

2ND THROMDE TSHOGDE SPECIAL SESSION – 1

Venue: Dasho Thrompon's Chamber

Date: 23/06/2016

Members Present:

1. Dasho Thrompon.
2. Executive Secretary.
3. All Demkhong Tshogpa.
4. Mr.Karma Dupchuk, Chief Engineer, ESD.
5. Mr.Chhoephey Dorji, Head, UPD.
6. Mr.Sangay Dorji, Head, ENVD.
7. Mr.Ugyen Chopel, Head, DC&MD.

The First Session of Special Thromde Tshogde was held on 23/06/2016 at 2:30 pm in Dasho Thrompon's chamber to discuss regarding certain works that needs to done before the June closing. Dasho welcomed the members present at the Tshogde and explained that the agendas submitted by the Tshogpas shall be discussed at the Thromde Tshogde which will be held soon.

1. Estimation for construction of Tennis Court is Nu.1.607 million and YDF committed Nu.0.60 million. However, there is shortage of Nu.1.00 million

The Executive Secretary informed that the BOC has approved an amount of Nu.0.60 million towards the construction of Tennis court. However, the total estimated cost amounts to Nu.1.607 million. He explained that if the remaining amount is not met, the approved amount of BOC will be given to other Dzongkhags who are in need of it. He further explained that once the Tennis Court is constructed, certain amount as fee can be charged in order to generate revenue.

Resolution

The members agreed that it will benefit the community as a whole and unanimously approved the agenda put forward. However, the required amount shall be first met from the overall Thromde budget and if it is not sufficient then, the remaining amount shall be met from the Revenue.

2. Construction of footpath from Highway to Gelephu Higher Secondary School Gate, widening of road from Dungpa's Residence till highway and widening of road near BOD

The Executive Secretary expressed his and the general public's concern regarding the absence of footpath from highway till High School's gate. He said that due to traffic congestion, there is a risk of students being hit by a car while walking on the highway and Thromde will be criticized for it. To this, the Head of UPD informed that footpaths have been included in LAP V and they shall gradually construct along with the plan.

Dasho Thrompon further put forward the need to widen the road from Dungpa's residence till highway and the road near BOD. The existing road which is narrow; is a threat not only to the students but there are higher chances that accidents may occur. Therefore, it is important that the road is widened along with the road near BOD for the same cited reasons.

Tashiling Tshogpa suggested that footpaths should be constructed from highway till the junction near match factory since, it is the most common route used by the students. The Chief Engineer, ESD stated the importance of Tshogpas to understand the Development Plan of Gelephu Thromde. He made clear that the existing highway shall be converted into Boulevard where, four lane roads shall be constructed along with footpaths. The same was discussed during the 6th Thromde Tshogde. Further he also informed that, His Majesty has directed that anything which does not fall within the plan should be avoided because it will result in loss/wastage of Government resources.

The Executive Secretary said that though these activities are small in nature yet, they are equally important for the overall development of Gelephu Throm.

Tashiling Tshogpa requested that if construction of footpath was not practical for the time being, then alternative measures should be taken into consideration to make it safer for the students. Dasho stated that ongoing construction of roads will soon be completed and shall be blacktopped thus, making it more preferable route for the students since; it leads directly to the school.

Resolution

After much deliberation and the utmost need to make it much safer for the students and the people, the aforementioned activities were approved by the Tshogde. The budget shall be utilized from the overall Thromde budget but if it is not sufficient, then the remaining cost shall be borne from the Revenue. The Urban Planning Division is directed to integrate this proposal to match with the LAP-V at the later date.

3. Construction of Water Fountain at the Clock Tower

The Executive Secretary said that it is the responsibility of Gelephu Thromde to develop and beautify the town. He said, in order to do that, the office is planning to construct a water fountain at the clock tower which will cost around Nu.0.16 million.

Resolution

The members saw this as a good project and endorsed the activity. The cost for it shall be met in the same manner as discussed in the aforementioned activities.

4. Dismantling of Mani Dungkor and expanding the Clock Tower Area

It was brought to the notice of the members that, out of the two existing Mani Dungkors in small Clock Tower area, one is nonfunctional and the look itself is not very Bhutanese. Besides, it has also become a dumping yard. So, it was suggested that, the nonfunctional Mani Dungkor be dismantled and installed at a more suitable area after seeking permission from the Cultural Department. Moreover, the donor of the Mani Dungkor had consented to the proposal.

