 Months
1	Dorokha		11	67	78	68	10	0
2	Gelephu		51	371	422	365	57	0
3	Jomotsangkha		2	35	37	31	6	0
4	Lhamoizingkha		2	54	56	50	6	1
5	Lingzhi		1	7	8	8	0	0
6	Nganglam		3	106	109	99	10	0
7	Panbang		1	24	25	23	2	0
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	94	468	562	473	89	13
		Bench II	180	466	646	408	238	62
9	Sakteng		8	36	44	44	0	0
10	Samdrupcholing		13	94	107	101	6	0
11	Sombeykha		2	19	21	21	0	0
12	Tashicholing		1	151	152	149	3	0
13	Thrimshing		1	26	27	27	0	0
14	Wamrong		5	81	86	82	4	0
15	Weringla		9	14	23	17	6	0
Total			384	2019	2403	1966	437	76

## Case Statistics of Dzongkhag Courts

Sl. No.	Court		Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending Beyond 12 Months
1	Bumthang		20	177	197	172	25	0
2	Chukha		19	227	246	223	23	0
3	Dagana		62	187	249	211	38	0
4	Gasa		2	38	40	36	4	0
5	Haa		23	139	162	129	33	2
6	Lhuentse		13	89	102	86	16	0
7	Mongar		40	410	450	414	36	0
8	Paro	Bench I	74	209	283	233	50	3
		Bench II	76	343	419	354	65	0
9	Pemagatshel		18	162	180	169	11	0
10	Punakha		48	460	508	468	40	0
11	Samdrupjongkhar		5	132	137	131	6	0
12	Samtse		41	384	425	399	26	1
13	Sarpang		37	171	208	204	4	0
14	Thimphu	Criminal Bench	130	415	545	432	113	7
		Family and Child Bench	32	545	577	556	21	0
		Commercial Bench I	57	379	436	412	24	0
		Commercial Bench II	152	369	521	347	174	39
		Civil Bench	101	671	772	719	53	0
15	Trashigang		12	297	309	268	41	0
16	Trashiyangtse		12	202	214	201	13	0
17	Trongsa		24	127	251	129	22	1
18	Tsirang		27	330	357	333	24	0
19	Wangdue Phodrang		104	415	519	406	113	1
20	Zhemgang		3	103	106	96	10	0
Total			1132	6981	8213	7128	985	54

**Case Statistics of Time-Bound Bench**

Sl. No.	Court	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending Beyond 12 Months
	Time-Bound Bench	53	41	94	14	80	48

**Case Statistics of High Court**

Sl. No.	Court	Bench	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending Beyond 12 Months
1	High Court	Bench I	26	96	122	121	0	0
		Bench II	30	218	248	218	31	0
		Bench III	9	233	242	224	18	0
Total			65	547	612	563	49	0

**Case Statistics of Supreme Court**

Sl. No.	Court	Bench	Opening Balance	Registered	Total	Decided	Pending	Pending Beyond 12 Months
	Supreme Court	Langchen	30	62	92	75	17	0
		Tachog	27	67	94	74	20	0
		Maja	44	54	98	87	11	0
		Khading	38	66	104	82	22	1
Total			139	249	388	318	70	1

**Pending Case Statistics of Past 5 Years**

Year	Cases Pending	Cases Pending Beyond 12 Months
2019	2,692	259
2020	2,873	342
2021	1,806	100
2022	1,779	64
2023	1621	179

## Overview of Case Report

Dungkhag Courts registered 2019 new cases in addition to 384 cases carried forward from 2022. The Court disposed of 81.8 percent of the total cases, of which 4.12 Percent appealed to Dzongkhag Courts. The year saw a total of 437 cases pending before the Dungkhag Courts, of which 17.39 percent is pending beyond 12 months.

Dzongkhag Courts registered 6981 New cases in addition to 1132 Cases carried forward from 2022. The Court disposed of 86.78 percent of the total cases, of which 6.55 Percent appealed to the High Court. The year saw a total of 985 cases pending before the Dzongkhag Courts, of which 5.48 percent are pending beyond 12 months. Likewise, the Time-bound Bench registered 41 new cases in addition to 53 pending cases from other courts. Of that, the Bench decided 14.89 Percent of cases with 48 cases pending beyond 12 months.

The High Court registered 547 new cases in 2023 in addition to 65 cases pending from 2022. Of that, the High Court disposed of 91.99 per cent of the total cases with no cases pending beyond 12 months. Of 563 cases decided, 39.78 percent appealed to the Supreme Court.

The topmost court had an opening balance of 139 cases with 249 new registrations in 2023. The Supreme Court decided 81.95 percent of cases. Of the total 70 cases pending, 1.42 percent are pending beyond 12 months.

Overall, the Judiciary registered 9837 new cases with 1773 cases carried forward from 2022. Of this, the Judiciary disposed of 85.30 percent. Of the total 1621 cases pending in 2023, 11.04 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.

