

# PM meets the Gups

TSHERING NAMGYAL

Congratulating the 191 democratically elected gups, the Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley said they are the most important people in the gewogs who were elected on trust by the people of Bhutan, yesterday during the opening of the Gup's orientation program at the convention centre in Thimphu.

## LOCAL GOVT.

In a talk that went on for more than three hours, Lyonchhoen told the gups to understand their roles and responsibilities and not as power and privilege. "You have to serve the people with equity, justice and without fear," the PM said. "In case you fail to serve the people who have voted you because of their trust in you, its a huge failure even if it may not be a crime."

Lyonchhoen said they should understand and analyse the 10th plan activities in their gewogs, know the status and how they would implement the plans. "You have to make sure that access roads reach

the gewog centres, gewogs connected with electricity and telecommunication, 100 percent school enrolment is achieved improve and make health services accessible and ensure safe drinking water supply to all," the PM said.

**The constituency development grant of Nu 2M, said the PM was not fully used in most gewogs and reminded the Gups that it be put to use to benefit the poor and contribute towards alleviating poverty.**

Lyonchhoen said they should know the rules in the Local Government Act and reminded them to work in line with the provisions of the act and their apolitical role as a constitutional requirement.. You have to stay either above or outside politics," the PM said because of the dangers of political biases.

Of the 191 gups, 110 were former gups, chimis, mangmis, geydungs or tsogpas. Among the new Gup elects, four are graduates and a woman.

To the new elects, the PM said they should work together with the former gewog leaders

and the people and not act superior with them just because they won the post. "This would help in smooth implementation of the LG activities in your gewogs," Lyonchhoen said. "The competence of the gewog administrative officer should also be used."

Lyonchhoen also reminded them of their relationship with the central government and its policies on resource allocation and not compromise on diglam namzha which they should be exemplary of.

At the end of talk, one of the gup elects asked if the government could grant a separate fund to celebrate their election officially.

To this, the home minister Minjur Dorji said this has been an issue and the ministry would finalise after discussions with other agencies.

In the next two days, the gups would be briefed on driglam namzha, LG rules and regulations, planning process and annual capital grant, procurement rules, regulations and annual budgeting process and accounting system.