



བླ་པའི་ནང་ལས་བླ་པ།

GOOD 2 GREAT ASA



News Views

Happy Birthday to Mewang Gyalsey !!!

Volume 1, Issue 1, 5 February 2017

Dedication

Gasa is humbly honored to dedicate this debut issue to the 1st birth anniversary of the Nation's Most Precious Son. His Royal Highness Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck.



For last 110 years, our Kings have not only re-defined but defended with life and strengthened the very identity of Bhutanese and Bhutan. And we are confident that by the grace of heavenly powers combined with the continued good fortune of Bhutanese, Bhutan will continue to be guided, loved and protected by our Kings for all times to come. The great Wangchuck Dynasty is our Nation's Soul and our Kings the Nation's heartbeat. What we are today as a country and people are all gifts of the endless sacrifices of our selfless Kings. On this landmark occasion, we take the opportunity in offering our deepest gratitude to our Kings for their perennial love, protection and guidance and offer prayers for the continued Great Health and Happiness of our beloved Druk Gyalpo, Druk Gyaltsuen, HRH Mewang Gyalsey and members of the Royal family.



Art by – Gembo Dorji

We offer our special prayers and humble wishes to Mewang Gyalsey on 1st Birthday Anniversary.

Happy Birthday to our Mewang Gyalsey! Palden Drukpa Gyalo !

This “Good to Great Gasa – News and Views” is a quarterly e-publication covering the news and views for that quarter, however this being the first special edition, appears to be like an annual report, which will be not so in future.

Lastly we would like to take this opportunity in thanking all our partners and supporters for being part of GGG

Tashi Delek! On behalf of Gasa

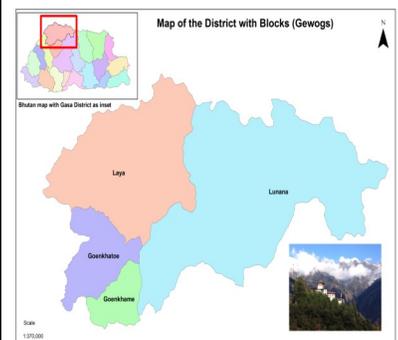
- Dhradhul, Dzongda

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Gasa at glance

Area: 308177 sq.km
 Altitude: 1500– 7200
 Gewogs: 4
 Chiwogs: 20
 Population:2970 (PHCH 2005)
 Villages: 93 (588 HHS)



The Royal Highland Festival 2016 - Kinzang, Offtg Census Officer

Under the command of His Majesty the King, the Royal Highland Festival was organized from 16–18 October 2016 at Langothang stunningly located at an elevation of 4000 masl in Laya. Besides the Layaps and Lunaps of Gasa, highlander from nine other northern Dzongkhags, viz: Haa, Paro, Thimphu, Wangdue, Trongsa, Bumthang, Lhuentse, Trashi Yangtse and Trashigang participated to showcase and exchanges their highlander lifestyles.

The festival is dedicated to the celebration of three momentous events of our history viz. 1st - the birth of HRH the Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck; 2nd - 400 years of Zhabdrung Rimpoche; and 3rd - the Rabjung birth year of Guru Rimpoche.

The festival is the landmark activity of Gasa Dzongkhag's vision of Good to Great Gasa.

The organization and conduct of the Royal Highland Festival 2016 was mainly supported by Department of Livestock, Forest and Park Services, Agriculture,

BAFRA of Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the Office of Gyalpoi Zimpoen and Royal Bhutan Army and host of other government, non government, private companies and individuals.



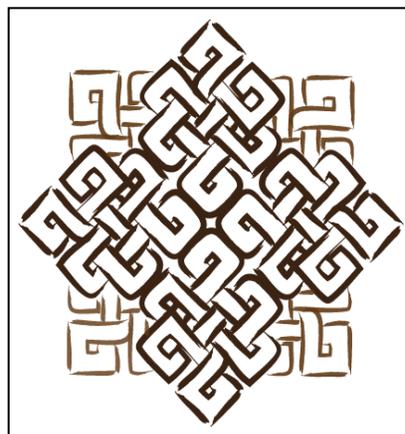
October 23—24, 2017
2nd RHF

Good to Great Gasa (GGG) – Dorji Dhradhul, Dzongda.

“Good to Great Gasa” is an over arching vision of Gasa. It intends to express the ultimate goal to make Gasa a Great Dzongkhag thereby meaningfully contributing in making our country GREAT as propounded by His Majesty.

The 8 endless knots (Pelyab) intertwined is the logo for the GGG.

The eternal knot, one of the eight lucky signs symbolizes



universal truth of the enduring interdependence and profound bond of eternity between all elements

8 eternal knots arranged in two clusters of 4 each. The front 4 knots represents the four Gewogs of the Dzongkhag. They are different yet connected. The four at the back represents the 4 pillars of GNH.

Put together, the 8 intertwined knots signify the 8 fold paths as the rock foundation of vision.