## Appeals from High Court to Supreme Court

Sl.No.	Court	Bench	Appeals to Supreme Court	Appeal to Supreme Court (ADR cases)
1	High Court	Bench I	62	2
		Bench II	92	4
		Bench III	70	3
Total			224	9



**Appeals From Dzongkhag Courts to High Court**

Sl. No.	Court		Decided	Appeals
1	Bumthang		172	8
2	Chukha		223	17
3	Dagana		211	10
4	Gasa		36	3
5	Haa		129	5
6	Lhuentse		86	2
7	Mongar		414	9
8	Paro	Bench I	233	2
		Bench II	354	29
9	Pemagatshel		169	16
10	Punakha		468	28
11	Samdrupjongkhar		131	2
12	Samtse		399	22
13	Sarpang		204	24
14	Thimphu	Criminal Bench	432	32
		Familyand Child Bench	556	16
		Commercial Bench I	412	44
		Commercial Bench II	347	39
		Civil Bench	719	110
15	Trashigang		268	10
16	Trashiyangtse		201	8
17	Trongsa		129	7
18	Tsirang		333	7
19	Wangdue Phodrang		406	14
20	Zhemgang		96	3
Total			7128	467

**Appeals From Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre to High Court**

Sl. No.	ADRC	Appeals
1	ADRC	23

**Appeals from Dungkhag Courts to Dzongkhag Courts**

Sl.No.	Court		Decided	Appeals
1	Dorokha		68	2
2	Gelephu		365	37
3	Jomotsangkha		31	1
4	Lhamoizingkha		50	0
5	Lingzhi		8	1
6	Nganglam		99	7
7	Panbang		23	0
8	Phuentsholing	Bench I	473	20
		Bench II	408	6
9	Sakteng		44	2
10	Samdrupcholing		101	0
11	Sombeykha		21	3
12	Tashicholing		149	0
13	Thrimshing		27	0
14	Wamrong		82	2
15	Weringla		17	0
Total			1966	81

**Classification of Registered Cases****(i) Dungkhag Courts**

Sl.No.	Court	CivilCases	Criminal Cases
1	Dorokha	55	12
2	Gelephu	265	106
3	Jomotsangkha	30	7
4	Lhamoizingkha	19	35
5	Lingzhi	7	0
6	Nganglam	96	10
7	Panbang	23	1
8	Phuentsholing	612	322
9	Sakteng	41	3
10	Samdrupcholing	80	14
11	Sombaykha	19	2
12	Tashicholing	142	9
13	Thrimshing	27	0
14	Wamrong	74	7
15	Weringla	12	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>1502</b>	<b>530</b>

**Dzongkhag Courts**

Sl.No.	Court	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
1	Bumthang	161	16
2	Chhukha	196	50
3	Dagana	163	24
4	Gasa	35	3
5	Haa	123	16
6	Lhuentse	80	9
7	Mongar	371	39
8	Paro	663	98
9	Pemagatshel	146	16
10	Punakha	392	68
11	SamdrupJongkhar	108	24
12	Samtse	289	95
13	Sarpang	138	33
14	Thimphu	1915	464
15	Trashigang	271	26
16	Trashiyangtse	178	24
17	Trongsa	104	23
18	Tsirang	296	34
19	WangduePhodrang	325	90
20	Zhemgang	93	10

### 3. TYPES OF CASE DISPOSAL

#### High Court

Sl. No.	Court	Bench	Affirmed	Fully Reversed	Partial Reversed	Remand	Negotiated Settlement	Withdrawal
1	High Court	Bench I	58	14	45	1	0	3
		Bench II	14	0	11	0	2	17
		Bench III	14	2	8	0	15	9
		Total	86	16	64	1	17	29

#### Supreme Court

Sl. No.	Bench	Dismissed	Affirmed	Partially Reversed	Fully Reversed
1	Langchen	40	10	17	6
2	Tachog	45	16	10	3
3	Maja	44	8	20	15
4	Khading	47	10	19	6
Total		176	44	66	30

#### Report on Court-Annexed Mediation

##### (i) Dungkhag Courts

Sl. No.	Court	No. of Cases Mediated
1	Dorokha	2
2	Gelephu	73
3	Jomotsangkha	7
4	Lhamoizingkha	12
5	Lingzhi	0
6	Nganglam	30
7	Panbang	6
8	Phuentsholing	37
9	Sakteng	15
10	Samdrupcholing	2
11	Sombaykha	3
12	Tashicholing	47
13	Thrimshing	3
14	Wamrong	43
15	Weringla	2
Total		282

**(ii) Dzongkhag Courts**

Sl.No.	Court	No. of Cases Mediated
1	Bumthang	65
2	Chhukha	29
3	Dagana	41
4	Gasa	5
5	Haa	21
6	Lhuentse	23
7	Mongar	176
8	Paro	177
9	Pemagatshel	56
10	Punakha	27
11	SamdrupJongkhar	34
12	Samtse	69
13	Sarpang	49
14	Thimphu	372
15	Trashigang	143
16	Trashiyangtse	85
17	Trongsa	33
18	Tsirang	105
19	WangduePhodrang	79
20	Zhemgang	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>1629</b>

