

# New feeder road promises opportunities

*When the Tsebar-Mikuri-Durungri feeder road opens, people will not have to travel via Assam*

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**Pemagatshel**

Although it's not yet open to traffic, the meeting of the Tsebar-Mikuri-Durungri feeder road, which was built separately, means that Pemagatshel is now connected to Nganglam dungkhag.

## CONNECTIVITY

Works and human settlement minister Dorji Choden attended the opening on December 22. The feeder road, which passes through three villages of Chongshing and Dungmin gewogs, was constructed in two separate contract packages. The two roads meet about 200 meters below the Yuri bridge where the opening ceremony was held.

The feeder road connects to the Nganglam-Gyalpoizhing highway at 32km from Nganglam.

When the road opens

for vehicular traffic, people in Nganglam will not have to travel via the neighbouring Assam state, India and Samdrupjongkhar to go to Pemagatshel.

The first package of the road from zero point in Mandi under Khar gewog to 20.60km in Yuri under Dungmin gewog was constructed by M/s Kalika Rigsar joint venture including the 50m long modular steel truss Yuri bridge.

M/S Marushin Shitaka Construction Inc from Japan constructed the second package from 20.60km to 55.76km in Durungri.

The first package, Nu 282.374M feeder road was completed in October this year while the second package, which cost Nu 314.137M is yet to be completed.

However, chief engineer Tenzin Jamtsho said work on the pavement is left to complete the second package and the feeder road construction.



**Way open: Lyonpo Dorji Choden inaugurates the feeder road**

"We'll allow vehicles to ply from Nganglam or Pemagatshel only during emergencies," he said, adding no commercial vehicles, trucks or that for business purpose will be allowed until the completion.

The revised date of completion is October next year.

With Dungsam Cement Corporation Limited fully op-

erational, the road is expected to facilitate transportation of cement to eastern districts and open up economic opportunities for Pemagatshel when the new Nganglam township which is currently on hold, comes up.

Villagers and officials said the road has already benefited them in many ways. Civil servants said often they would miss meetings or events in the dzongkhags when the Assam state declared strikes, which at times went on for days. But with this road, they are hopeful that they would not face such problems.

A tshogpa from Decheling gewog in Nganglam, Tsetor, 43, said he was worried about how he would make it to His Majesty's recent visit to Pemagatshel when he learnt about the strike.

"But I joined my friends who had decided to travel via the new feeder road," he said. "I was happy that I reached on time and the road is good for any kind of vehicle to ply on."

Those who travelled via the feeder road said it took them about five hours to reach Pemagatshel, which otherwise would have taken about two days, if they had come from Samdrupjongkhar.

Another villager, Khando said with this road, the dungkhag would not be cut off dur-

ing Assam strikes since there are no other national roads connected to Nganglam.

People of Chongshing, Khar, Dungmin and Decheling gewogs are happy that they would no longer need to walk for days to reach the dzongkhag. Tshering Dorji, a villager, who recently opened a shop along the feeder road, said he can easily transport his goods by hiring a vehicle and that his business is picking up.

"Before I could sell goods only to few and earn about Nu 2,000 a day but now my daily earnings go up to Nu 5,000 ever since people started using this road," he said.

Villagers are now also looking forward to earn more from oranges. Starting this year, the farmers were able to sell directly to the orange contractors.

"We had to carry it to the nearest road point, set up a camp and sell but this year was not like that and each of us was able to earn more than Nu 20,000," Tashi Phuntsho, 45, said.

Meanwhile, speaking to villagers, Lyonpo Dorji Choden said that although there are no plans, the ministry would look into the possibility of blacktopping the road in future. "Until then, the road will benefit villagers as much as possible," Lyonpo said.



## DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL PROPERTIES

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### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Government Procurement & Property Management Division (GPPM) under Department of National Properties, Ministry of Finance invites **EXPRESSION of INTEREST** to provide the consulting services for **development of government-wide inventory management system.**

The expression of interest should be submitted in writing to the Director General, Department of National Properties, MoF on or before 12 noon, January 6, 2015 along with the following documents:

1. Valid trade licence
2. Valid tax clearance certificate
3. Profile of the consultancy firm
  - Organizational vision, mission and objectives
  - Organizational structure
  - Details of past experience in undertaking similar assignments.

The interested bidders may obtain further information from GPPMD, DNP during office hours from 9 AM – 4 PM at office no. 336963/322582.

**Director General**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES** Department of Revenue and Customs