Society Switzerland-Bhutan

Cheque for Chamkhar fire victims

NIMALAPURISEL

Society Switzerland-Bhutan (SSB) handed over a cheque of Nu 2.40M to Bumthang dzongda yesterday as a contribution to His Majesty’s kidu fund for the reconstruction of Chamkhar town in Bumthang.

The cheque was handed over by Werner Kuelling, a board member of SSB, which would benefit 300 families and 71 shopkeepers.

The money would be used to build sewerage infrastructure for the newly constructed houses of fire victims, after the tragic disaster of October last year. The fund was requested by agriculture minister (Dr) Pema Gyamtsho and members of parliament from Bumthang during a visit to Switzerland.

Bumthang dzongda Sangay Thinley said the existing Chamkhar town did not have drinking water and sewerage facilities.

"People use pit latrines and there are no shower rooms," he said. The dzongda said immediate funds were needed for CGI sheets and timber for constructions, while electricity, internal route and drinking water were also needed.

Meanwhile Bumthang dzongda, along with the members of Bhutan-Switzerland society (BSS) present at a simple handing-taking ceremony, made a formal request for another fund for victims of the second Chamkhar fire.

Former secretary general and resident coordinator of Helvetas, Werner Kuelling, said that there are already members willing to support. “But we need an official request and approval for funds," he said.

The dzongda will soon submit a written request to the board members of the society, specifying the amount and areas of need.

From Old Friends: SSB board member Werner Kuelling formally hands over a cheque of Nu 2.40M to Bumthang dzongda Sangay Thinley

Weather forecast for today:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Outlook</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thimphu</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bumthang/Chamkhar</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kanglungi/Trashigang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhuru/Sarpang</td>
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Source: Meteorology HMSD/DOE/MOEA

World Consumer Rights Day 2011

“CONSUMER ACCESS TO FAIR FINANCIAL SERVICES”

15TH MARCH, 2011

The Ministry of Economic Affairs is pleased to inform the general public that the Royal Government of Bhutan has put Consumer Welfare at the centre of its development strategy. A draft Consumer Protection Bill has been drafted with the assistance of UNCTAD and inputs from all the stakeholders. This draft Consumer Protection Bill has been submitted to National Assembly for enactment in the coming summer session.

CONSUMER RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN THE BHUTAN CONSUMER PROTECTION DRAFT BILL ARE:

a) Protection of their lives, health and safety in the consumption of goods and services.

b) True, sufficient, clear and timely consumer education including information on goods and services offered, as well as prices, characteristics, quality and risk that may be encountered in consumption of goods and services.

c) Fair, non discriminatory and equitable treatment by business which will include fair terms of contract and sale.

d) To assure access to variety of products, technologies and services at competitive prices.

e) Obtain redressal against unfair trade practices and unscrupulous exploitation of consumers.

f) Form consumer associations, and

g) Ensure basic goods and services, which guarantee dignified living.

CONCLUSION

Bhutan has joined the rest of the world in consumer protection and is in process of undertaking various activities that would benefit the consumers. These are to encourage fair trade practices, product quality and to highlight consumer rights and harness benefit to individual consumers as well as the whole community. As is the theme ‘Consumer access to fair financial services’ on this World Consumer Day, 2011, it’s aimed at providing fair and justified financial services to the consumers.

Director
Department of Trade
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu