

***“Promoting Mediation Nationwide:
A Path to a Better Future”***

**Court-Annexed Mediation
Report 2021**



Bhutan National Legal Institute

Vision

Our Vision is to provide High Quality Professional Mediation Services to the litigants and promote Consensus and Access to Justice.

Mission

- 1. To Set and Achieve High Mediation Standards** - The Court-Annexed Mediation Unit in collaboration with the Management shall create standards for mediation services nationwide. The Unit shall maintain qualified mediators through accreditation programs, and by enhancing the practice of mediation to improve consensus and access to justice.
- 2. To Promote Understanding on Court-Annexed Mediation** - The Mediation Unit shall work closely with the similar national and international institutions to promote the usage and adoption of Court - Annexed Mediation in the country.
- 3. To Disseminate Skills to the Litigants, Counsel and Mediators** - The Mediation Unit shall in collaboration with the Institute, provide skills and trainings to the Litigants, Counsels and Mediators to promote alternative forums for conflict resolution. This will empower the parties and their counsels with the opportunities to tailor their own solutions with in-win outcomes.
- 4. To Promote Community Vitality** - The Mediation Unit shall ensure that the parties produce amicable resolution of disputes without damaging the relationship of the parties. Ultimately, it promotes community vitality thus achieving the goal of Gross National Happiness (GNH).
- 5. To Promote and Enhance Access to Justice** - In its endeavour to promote and enhance Access to Justice, the Mediation Unit shall encourage the parties to avail the services of Out-of-Court and Court-Annexed Mediation. Therefore, the Mediation Unit shall ensure that Mediation services are readily available, and the services are effective, efficient and user-friendly.

Core Values

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit holds a set of values that provide the foundation of its relationship with all constituents. Our seven core values are summed up as **MEDIATE**:

Morale: The Mediation Unit provides world-class dispute resolution services with high professionalism that upholds the high morale of the general public.

Education: The Mediation Unit educates the general public through amicable resolution of disputes and the benefits it brings to the society.

Diligence: The Mediation Unit shows determination and perseverance through hard work and dedication, and provides settlements that are mutually acceptable and satisfying to the parties.

Integrity: The Mediation Unit provides an environment for respectful, understanding alternative perspectives, and building positive resolutions.

Accessibility: The Mediation Unit ensures accessibility and user friendliness to every litigant both in terms of cost and legal procedures.

Time: The Mediation Unit provides mediation services at the earliest point of conflict without delay.

Efficient: The Mediation Unit provides efficient and high quality mediation services through good use of time, energy and resources at minimal cost.



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Foreword



The Bhutan National Legal Institute is pleased to publish the *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation Report 2021*. Mediation in Bhutan bears both historical and legal significance, perpetuating a peaceful and mutual coexistence of our society. Bhutan has always preserved its valuable national heritage, reflected by our respect for others, and the desire to live in close

social circuits. Our ways of living have promoted an ideal Bhutanese social life, positive community engagement and fostered a life with values based on the noble precept of *Gross National Happiness*. Community vitality and social interdependence marks unique Bhutanese lifestyle that orchestrates our close-knit social bonds and relations. Mediation has always served as a medium of positive social instruction by reinforcing our social values and enhancing understanding amongst the people, and promoting habitation of common interests and values.

In the past, courts were viewed as places of contestation for reasons and the application of the law. Today, with the introduction of Court-Annexed Mediation Units (CAMU) at the Royal Courts of Justice, it has enhanced justice and legal services to the people. Courts have changed into a place of mutual settlement, thus providing an “alternative paradigm” to settle disputes through an informal settlement process.

The *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) Report* documents and assesses the CAM services in the country. It examines the nature of the cases referred for mediation, number of disputes resolved through CAM services rendered by the trained Judicial Mediators from the High Court, 20 Dzongkhags and 15 Dungkhags in the country. It intends to evaluate and report on the nature of mediation services, thus establishing the phenomenon of legal disputes coming before the courts in the country and the apposite legal, social

interventions, and capacity building services required for the Judicial Service Personnel to enhance *access to justice* for the people. The *Report* is one of the most credible resources for sustainable capacity building and other legal and social interventions to promote *rule of law*, enhance *access to justice* and promote community wellbeing.

This report mirrors the changing paradigm of justice, legal and mediation services in the courts and the pervasiveness of alternative opportunities of dispute resolution methods in the communities and in the country. The success of mediation services enhances the relationships of the community units, fosters a compassionate society, perpetuate invaluable assets of harmony and best social experiences - thus creating a roadmap for just society for infinite times. We believe that our services generate energy for beneficial and meaningful community and social engagements.

We hope that our readers find the report educative, informative and substantive.



(Pema Needup)
Director General

Executive Summary

The age-old informal and amicable custom of community dispute resolution system, known as *Nangkha Nangdrig* has been revived and strengthened a few years ago under the initiative of Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, Honourable President of the Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI). This informal dispute resolution system has supplemented the Royal Courts of Justice in enhancing access to justice. In order to further prevent acrimony between the parties and keep justice within the reach of the common people, the Judiciary under the visionary leadership of Her Royal Highness has institutionalized the Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) services in all the Courts across the country. This has enabled people to opt out from the litigation even after the cases are registered in the courts, at any stage of adjudication, in favour of mediation within or out of courts.

Court-Annexed Mediation has varied definitions. Many jurisdictions provide a contextual definition that suits their needs. However, the basic idea is that, it is a process where mediation services are provided to the litigating parties after they have filed their cases in the courts. The mediator could be either the judges, judicial officers, or any other person attached or affiliated to the courts. There are evidences around the globe that introduction of such system has helped the Judiciary in managing the case dockets and reducing the pendency and clearing the backlogs. It has ensured prompt and speedy justice.

The *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation Report 2021* documents the types and number of disputes mediated by the trained judicial mediators in the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit in 2021. The Institute is overwhelmed and thrilled to submit that a total of 994 cases were mediated by the CAMU in just one year. The report reveals that Paro Dzongkhag Court has mediated the highest number of disputes (139), followed by Monggar (132) and Trashigang Dzongkhag Court (75) respectively. The report also reveals that matrimonial-related issue is the maximum number of disputes mediated by the CAMU across the country.

The report first highlights the cases mediated by CAMU of the High Court, followed by Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts; while second part of the report highlights the overall cases mediated by the CAMU across the country.



(Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Hon. President of Bhutan National Legal Institute during the inaugural ceremony of Court-Annexed Mediation Unit at Punakha, 28 Oct 2019)



(CAM Training to the Bench Clerks (First Batch) at Tenzinling Resort, Paro from 18 - 23 June 2019)

1. Introduction

The Bhutan National Legal Institute is the training and research arm of the Judiciary. Established in February 2011 under the *Judicial Service Act of Bhutan 2007*, the Institute is mandated to facilitate the Judiciary in the fair and efficient administration of justice. It also assumes greater responsibility in ensuring access to justice by providing legal information and discourses to the judicial personnel and to the general public. In its endeavor to promote access to justice, the Institute has committed to decentralize the justice system by promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the country. Therefore, under the visionary leadership of the Hon. President, the Institute has initiated a nation-wide mediation training program with the objective to revitalize and institutionalize the age-old practice of mediation in the Kingdom. The outcome of this program is amply clear since thousands of disputes have been mediated by the Local Government Leaders every year.

In addition to the age-old customary mediation practices in the Chiwogs and Gewogs, the Hon. President of the Institute, Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck and Lyonpo Tshering Wangchuk, the former Chief Justice of Bhutan inaugurated the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit in Punakha on 28 October 2019. The event symbolized the official opening of the CAMU and institutionalization of the Court-Annexed Mediation System in all courts.

The CAM system provides alternative or additional mediation services to the people within the courts, to prevent having win-lose decisions in courts after protracted and often expensive and adversarial litigations. In this system, the judges refer appropriate civil cases to the CAMU for judicial mediation; alternatively, the parties also request the judges to adjourn the cases and refer their cases to in-house judicial mediation service after the registration of the cases; any time, before the judgments are rendered. If the mediations are successful, the courts endorse the settlement agreements and render judgments thereon, and enforce accordingly. If the mediation fails, it is reverted to the court for adjudication as per laws.

The CAM Concept Document, CAM Strategic Plan, CAM Forms, CAM Accreditation Standards of the Mediators, CAM Rules and Procedures, and CAM Registers and CAM logo have been developed by the Institute. The CAM system is aimed at enhancing access to justice and preserving relationship between the people, promoting peace and harmony in the country through the collaborative and facilitative efforts of mediators who help parties in customizing 'win-win' or mutually satisfying outcomes. The Court-Annexed Mediation or the judicial mediation services is a significant judicial reform in recent years aimed at keeping justice as inexpensive and expeditious as possible, in addition to strengthening the community vitality, preserving relationship between the people and promoting the Gross National Happiness.

As of now, the Institute has trained 142 Bench Clerks as judicial mediators across the country. Today, every Court has at least two trained judicial mediators who provide mediation services on daily basis.