**(iii) High Court**

Sl.No.	Court	Bench	No. of Cases Mediated
1	High Court	Bench I	0
		Bench II	1
		Bench III	12
Total			13

**(iv) Supreme Court**

Sl.No.	Court	No. of Cases Mediated
<b>1</b>	<b>Supreme Court</b>	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>2</b>

## 4. NOTARY SERVICES

Sl. No.	Court	Marriage Certificates (MC)	Name/date Change	Affirmation of MC	Lost Documents	Marital Status	
1	Dorokha	106	0	44	0	5	
2	Gelephu	636	1	287	0	32	
3	Jomotsangkha	38	0	27	0	2	
4	Lhamoizingkha	74	0	28	0	13	
5	Lingzhi	16	0	3	0	0	
6	Nganglam	72	1	38	0	0	
7	Panbang	36	0	15	0	1	
8	Phuentsholing	923	27	512	4	67	
9	Sakteng	27	0	22	0	1	
10	Samdrupcholing	93	0	42	0	2	
11	Sombaykha	18	0	13	0	0	
12	Tashicholing	173	0	52	0	0	
13	Thrimshing	22	0	7	0	0	
14	Wamrong	31	0	29	0	7	
15	Weringla	7	0	0	0	0	
16	Bumthang	164	0	163	0	2	
17	Chhukha	266	9	158	0	8	
18	Dagana	171	1	96	0	15	
19	Gasa	104	1	98	0	3	
20	Haa	289	0	216	0	0	
21	Lhuentse	68	0	48	0	4	
22	Mongar	252	0	164	0	4	
23	Paro	467	0	107	0	5	
24	Pemagatshel	77	0	42	0	4	
25	Punakha	504	0	181	0	7	
26	SamdrupJongkhar	185	0	80	0	11	
27	Samtse	358	0	165	0	66	
28	Sarpang	207	0	42	0	5	
29	PublicNotary,Thimphu	3182	6	3829	7	55	
30	Trashigang	181	0	110	0	4	
31	Trashiyangtse	112	0	40	0	2	
32	Trongsa	180	0	118	0	2	
33	Tsirang	236	5	131	0	22	
34	WangduePhodrang	806	0	553	0	0	
35	Zhemgang	114	2	90	0	5	
<b>Total</b>		10195	53	7550	11	354	

	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
	0	7	2	0	2	0	0
	10	105	0	0	12	0	2
	0	2	0	0	4	0	1
	0	5	0	0	2	0	0
	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
	0	15	0	0	11	0	2
	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
	11	227	3	0	20	0	3
	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
	0	22	0	0	3	0	0
	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	0	18	0	0	9	0	3
	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
	0	16	0	0	3	0	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	117	2	0	8	0	4
	0	110	1	0	7	0	3
	3	25	1	0	10	0	8
	1	18	0	0	1	0	7
	1	26	0	0	1	0	7
	1	15	0	0	4	0	17
	4	81	1	0	16	0	18
	7	1863	6	0	5	0	0
	1	20	0	0	3	0	14
	4	202	2	0	15	0	11
	1	66	0	0	10	1	13
	2	58	1	0	13	0	6
	0	33	0	0	3	0	7
	220	5878	24	15	65	1	6
	0	40	0	0	25	0	15
	0	22	0	0	13	0	0
	1	50	0	0	12	0	5
	2	83	3	0	4	2	10
	3	189	0	0	24	0	20
	3	25	0	0	2	0	7
	277	9344	47	15	312	4	195



## 5. KEY EVENTS

### 5.1. Recruitment

**The Judiciary recruited 24 new Judicial Personnel in 2023.**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Court
1	Karma Samten Dorji	Court Registrar	Phuntsholing
2	Kinley Yangzom	Court Registrar	Thimphu
3	Kiptchu Tshering	Court Registrar	Gelephu
4	Kuenzang Deki Wangmo	Court Registrar	Thimphu
5	Pasang	Court Registrar	Chukha
6	Tshering Dechen	Court Registrar	Paro
7	Gembo Tshering	Bench Clerk	Tsirang
8	Tshering Choden	Personal Assitant	High Court
9	Lache Maya Gurung	Personal Assitant	High Court
10	Pema Yangzom	Personal Assitant	High Court
11	Gyem Dorji	Personal Assitant	Nganglam
12	Sangay Choden	Personal Assitant	Samdrup Jongkhar
13	Ugyen Thinley	Personal Assitant	Trongsa
14	Ugyen Zangmo	Personal Assitant	Panbang
15	Chenga Choden	Personal Assitant	Dagana
16	Dorji Norbu	Personal Assitant	Lhamoizingkha
17	Kailash Subba	Driver	Lhamoizingkha
18	Tshering Tobgay Doya	Driver	Dorokha
19	Tshering Tobgay	Driver	Nganglam
20	Durga Ghalley	Driver	TashiCholing
21	Dema	Sweeper	Punakha
22	Nima Lhamo	Domestic Helper	Supreme Court
23	Karma Dendup	Sweeper	PemaGatshel
24	Chandra Maya Geyba Tamang	Sweeper	Supreme Court

