





## 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.



## Table of contents

1.	Foreword by the Director General .....	1
2.	Introduction .....	3
3.	Objectives .....	6
4.	Methodology .....	6
5.	Court-Annexed Mediation Report.....	6
	a.    High Court .....	8
	b.    Dzongkhag Courts .....	10
	c.    Dungkhag Courts .....	30
	d.    Overall findings .....	45
6.	Adjudication of civil cases by the courts .....	49
7.	Conclusion .....	49

## FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



It is a great privilege and an honour for the Bhutan National Legal Institute (BNLI) to publish the *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation Report 2022*. This Report shall be a documentation of the collective achievement of the courts in disseminating the benefits of mediation and successfully resolving a huge number of disputes through mediation.

Bhutan has a long history in the development of the current system of mediation. It reflects the values we uphold as a close-knit society, and our desire of mutual coexistence in the society. It is also a reflection of our ways of living that has a deep connection to the noble precepts of *Gross National Happiness* and community vitality. Hence, mediation is known to have always played a key role in reinforcing our social values and enhancing understanding among people and promoting the habitation of common interests and values.

So much have changed in the ways people view the role of courts in settlement of disputes. The establishment of Court-Annexed Mediation Units (CAMU) at the Royal Courts of Justice have contributed in the effort to enhance access to justice and promote an amicable method of dispute resolution, thus providing an “alternative paradigm” to settle disputes through an informal settlement process. This is contrary to the previously held view that courts are places of contestations.

Understanding the importance of mediation in Bhutanese society, the BNLI places much importance on it. Every year, the Institute trains bench clerks and other relevant officials including the local leaders to become effective mediators. This is to ensure that people can avail services of mediation at every stage of the legal proceeding, facilitated by trained mediators at the courts as well as the

community centers. The Institute also publishes an *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) Report* which documents and assesses the CAM services in the country. It examines the nature of cases referred for mediation, and the number of disputes resolved through CAM services rendered by the trained judicial mediators from the High Court, 20 Dzongkhag courts and 15 Dungkhag courts 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 appropriate legal, social interventions, and capacity-building services required for the Judicial Service Personnel to enhance *access to justice* for the people.

This report mirrors the changing paradigm of justice, legal and mediation services in the courts and the pervasiveness of alternative opportunities for dispute resolution methods in the communities and the country. The success of mediation services enhances the relationships of the community units, fosters a compassionate society, and perpetuates invaluable assets of harmony and best social experiences - thus creating a roadmap for a 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 will find the report educative, informative and substantive.



(Pema Needup)

Director General



## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Nangkha Nangdrig* is known to have been deeply rooted in the Bhutanese legal system. It dates back to the 7th century when mediation was adopted as a means of primary dispute resolution mechanism. The provisions of the *Thrimzhung Chenmo, 1953* and the *Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, 2001 (CCPC)* provide an option to resolve disputes through mediation. To supplement this, the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, 2013* was enacted. Moreover, this age-old tradition was revived, strengthened and institutionalized by the BNLI under the leadership of HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Honourable President of the Institute. In addition, the Honourable President of the Institute, HRH 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, and subsequently, CAMU was introduced in all courts across the country. The event symbolized the official opening of the CAMU and the institutionalization of the Court-Annexed Mediation System in all courts.

In the Court-Annexed Mediation System, 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. After the referral has been made, and if the parties choose to continue with mediation, a bench clerk who is a trained judicial mediator shall commence the mediation processes, adopting the principles and stages of mediation. If the mediation is 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 the law. One of the basic principles of mediation is confidentiality and it is also one of the many reasons people choose to settle disputes through mediation. It is the responsibility of the parties and the mediator to maintain the confidentiality of the mediation process and all the related information.

The Institute trains the bench clerks to become effective mediators and to supplement the courts in enhancing access to justice. At the end of 2022, six phases of training for the bench clerks on Court-Annexed Mediation have been completed with one phase conducted virtually in 2022. With this, a total of 162 bench clerks have been trained as judicial mediators. This has enabled people to opt out of the litigation even after the cases are registered in the courts, at any stage of the proceeding, to prevent having win-lose decisions in courts after protracted and often expensive and adversarial litigations.