(Launching of CAM documents by the former Chief Justice of Bhutan, at Tenzinling Resort, Paro - 18 June 2019)

2. Objectives

The BNLI has trained around 56% of the Bench Clerks as of now. Therefore, the objective of this report is to assess the nationwide impact of the CAM training and to determine the cases resolved through mediation in the CAMU, by subject matter in respective courts. The Institute also hopes to gauge the challenges and constraints faced during the mediation process and explore the scope of further improving and promoting the CAM system in the Courts. The compilation of a report such as this, is also to educate, inform and guide people to avail CAM services, save resources and preserve relationship-and promote peace and happiness in the society.

3. Methodology

The methodology used to accomplish this report was a quantitative method. A form was designed taking into consideration the provision of reporting mechanism envisioned in the *Rules of Procedures & Forms*. Telephone conversations were conducted with each court for the report clarifying the doubts on the information to be submitted. The information and data were mostly collected via email, although few opted to send through other means of social media forums. The full tabulations of the results of the report are analyzed and the sample reporting format have been provided under separate topic as *Annexure*.

4. Court-Annexed Mediation Report

The brief profile of every Court provided in this report is expected to shed light on the background and context of the places which has bearing on the number and the types of cases being mediated. The report highlights cases mediated by the High Court, Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts. It also highlights the overall cases mediated in all the CAMU of the respective Courts across the country.

Royal Court of Justice, High Court of Bhutan

The establishment of the High Court of Bhutan in 1967 under the Royal Command gave impetus to the separation of powers among the three branches of the government. Since then, it has



been the highest appellate authority to review, reverse and overrule any order, decision and judgment of any court or tribunal until the establishment of Supreme Court in 2010. With the enactment of the Thrimzhung Chhenmo, the High Court has been the umbrella of the Bhutanese legal system for over four decades, thus growing tremendously in its historical significance.

Initially, the High Court was established at the Tashichhodzong. It was later shifted and started functioning from the present-day agriculture minister's office located near the Tashichhodzong. And later, it was shifted to Chubachu until June 2018. Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck consecrated the new High Court building at the Supreme Court Complex at Hejo, on 2nd June 2018. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of Bhutan's Judiciary. It coincided with the coronation anniversary of His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo and also marked the completion of 50 years of High Court's service to the nation.

Today, the High Court is housed at the South Block of Supreme Court premises. It is not only housed in a traditional elegant building, but also equipped with the modern amenities. The new court building has three large courtrooms, nine chambers for the justices and spacious rooms for the staff. The High Court also provides mediation services to the appeal cases.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of the High Court of Bhutan

Sl. No.	Bench	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan-Dec 2021)
1	Bench I	-	0
2	Bench II	Matrimony	1
3	Bench III	Land	1
Total			2

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of the High Court has mediated a total of 2 cases. Out of 3 cases registered with the CAMU of Bench II, 1 matrimonial case was settled, while two cases could not be settled. Bench III has mediated 1 land-related dispute, however, CAMU of Bench I has not mediated any case in 2021.



(Inauguration of CAMU at the High Court on 7 July 2020)

1. Bumthang Dzongkhag Court

Bumthang is the central district of Bhutan. The Royal Court of Justice, Bumthang Dzongkhag Court was established at Jakar in 1962 during the reign of His Majesty The Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. The present court



was constructed under the financial assistance from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). It has separate detention facilities for men, women and children, ramps for persons with differently-abled, and lobby with benches for the litigants. The Court provides judicial and legal services to the people of Tang, Ura, Chokhor and Chumig Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Bumthang Dzongkhag since January 2020.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Bumthang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	15
2	Monetary	6
3	Census-related	1
4	Land	4
5	Child maintenance	1
6	Miscellaneous	1
Total		28

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Bumthang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 28 cases. The dispute pertains to matrimony (15), monetary (6), land (4), census-related, child maintenance and miscellaneous matter (1 each).

2. Chhukha Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Chhukha Dzongkhag Court was established in 1982. The present courthouse was built in 1970s for the Chhukha Hydropower Project Office. The Court delivers judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. The Court-Annexed Mediation Unit was established in February 2020 and it provides mediation services to the people of Chhukha Dzongkhag since then.



Disputes mediated by CAMU of Chhukha District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	27
2	Monetary	3
3	Inheritance	2
4	Agreement-related	1
Total		33

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Chhukha District Court has mediated a total of 33 cases. The dispute mediated pertains to matrimony (27), monetary (3), inheritance (2) and agreement-related matter (1).



