



✦ Seek Truth & Ensure Justice ✦

ANNUAL REPORT

1st July 2025 – 30th June 2026



“

“Laws are the foundation of order, security, prosperity, and social harmony. However, many countries face challenges due to an overabundance of laws, poor public understanding, and weak enforcement. This burdens the people and stifles innovation and enterprise.

In Bhutan, we must ensure that laws, particularly those affecting the economy, are enacted swiftly and amended when necessary to create an agile, responsive legal system that fosters progress rather than impedes it. Such a system will be essential to ensure the smooth convergence of the GMC with the rest of Bhutan. Our goal is to establish one of the best legal systems in the world within the next 10 years.

Laws should serve the nation, its people, and the economy.”

”

His Majesty's Address to the Nation on
117th National Day, 2024

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FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF BHUTAN



It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Office of the Attorney General for the Financial Year 2025-2026.

Prepared in accordance with Article 29 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 and Section 75 of the Office of the Attorney General Act 2015, this report highlights the Office's commitment to upholding the rule

of law and delivering professional, fair, and efficient legal services. Throughout the year, the Office discharged its constitutional and statutory responsibilities in all legal services, while ensuring the fair administration of justice and strengthening public confidence in Bhutan's legal system.

Key achievements include strengthening institutional capacity through key leadership appointments, recruiting legal professionals, establishing the Drug Prevention and Prosecution Division and the Arbitration, Mediation and Litigation Division, and enhancing collaboration with justice sector institutions, government agencies, and development partners to improve legal service delivery.

As Bhutan advances transformative national initiatives, including the Gelephu Mindfulness City and digitalisation of public service, the Office remains committed to strengthening its institutional capacity and modernising its legal services to meet emerging needs.

Legal Advocacy programs were expanded, particularly to women, youth, vulnerable groups, and remote communities, alongside continued investment in the professional development of government legal professionals to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, competence, and public service.

I sincerely thank our legal professionals, support staff, government agencies, development partners, and stakeholders for their support. Guided by His Majesty The King's Diamond Strategy, the Office remains committed to strengthening institutional excellence, improving legal services, and advancing justice in service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sonam Tashi', is written over a horizontal line.

(Sonam Tashi)
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Thimphu, Bhutan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office reaffirms its commitment to upholding justice, safeguarding rights, promoting the rule of law, and strengthening public trust, while highlighting its achievements and the challenges during the reporting period.

The Office received a total of 1,014 cases from various government agencies. The Royal Bhutan Police referred the highest number of cases, with 955 cases, followed by the Anti-Corruption Commission with 14 cases and other government agencies with 6 cases, while the Office also received 39 cases related to arbitration and litigation matters.

Drug related offences continued to constitute a significant number of the criminal caseload, with 389 cases received during the reporting period. The Property and Judgment Enforcement Division handled 1,101 court judgments, achieving an enforcement rate of 54% and recovering Nu. 36.65 million, which was successfully restituted to victims. The Office also provided 133 legal opinions to government agencies. The legal professionals across various government agencies handled more than 420 legal cases and provided over 1033 legal memos to support their respective agencies.

The significant achievements of the Office include the harmonization of Environmental and Climate laws, the Government Legal Professionals Conference, Legal Advocacy Programs, and Strengthening Capacity for Legal Professionals across government agencies. Despite these achievements, the Office continues to face institutional challenges as increasingly complex legal matters, the need for specialized legal expertise, and rising demand for legal services exceed its current human resource capacity. The Office will prioritize strategic workforce planning, strengthen legal governance and institutional capacity, improve legal risk management, and enhance its ability to meet Bhutan's evolving legal and governance needs.



VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



Vision

To be a premier public organisation that seeks truth and ensures justice in pursuit of a harmonious society with the rule of law and good governance.



Mission

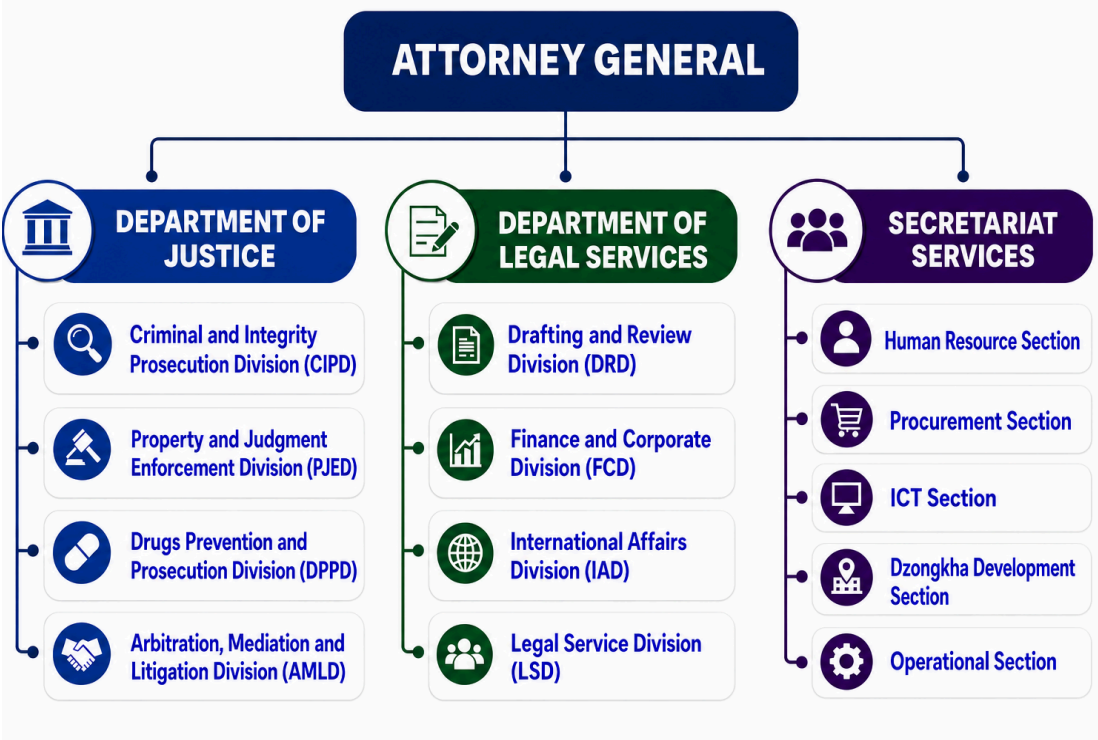
To deliver prosecution and legal services to the state in a fair and professional manner.



Values

Efficiency; Objectivity; Fairness; Transparency; Professionalism.

ORGANOGRAM



OAG AT A GLANCE

01 WHO WE ARE

The Office of the Attorney General is an autonomous agency, established pursuant to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, to carry out the responsibilities within the domain and authority of the Government and such other legal matters as may be entrusted to the Office.

02 WHAT WE DO

- Represent the State in criminal prosecutions and civil litigation
- Provide legal advisory services to the Government
- Promote legal advocacy programs for the public
- Undertake legislative drafting and review
- Enforce judgments on behalf of the State
- Build the capacity of government legal professionals
- Represent the state in treaty negotiations and reportings

03 CASES RECEIVED & STATUS

1,014

TOTAL CASES RECEIVED

RBP	ACC
955	14
MINISTRIES / AGENCIES	
CRIMINAL CASES	ARBITRATION & LITIGATION CASES
6	39
REPORTED STATUS	
• Closed	366
• Under review	263
• Under trial	260
• Appeal	14
• Returned	111

04 LEGAL OPINIONS

133

TOTAL LEGAL OPINIONS

DRD	FCD
6	28
IAD	LSD
92	7

05 PROPERTY & JUDGMENT ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

1,101

TOTAL CASES HANDLED

CASES CLOSED	ENFORCEMENT RATE
466	56.4%
RESTITUTED AMOUNT	
36.65 million	

06 STAFF STRENGTH

84

TOTAL STAFF

Department of Justice	51
CIPD 28 PJED 9 AMLD 6 DPPD 8	
Department of Legal Services	18
IAD 4 DRD 5 FCD 4 LSD 5	
Secretariat Service	15

