

## 15<sup>th</sup> Consumer Board and Competition Council Meeting

In a country like Bhutan, where the economy is rapidly developing, the need to protect consumers from unethical business practices becomes more and more important. Increased competition in a market economy benefits consumers by encouraging innovation, increasing efficiency, and lowering prices. To undertake these functions of protecting consumers and to keep competition open and fair, the Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) was created in 2014, under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA).



An independent Consumer Board and Competition Council (CBCC) consisting of qualified members from the government, civil society organizations and the private sector has also been created to advise the OCP in the delivery of these mandates. The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consumer Board and Competition Council was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2021, in Thimphu.

The meeting considered many issues affecting the functioning of the OCP and strategic proposals to optimize the consumer protection services.

As per the Consumer Protection Act, 2012, the Board/Council has to convene once in every three months. In the absence of the Hon'ble Chairperson who is the Secretary of the MOEA, the Board/Council unanimously elected Board/Council Member Phuntsho Wangyel who is the Chief Planning Officer of the GNHC to chair the meeting.