འབྲུངས་སྐར་གྱི་ ཉིན་མ་འདི་ལུ་ བགྲིས་སྒོན་ལམ་

༣ དཔལ་མི་དབང་རྒྱལ་ལྷན་འཛིན་གསལ་མེད་
 རྣམ་རྒྱལ་དབང་
 ལྷན་མཚོག་ ལྷན་ལོ་། བཞེས་པའི་
 འབྲུངས་སྐར་གྱི་ ཉིན་མ་འདི་ལུ་
 མི་དབང་རྒྱལ་ལྷན་མཚོག་
 རྒྱ་ཚེ་ཞབས་པད་བརྟན་འདི་བཞུགས་བརྟུག་
 ཟེར་བའི་བཀྲ་ཤིས་སྒོན་ལམ་ དེ་ཡང་
 བྱམས་བརྩེའི་བདག་ཉིད་རྒྱལ་ལྷན་རིན་པོ་ཆེ།
 འབྲུག་མི་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་གཞུག་རྒྱུ་ལོ་རྒྱུ་སྟེ།
 ལྷན་ལོ་གཅིག་ཅུ་བཞེས་པའི་དུས་སྟོན་ལུ།
 འབྲུག་མི་ཡོངས་ཀྱི་བཀའ་རྒྱུ་ལྷན་བཏུང་བྱ།



སངས་རྒྱལ་རྗེ་མཛོད་གཉེར་འགོ་འཛིན།

དགོན་མཚོག་གསུམ་གྱི་དོ་སློང་། - འཆི་མེད་རྗེ། མགར་ས་ ལྷན་གནས་བརྟན།

༣ འབྲུག་གི་ཚོས་རྒྱལ་དམ་པའི་གདུང་འཛིན་རྒྱ
 ལ་
 ལྷན་སྐྱེ་འབྲུངས་པའི་དུས་དང་བསྟན་
 ང་བཅས་
 མགར་ས་རབ་ལྷོ་ལ་ལྷན་ལམ་
 མི་དབང་ཡབ་ལྷན་
 རྒྱ་ཚེ་ཞབས་པད་བརྟན་ཐབས་ལུ་དམ་པའི་
 ཚོས་ཀྱི་སྐར་ལམ་ ལྷན་གཞོན་ཆ་ལྷན་ལུ་
 ལན་ཐབས་ དགོན་
 མཚོག་གསུམ་གྱི་དོ་སློང་དྲི་བ་བྲིས་ལན་བཟུམ་
 'སྟེ་ཨ་རྗེ་ལྷན་པའ།
**དགོན་མཚོག་གསུམ་ཟེར་མི་འདི་ག་དང་ག་
 རྗེ་?**
 སངས་རྒྱལ་དགོན་མཚོག་དང་ཚོས་དགོན་མ
 ཚོག་དང་དགོ་ འདུན་གསུམ་ལུ་ལྷན་ཨིན།

དེ་ལས་སངས་རྒྱལ་དགོན་ཟེར་མི་འདི་
ག་དེམ་ཅིག་ལུ་བསྐྱབ་སྟོན་?
 མཐར་ཐུག་གི་སྐྱབས་གནས་སྟོན་པ་སངས་
 རྒྱལ་བཅོམ་ལྷན་འདས་དང་གཞན་ཡང་སྟོན་
 'བ་ལ་སོགས་
 པའི་སྐྱེ་འདྲ་ཚུ་ཡང་གོ་ར་སངས་རྒྱལ་དགོན་
 'མཚོག་འབད་ཚེ་ལི་ཨིན།
**ཚོས་དགོན་མཚོག་ཟེར་མི་འདི་ག་དེམ་ཅིག་
 ལུ་སྐྱབ་སྟོན་?**
 ང་བཅས་ར་སྐྱབས་བསྐྱེད་ལམ་ཐར་པའི་
 ལམ་སྟོན་མི་གི་ཚོས་སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱིས་གསུང་
 མི་དེ་དང་གཞན་ཡང་ཚོས་ཀྱི་དཔེ་ཆ་པོ་སྟེ་
 གི་གསུང་རྟེན་ཚུ་ཡང་
 ཚོས་དགོན་མཚོག་ཨིན།
**དགོ་འདུན་དགོན་མཚོག་
 ཟེར་མི་འདི་ག་དེམ་**

ཅིག་ལུ་སྐྱབ་སྟོན་?
 ཐར་པའི་ལམ་སྟོན་མི་གི་གོ་གསལ་ སངས་རྒྱལ་གྱི་
 བསྐྱབ་པ་འཛིན་མི་ ལྷན་ཚང་འཕགས་པའི་དགོ་
 འདུན་དང་ གཞན་ཡང་ཚོས་འབད་མི་ཚུ་གོ་ར་
 དགོ་འདུན་དགོན་མཚོག་ཟེར་བྱ་ཨིན།
 དགོན་མཚོག་གསུམ་ལུ་སྐྱབས་འཚོལ་དགོ་མི་འདི
 'ག་ཅི་སྟོ་ཟེར་བ་ཅིན་ དགོན་མཚོག་གསུམ་གྱིས་
 ང་བཅས་གོ་ར་ཚེ་འདི་དང་ལྷི་མ་བར་དོ་གསུམ་
 ལུ་ཨིན་རུང་མགོན་སྐྱབས་དང་དུ་གཉེན་མ
 ཚུངས་ལྷན་མདོ་བ་མཛོད་ཚུགས་པ་ལས་རྟེན་ཨིན།
 དེ་ཨིན་པའི་ སྐྱབས་གནས་གཞན་འཛིན་རྟེན་
 ཆེ་བར་གྲགས་པའི་ ལྷན་ཚངས་པ་དང་། བརྒྱ་བྱིན།
 ལྷན་འབྲུག་ དབང་ལྷན་ལ་སོགས་པ་ཚུ་ལུ་
 ལུས་དང་ཡོངས་སྟོན་མཐུ་དང་
 རྒྱལ་འབྲུལ་ག་དེ་