3. Dagana Dzongkhag Court

There is no record of when Dagana Dzongkhag Court was established. The judicial services were initially delivered from the shared office premises of the Dzongkhag Administration. The Court now has an independent court



infrastructure, which was constructed in 2014 under the financial assistance from Austrian Development Agency (ADA). It has sufficient space for judicial personnel and the litigants as well. The court provides judicial services to the people of fourteen Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Dagana Dzongkhag since January 2020.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Dagana Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	13
2	Monetary	17
3	Hiring of technical equipment	2
Total		32

A total of 32 cases were mediated by the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Dagana Dzongkhag Court. The dispute pertains to matrimony (13), monetary (17), and hiring of technical equipment-related matters (2).

4. Gasa Dzongkhag

The Royal Court of Justice, Gasa Dzongkhag Court was established in 1986. Initially, it shared its office with the Dzongkhag administration in the Dzong. It was then shifted to the residence



of the Judge in 2016 which was constructed with the financial assistance from the Government of India (GoI). Currently, the judicial service is delivered from one-storied structure, which belongs to the Gasa Rabdey. A place above Drangpon's residence has been identified for the construction of the court and the groundbreaking ceremony (Sa Lhang Tendrel) was held on 1 November 2019. Today, the Gasa court is still under construction. The court delivers judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Gasa Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Gasa Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	10
2	Monetary	1
Total		11

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Gasa Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 11 cases. The cases pertain to matrimony (10) and monetary (1).

5. Haa Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Haa Dzongkhag Dzongkhag Court was established in 1963. Since then, the court has been operating from a traditional building for more than five decades. The new court building was constructed in 2019. It is a two-storied building with a provision of establishing Second Bench in the future. The court was constructed with the financial assistance from the Royal Government of Bhutan. It provides judicial services to the people of six Gewogs. The Court also provides mediation service to the people of Haa Dzongkhag since November 2019.



Disputes settled by CAMU of Haa Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	24
2	Drinking water	1
3	Monetary	2
4	Child born out of wedlock	2
5	Defamation	2
6	Land	2
Total		33

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Haa Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 33 cases. The disputes pertain to the matrimony (24), drinking water (1), monetary, child born out of wedlock, defamation and land-related cases (2 each). Matrimonial dispute is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



6. Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court was established in 1964 during the reign of His Majesty the *Druk Gyalpo* Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. The erstwhile court was housed in the Dzong



along with the Dzongkhag administration. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with the financial assistance from the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). It has separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. There are also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Lhuentse Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	12
2	Monetary	3
Total		15

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Lhuentse Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 15 cases. The disputes pertain to matrimony (12) and monetary (3) including one dispute which was partially settled by the CAMU.

7. Monggar Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Monggar Dzongkhag Court was established in 1955 during the reign of His Majesty the *Third Druk Gyalpo*. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance from the



Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. The new court has adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention room for men, women and children. It has also facilities for differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of seventeen Gewogs. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Monggar Dzongkhag since November 2019

Disputes settled by CAMU of Monggar Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	101
2	Child born out of wedlock	4
3	Monetary	23
4	Selling & buying of car	1
5	Drainage	1
6	Land	1
7	Social media-related	1
Total		132

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Monggar Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 132 cases and is second highest in the country after Paro Dzongkhag Court (139). The disputes mediated pertain to matrimony (101), child born out of wedlock (4), monetary (23), selling & buying of car, drainage, land and social media-related disputes (1 each).



8. Paro Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Paro Dzongkhag Court was established in 1962 during the reign of third *Druk Gyalpo*. Paro Dzongkhag Court still functions its office from the Dzong. In response to the development and increase population, an additional Bench was established in 2007. The new court building is still under construction. Paro Dzongkhag Court is one of the busiest courts in the country. It provides judicial services to the people of ten Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Paro Dzongkhag since March 2020.



Disputes mediated by CAMU of Paro Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	76
2	Monetary	32
3	Land	15
4	Inheritance	6
5	Miscellaneous	10
Total		139

Out of 157 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Paro Dzongkhag Court, a total of 139 cases were settled by the CAMU and is highest in the country. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimony (76), monetary (32), land (15), inheritance (6) and miscellaneous (10).

9. Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court was established in 1974. It operated from the Dzong, sharing the office of the Dzongkhag Administration till 2014. The new court building was constructed in



2014 with the financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. It has adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag since October 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	6
Total		6

Out of 8 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag Court, 6 cases have been settled; while 2 cases could not be settled. The dispute mediated pertains to matrimony (6) only.



10. Punakha Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Punakha Dzongkhag Court was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed with the financial assistance from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Austrian Development



Agency (ADA) in 2017. It has separate room for detainees, litigants and the judicial personnel. It provides judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. The Hon. President of the Bhutan National Legal Institute inaugurated the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit on 28 October 2019 symbolizing the formal opening and institutionalization of the Court-Annexed Mediation system in all the courts. Since then, the Court provided mediation services to the people of Punakha Dzongkhag.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Punakha Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan – Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	14
2	Monetary	10
3	Hiring of land & house	1
Total		25

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Punakha Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 25 cases. The case mediated pertains to matrimony (14), monetary (10) and hiring of land and house-related case (1).

11. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court was established in 1971. The new court building was constructed with the financial assistance from Danish International Development Agency



(DANIDA), Government of Denmark in 2007. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	13
2	Monetary	5
Total		18

Out of 20 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court, a total of 18 cases were settled; while 2 matrimonial disputes could not be settled. The cases mediated pertain to matrimony (13) and monetary (5).

12. Samtse Dzongkhag Court

There is no clear record which shows the establishment of an independent court in Samtse Dzongkhag. However, when Phuentsholing was declared as a Dzongkhag Administration by the Royal Government



of Bhutan, Samtse Court was shifted to Phuentsholing and the Sub-divisional Officers (Dungpa) were authorized to settle disputes. In 1985 when Samtse was declared as an independent Dzongkhag with the appointment of first Dzongdag, the court was shifted back to Samtse with the appointment of an independent Judge. The Court then delivered services from the shared office premises of the Dzongkhag Administration till 2006. Later, the new court building was constructed in 2006 with the financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. It provides judicial services to the people of fifteen Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Samtse Dzongkha since February 2020.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Samtse District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	27
2	Monetary	7
3	Inheritance	3
4	Land	3
5	Footpath	2
6	Miscellaneous	5
Total		47

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Samtse Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 47 cases. The matrimony (27) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the CAMU; while other cases mediated pertain to monetary (7), inheritance, land (3 each) and miscellaneous matters (5). The miscellaneous disputes pertain to retirement benefits, child maintenance and child born out of wedlock-related cases.



13. Sarpang Dzongkhag Court

There is no proper record on the establishment of the court in Sarpang. Till 2018, the Court shared its office with the Dzongkhag Administration. The new court building was constructed in 2018



with the financial assistance from the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). It has sufficient space for judicial staff as well as the litigants. The court also has separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of twelve Gewogs. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Sarpang Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Sarpang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	6
Total		6

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Sarpang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 6 cases. The cases mediated pertain to matrimonial dispute only.

14. Thimphu Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court was established in 1970. Initially the Court delivered judicial services from the shared office premises of the Thimphu Dzongkhag



Administration near Changlimithang stadium. In response to the increasing caseloads, three additional Benches were established in addition to the two Benches. Thimphu Dzongkhag Court has now five Benches - two Criminal Benches, one Civil Bench, one Commercial Bench and one Family and Child Bench. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Thimphu Dzongkhag since October 2019.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Thimphu Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Bench	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan – Dec 2021)
1	Civil Bench	-	0
2	Commercial Bench	-	0
3	Criminal Bench I	-	0
4	Criminal Bench II	-	0
5	Family & Child Bench	1. Matrimony	66
		2. Child born out of wedlock	3
Total			69

The Family and Child Bench of Thimphu Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 69 cases which pertain to matrimony (66) and child born out of wedlock-related cases (3). where as the other Benches of the Dzongkhag Court has not mediated any cases.

15. Trashigang Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Trashigang Dzongkhag Court was established in 1959 and it is the first court in the eastern Bhutan. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial support from the Danish



International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. The court building has separate detention rooms for men, women and children. It has separate offices for the judge and judicial staff, ramps for person with disabilities, furnished lobby for the litigants, etc. It provides judicial services to the people of fifteen Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Trashigang Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Trashigang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	41
2	Monetary	21
3	Inheritance	2
4	Child maintenance	2
5	Footpath	3
6	Land	2
7	Child born out of wedlock	2
8	Drainage	1
9	Selling & buying of car	1
Total		75

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Trashigang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 75 cases and is third highest in the country after Monggar (132) and Paro Dzongkhag Court (139) respectively. The matrimonial dispute (41) is the highest number of disputes, followed by monetary (21).



16. Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court

Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag was bifurcated as a separate Dzongkhag from Trashigang Dzongkhag in 1992. The Royal Court of Justice, Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court was established in



1991. The new court building was constructed in 2019 with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	16
2	Monetary	1
3	Inheritance	1
Total		18

Out of 25 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court, 18 cases were settled, whereas 7 cases could not be settled. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimony (16), monetary and inheritance (1 each).