The *Annual Court-Annexed Mediation Report 2022* documents the types and number of disputes mediated by the trained judicial mediators in the CAMU in 2022. The Institute is overwhelmed and thrilled to submit that a total of 1474 cases were mediated by the CAMUs in just one year. The Report reveals that the Thimphu District Court has mediated 274 cases followed by Monggar (157) and Trashigang Dzongkhag Court (141). The Family and Child Bench of the Thimphu District Court has mediated the highest number of cases (226) in 2022. The report also reveals that maximum number of disputes mediated is matrimonial issues followed by monetary disputes.

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



*(HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Hon. President of BNLI during the inaugural ceremony of the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit at Punakha, 28 Oct 2019)*



*(Court-Annexed Mediation Unit of the Royal Court of Justice, Punakha)*

## 2. OBJECTIVE

The objective behind publishing an annual report is to study the number of cases each CAMU mediates and the nature of cases in which people choose to settle through mediation. It shall also help the Institute to assess and analyze the impact of CAM training provided to the bench clerks. 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 of CAM services, save resources and preserve relationships and promote peace and happiness in society.

## 3. METHODOLOGY

A quantitative method was adopted in the compilation of this report. A form designed by the Institute was circulated to all the CAMUs to collect the figures. Whenever necessary, questions have been asked through phone calls. 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 has been provided under a separate topic as *Annexure*.

## 4. COURT-ANNEXED MEDIATION REPORT: YEAR IN REVIEW

### Nature of cases

To understand the type of cases the CAMUs in the courts across the country mediate, a categorization by the nature of cases has been made as follows:

- a. **Matrimonial:** This category shall comprise of but is not limited to, all disputes covered under the *Marriage Act of Bhutan 1980* and its related amendments, like divorce, child compensation, payment of Gao, Logjel, separation cost, a child born out of wedlock, etc.



- b. **Monetary:** Disputes relating to money lending, both by financial institutions and private lenders, shall be included in this category.
- c. **Contractual:** All commercial disputes, arising out of non-compliance to the terms of a contract (express or implied, and written or oral) shall comprise contractual disputes. It shall include but is not limited to sale and purchase, hire, payment of wages, any contracts other than money lending, etc.
- d. **Land:** It shall comprise disputes arising from conflicting claims to rights in land by two or more parties, focused on a particular piece of land, like demarcation and use of land.
- e. **Inheritance:** This generally comprises disputes among family members about their right to inheritance of the properties of their parents and such related disputes.
- f. **Defamation:** This includes the civil defamation cases, either libel or slander.
- g. **Miscellaneous:** Other disputes that are not included in the categories mentioned above shall be contained in this category, like disputes relating to timber, irrigation water, destruction of crops by cattle, etc.

## HIGH COURT



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 2 June 2018. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the Judiciary of the Kingdom of Bhutan. 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 housed in a traditional elegant building, but equipped with 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.



Sl. No.	Bench	Types of Disputes	Number of disputes mediated	Total
1	Bench I	Commercial	1	2
		Inheritance	1	
2	Bench II		0	0
3	Bench III	-	0	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>	

**Table: Disputes resolved by CAMU of the High Court of Bhutan**

The CAMU of the High Court has mediated 2 cases in 2022. Bench I mediated 1 inheritance and 1 commercial dispute. Bench II and Bench III have not mediated any cases in 2022.



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

## DZONGKHAG COURTS

### 1. Bumthang Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Bumthang was established in 1962 during the reign of His Majesty the Third King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. It is located at Jakar. The present court was constructed under the financial assistance

from the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). The Court is equipped with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	18
2	Monetary	1
3	Contractual	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Bumthang Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Bumthang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 23 cases. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (18), monetary (1), and contractual cases (4).



## 2. Chukha Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Chukha was established in 1982. The Court delivers judicial services to people of eleven Gewogs. People of Chukha Dzongkhag can avail mediation services from the

court after the Court-Annexed Mediation Unit was established in February 2020.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	37
2	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>38</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Chukha Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Chukha Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 38 cases. The disputes mediated include 37 matrimonial and 1 contractual case.