## 5.2. Evaluation

In pursuance of the judicial will for judicial excellence and a transformative justice system that is responsive to the emerging needs of the people and country, the first judicial performance review and evaluation of the Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Drangpons was conducted in December 2022. Total of twenty-five Dzongkhag Drangpons and six Dungkhag Drangpons actively participated in this evaluative process. This evaluation promotes and encourages meritocracy as the basis for career progression, transfer and training.

## 5.3. Delinking of the Judiciary

Upholding the Constitutional mandate to preserve the sanctity of the Separation of Power and safeguard, uphold, and administer Justice fairly and independently without fear, favour, or undue delay, the personnels from the Judiciary formally delinked from Royal Civil Service Commission with effect from 15 February 2023. With the exception of 8 personnel, all the Judicial Personnel opted to separate from the Royal Civil Service Commission, thereby establishing an independent Human Resource. This resolute action solidifies the Judiciary's commitment to fostering an environment that inspires unwavering trust and confidence among all stakeholders while significantly enhancing the accessibility and integrity of our judicial system.

## 5.4 . His Majesty, the King grants audience

On 31st August 2023, His Majesty the King graced the Supreme Court with a visit, engaging in a meaningful discourse with the judicial luminaries. The distinguished gathering included the Chief Justice of Bhutan, Supreme Court Justices, High Court Chief Justice, and Justices, alongside Judges from the Thimphu Dzongkhag Court and Court Registrars of the Supreme Court and High Court. The judiciary, privileged to receive His Majesty's insights, stands blessed with the wisdom imparted during this momentous visit.

## 5.5. Removal

Upholding the principles of fairness and accountability within the judiciary, two Drangpons of the High Court were removed in response to the identified and confirmed instances of misuse of power and Judicial misconduct on 19 September 2023. The action taken aims to maintain the integrity and credibility of the judicial system, ensuring adherence to the established ethical standards and responsibilities incumbent upon holders of such esteemed positions.

### 5.6. Promotions



His Majesty, the King appointed Drangpon Kinley Dorji as a Drangpon of the Supreme Court of Bhutan and Drangpon Kinley Namgay as a Drangpon of the High Court of Bhutan on 28 September 2023.

Drangpon Kinley Dorji formerly served as a Drangpon at the Royal Court of Justice, High Court. Drangpon Kinley Namgay formerly served as the Chief Judge of the Royal Court of Justice, Paro, The two Drangpons were appointed by His Majesty under Article 2 Section 19 of the Constitution.

### 5.7. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo appoints the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan as the Chief Advisor of the Interim Government



His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo issued a Royal Decree appointing the members of the Interim Government on 1 November 2023 in accordance with Article 19, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan. His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo appointed the Hon. Chief Justice of Bhutan, Chogyal Dago Rigdzin as the Chief Advisor of Interim Government. The Royal Decree directed the Interim Government to ensure uninterrupted continuance of the routine functions of the government until the new Prime Minister enters office after the new National Assembly has been constituted.

**5.8. Inauguration of the Royal Court of Justice, Gasa**

The Officiating Chief Justice Drangpon Norbu Tshering inaugurated the new Royal Court of Justice, Gasa on 16 November 2023. The Court was constructed under the Royal Government of Bhutan funding of Nu. 33 million.

**5.9. Inauguration of the Royal Court of Justice, Paro**

Her Royal Highness, Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck inaugurated the new Royal Court of Justice, Paro on 22 November 2023. The Court has three Benches and features inclusive and disabled friendly court rooms. It was constructed under the Austrian Development Cooperation funding of Nu. 78 million.

### 5.10. Inauguration of the Royal Court of Justice, Sakteng



The Drungpa and Drangpon Rabgam of Sakteng Dungkhag inaugurated the new Royal Court of Justice, Sakteng on 9 December 2023. The Court was constructed under the Royal Government of Bhutan funding of Nu, 14.89 million.

The inauguration of the Royal Court of Justice, Paro, Royal Court of Justice, Gasa and Royal Court of Justice, Sakteng marks a commendable achievement towards ensuring fair and equitable Access to Justice. Notably, among the Dzongkhag Courts, modern court buildings are now operational in all eighteen Court, with the exception of the Royal Court of Justice in Chukha and Thimphu. Additionally, except for the Royal Court of Justice in Lingzhi, all fourteen Dungkhag Courts boast modern facilities within purpose-built court structures.

### 5.11. Studies

Ms. Pem Tashi Pelden and Ms. Tshering Yangden; Court Registrars completed their Masters in International Law from Griffith University, Australia.

