



# DE-SUUNG ZHABTOG

Official NewsLetter of the Guardians

ISSUE 69/ Jan.02.2024



His Majesty The King and His Holiness the Je Khenpo inaugurated the Gelephu Landmark Water Project on 23rd December.

The Gelephu Landmark Water Project, which started in April 2022, is the most ambitious of the over 40 nationwide water projects by De-suups as part of De-suung National Service.

The Landmark project in Gelephu, which serves the whole of Gelephu Thromde as well as some other nearby gewogs, was jointly implemented together with the Gelephu Thromde and Ministry of Infrastructure & Transport. The exemplary management of the project resulted in it being completed on time within 19 months, and at a cost of Nu 375 million, significantly under the initial budget of Nu 477 million.

Additionally, while all De-suung National Service water projects made use of cutting edge technology and construction standards, the Gelephu Project stood out even among these. The infrastructure includes extensive water mainlines connecting a robust intake structure at the source to sedimentation tanks and a cutting edge water treatment plant, and over 9.7 kms of distribution lines to reach the community. International experts on filtration technology and plumbing from South Korea and Thailand participated in the project.

Over 230 De-suups contributed their services to the project, which not only establishes a reliable and clean water supply for residents, but also equips participating De-suups with the skills and know how to build and manage such systems.

The De-suung National Service Projects were initiated upon Royal Command in the midst of the pandemic, as a platform for De-suups to contribute to projects of national importance, as well as gain the knowledge and ability to develop quality infrastructure and facilities for Bhutan.

De-suung family extends warm wishes for a joyful New Year and Nyilo Tashi Delek. May the coming year inspire greater volunteerism in every De-suups, strengthening our commitment to serve our King and country.

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On February 14, 2011, the De-suung Integrated Training Programme began in Tencholing, Wangdue Phodrang. De-suung, which means "Guardians of Peace," is a Royal Initiative of His Majesty His Majesty The King Commanded the establishment of De-suung in response to an overwhelming supplication from the youth for an opportunity to offer their voluntary service to the nation. Thus, De-suung was created as an avenue enabling those who wanted to volunteer their time and energy in service of the nation and people.

The Training Programme's foundation is based on the spirit of volunteerism and the positive influence of community service, integrity, and civic duty ethics and values.

De-suungs actively volunteer during disasters, participate in social service activities, and offer service to others throughout their lives. In other words, as lifelong members of the De-suung Organization, trainees progressively improve their ability to bear their daily duties and responsibilities.

• Batches Trained

60

• Female Trained

17,222

• Male Trained

25,053

• Total Trained

42,775



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## TOKHA AFTER 17TH DECEMBER

On December 19th, a momentous event unfolded at Tokha, drawing over 5000 people in attendance, including De-suung, Army, police, members from the film industry, media, and other officials. The day featured a range of entertainment, from cultural shows to lucky draws. In the afternoon, His Majesty, along with Her Majesty and the Gyalsey and Gyelsem, graced the event, offering their presence and honoring various gifts. Subsequently, His Majesty addressed the audience, emphasizing the accomplishments and credentials individuals should aspire to achieve in their lifetime to become the best version of themselves.



During the audience, His Majesty spoke about the significance of speeches delivered throughout his reign. The first addressed the coronation, the second focused on the national service announcement, and the third highlighted the announcement made during the 116th National Day about Gelephu Mindfulness City. We, the Bhutanese, are so blessed to be guided and shown love by our Majesty, the King.

Long live the king.



## BBS survey around 20 Dzongkhags



### Bhutan Conducts Comprehensive Survey on Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS)

In an effort to assess the impact and reach of Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) across the country, a thorough survey was conducted, covering various aspects such as the benefit to the people and the nation, the adequacy of coverage and timing, and the devices used by the audience to access BBS.

The survey spanned from Samtse to every dzongkhag, concluding in Dagana. Our methodology involved selecting one Chiwog from each gewog, conducting interviews with 15 individuals per Chiwog, averaging 5 minutes per interview. The results revealed that BBS plays a crucial role in delivering important messages to the people, keeping them well-informed about the country's current affairs. Our group of De-suups interviewed individuals of all ages, discovering that most people rely on radio for BBS content, while some watch it on television. The survey highlighted concerns from rural areas about cable issues despite owning televisions, while urban residents faced challenges with BBS signal strength.

Interestingly, BBS 2 emerged as a favorite among the audience, particularly for movies described as "fun and entertaining to watch with family." The youth also expressed a keen interest in BBS 2 as a source of entertainment. While BBS remains a primary news source, BBS 2 serves as a valuable entertainment platform. Engaging in this survey provided a unique opportunity to experience the daily lives of people in rural areas, appreciating the beautiful scenery that makes Bhutan distinct. I am grateful to the De-suung organization for this enriching experience, which allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of Bhutanese people and culture.

