

## **Conference discusses RAA's role in achieving 12th Plan targets**

Auditing major projects, minimising unnecessary expenditure, and enhancing collaboration, among others, are Royal Audit Authority's (RAA) key focus for the successful implementation of 12th Plan.

At the RAA's conference last week, GNHC officials said that for donor-assisted projects, it was important to conduct audit at the project management unit (PMU) level for effective results. "Projects without PMU need to be audited based on the requirement of individual donor and limit auditing to two times during the entire project duration."

For better collaboration, the commission and the finance ministry could share the list of projects be audited by the end of April every year.

GNHC's senior planning officer, Sherab Gyeltshen, said that audits must be conducted by RAA regardless of the source of finance. "In the 12th Plan, flagship programmes amounting to Nu 15 billion may require separate auditing."

In performance auditing, there were issues related to quality, delay and cost overrun, he said. "To solve such issues, solutions must be worked out."

For financial auditing of the Annual Grants for Gewog (AGG), the GNHC recommended focusing on the achievements of outcomes and outputs through key performance indicators (KPI).

Although gewogs have the flexibility to execute activities, targets of the 12th Plan should be achieved. Sherab Gyeltshen said that audit reports were important as a precondition for the release of funds for any donor-funded projects.

According to the theme paper, the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) is crucial to strengthen public sector management and performance through enabling oversight, accountability, and governance.

To add value and benefits to the nation, RAA currently instituted balanced reporting, effective follow-up mechanism, and awareness programmes.

Assistant Auditor General, Tashi Tobgay, said professional development of the auditors was important for effective performance. "With new technological advancements every now and then, it is important for the institution to have continuous capacity development so that we can have optimum value addition."

He said that RAA adopted the International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) to apply new approaches to their auditing.

In the context of adding value and benefits, the RAA ought to produce quality reports and strengthen the currently understaffed quality assurance function.

There is a need for strong follow-up mechanism and improve stakeholders' acceptability of audit results.