Mr. Jhulen Chhettri, Senior Engineer completed his Masters in Engineering Management from Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Tempa Gyeltshen, Senior Planning Officer completed his Masters in International Relationship from Bonds University, Australia..

Ms. Tshering Dago Wangmo, Court Registrar completed her Masters in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development from SOAS, University of London, United Kingdom.



## 5.12. Transfers, Civil Service Awards, Superannuations, EOL, Study Leave and Revenue

### (i) Transfer of Judicial Personnel

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Transferred From	Transferred To
1	Dasho Phurba Dorji	Registrar General	High Court	Supreme Court
2	Dasho Gyembo Dorji	Chief Drangpon	Supreme Court	ADRC
3	Dasho Rinchen Penjor	Chief Drangpon	Thimphu	Haa
4	Dasho Tharchean	Chief Drangpon	Wangdue	Thimphu
5	Dasho Tenzin	Chief Drangpon	Chukha	Wangdue
6	Dasho Pema Choden	Drangpon	Trashigang	Chukha
7	Dasho Norbu	Drangpon	Thimphu	Trashigang
8	Dasho Tashi Dorji	Drangpon	Haa	Gasa
9	Dasho Karma Dorji	Drangpon	SamdrupJongkhar	Thimphu
10	Dasho Sangay Chedup	Drangpon	Gasa	SamdrupJongkhar
11	Dasho Sonam Tshering	Dungkhag Drangpon	Panbang	TashiCholing
12	Dasho Sonam Phuntsho	Dungkhag Drangpon	TashiCholing	Supreme Court
13	Dasho Dungay Tshering	Dungkhag Drangpon	Nganglam	Wamrong
14	Dasho Garab Yeshe	Dungkhag Drangpon	Jomotshangkha	Nganglam
15	Dasho Richa Gurung	Acting Drangpon	Wamrong	Wangdue
16	Jigme Gyaltshen	Acting Dungkhag Drangpon	High Court	Phuntsholing
17	Dawa Gyeltshen	Acting Dungkhag Drangpon	High Court	Jomotshangkha
18	Tshering Dorji	Court Registrar	Paro	High Court
19	Tshering Dorji	Court Registrar	High Court	Supreme Court
20	Kezang Wangmo	Court Registrar	Phuntsholing	High Court
21	Dechen Wangmo	Court Registrar	Gelephu	Thimphu
22	Tshering Yangzom	Court Registrar	Thimphu	Supreme Court
23	Pema Tashi Pelden	Court Registrar	Thimphu	High Court
24	Leki Tshering	Court Registrar	Media & Communication	PS to Hon'ble Lyonpo
25	Jamyang Choden	Bench Clerk	Bumthang	Zhemgang
26	Pema Lhamo	Bench Clerk	Zhemgang	Sarpang
27	Sherab Yangzom	Bench Clerk	Zhemgang	Wangdue
28	Yesel Lhamo	Bench Clerk	Wangdue	Thimphu
29	Dorji Wangmo	Bench Clerk	High Court	Supreme Court

30	Sangay Chezom	Bench Clerk	TashiCholing	Thimphu
31	Tsencho Dema	Bench Clerk	Haa	Paro
32	Jigme	Bench Clerk	Weringla	Thimphu
33	Tenzin	Bench Clerk	BNLI	Trashiyangtse
34	Dolay	Bench Clerk	Sarpang	Haa
35	Dendup	Bench Clerk	PemaGatshel	Dagana
36	Pema Wangmo	Bench Clerk	TrashYangtse	Samtse
37	Sangay Ngazom	Bench Clerk	Sakteng	Tsirang
38	Karma Yangzom	Bench Clerk	Thrimshing	Trashigang
39	Chencho Gyem	Bench Clerk	High Court	Supreme Court
40	Sonam Lhadon	Bench Clerk	Thimphu	High Court
41	Kelzang Dolkar	Bench Clerk	Chukha	Thimphu
42	Yonten Jamtsho	Personal Assistant	Lhuntse	Trashigang
43	Ngawang Chozom	Personal Assistant	Gasa	BNLI
44	Sangay Rigki	Personal Assistant	Zhemgang	Thimphu
45	Lungten Wangmo	Personal Assistant	Lhamoizingkha	Dorokha
46	Yeshe Samdrup	Driver	Nganglam	Trongsa
47	Ugyen Wangda	Driver	Weringla	Wangdue
48	Tshering Dago Wangmo	Court Registrar	Thimphu	Supreme Court

### (ii) List of Civil Service Award Recipients

Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck conferred the Dedicated Service Award 2023 to the staff of the Supreme Court, High Court, Thimphu District Court, and Bhutan National Legal Institute on 14 December 2023. It was an immense honor for the recipients and the Judiciary to receive such prestigious recognition from Her Royal Highness, further affirming the dedication to their duties and the principles of justice.

