

**Inaugural Address of the Hon'ble Chief Guest, His Excellency Lyonpo
Yeshe Zimba at the Opening Ceremony of the 8th Annual Audit
Conference 2005. (Thursday, 21st July 2005)**

I am happy to be able to come as Chief Guest for the 8th Annual Audit Conference of the Royal Audit Authority.

The Royal Audit Authority is a very important organization. His Majesty the King, Government, People and the National Assembly have reposed great trust and confidence in Royal Audit Authority and attached great importance. We have limited internal resources and major chunk of our budgetary funds come from the external grants. As a result, we should ensure that there is no wastage and make best use of the available resources in conformity to the financial rules and regulations. The Royal Government has a commitment that independence of the Royal Audit Authority would be further strengthened and the government will have lesser interference in its functioning.

Our country is undergoing a rapid change, a situation further compounded by the Decentralization Policy initiated at the Dzongkhag and Geog levels. In such a scenario, the Royal Audit Authority would face more difficulties and challenges in the days ahead. Keeping this in view, it is imperative that the Royal Audit Authority should be dynamic and stronger in its functional activities.

It is needless to mention here that, our country enjoy tremendous peace and prosperity than ever before. We are achieving the desired result that immensely benefits the common people and there is not much of corruption prevailing in the system. This bears testimony to the great visionary leadership of our beloved King, who initiated the system of good governance and the Decentralization Policy. To keep track of such positive development and to give further impetus to make it stronger, we ought to have strong political will backed by strong policies framework. When we work, be it in Government, business or private undertakings, it is very essential to have strong code of conduct and ethics. The role and function of the Royal Audit Authority is indispensable to ensure proper accountability in the system.

In our country, governance has been very successful and we should take pride in it. Nevertheless, with the rapid development, there is also a corresponding increase in corrupt practices. For instance, in contract works and in procurement of goods and services, people tend to deviate from the stated rules and regulations giving rise to favoritism and nepotism. It is necessary that such practices should be nibbed at the bud lest it would encourage other people to follow suit and spread like a contagious disease. It is not a difficult task to prevent such unethical practices if we abide by the set rules and regulations.

The Policy of Decentralization has already taken its own place in the system. Very soon the draft Constitution would be passed and the people

in a responsible position would be appointed through an electoral vote. There is an uncertainty as to what sorts of people would be voted to a responsible position and how would they function. In such a situation, there would be an opportunity for the system to improve as well as there would be more risk of corrupt practices prevailing far greater than today.

The theme of 8th Annual Audit Conference “Auditing in an IT Environment” is timely and necessary in this Information and Communication Technology (ICT) age. ICT is widespread in every field be it in Government, business or private organizations. The Royal Audit Authority should handle ICT with utmost care so as to accrue mutual benefits. The theme presentation in visual form was well presented and it demonstrated the will of the Royal Audit Authority in its pursuit of Auditing in an IT environment. As like other countries, ICT must be made best use of it. Even if we have shortages of manpower and do not avail opportunity to go outside for the trainings, we can achieve our desire results at the given level of resources. On the other hand, in an ICT environment, the auditee agencies can furnish the required information irrespective of their location and have enormous benefits.

I have gone through the Annual Audit Report of year 2004 in detail during the 83rd Session of the National Assembly. I came across certain deviations from the acceptable norms of financial rules but glad to note that it is on decreasing trend from year to year, which I feel is very important. Most important of all is that audit should work in good faith without fear or favour. Prior to execution of any work, we should ensure compliances to the set financial norms.

The Royal Audit Authority has been doing an excellent job and I would like to further stress that it should strive to work even harder. It is good to see that all the senior and experienced officers of the Royal Audit Authority could assemble here today to work out next course of action with greater zeal and enthusiasm as a watchdog of public resources.

The common people have greater confidence on the Royal Audit Authority. But you should also keep in mind that while there are no denying the fact that rules and regulations should be adhered to, audit must be sensitive of the circumstances and rationale under which certain lapses may occurred so that should be no adverse effect on their dynamism and initiatives. What we expect from them is output and if the desired results are achieved there should be no further doubts on them.

Nevertheless, the Royal Audit Authority as a custodian of accountability should work without fear or favour and strive to achieve more dynamism and substance in its pursuit of a clean public service.

TASHI DELEK.