Elected Local Government Functionaries - Karma Tshering, Election Officer

Gasa Dzongkhag Tshogdu

As enshrined in our Constitution and the Local Government Act of Bhutan 2009, Dzongkhag Tshogdu is the highest decision making body in the Dzongkhag. Gasa Dzongkhag Tshogdu (DT) is comprised of eight members viz four Gups and four Mangmi of four Gewogs. Mr. Thinley Wangdi, Gup, Khatoed Gewog and Mr. Tshewang, Mangmi, Laya Gewog are the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Gasa Dzongkhag Tshogdu respectively. There are no female representatives in the DT.

DT members:

Male	Female	Total	Remarks
8	0	8	

Dzongkhag Tshogdu is mandated to meet for regular session at least once in every six months.

Gewog Tshogde

Gewog Tshogde is the highest decision making body in the Gewogs. The members of the GT are Gup and Mangmi as the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively and the Chiwog Tshogpas. Currently Gasa Dzongkhag has 26 GT members. Two posts of Chiwog Tshogpa (Gayza-Lungo and Pazhi Chiwogs) is vacant in Laya Gewog.

GT members in four Gewogs:

Male	Female	Total	Remarks
25	1	26	Only female GT member is Ms. Shekar Wangmo from Tsherikha Chiwog, Khatoed Gewog.

Gewog Tshogde is mandated to meet regular session at least thrice a year.

Taking Kidu to the people - Kinley Dorji, DKO

The Kingdom of Bhutan lies amidst the Great Himalayan range governed by one of the most benevolent and magnanimous kings in the world. Under the reign of our beloved Fifth Druk Gyalpo, Bhutanese have experienced improvement in their lifestyles. His Majesty the King, travels throughout the country, meeting people and knowing their problems directly. The glorious reign of His Majesty has created unwavering peace and happiness in the kingdom.

His Majesty wish to grant kidu to the most deserving citizens and a new kidu system is introduced with the vision "taking kidu to the people". Grant of Kidu to the people is a Royal Prerogative. Throughout the century, hundreds of thousands of children (Gyalpoi To-

zay), elderly Citizen (Destitute), disabled and sick (Medical), Land Kidu (landless), Census Issues (granting citizenship) received kidu.

The people of Gasa Dzongkhag also receive various kidu from our Majesty. Two students of Gasa Dzongkhag are privileged to receive the scholarship to study at the Royal Academy, Pangbisa, Paro which started last year (2016) and yet to select among three nominated students for academic year 2017. The Royal Academy draws its vision from His Majesty the King of Bhutan who always emphasizes the importance of education. In line with the vision, the Royal Acad-

emy will strengthen and streamline His Majesty's initiatives in education and provide full support to meritorious students from the most economically vulnerable backgrounds.

The gratitude and appreciation that the citizens of Bhutan have for His Majesty have been best expressed through the celebrations of some auspicious days coinciding with various important dates in the Bhutanese history. Gasa Dzongkhag joins with nation to pray for His Majesty's health and everlasting peace, happiness and prosperity of the country and the people.

Small Development Project (SDP) Activities of Gasa Dzongkhag- *Dorji Wangmo, AMCO*

Besides the implementation of the mainstream 11th FYP in Gasa Dzongkhag, Small Development Project (SDP) activities have made huge contribution to the development of Dzongkhag.

Small Development Projects (SDP) are funded by Government of India (GoI) with the project ceiling between Nu. 2 million and Nu. 50 million. Small Development Project covers activities such as RWSS, Irrigation channels, Farm roads etc, which falls within the project ceilings.

SDP activities are specially focused in enhancing development of rural infrastructure like Gasa Tshachu development, Community meeting hall and RNR and health service infrastructure development, etc.

Summary of SDP activities

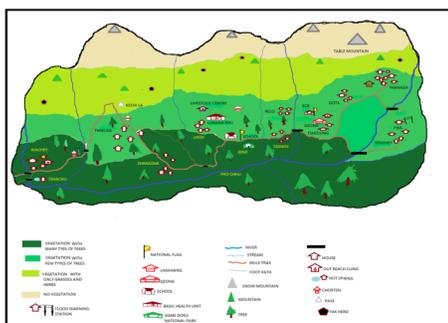
Phase	No of Activities	Approved Budgets (In Mn)	Theme/Focus area
I	7	12.6	Community vitality
II	6	27.556	Rural Infrastructure
III	5	17.868	Rural Infrastructure
IV	1	2.025	Rural Infrastructure
V	1	3.000	Improve livelihood
Total	20	63.049	

Immunization in Lunana Gewog -*Rinchen Dorji DHO*

Lunana BHU was built in 1997 (DANIDA support) covers 10 villages with 160 households and little over 632 people.