### (a) Life Time

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Court	Total Years of Service
1	Tashi Chozom	Drangpon	Supreme Court	27
2	Khandu	Drangpon	Paro Court	43
3	Lhundup Dorji	Drangpon	Wangdi Court	38
4	Tshewang Dakpa	Accounts Assistant	Supreme Court	36
5	Govinda Nirola	Court Registrar	Sarpang Court	33
6	Tshering Penjor	Bench Clerk	Bumthang Court	39

**(b) 30 Years and Above**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Court	Total Years of Service
1	Sangay Khandu	Drangpon	Supreme Court	31
2	Sonam Tshering	Drangpon	Panbang Court	31
3	Tshering Penjor	Bench Clerk	Bumthang Court	30

**(c) 20 Years and Above**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Court	Total Years of Service
1	Pema Norbu	Driver I	Paro Court	20
2	Kinley Tshetrim	Bench Clerk I	Phuntsholing Court	20
3	Namgay Dorji	Bench Clerk I	Wangdi Court	20
4	Karma Choki	Bench Clerk I	Gelephu Court	20
5	Kinley Dema	Bench Clerk I	Phuntsholing Court	20
6	Leki Chozom	Bench Clerk I	High Court	20
7	Lungten Dema	Bench Clerk I	High Court	20
8	Sonam Lhadon	Bench Clerk II	Thimphu Court	20
9	Sonam Lhamo	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	20
10	Tshering Yangdon	Sr. Court Registrar	Thimphu Court	20
11	Deki Yangdon	Sr. Dispatcher	Tsirang Court	20
12	Passang Tamang	Driver	Tsirang Court	20
13	Karma Dhendup	Sweeper	P/Gathsel Court	20
14	Indra Kumari Gurung	Attendant	Tsirang Court	21
15	Som Bdr. Ghaley	Gardener	Samtse Court	20
16	Leki Dema Bal Tamang	Cleaner	Dagana Court	22
17	Tenzin	Cleaner	Gelephu Court	23
18	Dorji Wangdi	Cleaner	Mongar Court	23
19	Namgay Dema	Archivist	Supreme Court	22

**(d) 10 Years and Above**

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Court	Total Years of Service
1	Kinga Wangmo	Telephone Operator I	Trashigang Court	10
2	Chimi Singye	Driver I	High Court	10
3	Karma Choden	Telephone Operator I	WangdiPhodrang Court	10
4	Tashi Tshomo	Personal Asst. I	High Court	10



5	Rinzin Om	Dispatcher I	Phuntsholing Court	10
6	khando Wangmo	Sr. Dispatcher	Chukha Court	10
7	Thinley Tobgay	Bench Clerk I	Samtse Court	10
8	Sonam Drugyel	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	10
9	Sangay Lhamo	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	10
10	Choki Yenten Zangmo	Bench Clerk I	Tsirang Court	10
11	Dorji Zangmo	Bench Clerk I	High Court	10
12	Tenzin Nedup	Bench Clerk I	Paro Court	10
13	Sangay Penden	Bench Clerk I	Tsirang Court	10
14	Tshering Dema	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	10
15	Tashi Yangzom	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	10
16	Lhadi Wangmo	Bench Clerk I	Supreme Court	10
17	Kinzang Choden	Bench Clerk I	High Court	10
18	Sonam Gyeltshen	Bench Clerk I	Samdrupchoeling-Court	10
19	Sonam Tenzin	Bench Clerk I	P/Gatshel Court	10
20	Jampel Wangmo	Bench Clerk I	High Court	10
21	Sangay Choki	Bench Clerk I	Bumthang Court	10
22	Ugyen	Personal Asst. I	Chukha Court	10
23	Sonam Choden	Personal Asst. I	T/Yangtse Court	10
24	Ngawang Chozom	Personal Asst. I	Gasa Court	10
25	Tashi Choden	Personal Asst. I	Jomotsangkha Court	10
26	Kinley Yangdon	Personal Asst. I	High Court	10
27	Sherab Pelmo	Personal Asst. I	Thimphu Court	10
28	Dechen Wangmo	Personal Asst. I	Thrimshing Court	10
29	Kumar Chhetri	Personal Asst. I	Sibsoo Court	10
30	Phuntsho Choden	Personal Asst. I	Weringla Court	10
31	Dechen Choki	Personal Asst. I	Haa Court	10
32	Dechen Wangmo	Personal Asst. I	Paro Court	10
33	Tandin	Personal Asst. I	Mongar Court	10
34	Pema Dorji	Admin. Asst. I	Thimphu Court	10
35	Nima Wangdi	Personal Asst. I	Gelephu Court	10
36	Tashi Choden	Personal Asst. I	Phuntsholing Court	10
37	Tashi Zangmo	Personal Asst. I	High Court	10
38	Chencho Om	Personal Asst. I	Thimphu Court	10
39	Tshering Pelden	Personal Asst. I	Punakha Court	10