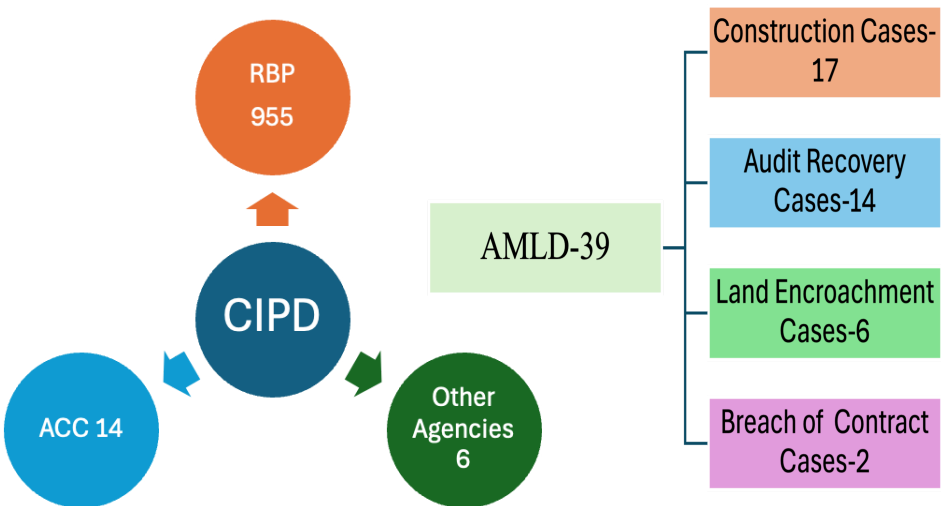
07 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Appointments of the Director and the Chief Attorney
- Established the Drug Prevention & Prosecution Division
- Established the Arbitration, Mediation & Litigation Division
- Convened the Government Legal Professionals Conference
- Harmonization of Environmental and Climate Laws
- Legal advocacy reached 857 participants

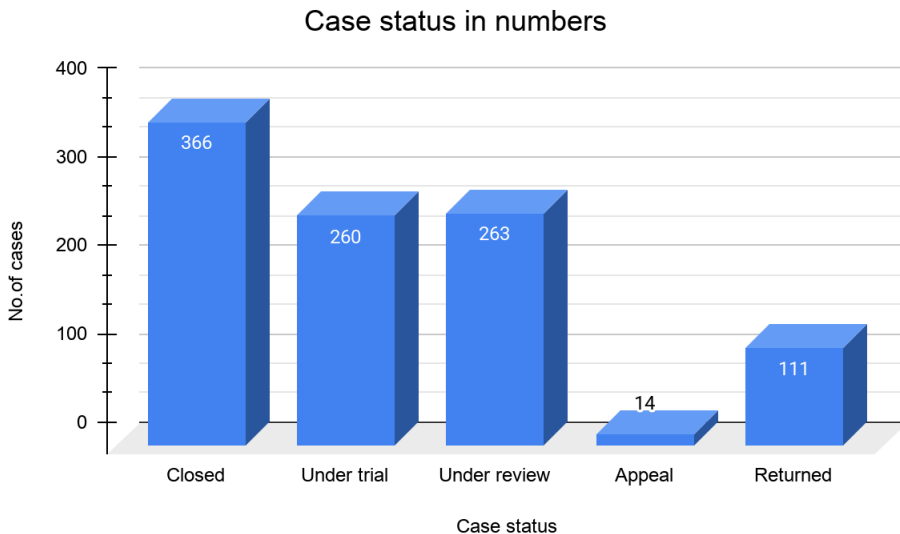
HIGHLIGHTS OF CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES

1. Prosecution and litigation

Overview of the cases received by the Criminal and Integrity Prosecution Division and Arbitration, Mediation, and Litigation Division



During the reporting period, the Office received a total of 1,014 cases from various agencies. The Royal Bhutan Police referred the highest number of cases, with 955 cases, followed by the Anti-Corruption Commission with 14 cases and other government agencies with 6 cases. Additionally, the Office received 39 cases from different agencies regarding arbitration, mediation, and litigation.



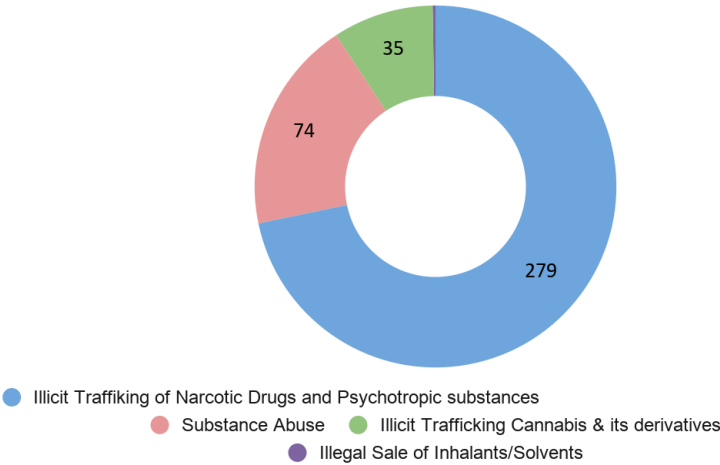
Out of the 1,014 cases, 366 were successfully concluded and closed, 14 appealed before higher courts, 263 are under review, 111 were returned to the referring agencies, and 260 are currently under trial. These figures highlight a substantial caseload being managed across every stage of the justice process, from review and prosecution to trial, appeal, and final disposition.

The 111 cases were returned to the referring agencies for further investigation and collection of additional evidence, as well as due to procedural lapses, confusion between civil and criminal matters, or failure to meet the public interest threshold as required under the law.

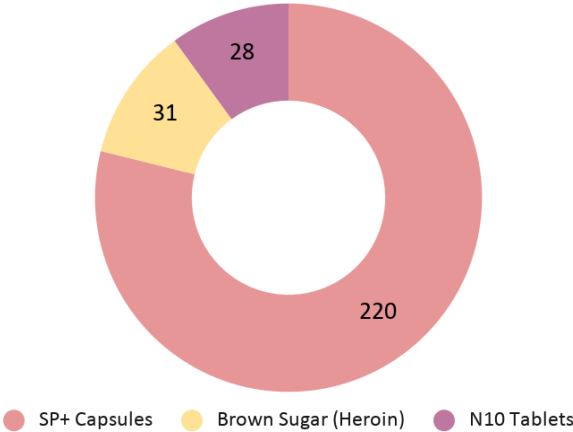
2. Drug related cases

A total of 389 drug related cases were recorded during the reporting period. Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (ITNDPS) was the most common offence, accounting for 279 cases, with SP+ capsules involved in the majority (220 cases), followed by brown sugar and heroin (31 cases) and N10 tablets (28 cases). Substance abuse accounted for 74 cases, while cannabis-related trafficking made up 35 cases. Overall, soft drugs accounted for the majority of reported cases, with 284 cases recorded, significantly exceeding the 31 cases involving hard drugs.

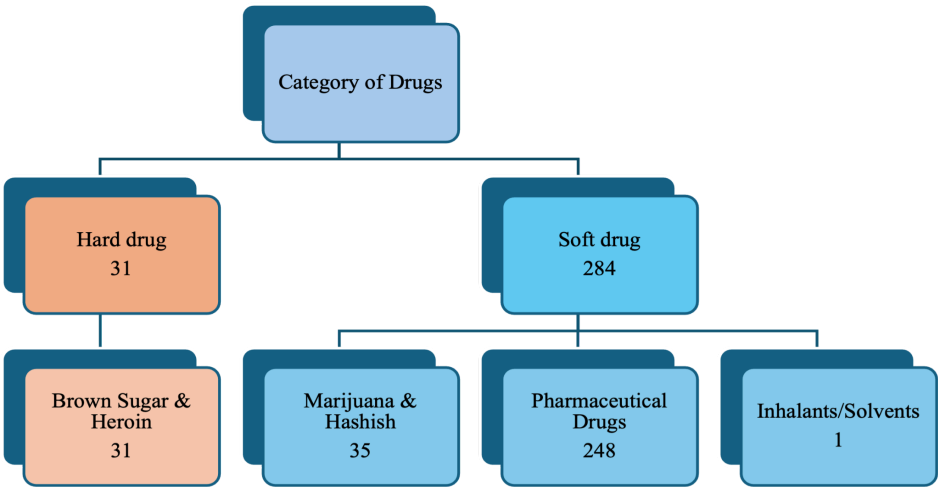
Drug Related Cases (389 cases)



ITNDPS Drug Breakdown (279 Cases)