### 3. Dagana Dzongkhag Court



There is no record about when Dagana Dzongkhag Court was first established. The judicial services were initially delivered from the shared premises of the Dzongkhag Administration. An independent infrastructure of the

current Court was constructed in 2014 with financial assistance from Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Now, there is sufficient space for judicial personnel and the litigants. The court provides judicial services to people of fourteen Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Dagana Dzongkhag since January 2020.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	22
2	Monetary	24
3	Land	2
4	Contractual	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>53</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Dagana Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Dagana Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 53 cases. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (22), monetary (24), land (2) and contractual (5) cases.

#### 4. Gasa Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Gasa was established in 1986. Initially, the Court shared office with the Dzongkhag administration in the Dzong before it was shifted to the residence of the Judge in 2016, constructed

with financial assistance from the Government of India. Currently, judicial services are delivered from a 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 and the construction is ongoing. The court provides judicial services to people of four Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to the people of Gasa Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	11
2	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Gasa Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Gasa Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 12 cases in 2022. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (11), and contractual dispute (1).

## 5. Haa Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Haa was established in 1963. Since then, the court has been operating from a traditional building for more than five decades. The construction of the new two-storied

court structure was completed in 2019 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	19
2	Monetary	2
3	Contractual	6
4	Land	1
5	Defamation	5
6	Miscellaneous	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Haa Dzongkhag Court**

34 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Haa Dzongkhag Court. 19 matrimonial cases which also include 1 adoption case, 2 monetary cases, 6 contractual disputes, 1 land dispute about land demarcation, 5 defamation cases and 1 miscellaneous case relating to timber have been mediated.

## 6. Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court



The Royal of Justice, Lhuentse was established in 1964 during the reign of His Majesty the Third 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 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	14
2	Monetary	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court has mediated 17 cases. It includes 14 matrimonial cases and 3 monetary cases.

## 7. Monggar Dzongkhag Court



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

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	103
2	Monetary	29
3	Contractual	16
4	Land	5
5	Inheritance	1
6	Defamation	1
7	Miscellaneous	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>157</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Monggar Dzongkhag Court**

157 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Monggar Dzongkhag Court. 103 matrimonial cases, 29 monetary cases, 16 contractual cases, 5 land-related disputes, 1 inheritance case, 1 defamation case and 2 miscellaneous cases relating to neglect of parents and compensation cases have been mediated.

## 8. Paro Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Paro was established in 1962 during the reign of the third *Druk Gyalpo* Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Paro Dzongkhag Court still functions its office from the Dzong as the new court

building is still under construction and the construction is expected to be completed by March 2023. In response to development and increase population, an additional Bench was established in 2007. 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	73
2	Monetary	36
3	Land	15
4	Contractual	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>129</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Paro Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Paro Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 130 cases. One matrimonial dispute could not be settled. 73 matrimonial, 36 monetary, 15 land related and 5 contractual disputes have been mediated.



## 9. Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court



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

constructed in 2014 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	26
2	Monetary	7
3	Contractual	10
4	Land	1
5	Miscellaneous	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Pemagatshel Court has mediated a total of 46 cases. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (26), monetary (7), contractual (10), land (1) and miscellaneous relating to drinking water (2) cases.



## 10. Punakha Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Punakha was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	29
2	Monetary	17
3	Contractual	5
4	Miscellaneous	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>52</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Punakha Dzongkhag Court**

52 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Punakha Dzongkhag Court in 2022. 29 matrimonial cases, 17 monetary, 5 contractual and 1 miscellaneous matter relating to neglect of parents were mediated.

## 11. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court



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

Government of Denmark in 2007. There are separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to people of four Gewogs. It also provides mediation services to people of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag since November 2019.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	15
2	Contractual	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court**

A total of 23 disputes have been mediated by the CAMU of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court. 15 matrimonial and 8 contractual disputes were mediated.

## 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 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Monetary	4
3	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Samtse Dzongkhag Court**

30 disputes have been amicably settled by the CAMU of Samtse Dzongkhag Court through mediation in 2022. It pertains to matrimonial (25), monetary (4) and contractual (1) disputes.