40	Bobita Subba	Personal Asst. I	Supreme Court	10
41	Bhimala Rai	Personal Asst. I	Sarpang Court	10
42	Yonten Jamtsho	Personal Asst. I	Lhuntshi Court	10
43	Tempa Gyeltshen	Sr. Planning Officer	Supreme Court	10
44	Sonam Tshomo	Accounts Asst. IV	Supreme court	10
45	Gyelpo	Drangpon Ramjam	PemaGatshel Court	10
46	Bishal Rai	Sweeper	Sarpang Court	10
47	Richa Gurung	Drangpon Ramjam	WangdiPhodrang Court	10
48	Tenzin Dorji	Drangpon Ramjam	Phuntsholing Court	10
49	Tandin Zangmo	Messenger	High Court	11
50	Rinchen Wangmo	Personal Asst.	Thimphu Court	16
51	Kencho Dema	Archivist	Thimphu Court	10
52	Karma Jamtsho	Baliff	Thimphu Court	16
53	Lam Zomba	Cleaner	Trongsa court	11
54	Sangay Wangmo	Cleaner	Weringla Court	12
55	Bir Bahadur Tamang	Messenger	High Court	12
56	Karma Chozom	Cleaner	Wangdi Court	12
57	Chimi Dema	Gardener	Jomotsangkha Court	12
58	Shacha zangmo	Gardener	Gelephu Court	11
59	Karma Wangmo	Cleaner	T/Yangtse Court	11
60	Mon Bdr Pradhan	ESP	Lhamoizingkha Court	Lhamoizingkha Court

**(iii) List of Super annuated Judicial Personnel**

Sl. No.	Name	Postition Title	Court	Date of Super annuation
1	Singye	Drangpon Rabjam	Weringla	1/1/23

**(iv) Voluntary Resignations**

Sl. No.	Name	Postition Title	Court	Date of Resignation
1	Phurpa	Driver III	Trongsa Court	1/1/2023
2	Tandin Om	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu Court	1/1/2023
3	Narayan Kumar Kamar Chhetri	Accounts Asst.	Supreme Court	23/01/2023
4	Sonam Dechen	Sr.Bench Clerk	Thimphu Court	8/2/2023
5	Passang	Bench Clerk	Gasa Court	16/2/2023
6	Phuntsho	Driver	Gelephu Court	16/3/2023
7	Dr.Karma Tshering	Sr. Court registrar	Supreme Court	28/2/2023
8	Tshering Wangda	Bench Clerk	Supreme Court	1/5/2023
9	Kuenga	Bench Clerk	Thimphu Court	1/7/2023
10	Dechen Pelmo	Bench Clerk	Punakha Court	31/05/2023
11	Dema Zam	Asst. ICTO	Supreme Court	11/5/2023
12	Chime Yuden	Bench Clerk II	Thimphu Court	9/5/2023
13	Shacha Om	Bench Clerk II	Trongsa Court	8/7/2023
14	Tandin Nidup	Sr. Bench Clerk III	Supreme Court	16/07/2023
15	Tshering Pelden	Personal Asst. I	Punakha Court	5/8/2023
16	Om Prakash Rai	Accounts Asst. III	High Court	1/7/2023
17	Phuntsho Zangmo	Accounts Asst. III	CFS, Supreme Court	31/08/2023
18	Tashi Zangmo	Personal Asst. I	High Court	20/07/2023
19	Migmar Dorji	Personal Asst. III	High Court	1/8/2023
20	Chado Wangmo	Personal Asst. I	Supreme Court	3/8/2023
21	Deo Kumari Chhetri	Bench Clerk I	Tsirang Court	2/9/2023
22	Phuntsho Wangdi	Driver	Trashy Yangtse Court	1/9/2023
23	Tshering Gyeltshen	Sr. Personal Asst. V	Tsirang Court	1/9/2023
24	Sangay Dendup	Driver	High Court	1/9/2023
25	Dawa Zam	Bench Clerk I	Sarpang Court	12/10/2023
26	Phuntsho Choden	Personal Assistant II	Weringla Court	22/10/2023
27	Sonam Choden	Bailiff	Thimphu Court	30/11/2023
28	Rinchen Tshering	Driver	Thimphu Court	30/11/2023