17. Trongsa Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Trongsa Dzongkhag Court was established in 1969. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Swiss Agency



for Development Corporation (SDC), Government of Austria and Switzerland respectively. It has ramps for person with disabilities, lobby furnished with benches for the litigants, separate rooms for the detainees, litigants, etc. It provides judicial services to the people of five Gewogs. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Trongsa Dzongkhag since March 2020.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Trongsa District Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	30
2	Monetary	5
3	Land	1
Total		36

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Trongsa Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 36 cases which pertain to matrimony (30), monetary (5) and land-related dispute (1).

18. Tsirang Dzongkhag

The Royal Court of Justice, Tsirang Dzongkhag Court was established in 1984. The new court building was constructed in 2014 with the financial assistance from the Austrian Development



Agency (ADA), Government of Austria. The new court is spacious with separate detention facilities for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It renders judicial services to the people of twelve Gewogs. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Tsirang Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Tsirang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	32
2	Monetary	13
4	Contract work	3
5	Land	1
6	Child maintenance	2
7	Drinking water	1
8	House rent	1
Total		53

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Tsirang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 53 cases. The disputes pertain to matrimony (32), monetary (13), contract-related work (3), child maintenance (2), land, drinking water and house rent-related cases (1 each).

19. Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed in 2017 with the financial support from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Swiss



Agency for Development and Corporation (SDC), Government of Austria and Switzerland respectively. The new court is spacious with separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. There are two Benches. It provides judicial services to the people of fifteen Gewogs. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag since December 2019.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan – Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	38
2	Monetary	9
3	Child born out of wedlock	2
4	Child maintenance	1
5	Inheritance	1
6	Contract work	2
Total		53

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 53 cases. The cases mediated pertain to matrimony (38), monetary (9), child born out of wedlock and contract work-related cases (2 each), child maintenance and inheritance (1 each).



20. Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court was constructed in 2014 with the financial assistance from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government



of Austria. It has separate detention rooms for men, women and children, ramps for person with disabilities and lobby furnished with benches. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Zhemgang Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	2
2	Monetary	3
3	Miscellaneous	2
Total		7

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court has mediated 7 cases. The dispute pertains to monetary (3), matrimony and miscellaneous matter (2 each). The miscellaneous matters include construction of house-related issue and misunderstanding between the parties.



1. Dorokha Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Dorokha Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2015. It was funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria



and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Denchukha, Doongtoed and Dophuchen. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Dorokha Dungkhag since April 2020.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Dorokha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	6
2	Monetary	1
3	Road access	1
Total		8

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Dorokha Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 8 cases which pertain to matrimony (6), monetary and road-access related dispute (1 each).

2. Gelephu Dungkhag Court

There is no proper record for the establishment of the Royal Court of Justice, Gelephu Dungkhag Court. However, with effect from 17 December 1999, the judicial services of Gelephu Dungkhag



were rendered by Drangpon of Sarpang from the Gelephu Dungkhag Administration. The new court building was constructed in 2008 with the financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It renders judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Gelephu Dungkhag since October 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Gelephu Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	49
2	Monetary	4
Total		53

Out of 58 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Gelephu Dungkhag Court, 53 cases were settled, while 5 cases could not be settled. The dispute mediated pertains to matrimonial issue (49) and monetary (4).

3. Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court

Till 2008, the judicial works of Jomotsangkha Dungkhag were handled by Dungpa, the head of the Dungkhag Administration. In 2009, the Court was separated from the Dungkhag Administration and operated independently. The Royal Court of



Justice, Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011 with the financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. The new court has separate rooms for detainees, litigants and judicial personnel. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Langchenphu, Lauri and Serthi. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Jomotsangkha since November 2019.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	3
Total		3

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court has mediated 3 matrimonial cases.



4. Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court was established in 2005. Since then, the Dungpa, head of Dungkhag administration delivered the judicial services. However, in 2009, the Court got separated from the



Dungkhag Administration. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It renders judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Lhamoizingkha, Karmaling and Nichula. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	6
2	Monetary	1
Total		7

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court has mediated 7 matrimonial cases and 1 monetary case.

5. Lingzhi Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Lingzhi Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. However, there is no independent court building yet. Owing to the lack of designated courtroom, the hearing



of the cases were carried out in collaboration with the Gewog administrations of Lingzhi Dungkhag. Today, as a temporary measure, the hearings are carried out at the Criminal Bench II, Thimphu District Court. The Dungkhag Court provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Lingzhi, Naro and Soe. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Lingzhi Dungkhag.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Lingzhi Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
-	-	0
Total		0

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Lingzhi Dungkhag Court has not mediated any cases as of now.