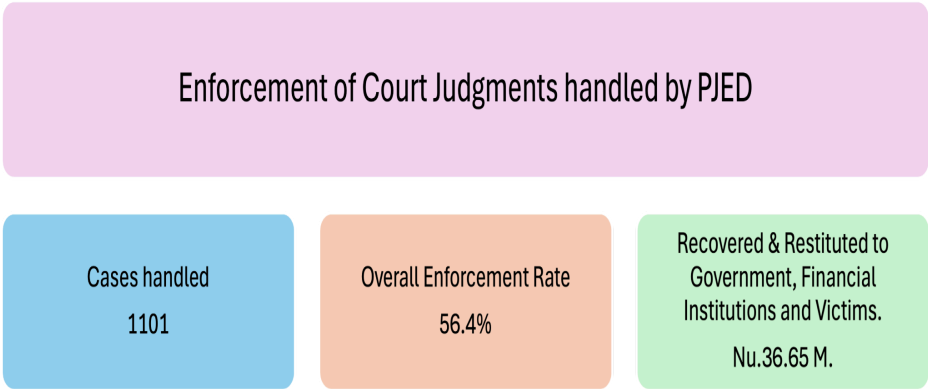


Category of Drugs

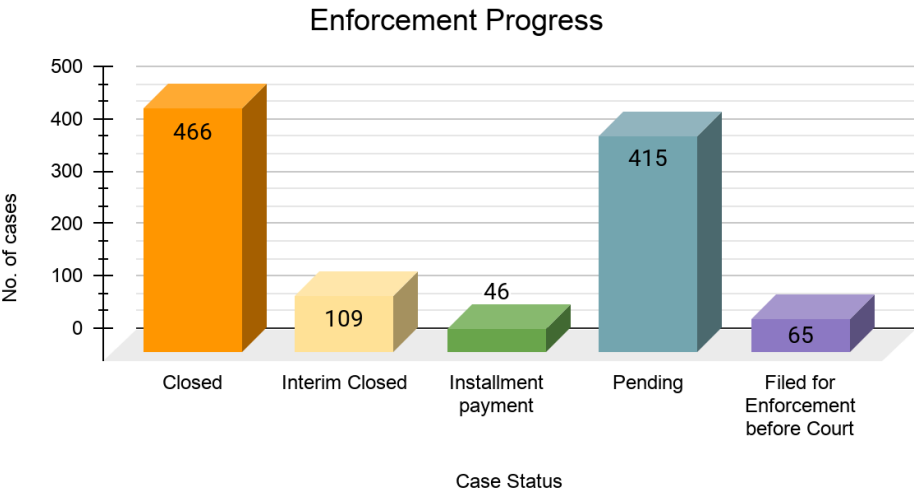
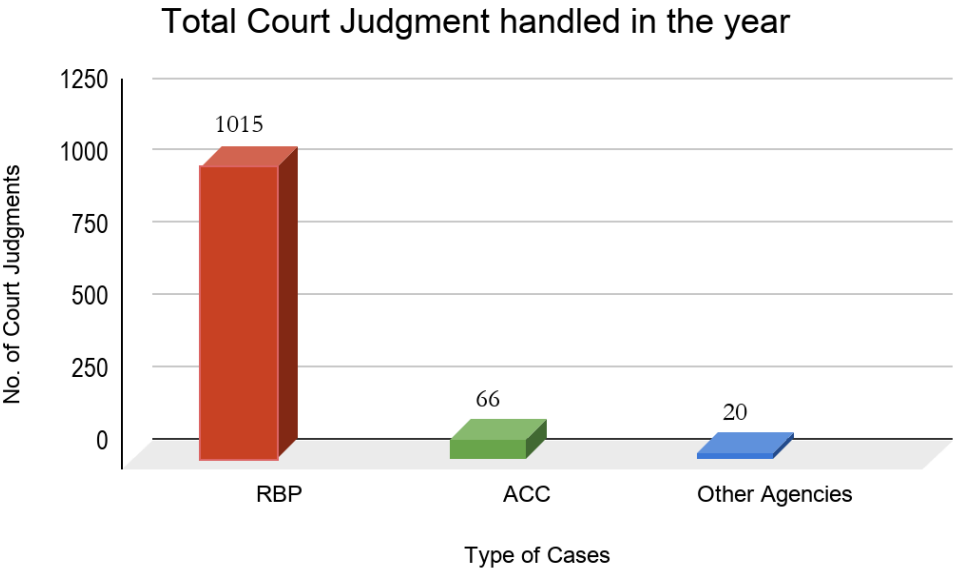


OVERVIEW OF JUDGEMENT ENFORCEMENT

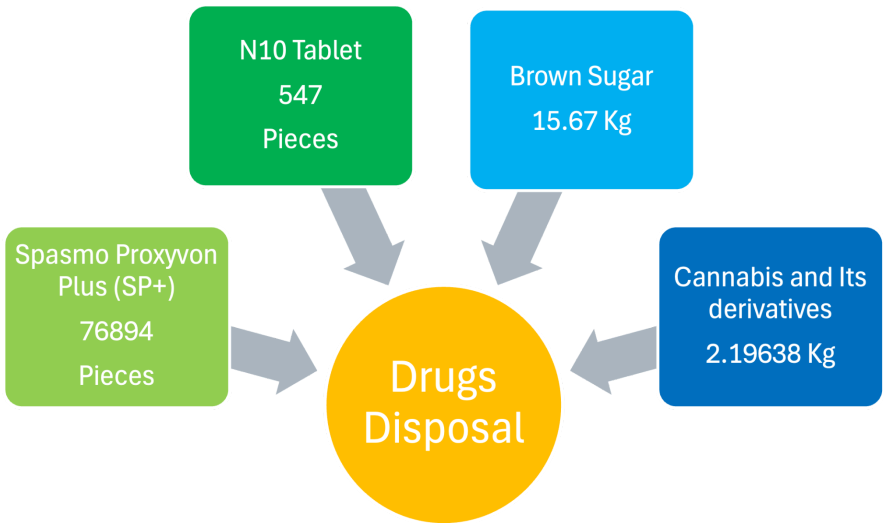
The Office has recovered and restituted Nu. 36.65 Million to the government, various financial institutions and victims. These restitutions reflect the office’s commitment to ensuring that justice is served and that all parties are compensated as per the court’s orders.



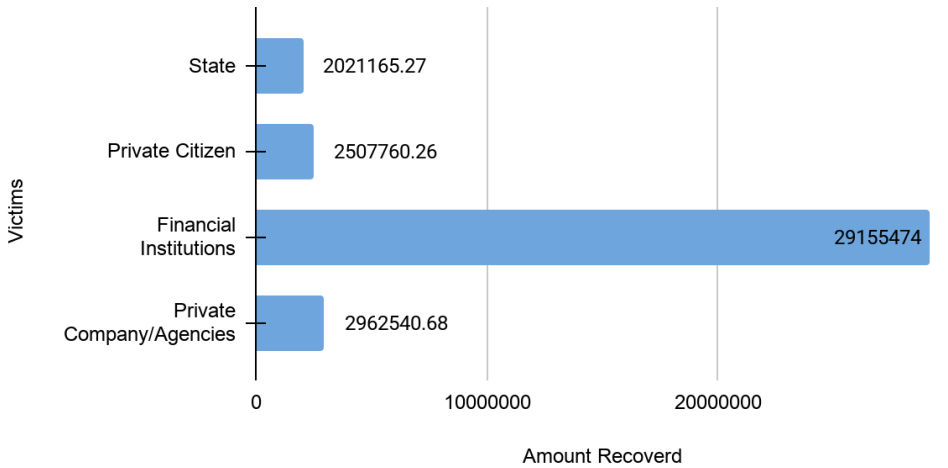
1. Overview of Court Judgments Handled by PJED



3. Quantity of Drugs Disposal



Breakdown of the Enforcement Amount Restituted to Various Victims.(Nu. 36.65 million)



4. Additional Enforcement Measures

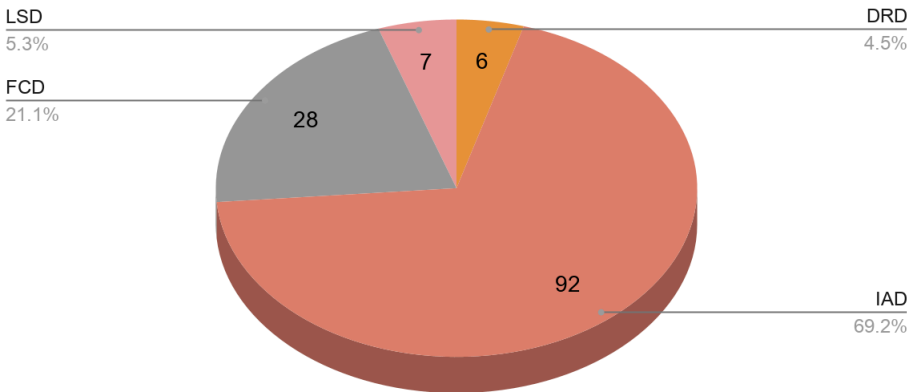
Beyond ordinary case judgement enforcement, PJED undertook several additional measures to strengthen accountability and support rehabilitation of individuals. The Division investigated the property of 26 convicts, conducted one sealed bid auction, and took administrative actions against 13 individuals. In addition, 19 individuals were referred to community services under the supervision of local leaders and other stakeholders, and 41 individuals were referred for Substance Use Disorder treatment with The PEMA Rehab.

LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES

1. Rendering of legal opinion

The Office renders legal opinions to the government through the four divisions under the Department of Legal Services, namely the Drafting and Review Division, International Affairs Division, Finance and Corporate Division, and Legal Service Division.

LEGAL OPINIONS RENDERED BY DIVISION



The ***Drafting and Review Division*** rendered 6 legal opinions on major legislative proposals, namely the proposed amendments to the Civil Aviation Act of Bhutan 2016 and the Copyright Act of Bhutan 2001, the Renewable Energy Tax Exemption Bill 2026, the Insolvency and Rehabilitation Bill 2026, the proposed Surface Transport Bill consolidating the Road Act 2013 and the Road Safety and Transport Act 1999, and the proposed Agriculture Bill of Bhutan. The opinions covered constitutional compliance, legislative drafting, institutional governance, Legislative Impact Assessment (LIA), harmonisation with domestic laws and international obligations, commercial and financial regulatory law, transport regulation, agricultural governance, environmental sustainability, food security, and corporate restructuring.