The survey concluded on December 20th, and upon reporting back to Thimphu, we celebrated with a grand dinner attended by the Chief Executive Officer of BBS and other officials. Their satisfaction with our progress was rewarding, making the two-month journey to each Dzongkhag worthwhile. Despite the challenges, the survey has left me with lasting memories, gratitude, and a profound appreciation for the uniqueness of Bhutanese culture.

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## TSHECHU: A Celebration of Culture and Communion in Bhutan



In the vibrant tapestry of Bhutanese traditions, the Tshechu stands out as a cornerstone—an annual religious festival observed in every district or dzongkhag across Bhutan. Held on the auspicious tenth day of a month in the lunar Tibetan calendar, the specific month varying with the location, Tshechus embody a rich cultural tapestry that binds communities together.

These festivals serve as expansive social gatherings, weaving the fabric of social bonds among people in remote and scattered villages. As locals come together to celebrate, large markets emerge at the fair locations, infusing the air with the energy of brisk commerce.



The four-day Trongsa Tshechu concluded on December 23rd with the unfurling of the sacred Guru Tshengye Thongdrel. Hundreds of people attended to witness and offer prayers in front of the Thongdrel.

Similarly, the success of the five-day Dagana annual tshechu, spanning from December 22nd to 26th, 2023, was celebrated. A team of 25 De-suups volunteered in crowd management, traffic control, and catering of meals, working in tandem with the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP).



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## FIRE OUT BREAK AT KHOMA

A forest fire in Khoma, Lhuntse, reportedly started around 1 PM on December 21st. According to the Khoma Gup, no casualties have been reported from the incident. The Gup added that measures are being taken to save nearby infrastructure, and approximately 35 De-suups, Forest Rangers, police personnel, people from district administration, and villagers were unable to control it until the evening of the 23rd due to steep terrain and gusty winds.



However, the cause of the fire is unknown. According to the forest official, the fire has affected around 300 to 400 acres of forest cover.

Let's prevent forest fires. Among the numerous strategies to prevent wildfires from spreading, the most effective one is never to let them happen. Forest fire prevention and control are possible with effective agricultural and forest management plans, alongside public awareness, responsibility, and concern.



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## FIRE OUT BREAK ABOVE SERBITHANG

On December 22nd, a fire erupted near Serbithang, prompting the engagement of over 100 De-suups in battling the forest fire, which commenced around 1 PM on Friday. The response involved personnel from DFS, Police, Army, Forest Rangers, and local residents, collectively working to contain the fire. It took the entire day and night to successfully control the flames.

The following day, on December 24th, another fire broke out in Kabesa around 12:30 PM.



Police firefighters, fire pump handlers, fire trucks, 35 De-suups, and additional volunteers joined forces to extinguish the fire, which originated from morning purification rituals involving burning incense. Despite efforts, the fire was officially extinguished on December 25th, as the remaining embers finally subsided.

This incident underscores the importance of collective action to prevent forest fires. The forest is a delicate ecosystem that demands our care and attention. Let us unite in safeguarding our planet by avoiding recklessness in forest areas. Together, we can stop fires, preserve our forests, and protect the diverse wildlife that calls them home.



## NYAMRO CHRONICLES



**Tandin Wangchuk DS(56)23-36450**

*"...In other nations, difficult moments in their history meet with strife, violence and conflict as people sacrifice national interest in order to achieve individual ambitions. In Bhutan such acts and events have never occurred. Our way of life, our heritage, loyalty and values remain strong in the hearts of our people and our people stand ready, even in times of great personal hardship, to the place and Nation above the self.*

*Of many initiatives by his Majesty the king is "Desuung" which directly translates to Guardian of Peace. The orange uniforms of desuung have become synonymous with solidarity and assistance. With that I am interested in military training and yeah! I had engaged with scout leadership training during my school days .Being given the opportunities, without giving a second thought, I directly invested my precious time in order to wear the orange uniform.*

*After which I could feel the strength and inspiration of the De-suung organizations. So I have decided to join the 56th batch desuung, which is trained for four months on the basic military training moreover we have been considered as trails for the upcoming Gyelsung. After completing my BMT De-suung training, I joined as a Motor Transport Officer(MTO) in Desuung head office through which I have gained enough knowledge and I could overcome the circumstances while working.*

*While working in head office I volunteered in crowd Management, Cleaning and other various task , the 56th BMT batch desuung got a lot of opportunities like we have even attended on the 116th national day to perform in front of our royals and the people of our country. Currently i am serving as MTO In De-suung organizations and I'm really grateful for our supreme commander for catering us with beautiful majestic desuung organizations.*