6. Nganglam Dungkhag Court

Till 2008, the legal matters were dealt by the Dungpa of Nganglam Dungkhag Administration. The Royal Court of Justice, Nganglam Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. Later, the Nganglam Dungkhag



Court was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance from the Government of India (GoI). The new court building has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Choekhorling, Dechhenling and Norboogang. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Nganglam Dungkhag since 2019.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Nganglam Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	8
2	Inheritance	1
3	Monetary	2
4	Defamation	2
5	Miscellaneous	5
Total		18

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Nganglam Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 18 cases. The disputes pertain to matrimony (8), inheritance (1), monetary and defamation-related disputes (2 each) and miscellaneous matter (5). The miscellaneous disputes include wages, service charges, maintenance of car-related issues, etc.



7. Panbang Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Panbang Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with the financial support from the



Government of India (GoI). The court has sufficient space with separate detention rooms for men, women and children. There are also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It renders judicial services to the people of five Gewogs - Panbang, Bjoka, Goshing, Ngangla and Phangkhar. The Court also provides mediation services to the people of Panbang Dungkhag since January 2020.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Panbang Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	7
Total		7

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Panbang Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 7 matrimonial cases.

8. Phuentsholing Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Phuentsholing Dungkhag Court was established in 1971. The new court building was constructed in 2003 with the funding from the Danish International Development Agency



(DANIDA), Government of Denmark. In response to the development and increase population, an additional Bench was established in 2006. The two Benches deliver judicial services to the people of four Gewogs and Thromde - Darla, Loggchina, Phuentsholing and Sampheling Gewogs. The court also caters mediation services to the people of Phuntsholing Dungkhag.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Phuentsholing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	15
2	Land	1
Total		16

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Phuentsholing Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 16 cases which pertain to matrimony (15) and land-related issue (1).

9. Sakteng Dungkhag Court

Till 2008, the legal matters were handled by the Dungkhag Administration. The Royal Court of Justice, Sakteng Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. With no separate court building yet, the judicial services are still rendered from the old traditional two-storied house. The new Court building is still under construction. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Merak and Sakteng. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Sakteng Gewog.



Disputes resolved by CAMU of Sakteng Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	1
Total		1

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Sakteng Dungkhag Court has mediated only 1 matrimonial dispute.



10. Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court

Till 2008, the judicial matters were dealt by the Dungpa of the Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Administration. The Royal Court of Justice, Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. Later, the new court



building was constructed in 2011 with the financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. It has adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It has also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It delivers judicial services to the people of four Gewogs - Martshalla, Pemathang, Phuntshothang and Samrang. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Samdrupcholing Dungkhag since January 2020.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Monetary	5
Total		5

Out of 7 cases registered with the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court, the CAMU has settled 5 monetary cases, while 2 cases could not be resolved.

11. Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance from the Government of India (GoI). There are separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of five Gewogs - Namgaychoeling, Norgaygang, Pemaling, Trashichhoeling and Tendruk. It also provides judicial services to the people of Trashichhoeling Dungkhag since 2020.



Disputes settled by CAMU of Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan. - Dec. 2021)
1	Matrimony	4
2	Inheritance	1
3	Monetary	1
Total		6

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court has mediated 6 cases. The mediated disputes pertain to matrimony (4), inheritance and monetary issues (1 each).



12. Sombaykha Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Sombaykha Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. However, the new Court building is still under construction today. The Court provides judicial services to the people



of two Gewogs - Gakiling and Sombaykha. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Sombaykha Dungkhag.

Disputes resolved by CAMU of Sombaykha Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2020)
-	-	0
Total		0

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Sombaykha Dungkhag Court has not mediated any cases in 2021.

13. Thrimshing Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Thrimshing Dungkhag Court was established in 1978. Since then, the legal matters were handled by the Dungpa till 2008. The new court building was constructed in 2011



with the financial assistance from the Government of India (GoI). It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Kangpara and Thrimshing. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Thrimshing and Kangpara Gewogs.

Disputes mediated by CAMU of Thrimshing Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Monetary	1
2	Cattle-related	1
Total		2

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Thrimshing Dungkhag Court has mediated 2 cases pertaining to monetary and cattle-related issue (1 each).

14. Wamrong Dungkhag Court

Till 1985, both the administrative and legal matters were handled by the Dungkhag Administration. The Royal Court of Justice, Wamrong Dungkhag Court was established in 1986. Later, the new court building was constructed in 2012 with the financial assistance from the Government of India (GoI). It has separate detention rooms for men, women and children. It also has separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Khaling and Lumang. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Wamrong Dungkhag.



Disputes mediated by CAMU of Wamrong Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	24
2	Inheritance	1
3	Monetary	1
Total		26

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Wamrong Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 26 cases. The cases mediated pertain to matrimonial dispute (24), inheritance and monetary (1 each).

