



People's Democratic Party – PDP

Press Release

The People's Democratic Party would like to acknowledge the Royal Audit Authority (RAA) for the thorough investigation and its report on the misuse of General Reserve Fund (GRF) by the Finance Minister Lyonpo Namgay Tshering. We are alarmed that the Finance Minister who is charged with the responsibility of prudent use of national finances would actually abuse his authority to misuse the GRF. PDP would like to draw the attention of the DNT government on the following:

1. The General Reserve Fund is a fund created for specialised needs such as during natural disasters, emergencies and for National interest works. The governments in the past have traditionally exercised great prudence in the use of GRF. The country has therefore been served very well by the General Reserve Fund during disasters, emergencies and specialised national interest projects.
2. PDP is alarmed that the Finance Minister has recklessly misused Nu. 19 million from the GRF to finance non critical works such as improving farm roads and irrigation channels and the construction of a lam's residence.
3. In a brazen disregard to prudent financial governance, the Finance Minister has actually used the Nu. 19 million to finance projects in his constituency (Dogar Shaba) in Paro. We are surprised that the Nu. 19 million from GRF is in addition to the normal Gewog budget received by the Gewogs in his constituency.
4. This reckless action of the finance minister has breached the guidelines of GRF usage and has now deprived the nation of a proportionate amount during the times of disaster and emergencies.
5. As the Nu. 19 million from the GRF has been siphoned to the minister's constituency, it tantamount to political corruption where public finance has been abused for political gratification.

In view of the gross violation of budgetary guidelines, misuse of authority and political corruption, PDP calls on the concerned agencies to correct the wrong doing of the finance minister and hold him accountable. We urge the PMO, the opposition party, the National Council, the Anti Corruption Commission and the media to take up the matter with due seriousness it warrants and set good precedent for future political governments and politicians for good conduct.