### 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 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	11
2	Monetary	12
3	Land dispute	1
4	Contractual	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Sarpang Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Sarpang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 26 cases. The disputes mediated are 11 matrimonial cases, 12 monetary cases, 1 land dispute and 2 contractual disputes.

## 14. Thimphu Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Thimphu was established in 1970. Initially the Court delivered judicial services from the shared office premises of the Thimphu Dzongkhag Administration near Ch ang l i m i t h a n g

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 Commercial Benches, one Civil Bench, one Criminal 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.

Sl. No.	Bench	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Civil	-	0
2	Commercial I	-	48
3	Commercial II	-	0
4	Criminal	-	0
5	Family and Child	-	226
<b>Total</b>			<b>274</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Thimphu Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Thimphu Dzongkhag mediated 274 cases in total. The Family and Child Bench of Thimphu Dzongkhag Court has mediated 226 cases. Commercial Bench I mediated 48 cases in 2022. The Civil Bench has not mediated any cases in 2022, however, the Bench has been encouraging the litigants at any stage of the legal proceedings for mediation.

## 15. Tashigang Dzongkhag Court



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

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	73
2	Monetary	56
3	Land dispute	4
4	Contractual	3
5	Inheritance	3
6	Miscellaneous	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>141</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Tashigang Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Tashigang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 141 cases. The dispute mediated pertains to matrimonial (73), monetary (56), land dispute (4), contractual (3), inheritance (3) and miscellaneous (2).

## 16. Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court



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

established in 1991. The new court building was constructed in 2019 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	15
2	Monetary	12
3	Land dispute	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 30 cases. It includes 15 matrimonial cases, 12 monetary disputes and 3 land disputes.



## 17. Trongsa Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Trongsa was established in 1969. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	42
2	Monetary	2
3	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>45</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Trongsa Dzongkhag Court**

45 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Trongsa Dzongkhag Court in 2022. It includes 42 matrimonial cases, 2 monetary disputes and 1 contractual dispute.



## 18. Tsirang Dzongkhag Court



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

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	40
2	Monetary	12
3	Contractual	5
4	Inheritance	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Tsirang Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Tsirang Dzongkhag Court has mediated a total of 60 cases. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (40), monetary (12), inheritance (3) and contractual (5) cases.

## 19. Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed in 2017 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	18
2	Monetary	1
3	Miscellaneous	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court**

The CAMU of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court has mediated 20 cases. The disputes mediated are 18 matrimonial cases, 1 monetary case and 1 miscellaneous case relating to cattle.

## 20. Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Zhemgang Dzongkhag was constructed in 2014 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	23
2	Monetary	3
3	Contractual	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>36</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court**

36 cases were mediated by the CAMU of Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court. It includes 23 matrimonial cases, 3 monetary cases and 10 contractual disputes.

## DUNGKHAG (SUB-DISTRICT) COURTS

### 1. Dorokha Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Dorokha Dungkhag 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Dorokha Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Dorokha Dungkhag Court has mediated 1 matrimonial dispute.

## 2. Gelephu Dungkha Court



There is no proper record for the establishment of the Royal Court of Justice, Gelephu D u n g k h a g . However, with effect from 17 December 1999, the judicial services

of Gelephu Dungkha were rendered by Drangpon of Sarpang from the Gelephu Dungkha Administration. The new court building was constructed in 2008 with 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 Dungkha since October 2019.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	37
2	Monetary	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Gelephu Dungkha Court**

The CAMU of Gelephu Dungkha Court has mediated a total of 39 cases. The dispute mediated pertains to matrimony (37), and monetary (2).

### 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 was constructed in 2011 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court mediated 5 matrimonial cases in 2022.

#### 4. Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag 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 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	8
2	Monetary	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Lhamoizingkha Dungkhag Court mediated 9 cases, which includes 8 matrimonial cases and 1 monetary case.



## 5. Lingzhi Dungkhag Court



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

with the Gewog administrations of Lingzhi Dungkhag. Today, as a temporary measure, the hearings are carried out at the Commercial 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	-	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>0</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Lingzhi Dungkhag Court**

No disputes were mediated by the CAMU of Lingzhi Dungkhag Court in 2022, as no one came forward to avail the services of the CAMU.