Jampeling and Samdrupling Tshogpas recommended that before dismantling the Mani Dungkor, the area or the site where it shall be installed, should also be studied as well. In addition to that, the Chief Engineer pointed out that while seeking permission to dismantle the Mani Dungkor, the Cultural department is bound to ask about the location where it shall be re-installed so, in order to build a new one, the budget regarding the same should also be discussed.

Resolution

It was decided that suitable place shall be identified for re-installment to put up to the Culture Department in case they ask for it. However, budget for the same shall be first borne from the overall Thromde Budget and then, from the revenue in case the amount is insufficient.

5. Filtration Tank at Mao Chhu

The Executive Secretary informed that the water level at the Mao Chhu tank has been decreased by 2 meters and it is caused mainly due to the diversion of the river by the NRDCL which lead to reduction of water level in the sump well/infiltration gallery. He further stated that a discussion with regard to the same was held with Dungpa and the Gup, but the Gup failed to understand the technical problem. Therefore, the stream where vehicles are washed is currently diverted towards the slow sand filtration tank which is time consuming but fixed the problem. However, there is a need to construct a filtration tank.

The Chief Engineer further elaborated that, due to the change in climate, the water level keeps changing which results in acute shortage of water especially during lean seasons till the month of May. Presently, a slow sand filtration tank has been constructed but it is not adequate and consumes a lot of time to filter the water and fails to fill the main tank on time. Therefore, there is a need to construct a sedimentation tank which will filter the water at a higher speed thus, filling up the main tank on time and supplying the water as demanded. The total cost for the construction of the sedimentation tank will amount to about 1.5 to 2 million. It is also suggested that third party's view on the root cause of the losing water level in the gallery be helpful.

Resolution

Since, shortage of water is one of the frequent challenges faced by Gelephu Thromde, the Tshogde members approved the proposed budget which shall be met in the same manner as the aforementioned activities.

6. Construction of Thromde Meeting Hall

The Executive Secretary stated Thromde being the service provider, it was pointed out that it is important to have a decent office in the first place. Therefore, it was proposed to the Tshogde that, a two storied structure will be built; which shall house both Dasho Thrompon and Executive Secretary's chamber and few other offices on the top floor and a conference hall in the ground floor. He informed that the Architect has been directed to design the office at the moment. Further, in order to generate revenue, the conference hall can be used to house meetings/conferences which will be charged to generate revenue.

Resolution

It was decided that the new meeting hall be constructed from the remaining Thromde budget and the additional cost, if any shall be met from the Revenue.

7. Invitation from Singapore for meeting on International Leaders in Urban Governance

Dasho Thrompon updated to the Tshogpas that his visit to Bangkok was very informative and helpful. He stated that, there are plenty of platforms which shall be beneficial to both the Tshogpas and the Thromde officials so, opportunities are much ahead, to visit ex-country. He then informed the members about the Upcoming meeting in Singapore and requested the Executive Secretary to elaborate on it.

The Executive Secretary explained that there is an *"International Leaders in Urban Governance Program (Meeting) and World Mayor Summit"* to be held in Singapore from 7/07/2016 till 13/07/2016 which shall

be attended by Urban Governance leaders and representatives from various countries. He informed that Dasho Thrompon, Executive Secretary himself and Mr.Jigme Tshering, UPD shall be attending as required by the organizers since, it is an opportunity where ideas can be exchanged, and knowledge is gained and ultimately develops friendly relationships. This is a good cost sharing opportunity as the organizer bears full logistic expenses and full sponsor to the delegation head. He further added that, the expenses regarding the same for Dasho Thrompon shall be sponsored by the Institution except for 20% DSA (ex-country and in-country) but the expenses for Mr.Jigme Tshering and for him; has to be funded by Gelephu Thromde. Therefore, the budget was proposed before the Tshogde. The proposed budget is as follows:

1. 20% Ex-country DSA (Dasho Thrompon, Executive Secretary and Mr.Jigme Tshering)

= Nu.1,19,828/- (One Lakh Nineteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight)

2. In-country DSA (Dasho Thrompon, Executive Secretary and Mr.Jigme Tshering)

= Nu. 27,968/- (Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty Eight)

3. Airfare (Executive Secretary and Mr.Jigme Tshering)

= 1,47,272/- (One Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Two)

Grand Total = 2,95,068/- (Two Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand and Sixty Eight)

Resolution

It was decided that the budget proposed shall be met from the Revenue.