CATCHMENT AREA

Lunana Gewog consists of twelve villages namely Tenchoe, Thangza, Dota, Tshojong, Relo, Tashoe, Lhedi, Shangsha, Threlga, Wachey, Esuna and Ramina. But Lunana BHU-II covers only 10 villages whereas Esuna is not accessible to any health facilities and Ramina is looked after by Damji BHU under Khamoed gewog.



VACCINES STORAGE

Unlike other health centers, Lunana BHU doesn't have refrigerator to store vaccines. Vaccines are stored in cool box. Cool water is filled in ice pack and kept in vaccine box to maintain temperature. All the vaccines are kept together as there is no separate rack in cold box. Dial thermometer is kept with vaccines to monitor temperature.

TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS

Vaccines are carried for 8 long days through mules and yaks. Vaccines are exposed from very hot climate (Gasa/Punakha) to coldest (Gangjula pass 5300m) and to Lunana. Heat sensitive vaccines get damaged on the way. Presently helicopter help in transporting vaccines..

IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN

Immunization is carried out imme-

diately after vaccines arrive at the clinic to avoid damage due to lack of storage facilities. Immunization campaign is carried out normally in September, October, November and mid December as temperature is quite favorable to maintain vaccine temperature and at the time public will be back from yak herd to their village.

All other follow up, left out and drop out case are caught during monthly ORC clinic day. And door to door visit during whole winter till mid spring season.

STRATEGIES FOR IMMUNIZATION

- Health education during clinic day and at ORC
- Health talk during community meeting
- Involvement of village health worker to explain.
- Convincing mother during ANC

Education Matters: Towards Excellence - Sherub Gyeltshen, DCDEO

The DEO, Principal Bjishong CS and a teacher from Gasa PS participated in the 18th National Education Conference on the theme “Education matters: Towards Excellence” The best ever 18th National Education Conference held from 9th-12th January, 2017 in Phuentsholing concluded jubilantly with Hon’ble PM’s presence reiterating stronger education system for stronger Nation.

Sherig Lyonpo, having broad outlook and wide range of knowledge has taken decisions of audacity with dynamism and newness to education system. Come 2017 academic session, the major initiatives in the

shortening of winter breaks (18th December to 31st January) and lengthening of summer vacation (1st-30th July), a week-long value orientation (termed as Value Orientation Week), reduction of 22 teaching hours to 18 hours, a large scale training on English Language Proficiency, Dzongkha occupying the forefront space, new 9 central schools, U turn talk shows, career advancement proposal for DEOs, Principals, VPs, participation for PISA D ranking will feature prominently that would capture our educational programs distinctly.

Gasa Education Sector in her attempts to achieving the major reforms shall thrive hard with full zeal/energy to heighten and scale

up our educational standard to a desired level. The initiatives ultimately corner around our APA of meeting learning outcomes and other educational mandates within the 11th five year plan and beyond.

Our education system guided by a road map: Education Blue Print 2014-2024 is envisioned for 2024 and beyond in tackling issues and challenges of 21st century and paves way for growth and development of our Nation.

We shall live by our vision and hence our Education really matters towards excellence.

Initiation of Biogas Technology in Gasa Dzongkhag - Dzongkhag Livestock Sector

Bio gas technology is known for its immense benefits in mitigating green house gas emission, households health, good source of alternative fuel. It also helps improve dairy production and agricultural productivity through the use of bio-slurry as organic manure.

Considering the benefits, Gasa despite being a highland Dzongkhag embraced the technology welcomingly.

With the help of Bhutan Biogas Program, Department of Livestock, MoAF, we have trained one supervisor and a mason on biogas.



Having equipped with manpower in the Dzongkhag, Livestock Sector managed to put biogas as one of success indicators in the accounting year 2016-2017.

Today a total of 7 number (6m³) of biogas plants are constructed; 6 numbers in Khamoed and 1 number in Khamoed Gewog against the target of 3 numbers in Annual Performance Agreement (2016-2017).

Despite shortage of adequate skilled manpower for development of bio gas technology, communities of two Gewogs have appreciated the technology. We are therefore hopeful that the bio gas technology will flourish in entire households of two gewogs in coming future.

GGG News Views EDITORIAL TEAM

Chief Editors : Dzongda, Planning Officer(English), Culture Officer (Dzongkha)

Chief Coordinator: Dzongrab

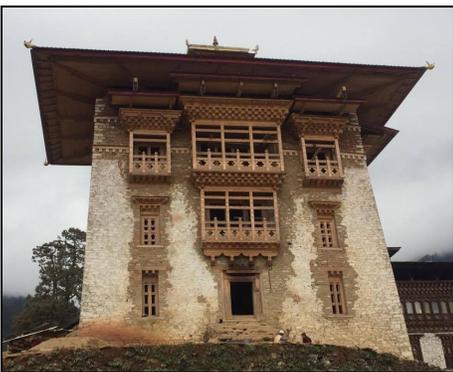
Chief Design and layout: ICT Officer

Chief Contributors: All Sector Heads and GAOs

Conservation of Tashi Thongmoen Dzong - Kinley Gyeltshen, Project Manager, GDCP

Besides immense significance and value of this historic structure built in 17th century by Desi Tenzin Drukda instructed by Lam Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel in 1646 to safe guard the nation from northern attacks, the structure itself tells us the architectural, aesthetic, social and economic values of Gasa during those era.