## 6. Nganglam Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Nganglam Dungkhag was established in 2009. Prior to its establishment, the legal matters were dealt by the Dungpa of Nganglam Dungkhag Administration. The

Court was constructed in 2011 with financial assistance from the Government of India. It provides judicial services to people of three Gewogs - Choekhorling, Dechhenling and Norboogang. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Nganglam Dungkhag since 2019.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	12
2	Monetary	12
3	Contractual	14
4	Inheritance	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>41</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Nganglam Dungkhag Court**

A total of 41 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Nganglam Dungkhag Court. 12 matrimonial, 12 monetary, 14 contractual and 3 inheritance disputes were mediated.

## 7. Panbang Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Panbang Dungkhag was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with financial support from the Government of India. The court has sufficient space equipped with

separate detention rooms for men, women and children. There are also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It renders judicial services to 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	3
2	Monetary	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Panbang Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Panbang Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 4 cases, which comprises 3 matrimonial and 1 monetary dispute.

## 8. Phuntsholing Dungkag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Phuntsholing Dungkag was established in 1971. The new court building was constructed in 2003 with funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Government of Denmark. In response

to the development and increase in 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 Dungkag.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	32
2	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>33</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Phuntsholing Dungkag Court**

33 cases have been mediated by the CAMU of Phuntsholing Dungkag Court in 2022. 32 matrimonial cases and 1 contractual case were mediated.

## 9. Sakteng Dungkag Court



Till 2008, the legal matters were handled by the Dungkag Administration. The Royal Court of Justice, Sakteng Dungkag 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	5
2	Monetary	4
3	Inheritance	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Sakteng Dungkag Court**

The CAMU of Sakteng Dungkag Court has mediated 10 cases in 2022. The cases comprise 5 matrimonial cases, 4 monetary cases and 1 inheritance-related 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 was established in 2009. Later, the new court building

was constructed in 2011 with 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 also has 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	3
2	Monetary	1
3	Contractual	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>9</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court**

9 cases were mediated by the CAMU of Samdrupcholing Dungkhag Court in 2022. The cases include 3 matrimonial cases, 1 monetary dispute and 5 contractual disputes.

## 11. Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Trashichoeling Dungkhag was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with financial assistance from the Government of India. It provides judicial

services to the people of five Gewogs - Namgaychoeling, Norgaygang, Pemaling, Trashichhoeling and Tendruk. It also provides mediation services to the people of Trashichhoeling Dungkhag since 2020.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	18
2	Monetary	19
3	Contractual	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>41</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Trashichhoeling Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 41 cases. The disputes mediated pertain to matrimonial (18), monetary (19), and contractual disputes (4).

## 12. Sombaykha Dungkha Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Sombaykha Dungkha was established in 2009. However, the new Court building is still under construction. 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 Dungkha.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	3
2	Contractual	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Sombaykha Dungkha Court**

4 cases were mediated by the CAMU of Sombaykha Dungkha Court in 2022 comprising 3 matrimonial cases and 1 contractual dispute.



### 13. Thrimshing Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Thrimshing Dungkhag was established in 1978. Prior to its establishment, the legal matters were handled by the Dungpa. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with financial

assistance from the Government of India. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to people of two Gewogs - Kangpara and Thrimshing. The court also provides mediation services to the people of Thrimshing and Kangpara Gewogs.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	9
2	Monetary	1
3	Contractual	2
4	Land	1
5	Inheritance	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Thrimshing Dungkhag Court**

The CAMU of Thrimshing Dungkhag Court has mediated a total of 14 cases and 1 monetary dispute is under the mediation process. 9 matrimonial, 1 monetary, 2 contractual, 1 land and 1 inheritance-related dispute have been mediated.

## 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 was established in 1986. Later, the new court

building was constructed in 2012 with 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	9
2	Monetary	2
3	Contractual	3
4	Inheritance	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Wamrong Dungkhag Court**

15 cases were mediated by the CAMU of Wamrong Dungkhag Court in 2022. The cases comprise 9 matrimonial cases, 2 monetary cases, 3 contractual cases and 1 inheritance-related dispute.