**(V) Extraordinary Leave**

SL. No.	Name	Position Title	Working Agency	From Date	To Date
1	Samdrup Dargay	Dy. Chief Finance Officer	Cluster Finance Service	01/01/2023	31/12/2025
2	Sangay Wangchuk	Sr. Bench Clerk III	Paro District Court	24/02/2023	23/02/2024
3	Lhaba Phuntsho	Sr. Bench Clerk III	Supreme Court	01/11/2022	31/10/2024
4	Neten Dorji	Bench Clerk I	Supreme Court	01/10/2022	30/09/2024
5	Sonam Peldon	Sr. Bench Clerk III	Paro District Court	10/06/2022	09/06/2024
6	Sonam Tobgay	Executive Engineer	Supreme Court	01/07/2022	30/06/2024
7	Tshering Yangay	Bench Clerk I	Wangdue District Court	19/07/2022	18/07/2024
8	Tara Maya Tamang	Bench Clerk I	Samtse District Court	01/05/2023	30/04/2025
9	Jampel Wangmo	Bench Clerk I	High Court	01/05/2023	30/04/2025
10	Duptho Wangmo	Bench Clerk	Trashigang Court	01/06/2023	31/05/2025
11	Sonam Dema	Sr. Bench Clerk III	Public Notary office, Thimphu	15/06/2023	14/06/2025
12	Langa Tenzin	Sr. Court Registrar	Supreme Court	01/08/2023	31/07/2025
13	Chencho Om	Personal Asst. I	Public Notary office, Thimphu	25/08/2023	24/08/2025
14	Namgay Lham	Sr. Dispatcher	Haa District Court	03/10/2023	1/8/2025
15	Sonam Euden	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu District Court	28/12/2023	27/12/2025
16	Pema Yangzom	Bench Clerk I	Thimphu District Court	20/01/2023	19/01/2025

**(VI) Study Leave**

SL.No.	Name	Position Title	Working Agency	From Date	To Date
1	Pempa Shingdan	Court Registrar	Bhutan National Legal Institute	31/07/2023	30/06/2025
2	Jigme Singye	Court Registrar	Supreme Court	15/08/2023	07/2024
3	Pema Namgyel	Procurement Officer	Supreme Court	07/11/2022	06/11/2024

**(vii) Revenue Generated by Courts**

Sl. No.	Court	Revenue (Nu.)
1	Dorokha	71,415
2	Gelephu	37,21,868.62
3	Jomotsangkha	37,775
4	Lingzhi	2,600
5	Lhamoizingkha	2,24,675
6	Nganglam	83,800
7	Panbang	25,150
8	Phuentsholing	36,55,775
9	Sakteng	90,000
10	Samdrupcholing	2,27,350
11	Taschicholing	88,125
12	Thimshing	20,200
13	Wamrong	8,18,025
14	Weringla	17,750
15	Bumthang	8,62,868
16	Chukha	11,89,100
17	Dagana	4,97,225
18	Gasa	74,625
19	Haa	2,80,000
20	Lhuentse	3,44,800
21	Mongar	10,44,500
22	Paro	30,80,010
23	Pemagatshel	3,08,450
24	Punakha	14,41,514
25	Samdrup Jongkhar	10,82,150
26	Samtse	13,04,675
27	Sarpang	2,15,300
28	Thimphu	1,15,03,374
29	Trashigang	12,25,749
30	Trashiyangtse	2,37,075
31	Trongsa	1,91,225
32	Tsirang	3,60,400
33	Wangdue Phodrang	12,46,050
34	Zhemgang	1,75,075
35	Sombeykha	27,950
36	High Court & Supreme Court	16,53,450
<b>Total</b>		<b>37,314,540.62</b>

### 5.13. Reforms and Initiatives at the High Court

In a dedicated pursuit of fostering efficiency, collegiality, and accountability, the High Court has undertaken significant reforms in the reconstitution of its Benches. A pivotal change entails the presiding of the Chief Justice of High Court over all Benches, a strategic move towards consistency and centralized leadership. Complementing this, a dynamic system has been instituted, mandating the periodic alteration of Justice (s) compositions within Benches every 3-4 years. This deliberate rotation not only promotes a symbiotic working relationship but also affords Bench Clerks the invaluable opportunity to collaborate with all Justices, thereby enhancing fraternity and transparency in the common pursuit of delivering timely justice.

Underpinning these structural transformations are systematic changes including enhanced case deliberation processes accompanied by nuanced modifications in issuance of Marriage Certificate to Bhutanese marrying Foreigners involving the relevant organisations, judgment forms, drafting protocols, and case file submissions to the Supreme Court. This approach is underpinned by a visionary commitment to augmenting the efficacy and uniformity in the delivery and administration of justice.

To render user-friendly access to justice to litigants, a SMS alert system has been introduced whereby, the litigants receive real-time information pertaining to the relevant Bench, the dealing Bench Clerk, and the lead Justice overseeing their case. Such transparent communication channels not only empower litigants but also exemplify the High Court's dedication to ushering in an era of heightened connectivity and awareness within the judicial process.

Furthermore, the High Court has judiciously adopted an innovative approach towards litigation costs. In instances where appeals are dismissed, upholding the judgment of the trial court, an imposition one-three months of the minimum wage as litigation cost has been introduced. This pragmatic measure serves not only as a financial deterrent to frivolous appeals but also underscores the court's commitment to maintaining the sanctity of the legal process.





**Royal Court of Justice, Supreme Court**  
Hejo, Thimphu : Bhutan  
Pabx/Post: +975 2 321817/326822/326823  
Website: <http://www.judiciary.gov.bt>