The ***International Affairs Division*** rendered a total of 92 legal opinions to various government agencies, covering Memoranda of Understanding, bilateral and multilateral agreements, international memberships, accession to international protocols, and potential international disputes.

The ***Finance and Corporate Division*** rendered 28 legal opinions to various government agencies, covering international financing and project agreements, concession agreements, Memoranda of Understanding, procurement and contract matters, and the interpretation and application of domestic laws related to taxation.

The ***Legal Service Division*** rendered 7 legal opinions to various government agencies on legal matters requiring interpretation and guidance. These covered the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan 2008 and several national laws, including the Royal Audit Act 2018, Civil Society Organization (Amendment) Act 2022, Land Act 2007, National Council Act 2008, and Public Finance Act 2007. The Division also advised on contracts, land administration, agriculture, and public hearings.

Overall, the Department of Legal Services rendered 133 legal opinions to various government agencies during the reporting period, in addition to carrying out its other statutory mandates and core responsibilities.

2. Legislative Review and Drafting

The ***Drafting and Review Division*** reviewed the Mines and Minerals Bill 2025. The Division also undertook major legislative review and harmonization initiatives and carried out the Review and Harmonization of the Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan 2001 (including its amendments).

In addition, the Division chaired the Working Committee for the Review and Harmonization of Environmental and Climate Laws Project, implemented in collaboration with the Royal Society for Protection of Nature (RSPN) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The project encompassed the review of 16 environmental laws, providing a comprehensive assessment of their implementation, relevance and legal consistency.

The Division contributed to legislative development by serving on drafting teams and engaging in consultation meetings with relevant stakeholders. It also provided legal and technical drafting support in accordance with the *Rules of Procedure for Drafting and Reviewing of Bills and Delegated Legislation, 2018* and the *Legislative Drafting Manual, 2016*, ensuring that legislation was clear, consistent, and aligned with the Constitution. During the reporting period, it supported the drafting and review of key legislation, including environmental laws and other sectoral laws, while engaging ministries, agencies, and stakeholders to refine legislative proposals and build consensus.

3. Notable Engagements by the Department of Legal Services in other Legal Advisory Services

The ***Drafting and Review Division*** participated in consultative meetings to review, draft, and provide legal and technical advice on more than 14 legislative and regulatory reforms in Bhutan. The Division also served on the Legal Sub-Committee for the Four Banks Project, taking part in key workshops and consultations on legal matters, long-term human resource and financial sustainability, Phase II project development, and discussions with Accenture Japan and the Japanese law firm A&S.

The ***International Affairs Division*** participated in the International Legal and Treaty Affairs Program and conducted over 12 stakeholder engagements including Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance between Bhutan and India, Consultation meetings on MLA, Maritime, and Extradition (BIMSTEC), Accession to United Nations Convention Against Torture, Bhutan's membership in UNCOPUOS, Establishment of EtonHouse International School, and Consultation meeting to examine Convention on certain conventional weapons and cluster munitions.

The ***Finance and Corporate Division*** also engaged with more than 12 stakeholders on finance and corporate matters, including, Accession to the World Trade Organization, Payment of Airfare Subsidy and applicability of the GST regime with the Ministry of Finance, Proposed enactment of a Money Bill for tax exemption in the renewable energy sector with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources; Monitoring and regulation of pyramid schemes and other similar schemes.

The ***Legal Service Division*** strengthened collaboration with development partners, participated in the High Level Advocacy Program for International Women's Day 2026 led by NCWC, and undertook extensive in house consultations in revising the Rules of Procedure for Rendering of Legal Opinions 2018 to enhance efficiency, clarify roles and responsibilities, and improve consistency in rendering legal opinion.

LEGAL PROFESSIONALS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

01 Training on Legislative Drafting and International Environmental Law — 26 Legal Professionals	07 Induction programs for newly recruited legal officers — 16 legal professionals
02 UNODC Cybercrime Online Foundational Course on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, offered by UNICEF Bhutan — 30 Legal Professionals	08 Training on Protection of Child Victims and Witnesses and Diversion — 106 Legal Professionals and other Officials
03 Training of RBP prosecutors — 39 Police Prosecutors	09 International Professional Development Program in Kolkata, India — 64 legal professionals
04 Online Seminar on “Algorithmic Sovereignty, Judicial Independence and Responsible AI Use in the Courtroom” — 1 Senior Attorney from the OAG	10 Capacity Building Program on Enhancing Legal Competencies for Excellence for senior legal professionals — 94 senior legal professionals
05 Training on Anti-Money Laundering and Child in Conflict with the Law for Police Cadets — 49 Legal Professionals	11 Workshop on Review of Rules of Procedure for Prosecution — 12 Legal Professionals
06 Training on Construction Contracts and Arbitration Procedures — 16 Legal Professionals	12 Building Professional Effectiveness: Communication, Time Management and Prioritization Skills — 16 Officials from OAG

1. Training on Legislative Drafting and International Environmental and Climate Laws

The Office, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Chambers of Singapore and with support from the Royal Society for Protection of Nature, conducted a 5 day training program for legal professionals from relevant government agencies. The program covered legislative drafting, international environmental and climate law, carbon markets, and international negotiations, with sessions led by senior officials from Singapore's Attorney General's Chambers and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

2. Online course on Cyber Crime

The CIPD enhanced its capacity to address emerging cyber related offences by completing the UNODC Cybercrime Online Foundational Course on Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, offered by UNICEF Bhutan. The training strengthened knowledge of cybercrime, digital evidence, investigations, and legal responses to technology-facilitated offences, while improving prosecutorial readiness to address emerging cybercrime challenges.

3. Training of Royal Bhutan Police Prosecutors

The Office conducted a 5 day training for Non-Commissioned Officers of the Royal Bhutan Police. The program enhanced participants' understanding of criminal law, investigation standards, evidence assessment, charge sheet drafting, courtroom procedures, and prosecutorial ethics. It also covered emerging issues in drugs law and child justice, contributing to stronger investigations, due process, and greater professionalism in the criminal justice system.

4. Seminar on Algorithmic Sovereignty, Judicial Independence and Responsible AI Use in the Courtroom"

The Office represented the RGoB as a panel speaker at the CIL-BIMSTEC Joint Webinar on "Algorithmic Sovereignty, Judicial Independence and Responsible AI Use in the Courtroom" on 1st July

2026. The webinar fostered regional dialogue on the responsible use of AI in judicial systems, allowing Bhutan to share its perspectives on legal, ethical, and governance issues. Participation strengthened the Division's institutional capacity in international law, judicial administration, humanitarian law, and emerging technologies.

5. Training on Anti-Money Laundering and Child in Conflict with the Law for Police Cadets

The Office conducted two training sessions for two batches of Royal Bhutan Police cadets on Anti-Money Laundering and Children in Conflict with the Law on 8th September and 27th October 2025. The sessions enhanced cadets' understanding of financial crime investigations, child sensitive justice, and relevant legal frameworks, strengthening their law enforcement capacity.

6. Training on Construction Contracts and Arbitration Procedures

The Office organized a 2 day training program on Construction Contracts and Arbitration Procedures. The training was facilitated by senior legal professionals and the Chief Administrator of the Bhutan Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre. It was attended by 15 attorneys from AMLD, CIPD, and the International Affairs Division, enhancing their knowledge of construction contract management and arbitration procedures.

7. Induction programs for newly recruited legal professionals

The Office conducted an induction program for newly recruited legal professionals from various government agencies, as well as for the 10 newly recruited Attorneys of the office.

8. Training on Protection of Child Victims and Witnesses and Diversion

The Office, with support from UNICEF, conducted a training on the Protection of Child Victims and Witnesses and Diversion for prosecutors, police personnel, and attorneys from the Department of Legal Services.

9. International Professional Development Program in India

The Office coordinated the Government of India funded Capacity Building Program for legal professionals, organized by the West Bengal Judicial Academy, Kolkata, benefiting two cohorts comprising 64 legal professionals from various government agencies.

10. Enhancing Legal Competencies for Excellence for Senior Legal Professionals

The Office organized the Capacity Building Program on Enhancing Legal Competencies for Excellence for senior legal professionals across government agencies to strengthen professional capabilities and promote excellence in legal practice.

11. Workshop on Review of Rules of Procedure for Prosecution.

The Office conducted a 5 day Workshop on the Review of the Rules of Procedure for Prosecution in Paro. The workshop focused on enhancing the existing Rules to establish clearer standards for prosecutorial decision making, case management, and professional conduct.

12. Building Professional Effectiveness: Communication, Time Management and Prioritization Skills

The Office in collaboration with the Institute for Management Studies Limited, conducted a 3 day capacity development program on Building Professional Effectiveness: Communication, Time Management and Prioritization Skills in Paro. The program enhanced participants' communication, time management, and prioritization skills to improve workplace effectiveness, teamwork, productivity, and service delivery among attorneys and secretariat service staff.