## 15. Weringla Dungkhag Court



The Royal Court of Justice, Weringla Dungkhag 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.

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	No. of disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>

**Table: Disputes settled by CAMU, Weringla Dungkhag Court**

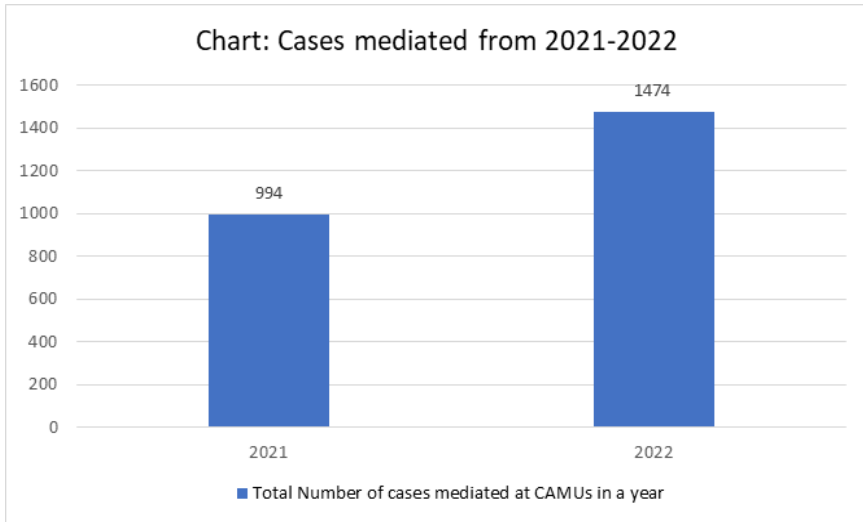
The CAMU of Weringla Dungkhag Court has mediated 1 matrimonial case.

## 1) OVERALL FINDINGS

The report received from the Courts revealed that a total of 1,474 cases were amicably resolved by the CAMUs from January to December 2022 which is around 32.5 percent increased from 2021. The CAMU of the High Court has mediated 2 cases; while the CAMU of the Dzongkhag and Dungkhag Courts mediated 1,246 and 226 cases respectively. The Institute would like to extend its appreciation to all the judges and the judicial mediators for mediating a considerable number of cases every year.

Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases mediated in 2022
1	High Court	2
2	Dzongkhag Court	1246
3	Dungkhag Court	226
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,474</b>

### Impact in 2022



As inferred from the above chart, the number of cases mediated increased over the two years, with the 1474 disputes mediated in 2022 which is an increase by 480 disputes compared to 2021. This increase in mediation cases could be a result of awareness among the people regarding the benefits of alternative dispute resolution over litigation, and the services of mediation provided by the Court-Annexed Mediation Units.

**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	2
		Bench II	0
		Bench III	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>

b. Dzongkhag Court		
Sl. No.	Court	No. of cases mediated
1	Bumthang	23
2	Chhukha	38
3	Dagana	53
4	Gasa	12
5	Haa	34
6	Lhuentse	17
7	Monggar	157
8	Paro	129
9	Pemagatshel	46
10	Punakha	52
11	Samdrup Jongkhar	23
12	Samtse	30
13	Sarpang	26
14	Thimphu	274

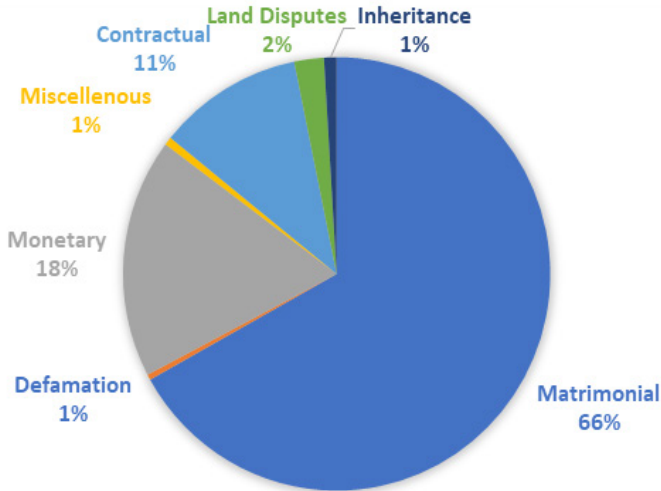
15	Trashigang	141
16	Trashiyangtse	30
17	Trongsa	45
18	Tsirang	60
19	Wangduephodrang	20
20	Zhemgang	36
<b>Total</b>		<b>1246</b>