Architecturally the Utse is not so elaborated, built in stone masonry with installation of timber framed openings (Nyimchu rabsey), Payab and Geykars. Nyimchu Rabsey opening is a type of Gomang Rabsey which is not so common in northern Bhutanese architectural style. The masonry



structure has all the architectural aspects with calculated tapering at the edge of every outer wall and sound load bearing corner stone laid in all sides. With the simple architecture and well dimensioned design of the Utse with other surrounding significant galleries on a rock mount, the whole complex to

me looks like real abode of God (*Zangtopelri*). It seems the roofing style has been changed in later stage but there is no documentation for bringing back to its original style.

Aesthetically from the strategic position of the Utse structure itself, standing elegantly dominates Gasa scenery by overlooking few valleys of Goen Khatoe Gewog. The appreciation for this beauty is another significance of this tower in Gasa Dzongkhag.

Economically and socially one should understand how much our ancestors has suffered to build this structure in those days when there was no engineers, roads and machine, that's why during the restoration we see little compromises in workmanship and quality of materials. In whole our ancestors has handed down emotional ,wonder, identity and continuity values for us. Lets respect and value it.

Although the structure did not suffer major damages from natural calamities or was not in dilapidated condition before the restoration work began. Our intervention/restoration from the year 2014 was in right time as we see some signs and evidence of failure of structures in masonry and timber components already indicated.

With the concept of conservation, we the worker of Gasa Dzong Conservation Project has restored the structure to its former glory without any deviation from the original size, architectural features, use of same materials so that our future restorers will follow the same steps.

Let us keep in mind that we are not the last restorer or conservator, so what is important for future workers on historic conservation is documentation of earlier work done. Reference should be available in photographic documentation, drawing and sketching so that it becomes a norm of our conservation work and continuity.

Lastly I share the credit of " Good to Great Gasa Prestigious Award" received from Gasa Dzongkhag with all my staff and workers of Gasa dzong Conservation Project for conserving our National Heritage Site "Gasa Tashi Thongmen Dzong".

We the workers of Gasa dzong Conservation Project commemorate the Re- stored Utse to our beloved Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck's first Birthday.



His Majesty Gifts Lunana with Skills - *Dorji Dhradhul, Dzongda*

“A piece of education is better than 100 kgs of gold.” The unprecedented skills development programme for Lunana was envisioned by His Majesty during the weeklong Royal visit to Lunana Gewog from 23rd to 29th October 2016. His Majesty amazingly detected these acute critical needs within such a short time manifesting the deeply rooted inherent Royal concern for the welfare of his subjects.

The Office of Gyalpoi Zimpon, His Majesty Secretariat and Department of Human Resources jointly implemented the programme. Despite the short training duration (33 days) from 12 December to 21st January, all 43 trainees have gained the basic skills on their chosen fields. Now, Lunana have their own weavers, carpenters, painters, tailors and solar technician. They were also trained on basic culinary with which they could add more diversity in their food.

These unbelievable new skills are but gifts of golden solution from the Golden Throne to address Lunaps' total dependency for these skills on outsiders. Otherwise Lunaps did not have a single person skilled in the above skills arts.



Participants with training certificate

Initiation of native poultry farming - *Dzongkhag Livestock Sector*

Dzongkhag Livestock Sector in collaboration with RLDC Wangdue supplied 386 poultry birds (200 improved and 186 native poultry birds) to communities of Lunana Gewog on 31st July, 2016.



Though Lunana is predominantly a high altitude farming zone, certain breeds of poultry birds thrives and performs better than the rest as per the farmers. Native poultry birds are predominant in the area.

With the supply of both the native and the improved birds concurrently, the Dzongkhag intends to compare their performances and make appropriate decisions for promotion of poultry farming in places like Lunana in the future.

Given the history of poultry rearing in this gewog, the sector is positive that supplied birds will make good contribution to rural household nutrition as well. In addition, enthusiasm of farmers for rearing birds served as driving force to kick start as new venture in such far-flung gewog.

To realize egg self sufficiency in village level through supply of two hens and one cock, the construction of native poultry farm at Jabesa, Khamoed is in full pro-

NB: Editing team will be designated with every issue

This farm will serve as breeding hub for native poultry birds whereby two eggs per week per person program is realized through



distribution within gewog and entire Dzongkhag. Not only this, being an organic Dzongkhag the organic egg production will be also pursued for high end markets in the country.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following fellow Gasaps for their outstanding achievements