Photos from the training programs



Figure 1: Training on Legislative Drafting and International Environmental Law, Punakha, Bhutan



Figure 2: Enhancing Legal Competencies for Excellence for Senior Legal Professionals at JSWL, Pangbisa, Bhutan

Photos from the training programs



Figure 3: Training of Police Prosecutors



Figure 4: Training at West Bengal Judicial Academy, Kolkata, Cohort 1

LEGAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Office, with support from the RGoB and UNFPA, continued legal advocacy to improve legal awareness and access to justice, focusing on women, girls, youth, vulnerable groups, and remote communities. Building on the successful coverage of all 20 Dzongkhags by early 2025, the legal advocacy activities continued throughout 2025 and 2026.

Legal Advocacy Program Summary

Location	Dates	Participants	Target Groups	Topics	Presenting Agencies
Thimphu Dzongkhag	13 th Aug 2025	58	LG members and government stakeholders	Penal law, Marriage law, Legal Aid Service, Bar Council, and Drug Law	OAG, Judiciary, BNLI, Bar Council of Bhutan, and MoH
Merak & Sakteng Gewogs	18 th - 27 th Dec 2025	528	Local communities, women, remote populations	Penal law, Marriage law, Substance abuse, and Legal Aid Service.	OAG, Judiciary, and BNLI.
Gelephu Mindfulness City	12 th May 2026	106	LG members, civil servants, business entities and general public	Addressing social norms, Domestic Violence, Drug Law and Cyber protection.	OAG, UNFPA and Judiciary
Jomotsangkha Dungkhag	14 th May 2026	165	LG members, educators, students, civil servants, and general public	Addressing social norms, Domestic Violence, Drugs law and Cyber protection.	OAG, UNFPA and Judiciary
Total participants		857 Participants			



Figure 5: Group photo with the participants at Gelephu and Representatives from the OAG presenting on Domestic Violence, Drug law and Cyber Protection in Gelephu and Jomotsangkha.

Key highlights and recommendations from the Legal Advocacy Program

The program successfully reached 857 participants and received positive feedback, particularly from those in remote communities who appreciated the opportunity to access legal awareness and advocacy services. Participants found the sessions relevant and practical and recommended expanding the program to all Gewogs and making it a regular and continuous initiative. They also emphasized the importance of strengthening engagement with Local Government members to enhance legal awareness and outreach at the community level.

Participants further recommended conducting targeted legal advocacy programs for youth, especially in schools and remote communities. The majority noted that the cyber protection session introduced new and highly relevant knowledge, highlighting the growing need for awareness on online safety, cybercrime, and digital privacy. They strongly recommended extending cyber protection awareness programs to school students and broadening future advocacy initiatives to cover additional legal and emerging issues affecting communities.



Figure 6: Legal Advocacy group photo with the participants at Jomotsangkha, S/Jongkhar

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OFFICE

1. Appointment of the Director for the Department of Justice, OAG

Mr. Phuntsho Gyaltsen Dorji was appointed as Director of the Department of Justice on 1st May 2026, marking a significant milestone in his distinguished career. Prior to his appointment, he served as the Officiating Director, demonstrating exemplary leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the administration of justice. His appointment reflects the trust placed in his experience and dedication to public service and is expected to strengthen the administration of justice, enhance all legal services, and promote professionalism, integrity, and accountability across the office.



Figure 7: Promotion ceremony of the Director of Department of Justice, OAG

2. Appointment of Chief Attorney for the Arbitration, Mediation and Litigation Division, Department of Justice

Mr. Tshewang Dorji was appointed as the Chief Attorney of the Arbitration, Mediation & Litigation Division on 5th September 2025. Prior to assuming this role, he served as the Officiating Chief of the Prosecution and Litigation Division, where he ably steered the Division with diligence and foresight, further demonstrating his commitment to the principles of justice and service to the nation. Furthermore, he was also selected as one of the 13 Australian Awards recipients to pursue his Masters degree for the 2026 intake.



Figure 8: Promotion ceremony of Chief Attorney, AMLD, DoJ, OAG

3. Appointment of 6 newly recruited legal professionals

On 6th January 2026, the Office welcomed 6 newly recruited legal professionals to the legal service. The legal professionals have been assigned to various government agencies.



Figure 9: Appointment Ceremony of 6 newly recruited legal professionals

4. Recruitment of 10 new attorneys

On 1st June 2026, the Office welcomed 10 new attorneys on three year consolidated contracts. They were placed across various divisions.



Figure 10: Appointment Ceremony of 10 new attorneys at the OAG

5. Review and Harmonization of Environmental and Climate Laws Project

The Review and Harmonization of Environmental and Climate Laws Project is a national initiative to comprehensively assess Bhutan's existing environmental and climate-related legislation to ensure that it remains coherent, effective, and responsive to emerging environmental and climate challenges. The project entails a review of key environmental laws, identification of legal gaps, overlaps, and inconsistencies, comparative analysis with international standards and best practices, and extensive stakeholder consultations. Based on the findings, the project will recommend amendments to existing laws, propose new legislative measures where necessary, and develop a harmonized legal framework and implementation roadmap to strengthen environmental governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development in Bhutan.



Figure 11: Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Harmonization of Environmental and Climate Laws, Paro, Bhutan

6. The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Translation Project

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Translation Project, led by the Office in collaboration with the Bhutan Red Cross Society and guided by His Majesty's Secretariat, has achieved about 80% completion in translating ten key IHL conventions and protocols into Dzongkha. During the reporting period, the technical committee conducted one capacity

building program and 7 translation workshops, completing translations of the 4 Geneva Conventions, the 1925 Geneva Protocol, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The remaining work involves completing the outstanding translations, validation, report compilation, and final review. Nu. 2.34 million has been spent on the project to date.



Figure 12: IHL Translation Technical Committee Members

7. Government Legal Professionals Conference

The Office convened the Government Legal Professionals Conference at the Professional Development Centre in Tsirang. The three day conference brought together more than hundred legal professionals from various government agencies to reconnect, strengthen collaboration, share experiences, and discuss legal and administrative challenges affecting the delivery of legal services. Following the conference, the Office developed actionable strategies to address the issues and challenges identified and the solutions discussed during the conference. The conference marked an important milestone toward building a more responsive, efficient, and people-centered justice system.



Figure 13: Legal Professionals Conference at PDC, Tsirang, Bhutan

8. Launch of the Enterprise Legal Management System (ELMS) Pilot Phase

The ELMS is a key digitalization initiative aimed at improving case management, increasing efficiency, enhancing data accessibility, and promoting transparency and accountability. The celebration marked both the office's past accomplishments and its continued commitment to innovation and institutional excellence.

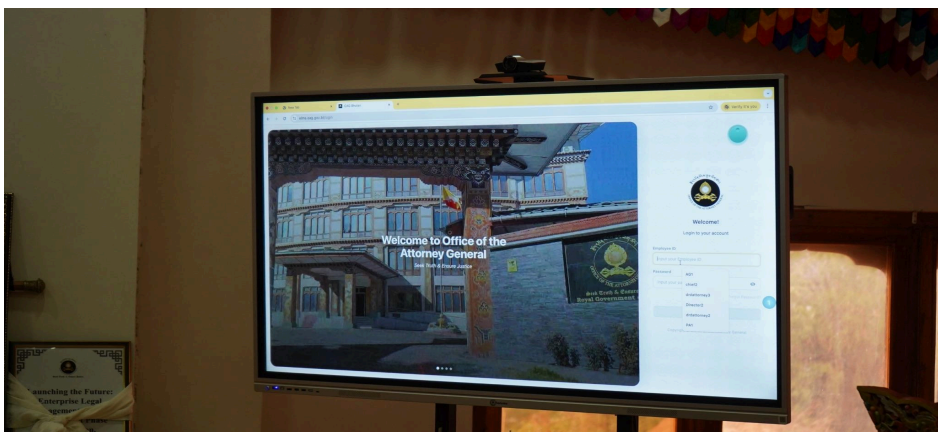


Figure 14: Testing of the ELMS Pilot Phase at the OAG

9. Distribution of Office Badge

The Office initiated the distribution of Office badges to legal professionals across government agencies, representing the government. This initiative was undertaken to facilitate clear identification and ensure smooth representation before the courts, as well as during engagements with stakeholders and partner institutions. Beyond serving as an official means of identification, the badge fosters a sense of unity, professionalism, and collaboration among members of the government legal fraternity.

10. Case review maintained below 13 percent.

The Office met its performance target by keeping cases under review below 13% of each prosecutor's caseload, despite manpower shortages and rising workloads. This was achieved through effective case management, proactive performance monitoring and strong commitment from attorneys, though the current workload is not sustainable without additional staffing and resources.

11. Recruitment of one attorney and one librarian

In October, 2025, the Office welcomed and recruited one attorney and one librarian to strengthen its legal and information management capacities.