The 20 CAMUs of the Dzongkhag Courts have mediated 1,246 disputes in 2022. Overall, the CAMU of the Thimphu Dzongkhag Court has mediated the highest number of cases (274) followed by Monggar Dzongkhag Court (157) and Trashigang Dzongkhag Court (141). The Family and Child Bench of the Thimphu District Court has mediated 226 cases in 2022.

<b>c. Dungkhag Court</b>		
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Court</b>	<b>No. of cases mediated</b>
1	Dorokha	1
2	Gelephu	39
3	Jomotshangkha	5
4	Lhamoizingkha	9
5	Lingzhi	0
6	Nganglam	41
7	Panbang	4
8	Phuentsholing	33
9	Sakteng	10
10	Samdrupcholing	9
11	Sombaykha	4
12	Trashichhoeling	41
13	Thrimshing	14
14	Wamrong	15
15	Werringla	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>226</b>

**Nature of cases mediated in 2022**

Sl. No	Type of dispute	No. of Cases mediated
1	Matrimonial	986
2	Monetary	264
3	Contractual	162
4	Inheritance	14
5	Defamation	6
6	Land	33
7	Miscellaneous	9



**Chart: Nature of Cases Mediated at CAMUs in the Country in 2022**

In 2022, 35 CAMUs have mediated 1474 cases with the majority of matrimonial cases which constitute 66% of the total cases mediated, followed by monetary cases which constitute 18% of the total cases. Contractual disputes constitute 11% of the total cases. Miscellaneous cases which include cases relating to irrigation and drinking water disputes, timber-related disputes, etc. constitute 1% of the total cases mediated.



## 2) ADJUDICATION OF CIVIL CASES BY THE COURTS

The Annual Report of Judiciary 2022 reveals that 5973 civil cases have been registered with the Courts across the country. Of these, 1,474 civil cases have been mediated by the CAMUs. In addition, 3,454 disputes have been mediated by the local leaders (205 gewogs and thromde thuemis). This indicates that mediation services have played an important role in reducing the number of civil cases in the courts. More importantly, mediation saved the time and resources of the people and allowed living happily as families, friends and neighbours - ensuring a free, fair and 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.

## 3) CONCLUSION

Mediation remains a substantial method of dispute resolution in Bhutan and it has grown significantly over the past few years. Mediation shall be embraced as an integral part of every legal system. It creates a more efficient and harmonious dispute settlement process and make the process of moving the matter from the court to the mediator quicker and more efficient. Moreover, comparing the total number of cases mediated in 2021 and 2022, there is a considerable increase in the total number of cases mediated in 2022. This is an indication that more people are choosing mediation as a method to settle disputes, which is also an indication of the level of awareness by the people on mediation as a useful and suitable means of dispute resolution. Moreover, BNLI has completed six phases of CAM training with 162 bench clerks trained as judicial mediators. This has facilitated in taking justice closer to the doorsteps of the people by imparting mediation skills and techniques to the Bench Clerks.

Mediation is considered one of the most effective means of alternative dispute resolution and is encouraged for many reasons. It is one of

the many methods that help reduce the burdens on the courts, which allows this time to be focused on other cases requiring a higher level of legal sophistication. It is also cost-effective, saves time to both the disputants and the court, is flexible in nature and addresses the dispute in the most cordial of manners.

BNLI acknowledges the support and cooperation of the Judges and the Bench Clerks for effectively rendering judicial mediation services which is a need of 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 and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) for their generous financial and technical support.



