



## Job not done: Dremetse villagers

**Dechen Tshering,  
Mongar**

With handing and taking over done, the Rural Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) work for Bikhhar and Wungkhar under Dremetse, Mongar is a done deal. Villagers, however, say work it is far from over.

### RWSS

The communities on questioning about it were informed that works were completed and no budget was left. Gewog officials had done handing and taking over of the RWSS work.

“Without any notice to the villagers gewog officials considered all

**“Without any notice to the villagers, the gewog officials considered all works done”**

A villager  
Dremetse, Mongar

works done,” a villager said.

Talking to Kuen-sel villager said water taps were missing, and shutter cocks and pipelines were not fitted. “If works are completed, there would be water running from the taps,” a villager said, adding that in some households there were no taps at all. “Taps that have been fixed are not connected to the pipelines.”

Villagers continue using barrels to store water.

Bikhhar villagers said they were under the impression that the RWSS works were on halt after a water dispute broke out between Dremetse and Narang gewog last year. Villagers, 37 of them, from Dremetse on July 8 last year filed a case in court against Narang villagers, alleging that they had cut off their water pipelines.

The district court, on May 19, in its verdict stated that the two gewogs should share the water source that’s been a bone of contention between the gewogs for years. **Pg.2**



**Not a done deal:** Renovation works are left incomplete in Dremetse

## On the coat-tails of the civil service

Expectations are *high, as usual in the wake, of a corporate employee pay hike next*

**Tshering Dorji**

Following the civil servants’ salary raise, the board of various companies under Druk Holding and Investments (DHI), will now study the possibility of a pay raise for its employees, in the next six

months.

DHI chairman DASHO SANGAY KHANDU said the directors would be taking up the same task as the Pay Commission did to come up with civil servants’ pay raise.

However, he expressed

concerns over the trend where a pay hike in civil service was always be followed by a pay revision in corporate sectors. “Are corporate employees prepared not to expect a revision, if the government is unable to afford a raise for civil servants for 10 years?” he said. **Pg.2**

### SALARY

#### IN BRIEF »

Summer Festival

»The third Haa Summer Festival will be held on July 5 and 6. Organised by the Tourism Council of Bhutan with Haa dzongkhag and Bhutan Olympic Committee, the festival will showcase traditional culture, nomadic lifestyles, unique Bhutanese cuisine, and traditional sports, among others.

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# His Majesty awards *patang* and *kabney*

Tashi Dema

His Majesty the King awarded *patang* and white *kabney* without fringes to Lam Choechoong, director for postgraduate diploma in law, Royal Institute of Management, yesterday at the 21st judiciary conference in the capital.

## CONFERENCE

Lam Choechoong, 66, has trained many judges and judiciary officials in national law.

Meanwhile the judiciary, after two days conference, resolved to enhance judiciary independence consistently with the Constitution and commitment to the Rule of Law.

The judiciary will also be independent by following the due process of law and be corrected through the right to appeal, which is a basic tenet of natural justice.

The resolution of the 21st judiciary conference also states that judiciary will also strive to promote a just, equal and civil society.

"The judiciary will uphold



Lam Choechoong

the constitution mandate to function as the guardian of the Constitution," the resolution stated.

The judiciary also resolved to uphold, protect and promote national aims and objectives of sovereignty, peace and stability by continuing to acquire legal knowledge and expertise that will also ensure smooth succession and transition of professionals in judiciary.

"The judiciary will also reinforce trust and confidence

in the justice delivery system by responding positively to the expectations of the people by taking cognizance of His Majesty's advice that national interests succeeds, personal interest fails," the resolution stated.

The judiciary will also avoid harassment to the litigants and miscarriage of justice by adhering to Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, discharge fair justice based on the standard of reasonableness relating to all matters before the court.

# Job not done: Dremetse villagers

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"We were thinking that work was stopped because of the case in court," a farmer said. "After the verdict was out, we asked the tshogpa about the work and that's when he told us that it was completed."

Rinzin said villagers are worried because, once the RWSS budget is reflected on paper and released, villagers would not be able to get the budget again. "People should know how it fared, and how it was considered blindly," he said.

The tshogpa, villagers said, was responsible for the work, while the gup shows no interest to come and inspect the work. "We elected the gup, and, if there's something wrong he should correct it, because he's our elected representative," a farmer said. "He shouldn't take our votes for granted."

Dremetse gup Tshering Dorji said RWSS works in Bikhar and Wungkhar were carried out by the village tshogpa, and he had no command over the issue.

"I have no idea how

things went because works were monitored by the tshogpa and he is responsible for it," he said, adding that he did not know if works were completed and whether handing and taking over of the work was done.

Bikhar tshogpa Ugyen Wangchuk said handing and taking over was done before the court verdict. He said works were completed, except for pipe fittings. "This was left out mainly because of lack of coordination among the villagers," he said. "We have everything recorded on paper and there are no major works left."

Regarding the handing and taking over, he said, he did not inform people, thinking that works were done and only pipe fittings and other minor works were left.

Site engineer Dendrup Tshering said the works were carried out in 2012-13 fiscal year during which he was not present. "I was transferred here last year and, when I reached here, things were done and all bills were passed," he said.

# On the coat-tails of the civil service

From Pg.1

But the chairman said he understands why corporate employees deserved to be paid more than civil servants and DHI would be considering the revision more professionally.

The first thing it would study is the inflation rate and corresponding erosion in purchasing power of money. Each of the employees under different companies, he said, has a different mandate, challenges, situations and working conditions.

He said the DHI board feels that employees of subsidiary companies deserved to be paid better. "If we need a raise, we need to work harder to reduce expenditure, increase both revenue and profit to justify to our shareholders," he said.

Dasho Sangay Khandu said external factors like revenue; profit and growth must be considered for the revision. The companies cannot ask for subsidy from the government.

Citing Druk Green Power corporation, as an example,

he said, should the revision be based on financial performance, then the corporation contributes 28 percent of the government revenue, and can probably afford the raise for its employees.

But the revenue and resources belong to the state and people of Bhutan, he said. "So we also have to be mindful of what responsibility rests with us," he said. "We can't take what we think we can afford also."

He said the main objective of giving DHI a mandate to govern the subsidiary companies was to improve governance, and ensure the competitiveness of these companies both within and outside the country remained. The ownership of these companies in reality has

**"If we need a raise, we need to work harder to reduce expenditure, increase both revenue and profit to justify to our shareholders"**

Dasho Sangay Khandu  
Chairman, DHI

not changed, he said. "So we have to also make it clear that we are only the custodian of national wealth," he said.

While keeping in mind

these factors, the board would also look into the economic situation of the country and the employees.

"The six or seven directors can't run all the companies; there are thousands of people behind who keep the companies running," Dasho Sangay Khandu said. "We have to make sure that welfare of these people are looked into."

Otherwise, he said, the performances of these companies could deteriorate. The pay commission's report also stated that raise in the salaries of civil servants would translate into a 15 percent hike on salaries for those in corporate sectors, because usually their salaries were kept 15 percent higher than civil servants.

## Corrigendum

In reference to story "Its official-unemployment's on the up," dated July 1, youth unemployment rate has been wrongly published as 9.9 percent instead of 9.6 percent. The error is highly regretted.