Figure 15: Appointment Ceremony for two new officials at the OAG

12. Establishment of Drug Prevention and Prosecution Division

The Office established the Drug Prevention and Prosecution Division in line with the National Drug Task Force's directive to strengthen the national response to drug related offences. The Division is operational, providing specialized prosecution, legal expertise, and coordination with relevant agencies. The proposed SoP provides for a Chief and 14 attorneys to enhance its capacity, while its establishment reflects the Office's commitment to combating drug related crimes and protecting public health and security.

13. Establishment of Arbitration Mediation and Litigation Division

Pursuant to the growing need to enhance the Office's capacity in handling complex legal disputes and to provide specialized legal services in alternative dispute resolution and litigation matters, the Office established the Arbitration, Mediation and Litigation Division as a dedicated and specialized unit to strengthen the national dispute resolution framework and improve the effectiveness of legal representation in civil matters.

14. Review of Civil and Criminal Procedure Code



Figure 16: CCPC Review Committee Meeting, Phuntsholing, Bhutan

The Office contributed to the development of a harmonized and updated procedural law framework by identifying legislative gaps, resolving inconsistencies, and recommending reforms to improve clarity, efficiency, consistency, and effective administration of civil and criminal justice.

15. Study and development of TAT and IWP for the division

One of the Office's key achievements was the comprehensive review and enhancement of the Individual Work Plan and the Turn Around Time for both CIPD and individual prosecutors. With technical support from the Royal Civil Service Commission, the Office also developed a new IWP prototype to strengthen work planning, performance monitoring, and evaluation, ensuring alignment with the Justice Sector Strategy Plan and the objectives of the 13th Five Year Plan.



Figure 17: Workshop on development of IWP and TAT. Paro, Bhutan.

INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGE AND COLLABORATION

1. Tripartite meeting with Royal Bhutan Police and Royal Court of Justice



Figure 18: Tripartite meeting with Royal Bhutan Police and Royal Court of Justice, Paro, Bhutan

The Office convened the inaugural three day tripartite meeting from June 8th-10th, 2026 between the OAG, the RBP, and the RCoJ, to strengthen coordination in the administration of criminal justice. The meeting provided a platform to discuss systemic challenges affecting investigations, prosecution, evidence management, court procedures, and inter-agency communication. The agencies identified practical measures to improve coordination, strengthen investigation and evidence handling practices, and promote the consistent application of due process safeguards. The meeting concluded with agreed action points, clear institutional responsibilities, and a follow up framework to support effective implementation, reinforcing collaboration across Bhutan's criminal justice system.

2. Tripartite meeting with Anti Corruption Commission and Royal Audit Authority

The Fourth Annual Tripartite Meeting among the ACC, the OAG, and the RAA was held from 28th-30th January 2026 at the Professional Development Centre, Tsirang. The Meeting reaffirmed the agencies shared commitment to strengthening inter agency coordination through enhanced information sharing, collaboration, and institutional dialogue in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of corruption and related offences. A key outcome of the Meeting was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Inter Agency Coordination and Collaboration, providing a formal framework for closer cooperation among the three agencies.



Figure 19: Tripartite meeting with ACC and RAA, Tsirang, Bhutan

3. MoU between Audit and Corruption Investigation Bureau, Gelephu Mindfulness City Authority and OAG

The office signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Audit and Corruption investigation Bureau of GMCA on 8th June 2026, to enhance collaboration and cooperation between the two institutions within their respective mandates and in accordance with applicable laws.

The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation through the sharing of institutional best practices in key areas of legal services, including prosecution and litigation, legal advisory services, legislative drafting and review, regulatory compliance, legal research, continuing legal education, and legal awareness programs. It also facilitates joint efforts in providing legal and technical support through capacity development initiatives, supervision and mentoring, and institutional guidance.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck's Visit to the Office



Figure 20: Kupar with HRH Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck at the OAG

The Office was deeply honored to be granted an audience with Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck on 30th June 2026. The occasion was a moment of great pride for the organization and marked a significant milestone in its continued commitment to serving the nation and it served as a source of inspiration for all employees.

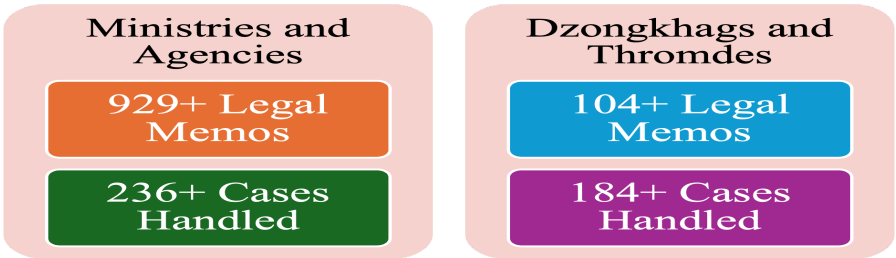
Her Royal Highness's gracious presence and inspiring guidance encouraged collective action, reaffirming our shared commitment to uphold the rule of law, ensure access to justice, and serve the nation with

integrity, professionalism, and dedication. Every employee felt deeply privileged to receive the blessings and encouragement of Her Royal Highness, making the occasion both memorable and motivating.

PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The Office serves as the parent agency for all legal professionals deployed across various government agencies. While these legal professionals function within their respective agencies, they remain part of the OAG's professional legal service and contribute to the effective delivery of government legal services. The following section highlights the key performance and achievements of legal professionals serving in other government agencies during the reporting period.

Legal Memos and Cases Handled by Ministries, Dzongkhags and Thromde	
TOTAL LEGAL MEMOS RENDERED	TOTAL CASES HANDLED
Over 1033	Over 420



1. Legal Division, Ministry of Finance

The Division held 95 pending delinquent cases forwarded by the Department of Revenue and Customs, of which 36 civil cases were received in the reporting period. As Member Secretariat to the Tax Appeal Board, the Division supported deliberation on 50 cases, 10 of which were further appealed to court, and separately represented the Ministry in 13 Non-Performing Loan cases. Of the total caseload, 95 cases were under review, 16 were pending (11 Tax Appeal Board and 3 NCGS cases), 8 were closed, 4 were carried forward as backlog, and 17 were at the enforcement stage. The Division also provided legal memos on over 50 matters related to finance. It achieved favorable outcomes in about 98% of court cases, resolved additional disputes through taxpayer engagement, improved case management with an income year based prioritization system, and reviewed 9 draft Bills, 2 Acts, and 9 delegated legislation.

2. Legal Services, Ministry of Education and Skills Development

The Legal Services received 4 civil cases, comprising 2 construction related cases and 2 recovery cases. As of the reporting period, three cases were under review, 1 was pending judgment before the Supreme Court, one had been appealed to the Supreme Court, and one had been closed at both the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre and the High Court. Three cases remained in the backlog. In addition, the Division provided legal memos on procurement matters, legal interpretations, and the review of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements for MoESD and several government agencies. An achievement during the reporting period was the successful resolution of 1 arbitration case.

3. Legal Division, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment

The Legal Division handled 12 cases, comprising 10 civil and 2 criminal cases referred by 7 Departments. Several cases were concluded, with judgments enforced and recoveries of Nu. 1,358,854.70/- and Nu.

22,500/- secured in DoMCIIP and RoICE cases, respectively, while other cases remained under active enforcement or investigation. In addition, the Division handled arbitration matters, and provided 28 legal memos to various departments.

The Division also made significant progress in legislative and policy development by completing the draft Intellectual Property Bill and finalising the Content Rules and Regulation 2026 for BICMA. It further submitted review reports on the Competition Bill, the Trade and Investment Bill, and proposed amendments to 5 Acts under the Ministry.

4. Legal Services, Office of the Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade

Legal Services handled 46 legal matters, completing 45 through formal legal memos, while one preliminary policy study remained ongoing. The caseload comprised 13 Memoranda of Understanding and related instruments, 13 international conventions, treaties, and other binding agreements, 7 consular and mission-related issues, 7 policy level and Foreign Secretary/Head of Department assigned matters, 3 legislative and regulatory reviews, and 3 other legal matters.

Major achievements included preparing the Rationale for a Passport Act, the first policy level legislative proposal to replace the administrative passport manual with a parliamentary statute, as well as legal memos on cross border matrimonial property, the national implementation assessment of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, and Bhutan's contribution to the ITLOS Advisory Opinion Initiative, strengthening the country's engagement with its international legal obligations.

5. Legal Services, Ministry of Home Affairs

The Legal Service handled 1 civil case involving restitution of an LTT financial obligation, recovering Nu. 360,871.74/-. During the year, 1 case remained under review, 1 was closed, and 1 was dropped, while 3 immigration related criminal cases were referred to the OAG for prosecution. Legal memos were rendered on a wide range of matters, including human rights, legislation, MoUs and agreements, law and

order, disciplinary issues, emerging legal matters, and litigation support. Key legal memos addressed the Fast Track Visa, financial authority in autonomous agencies, the SOP on Dual Citizenship, the National Single Window System, and the agreement for the exposition of the Holy Kapilvastu Relics of Lord Buddha in Thimphu. The Ministry cleared long-standing legal backlogs, including pending civil matters, improving case management efficiency. While legal support in dispute resolution facilitated the recovery of Nu. 360,871.74/- in government dues and safeguarded public resources.