1. Sangay Dorji, Administration assistant – Gold medal – Civil service award.
2. Sherub Gyaltshen, DEO – Silver Medal – Civil Service award.
3. Kinzang, Administrative Assistant – Silver Medal – Civil Service Award.
4. Choki, Dzongkhag engineer, Bronze medal, Civil Service award.
5. Wangchen Dorji, Teacher, Bronze medal, Civil Service award.
6. Phuntsho Tshering, ICT associate, Bronze medal, Civil Service award.
7. Shacha Gyeltshen, Asst Lab Technician, Bronze medal, Civil Service award.
8. Dechen Wangmo ...National Order of Merit, Silver at the 109th National Day celebrations at Trongsa for their outstanding services to the Tsa-wa-sum. You are role models and have done us proud.
9. Pema Dorji , Principial, Gasa Pry School, Good to Great Gasa Award.
10. Namgay Dorji, Teacher, Lunana Pry School, Good to Great Gasa Award.
11. Kinley Gyeltshen, Project Manager, Good to Great Gasa Award.
12. Kuenley Zam, Student, Bjishong Central School, Top twenty in 2016/17 Kalapingka.
13. Dawa Dema of 2016 class X of Bjishong Central School for the Best Female Trainee Award in the third Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Winter Camp for the 117 student participants.
14. Chado Tshering, RBG from Khatoedfor taking Gasa to the top 5 in 2016 Nyagoe Competition.
15. Jigme from Lunana for representing Gasa in the top 5 Nygoe dendur in the 109 National Day Celebration at Trongsa on 17 December 2016
16. Yeshi Dem of class X for Silver Medal for women 3000 m at the 13th National school Athletics Meet held from 5 – 9 July 2016.

Leading the way in Organic production – *Agriculture Sector*

Gasa Rangshin Sanam Detshen (GRSD) from Khatoed Gewog was certified as an organic group on October 10, 2016 by the Bhutan Agriculture and Food Regulatory Authority (BAFRA) in accordance to Bhutan Organic Certification System (BOCS) Guidelines, 2013.

On September 29, 2016, this Dzongkhag also signed Membership Memorandum of Commitment and became a new member of Asian Local Governments for Organic Agriculture (ALGOA) in South Korea by signing between the President of IFOAM Asia and Dzongrab Gasa Dzongkhag. Under the purview of this signing, Dzongkhag remains committed to work closely with other ALGOA member countries for the development of organic agriculture and its related industries in the coming years .



Launching of certified organic potatoes at CFM



Memorandum of Commitment with ALGOA

On 18 November 2016 with support from of the Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives (DAMC) and Centenary Farmers' Market (CFM) management, a market promotion for certified organic potato was organised at the CFM during which 1735 kgs was sold.

On January 11, 2017, a buyer-seller meeting was held in Thimphu which was attended by about 15 high end hotels, representatives of the GRSD, Khatoed Gewog and Dzongkhag. In the meet it was agreed that these hotels will buy 3 products (potato, carrot and garlic) this coming season on contract mode through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. This is also being supported by DAMC.

Respecting Outstanding Performers - *Dorji Dhradhul, Dzongda*

Coinciding with the historic 109th National Day, the annual Good to Great Gasa (GGG) Award was launched. The award carries a certificate, cash and a medal/plaque. We hope this GGG Award will grow to be the most prestigious award at the Dzongkhag level, which will be awarded on every National Day. Everyone from all walks of life (e.g. civil servants, private, Rabdey, General citizens, etc.) will be eligible for this award, including individuals not resident in Gasa. The key factor for this award would be their outstanding contribution towards achieving the goal of “Self Reliant Gasa “ and Nation Building. This award is inspired by His Majesty's Selfless and Tire-

less efforts in making our Nation Great.

The first recipients of GGG Award are:

i) **Namgay Dorji**, teacher in Lunana for last 4 years, who not only volunteered to be in Lunana (one of the difficult place of postings in Bhutan, if not the most difficult) but also introduced the green house technology and grew and harvested crops like cucumber, maize, chili etc. in Lunana for the first time. Please note he is a teacher and not an agriculturist.

ii) **Pema Dorji**, the Principal of Gasa Pry School since last seven years. He is an all rounder and all time available for any task. Besides his school duties, he whole-

heartedly participates in any tasks related to the Good to Great Gasa vision. During the first ever Royal Highland Festival in Laya, he served as the Dzongkhag's coordinator for the First Edition of the Snowman Run, which he did extremely well.

iii) **Kinley Gyeltshen**, the Project Manager of the Dzong conservation project, which is one of the most important activities of the Dzongkhag in the current plan. Thus far, the work is progressing very well and besides he has the record of managing similar important restoration/conservation works in Dagana Dzong, Taktshang, and Tango Cheri etc.

Important dates for Dzongkhag events in 2017

- Gasa Tshechu ---3 to 6 April
- Inaugural Moenlam Chenmo presided by Chabje – 7 to 10 May
- Royal Highland Festival – 23 to 24 October
- Snowman Run – 22 to 23 October (tentative)

Gasa Going Clean - A Strategy to become the Cleanest District – *Dorji Wangchuck, NEC focal.*

The existing system of waste collection and segregation, recycling and safe disposal is exceptionally limited. An integrated solid waste management system approach which considers all steps of the solid waste management cycle is currently in deficient largely due to scarce capacity in terms of institutional set-up, trained human resources and most importantly fund.

However, Gasa Dzongkhag utterly begun its fight against waste on 6th July, 2015 with the launch of Clean Gasa Initiative which is one of the many drivers of **Good to Great Gasa**. The initiative began with the distribution of individual waste bags amongst dzongkhag staff donated by Clean Bhutan to collect litters while walking to and fro from office to home. Numerous swing bins owned by groups of civil servants were installed to reduce littering and inculcate civic

sense. Signboards were erected at various strategic locations to advocate general public on waste management and its laws. General public were also sensitized on the importance of waste management and their impact on our environment and human health if ill-managed.