15. Weringla Dungkhag Court

The Royal Court of Justice, Weringla Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The court shares its official premises with the Dungkhag administration. The new court infrastructure is under



construction with financial assistance from the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). It renders judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Gongdue and Silambi. The court also provides mediation service to the people of Weringla Dungkhag.

Disputes settled by CAMU of Weringla Dungkhag Court

Sl. No.	Types of Disputes	Disputes Mediated (Jan - Dec 2021)
1	Matrimony	3
2	Monetary	1
Total		4

Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of Weringla Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 4 cases pertaining to matrimony (3) and monetary (1).



5. Overall Findings

The report received from the Courts revealed that a total of 994 cases were amicably resolved by CAMUs from January to December 2021. The Institute applauds all the judges and the judicial mediators for mediating considerable number of cases every year.

Total number of cases mediated by CAMU of the High Court, Dzongkhag Courts and Dungkhag Courts

a. High Court			
Sl. No.	Court	Bench	No. of cases mediated
1	High Court	Bench I	0
		Bench II	1
		Bench III	1
Total			2

b. Dzongkhag Court		
Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases mediated
1	Bumthang	28
2	Chhukha	33
3	Dagana	32
4	Gasa	11
5	Haa	33
6	Lhuentse	15
7	Monggar	132
8	Paro	139
9	Pemagatshel	6
10	Punakha	25
11	Samdrup Jongkhar	18
12	Samtse	47

13	Sarpang	6
14	Thimphu	69
15	Trashigang	75
16	Trashiyangtse	18
17	Trongsa	36
18	Tsirang	53
19	Wangduephodrang	53
20	Zhemgang	7
Total		836

c. Dungkhag Court		
Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases mediated
1	Dorokha	8
2	Gelephu	53
3	Jomotshangkha	3
4	Lhamoizingkha	7
5	Lingshi	0
6	Nganglam	18
7	Panbang	7
8	Phuentsholing	16
9	Sakteng	1
10	Samdrupcholing	5
11	Sombaykha	0
12	Trashichhoeling	6
13	Thrimshing	2
14	Wamrong	26
15	Werringla	4
Total		156

Totals cases mediated by CAMUs in brief

Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases mediated in 2021
1	High Court	2
2	Dzongkhag Court	836
3	Dungkhag Court	156
Total		994

The CAMU of the courts across the country has mediated a total of 994 cases in 2021. The Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of the High Court has mediated a total of 2 cases; while the CAMU of the Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts have mediated 836 and 156 cases respectively.

Overall, the CAMU of Paro Dzongkhag Court has mediated the highest number of cases (139) followed by Mongar (132) and Trashigang Dzongkhag Court (75) respectively. Matrimonial dispute is the maximum number of disputes mediated by the CAMU in the country.



6. Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts

The Annual Report of Judiciary 2021 reveals that 4718 civil cases have been registered with the Courts across the country. Of the cases, 994 civil cases have been mediated by the CAMU. Therefore, mediation services have played an important role in reducing the number of civil cases in the courts. More importantly, mediation saved time and resources of the people and gave opportunity to live happily as families, friends and neighbours - ensuring a free, fair and a content civil society. Although, mediation or any alternative dispute resolution system can never replace or substitute the formal adversarial system, however, it may mitigate the flood of litigation, especially those which are trivial, frivolous, protracted and cantankerous civil disputes.

7. Conclusion

Mediation remains a substantial pathway for dispute resolution in Bhutan. Mediation should be encouraged and promoted for several reasons. First, judicial mediators themselves reduce the burden on the courts, permitting the Judges and fellow clerks to focus attention and resources on the cases requiring a higher level of legal sophistication. Second, amicable resolution of disputes has minimized or mitigated the divisive effects of the litigation, and preserved the age-old culture of inter-dependence and harmonious co-existence of people in the communities. Third, the time and costs saving to disputants of an informal mediation process reduces the burden of adjudication on individuals and communities.

Through successive CAM trainings for the Bench Clerks, it is believed that the BNLI has been able to create awareness and promote mediation as a useful and suitable means of resolution of disputes to the people across the country. Indeed, the Institute has geared toward taking justice closer to the doorsteps of the people by imparting mediation skills and techniques to our Bench Clerks. The Institute acknowledges the support and cooperation of the Judges

and the Bench Clerks for effectively rendering the judicial mediation services which is the need of the society. Despite several challenges faced by the judicial mediators, quite a good number of cases have been mediated by the CAMU across the country. The Institute once again applauds all the Judges, Bench Clerks and judicial mediators in particular for availing mediation services to the people across the country. The Institute is also very grateful to the Royal Government of Bhutan for its generous financial support.





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