6. Legal Division, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport

The Legal Division has handled diverse areas of legal issues including contractual disputes, appeal cases, enforcement matters, HR obligation cases, and legal inquiries. It also settled 3 road disputes and recovered Nu. 17,776,422.39 for the Government. In addition, the Division provided legal memos on key policy and operational matters. The achievement was drafting the Housing Bill. Following stakeholder consultations and approval by the Lhengye Zhungtshog, the Bill was finalized in English and Dzongkha on 23 June 2026 and is ready for submission to the OAG for vetting.

7. Legal Service Division, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources

The Legal Service Division handled 31 cases, including 27 civil cases and 4 criminal forestry cases. Of the civil cases, 14 were resolved while 14 remained pending, and the criminal cases were referred to the OAG. Civil cases increased by 80% compared to the previous year, while criminal cases remained unchanged. The Division provided 81 legal memos and advisory services, reviewed and drafted 4 bills and 3 subsidiary legislations, and supported parliamentary and stakeholder consultation processes involving ministries, agencies, and local governments. A significant achievement was the finalization and submission of the Mines and Minerals Bill, Water Bill, and Energy Bill, together with their respective translations, for further consideration.

8. Legal Services, Ministry of Health

The Legal Services handled 26 cases and provided 5 legal memos across diverse areas related to the Ministry. It also drafted and reviewed 13 MoUs, agreements, and collaboration instruments, of which 10 were approved and signed, while the remaining are under review or awaiting approval. In addition, it drafted or reviewed 5 legislative instruments, including the Bhutan Medicine Rules and Regulations 2025, Healthcare Service Rules and Regulation 2025, revisions to the Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Substance Abuse Rules and Regulation 2024, the Healthcare Services Grievance Redressal Guideline, and the Transfer Guideline for the Ministry of Health. A major achievement was the enforcement of the Bhutan Medicine Rules and Regulations 2025, although challenges remain in finalizing the outstanding legislative and legal instruments.

9. Legal Division, National Land Commission Secretariat

The Legal Division handled 4 litigation cases, concluding 3 while 1 remained pending, and represented the Secretariat as expert witnesses in 11 court proceedings. It also registered 46 cases, resolving 33 and carrying forward 13 while facilitating the enforcement of 32 court judgments. Additionally, the Division delivered 395 legal memos, including 58 formal legal memos, 86 court clarifications and reports, and various legal submissions and administrative services to government agencies.

The achievement was the legal advisory support for the development and implementation of the Integrated Collateral Management System, strengthening Bhutan's secured transaction framework. It also successfully defended the Secretariat's interests in a long pending Supreme Court case, referred 2 suspected fraudulent land transaction cases to the Royal Bhutan Police, and strengthened institutional collaboration by convening a high level meeting with the Judiciary on land related legal matters.

10. Legal Services, Civil Society Organizations Authority

The Legal Services handled 1 civil case, which was successfully concluded with the judgment enforced, while 1 case referred to the OAG and remains under review. It also rendered 21 legal memos on governance, legislative interpretation, registration matters, compliance, and international memoranda of understanding. The achievements included drafting amendments to the Civil Society Organizations Rules and Regulations, initiating a regulatory framework for informal CSOs, recommending a standardized procedure for international MoUs for incorporation into the Rules of Procedure for Treaty Making, and supporting Bhutan's preparation for the APG Mutual Evaluation through participation in AML/CFT technical working groups.

11. Legal Services, Royal Civil Service Commission

The Legal Services reviewed 22 appeals relating to administrative disciplinary actions and submitted recommendations for the Commission's decision. It also provided over 500 legal advisories to HR divisions across the civil service. In addition, it reviewed and provided legal memos on 10 contracts and Memoranda of Understanding. The achievement was as a Member Secretary to the Commission, it also provided secretariat support for 43 Commission meetings by preparing agendas and briefing papers, offering legal advice during deliberations, recording proceedings and decisions, and ensuring that all Commission resolutions complied with the Civil Service Act, BCSR 2023, and other relevant legal and administrative requirements.

12. Legal Unit, Government Technology Agency

The Legal unit received 1 civil matter concerning the repayment of dues. The case has been registered with the Bhutan Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre and is currently under consideration. It also reviewed and vetted 84 legal documents, including ICT system development and procurement contracts, consultancy and service agreements, MoUs, commercial agreements, NDAs, SLAs, licence agreements, policy documents, and other governance and regulatory instruments.

The significant achievements include drafting the Guidelines on the Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence and the Guidelines on Four Government Data Banks. The initiative also delivered a foundational literacy program on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for members of the Judiciary, enhancing their understanding of the legal implications of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and the National Digital Identity initiative.

13. Legal Services, Department of Law and Order

The Legal Services rendered legal memos on several sensitive matters, including the examination of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, review of the Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance and the Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons received from the Government of India, summon orders for Bhutanese nationals issued by courts across the border, citizenship and security clearance issues, and deportation cases. The significant achievements include drafting and submission of the Mutual Legal Assistance Bill following the completion of the National Interest Analysis and Legislative Impact Assessment. The Department has also been invited to present the Bill to the Human Rights Committee on 10 July 2026.

14. Legal Services, Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority

The Legal Services primarily handles aviation regulatory matters and Air Service Agreement related work. Legal memos provided during the reporting period were in response to queries raised during Human Resource Committee meetings. The achievements include the successful submission and ratification of the Protocols amending Article 50(a) and Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention) by the National Assembly during the fifth session of the Fourth Parliament. The Authority also fulfilled the action items identified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) during international conferences, ensuring continued compliance with international aviation standards and obligations.

15. Legal Unit, Cabinet Secretariat

The Legal Unit coordinated 261 requests for legal memos and legal opinions. The Secretariat reviewed 11 Bills, including those related to agriculture, transport, insolvency, competition, trade and investment, mutual legal assistance, chemical weapons prohibition, renewable energy, energy, mines and minerals, and double taxation avoidance, while also reviewing 6 existing Acts. It processed 311 Lhengye Zhungtshog submissions and directives and facilitated nine Cabinet Sub-Committees for consultation and review. The Legal Unit continued close coordination with the OAG to strengthen understanding of legal opinions and provided timely legal support to the Prime Minister during Parliament sessions, including after hours assistance when required.

16. Legal Services, National Assembly

The Legislative and Procedural Division supported Parliament in the enactment of 8 new Acts, the amendment of 5 Acts, and the ratification of 5 international instruments. It also provided 8 legal memos on legislative and procedural matters, including parliamentary motions, urgent Bills, legislative amendments, and international treaty obligations. In addition, it also conducted sensitization programs on legislative procedures for civil society organizations and the media. As the principal division of the National Assembly Secretariat, it provides legislative, procedural, and legal advice to the Hon'ble Speaker, the Secretariat, and Parliamentary Committees to facilitate the effective discharge of Parliament's constitutional and legislative responsibilities.

17. Legal Services, Phuentsholing Thromde

The Legal Services handled a total of 20 matters, comprising 5 contractual civil cases and 15 tenancy disputes. Of the civil cases, 5 were recorded as referrals. Among the tenancy disputes, 4 remained under review, 5 were referred to the court, and 6 were resolved. In addition, 1 contractual case was closed. The report also recorded 5 appealed cases. The key achievement during the reporting period was the successful closure of 7 cases, comprising 6 tenancy disputes and 1 contractual case.

18. Legal Services, Samtse Dzongkhag

The Legal Services handled a total of 5 civil cases relating to contractual disputes and audit recoveries. Of these, 2 cases were decided, 2 were filed and remained under trial before the court, and 1 case had not yet been filed.

19. Legal Services, Samdrup Jongkhar

The Legal Services handled 6 civil cases. Of these, 3 cases were resolved, 2 remained pending, and 1 was referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre for arbitration. In addition, a high priority legal memo was issued to Samdrup Jongkhar Thromde on the tenancy issue.

20. Legal Service, Gelephu Thromde

The Legal Services handled 3 civil cases and 5 tenancy cases during. It also provided 3 legal memos to the Governor's Office regarding an audit memo, retention money, and a disciplinary investigation. The achievements include supporting national events in GMC, headed the Grievance Redressal Unit for the first phase of the GMC International Airport project, served on the Land Transaction Verification Committee and supported child and women protection issues.

21. Legal Service Division, Thimphu Thromde

The Legal Service Division received a total of 121 tenancy cases. Of these, 58 cases were settled through mediation, while 47 cases were resolved through decisions of the Committee. The remaining 16 cases are currently pending. It also rendered 25 legal memos and drafted 5 legal instruments. In addition, 27 reports were submitted in compliance with court orders. A key achievement was the recovery of Nu. 7,588,193.22/- in outstanding 5% property tax payments. Out of 16 non payment cases, 13 cases were successfully resolved, while 3 cases remain pending. As a result, the total outstanding amount was reduced from Nu.13,128,597.20 to Nu. 3,706,970.00/-

22. Legal Services, Chukha Dzongkhag

The Legal Services handled 4 civil cases, with 1 case under review, 2 pending, and 1 dropped. A total of 12 legal memos were issued, comprising 2 on statutory interpretation and legal compliance related to land matters, four on contractual interpretation, 5 on administrative and employment rules, and 1 on jurisdictional and statutory interpretation.