Recently, to sustain the practice of waste management, Gasa dzongkhag unanimously decided through 2nd Dzongkhag Tshogdu of the 2nd Local Government that the first Thursday of every month would be declared as **Gasa Going Clean** day. On that day, all the offices stationed in Gasa dzongkhag will remain closed after lunch to participate in mass clean-up campaign. The campaign will start at 2.00 pm and will end at 4.00 pm.

Henceforth 9th December will al-

ways be celebrated as Gasa Going Clean Day as a tribute to His Majesty the Fifth King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck. Gasa dzongkhag strive to become the first district to entirely implement the application of 4Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Responsibility). We are already in talk with Eco waste solution regarding the sale of our recyclable solid waste. Our main target is to reduce our reliant on landfills and open dumping/burning. Very soon, we will be installing a waste collection centre whereby the application of 4Rs will be put in practice.

On this very auspicious day of our beloved Gyalsey's first birth anniversary, Gasa dzongkhag pledges to become the cleanest and greenest dzongkhag in the country. Long live the Wangchuck dynasty.

Think Nationally and Act Dzongkhagly - *Dorji Dhradhul, Dzongda*

On 9th December 2016, Gasa celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our beloved His Majesty's Golden Reign by lighting butter lamps followed by 3 brief talks, viz. A gratitude talk by Lam Neten; an inspirational talk by a senior citizen; and a hope talk by a student. Thereafter from 11.30 am to 3 pm the mass cleaning was carried out in 18 different sites in and around Gasa Dzong including the Tsha-chu. And similar cleaning was car-

ried out simultaneously in the Gewogs.

On this auspicious day, Gasa committed to give full support in making Bhutan the Cleanest Country with Gasa aspiring to be the Cleanest Dzongkhag in line with the spirit of "Think Nationally and Act Dzongkhagly". To make it more meaningful and formal, this commitment was further blessed by the last DT session. The DT resolution on this reads as - "first Thursday of every month will

be observed as the Gasa Going Clean Day and all offices in Dzongkhag will remain closed after lunch to participate and lead the cleaning activities and every year 9th December will be also celebrated in the same way as Gasa Going Clean Day."

REFLECTION OF 2016 ACADEMIC YEAR – Karma Sangay, Principal, Bjishong Central School

Firstly, Bjishong Central School tried to live up to the principle of “home away from home” to her hundreds of students, ranging from PP to X.

Secondly, the school tried to give maximum attention to empower the students through numerous pro-



gramme.

School's Vision:

“To pioneer the cradle of ‘Quality of Education’ through knowledge, skills and attitudes to become productive and efficient citizens to serve Tsa – Wa – Sum.”

“To pioneer the cradle of ‘Quality of Education’ through knowledge, skills and attitudes to become productive and efficient citizens to serve Tsa – Wa – Sum.”

School Mission:

“We are committed to the development of positive and caring learning environment where student’s uniqueness, growth and achievement are valued, understanding of community and global responsibilities are nurtured with the foundation for lifelong learning.”

Highlights of 2016:

- 62% of class X students qualified for class XI.
- Formed Bjishong Alumni Association.

- Involvement of parents in school development programmes.
- Instituted Student Governing Body.
- Instituted School’s Research Council.
- All the staff trained on basic driglamnamzha.



- 100 % teachers attended transformative pedagogy (National programme).
- Girl’s football team qualify for the National tournament.
- Begged 2nd position in 3000 meters at the national level.
- Organized exchanged programme with Laya LSS.
- Adopted one teacher-one student programmes, 36

Good Practices of Gasa Primary School - Pema Dorji, Principal, GPS.

Having started in 1961, Gasa Primary School is one of the oldest schools in the country.

When I took over the school as its 13th principal in 2008, we set on a mission to excel, which is in line with the recently set mission of Good to Great Gasa of the Dzongkhag.

The following are few initiatives we have done to date... we started developing Children Park using locally available resources through the support of parents and the community elders. Our small initiative was well received by students and parents in general. This initiative helped students to report to school on time and supported in

tackling absenteeism. Children availed park services and were able to learn untaught curriculum through play way method, thus learning values and culture of our society.

The harsh climate, giant mountains and the rough roads of Gasa wasn't a barrier for the school to get the other side of the world. With basic ICT knowledge, We were able to connect school to the outside world through Skype conversation. Teachers and students participated in the World Education forum organized by IVCEA Korea and shared good curriculum practices, cultural program and talk

show on climate changes were enriching learning experience for students and teachers. We have also connected the class room through ICT to Royal Education Council, Paro and discussed about the importance of health and physical education curriculum in schools.

To further scale up the ICT usage in school, dzongkhag administration and education sector supported in supplying ICT facilities to meet the 21st century teaching learning environment for better schooling.

