

# Health flagship program launched

## HEALTH

Karma Choden / Thimphu

With nine flagship programs initiated by the Royal Government of Bhutan under the 12th Five Year Plan, the Health Flagship Program was launched on March 9, 2021.

The health flagship program was launched by the Health Minister, Lyonpo Dasho Dechen Wangmo at Mongar Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH) in Mongar.

This flagship is one of the nine flagship programs of the Royal Government of Bhutan under the 12th Five Year Plan. The program is aimed to ensure that no person loses life to different types of cancer like gastric cancer, cervical cancer and breast cancer which is detectable, preventable,

and curable.

With the official launch of the Health Flagship, the ERRH will lead and ensure the specialized services for the eastern region as the services will be at the doorsteps and they now don't have to travel to Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWRH) for the specialized services at the expense of their precious time and finances.

"The objective of the flagship is to reduce the incidence of mortality on account of gastric, cervical and breast cancers," stated the press release from the Embassy of India.

Government of India has been regularly supporting the Royal Government of Bhutan through supply of medical equipment including vaccines, capacity building and training programs.

"Under the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan, India is providing development assistance to the

tune of Rs.4.09 billion for different health projects. These projects include the construction of Deothang Hospital, Mother and Child Hospital, Nganglam Hospital, Procurement of medical equipment for JDWRH, and support to the Vector Borne Disease Control Program," stated the press release.

Along with the Health Flagship Program, the Health Blueprint which says what has to be done and where and when should start was also released.

Meanwhile, Lyonpo also visited the Royal guesthouse which is to be converted into a 65-bedded Mother and Child Hospital for eastern Bhutan, Eastern COVID-19 Hospital in Monggar and met with the District COVID-19 taskforce and thanked them for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Constructions to begin for Kholongchhu Hydrel, 202.763 bn contracts awarded

## ECONOMY

Karma Choden / Thimphu

The constructions for Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Power Project will commence soon, the project management awarded contracts worth 202.763 billion (Ngultrum) on March 7, 2021.

The Kholongchhu Hydro Electric Project (HEP) is the first joint venture project being implemented under the Intergovernmental Agreement on Developmental of Joint Venture Hydropower Projects signed in April 2014. The concession agreement for the project was signed between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the project developer, Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited (KHEL) in June 2020.

The two different companies, a Bhutanese construction company, M/s Rigsar Construction Pvt Ltd and an Indian Company M/s Jai Parkash Associates Ltd. were in a joint venture awarded contracts worth Nu. 4.346 billion for construction of the dam, headrace tunnel, and powerhouse for the 600MW Kholongchhu Hydro Electric Project (KHEL).

For the construction of the dam, diversion tunnel, power intakes, desilting chambers, and the Head Race Tunnel, M/s Jai Parkash Associates Ltd. was awarded Nu. 97.2 billion.

For the construction of the Head Race Tunnel and Chaplangchhu Diversion works, 50:50 joint ventures of M/s Valecha Engineering and M/s Rigsar Construction Pvt Ltd was awarded Nu.43.48 billion.

Further, for the construction of Power House, Surge shaft, Pressure shaft, BVH and a part of

Head Race Tunnel, M/s Jai Parkash Associates Ltd. was awarded Nu.62.10 billion.

"Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Power Project will be the seventh hydropower project to be built in Bhutan with the financial support of the Government of India. The project is being financed under the debt ratio of 70:30 wherein the debt will be raised by a joint venture company and the equity would be equally divided between Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC). Government of India is providing DGPC's share of equity in the Joint venture Company as a grant," stated the press release from the Embassy of India.

Meanwhile, the project is being built at a cost of Nu. 54.818 billion and it is expected to be completed by March 2026.

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