23. Legal Services, Sarpang Dzongkhag

The Legal Services carried forward 1 civil restitution case and 2 diversion cases into the reporting period. The restitution case was referred to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Centre for re-arbitration. During the reporting period, the Dzongkhag issued 24 legal memos. The achievement was the legal officer's delivery of 6 legal advocacy programs. It also served as the Chief Protocol Coordinator and usherer during national events held at GMC, Gelephu.

24. Legal Services, Tsirang Dzongkhag

The Legal Services expanded its support to the Dagana Dzongkhag Administration by providing legal representation, handling audit memo recovery cases and offering legal support to municipal and governance matters. Additional responsibilities included providing legal memos on committee meetings, investigating administrative complaints, serving as Child and Gender Focal Point, and acting as Procurement Officer, when required.

25. Legal Services, Punakha Dzongkhag

The Legal Services provided 39 legal memos on various subject matters, litigated 4 civil cases, enforced 6 judgments, drafted and reviewed 8 legal documents, and 17 quasi-judicial election dispute resolution. It also serves on committees, handles special assignments, represents other Dzongkhags when directed, provides legal aid through RENEW CBSS, and conducts investigations from Anti Corruption Commission referrals as required by law.

26. The PEMA Secretariat



Figure 21: Promotion ceremony of Chief Legal Officer of The PEMA Secretariat

Ms. Ugyen Tshomo was appointed Chief Legal Officer of The PEMA Secretariat on 1st January, 2026. Previously, she led Legal Services at the National Commission for Women and Children demonstrating dedicated leadership. She was subsequently transferred to The PEMA Secretariat. In her current role, she provides legal and policy guidance, ensures compliance with laws and institutional priorities, and supports stakeholder engagement to promote coordinated and integrated approaches pertaining to The PEMA Secretariat's mandates. A significant achievement was the preparation of a review report on the legal provisions related to mental health, along with the successful conduct of a Knowledge Enhancement Program on mental health and child protection for judges, court registrars, and legal officers.

KEY CHALLENGES

1. Increasing Legal Complexity and Demand for Specialization

The evolving legal and regulatory landscape has increased demand for expertise in areas such as financial and corporate law, digital governance, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data protection, environmental law, public international law, legal drafting and legal research. Strengthening specialized legal knowledge and institutional capacity remains essential to enable the legal professionals to provide timely, effective and efficient legal advice and legislative support.

2. Human Resource Constraints and growing workload

Demand for legal services continues to outpace staffing levels, resulting in heavier workloads, case backlogs, and longer turnaround times. Sustained investment in human resources is needed to maintain the quality, efficiency, and timeliness of legal service delivery.

3. Need for a dedicated Legal Service Division in all government agencies

The increasing complexity of legal and regulatory issues underscores the need to establish a dedicated Legal Division across the government agencies to effectively carry out its mandates. The absence of an in-house Legal Services Division creates a significant institutional gap, requiring reliance on external legal consultations for legislative interpretation, legal opinions, litigation, and policy advice. This dependence often results in delays, inconsistent legal advice, increased legal risks, and reduced capacity to respond effectively to emerging legal and regulatory issues.

4. Strengthening Legal Research Capacity

The increasing complexity of legal issues highlights the need for a dedicated legal research unit. Strengthening legal research and knowledge management would support evidence based legal advice, enhance the quality of legislative reform, improve consistency in all legal services, and enable the office to anticipate and respond proactively to emerging legal challenges.

5. Clustering of legal services

The clustering of legal services has been constrained by a shortage of legal professionals in the job market.

WAY FORWARD

1. Strengthening specialized legal expertise

To enhance its ability to respond to increasingly complex legal issues, the Office will implement a structured approach to building specialized legal expertise. This will include establishing practice groups in emerging areas of law, conducting regular skills assessments to identify capacity gaps, supporting continuous professional development through training and professional certifications, fostering partnerships with national and international institutions for knowledge exchange, and strengthening internal legal knowledge resources to promote consistency and excellence in legal service delivery.

2. Enhance Workforce Capacity and Efficiency

To address human resource constraints and increasing workloads, the Office will continue to adopt a strategic workforce planning approach by recruiting additional legal professionals and support staff, enhancing staff retention through career development and capacity building initiatives, and optimizing the deployment of existing personnel based on workload priorities.

3. Establish dedicated Legal Division in government agencies

Establishing a dedicated Legal Division across government agencies is a strategic reform that will strengthen legal governance, improve legal risk management, and support government agencies in meeting their expanding legal responsibilities. Led by a Chief Legal Officer, the Division will provide sustainable oversight, ensure continuity, foster legal specialization, and enhance the agency's overall capacity to deliver its mandate effectively.

4. Establish a Legal Research Unit in the OAG

Establish a dedicated Legal Research Unit within the Office with a clear mandate to conduct legal research, analyze emerging legal and policy issues, support the provision of evidence based legal advice, and inform legislative and regulatory reforms. The unit should be staffed with legal researchers and equipped with adequate resources to systematically monitor legal developments, undertake in-depth legal analysis, and produce efficient research outputs that strengthen the consistency, quality, and responsiveness of the Office's legal services.

5. Review Legal Professionals Staffing

Collaborate with the relevant agencies to develop targeted workforce planning strategies to address the shortage of legal professionals in the job market and support the effective clustering of legal services.

HUMAN RESOURCE

LIST OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS OF FY 2025–26			
Department	Division	Existing Staff	Status of Staff
Department of Legal Services	International Affairs Division	4	Active
Department of Legal Services	Drafting & Review Division	5	Active
Department of Legal Services	Finance and Corporate Division	4	Active
Department of Legal Services	Legal Service Division	5	Two on maternity leave, and one on EoL
Department of Justice	Criminal Integrity and Prosecution Division	28	Two on EoL, one on study leave.
Department of Justice	Property and Judgment Enforcement Division	9	Active
Department of Justice	Arbitration, Mediation, and Litigation Division	6	One on study leave.
Department of Justice	Drugs Prevention and Prosecution Division	8	Active
Secretariat Service		15	Active
OAG Total		84	

List of Legal Professionals Across Government Agencies		
Sl. No.	Government Agency	Total
1	Ministry of Finance	5
2	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources	5
3	Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment	4
4	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock	None
5	Ministry of Health	3
6	Ministry of Infrastructure and Transportation	4
7	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade	2
8	Ministry of Home Affairs	1
9	Ministry of Education and Skills Development	3
10	National Land Commission Secretariat	5
11	Civil Society Organizations Authority	1
12	Royal Civil Service Commission	1
13	Government Technology Agency	1
14	Department of Law and Order	1
15	Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority	1
16	Cabinet Secretariat	2
17	National Assembly	2
18	National Council	2
19	The PEMA	1
20	Anti-Corruption Commission	14
21	Thimphu Thromde	2

22	Royal Audit Authority	None
23	Phuentsholing Thromde	1
24	Gelephu Thromde	1
25	Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag	1
26	Chukha Dzongkhag	1
27	Punakha Dzongkhag	1
28	Tsirang Dzongkhag	1
29	Samtse Dzongkhag	1
30	Sarpang Dzongkhag	1
31	Paro Dzongkhag	None
32	Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag	None
33	Haa Dzongkhag	None
34	Gasa Dzongkhag	None
35	Trongsa Dzongkhag	None
36	Bumthang Dzongkhag	None
37	Mongar Dzongkhag	None
38	Trashigang Dzongkhag	None
39	Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag	None
40	Zhemgang Dzongkhag	None
41	Lhuentse Dzongkhag	None
	Total	68

CONCLUSION

The reporting year reflects the Office's continued commitment to delivering effective legal services, upholding the rule of law, and promoting justice in Bhutan. Despite growing and increasingly complex legal issues, the Office remained steadfast in carrying out its constitutional and statutory mandates through criminal prosecution, legal advisory services, judgment enforcement, legislative support, and legal capacity development.

The achievements highlighted in this report demonstrate the Office's ongoing efforts to strengthen legal governance, improve institutional performance, and enhance collaboration with government agencies and stakeholders. At the same time, the increasing demand for specialized legal expertise and the limitations in human resource capacity underscore the need for sustained institutional strengthening and strategic investment in the legal profession.

Moving forward, the Office will continue to build a responsive, competent, and professional legal institution by enhancing workforce capacity, strengthening legal research and innovation, improving legal risk management, and fostering greater public confidence in the justice system. Through these efforts, the Office remains committed to supporting good governance, protecting the rights and interests of the State and its people, and contributing to Bhutan's sustainable development and the realization of the vision of a just, peaceful, and prosperous nation.

TASHI DELEK!



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