A promise of a young rookie towards "Good to Great Gasa" - Kezang Sherab, REDCL focal person, 17348072

The noise of the car faded away as I walked to into the dusk to a place that I've never been to but heard a lot about. Leaving behind my peers and family with tired gaze yet full of curiosity, I made my way towards the small path that lead to the beaming light of the houses which I came across. I felt the chill in the air as the cold wintery wind of Gasa blew towards me as if to welcome of what the place had stored for me. With many thoughts rambling in my mind and hurried footsteps to race the wind, I entered the warm house of my uncle. The warmth of his hospitality and the firewood crackling in the fireplace was music to

my ears as I sat done besides it. I let a nervous breath out as I realized



reached my destination.

As the focal person based in Gasa, I look forward to bringing out many success stories of the Dzongkhag with the Fund provided by Rural Enterprise Development Corporation Ltd (REDCL). I look forward to working with the stakeholders and more so with the people of Gasa under

the guidance of the Dzongda to put projects on ground.

I feel there are many potential business opportunities in agriculture, poultry and dairy for the people here and I will do my best to assist the people with the best of my ability as the focal person of REDCL. I hope by end of 2017, I achieve my goal to put 50 successful projects on ground in Gasa. As of now there are eight applicants from Gasa who have applied for the Fund from REDCL. Out of which, six from Khatoed and Khamaed, have applied Fund for poultry and dairy farming under livestock. Two have applied for manufacturing and agriculture.

Highlights from January 2016 to February 2017

VIP visitors

- Ven'ble Drabi Lopen – 21 to 25 March 2016
- H.E.Hon'ble Lyonchen, Hon'ble Foreign and Agriculture Ministers, Hon'ble NC and MP during 11 FYP MTR – 27 to 28 March 2016
- Chairperson, RCSC – 12 to 14 April 2016
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Dawa Gyeltshen – 9 May 2016
- Hon'ble Opposition Leader Pema Gyamtsho – 11 May 2016
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuck - 13 - 14 May 2016
- Executive Director, RENEW and team from UNFPA, MOH - 27 May 2016
- Ven Dorji Lopen – 31 May to 3rd June 2016
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Leki Dorji – 25 – 26 June 2016
- Royal visit to Laya and Lunana – 17 to 28 October 2016
- Hon'ble Chairperson, NC and Gasa Hon'ble NC – 15 to 20 October 2016
- Hon'ble Agriculture and Foreign Ministers – 15 to 20 October 2016
- Hon'ble MP, Lunana Khamoed – 10 to 29 October 2016
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Nima Sangay Chenpo - 11 to 13 Nov 2016.
- Ven. Lektsho Lopen in Laya and Gasa – 19 to 22 November 2016
- Rudolf Schwenk, Resident Representative of UNICEF Bhutan - 6 to 7 December 2016
- Hon'ble Lyonpo Damcho Dorji – 16 to 19 December
- Hon'ble NC and MP – 16 to 19 December 2016

Events

- Inaugurated Farm Shop in Laya – 8 January 2016
- Celebrated Royal Birth of Mewang Gyalsey – 5 to 6 February 2016
- Inaugurated a RNR market – 20 February 2016
- Participated in the Bhutan International Marathon – 5 March 2016
- Planted Sokshing for Gyalsey – 6 March 2016
- Dzongkhag Education Conference – 13 March 2016
- Gasa Tshechu – 15 to 18 March 2016
- Bjishong Central School celebrated her 10th Foundation Day - 23 March 2016
- Mani Dungdrub presided by Ven Drabi Lopen – 21 to 25 March 2016
- 3rd National Human Resource Conference in Gasa. – 12 to 14 April 2016
- Installation of the MAIN door of the Utse of Dzong- 9 April 2016
- Kidu Mobile Medical Unit (KMMU) in Gasa - 23 to 28 April 2016.
- 11 FYP MTR and Khatoed & Khamoed Gewogs visits by HPM – 27 to 28 March 2016
- Farm Shops inaugurated in Khatoed and Khamoed – 12 May 2016
- RENEW, UNFPA, MOH advocacy programme - 27th May 2016,
- Open Air Gymnasium inaugurated - 27 May 2016
- BoD station inaugurated in Gasa - June 26, 2016
- Dzongda signed 2016/17 APA with Gewogs - 21 July 2016.
- Dzongda signed 2016/17 APA 2016 with sector heads and Dzongrab signed - 2 August 2016,
- Photo Exhibition on Gasa at the Mountain Echoes – 26 to 28 August 2016
- Royal Highland Festival – 16 to 18 October 2016
- Organic certification for potato and garlic received – 10 October 2016
- The Snowman Run – 15 to 16 October 2016
- Dzongrab Chewang Jurme left on transfer to Thimphu – 22 November 2016
- Gasa Going Clean launched – 9 December 2016
- Annual Good to Great Gasa Award launched – 17 December 2016
- Community Based Scouts instituted – 17 December 2016
- Gasa Better Business Committee formed --- 31 December 2016
- Sertoe for Dzong Utse installed – 18 December 2016
- Salang Tendril for ex-uniform forces's Chorten - 18 December 2016
- First Snowfall of 2016/17 - 26th December 2016
- Dzongrab Sonam Wangdi joined us on transfer from Tyangtshi - 22 December 2016
- Royal Initiated Village Skills Development Programme for 43 Lunaps in TTI Khuruthang, Punakha – 10 December 2016 to 21 January 2017