

Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT)

Press Release

10th April 2009

A condolence meeting was held at BL house on the 9th of April to mourn the sad and untimely demise of Ms Chukie Topden, Shri Tashi Tobden, Shri T W Barfungpa, Mrs Cherryla Namgyal and Prakash Gurung. Prayers were offered for the departed souls by renowned Lepcha Bongthing Ren ST Simick from Kalimpong followed by two minutes of silence.

The meeting was attended By Shri Langsoong Tamsaang, President of All India Indigenous Lepcha Tribe Association (apex body of all Lepcha association in the Darjeeling hills ,Bhutan and Nepal) and senior representatives of the Association, Shri Athup Lepcha, President and executive members of ACT, Gyatso Lepcha, President CLOS, and Members of Sangha of Dzongu. The meeting had put on record that:

“The Tragic accident has snatched away from us the Pillars of Sikkimese society, whose selfless contribution toward the welfare of the down trodden and marginalized sections of Society had contributed tremendously to help them live a life of Dignity and security in their own Homeland. The Lepchas of the world will always remain grateful to Ms Chukie Tobden for her love and selfless support to the aborigines of the sub Himalayan region in their historic struggle against the threat of complete marginalization. Chukiela gave hope and direction to the young Lepchas of Dzongu who had ventured out from their traditional villages to the capital of Sikkim and India to seek justice and protect the cradle of their Civilization. Her Firebrand leadership and images of extreme hardship that she endured will be remembered for all times to come.”

Shri Tashi Tobden personified a Modern intellectual yet deeply Traditional person . His contribution in maintaining the core values of Sikkim and the Sikkimese people can never be replicated. Shri TW Barfungpa, was the pride of Sikkim, the only person who could have been the Union Cabinet Secretary. His tenure in remote North Sikkim as DDO and DC is Legendary and was one of the finest young officers, Due to which the People in North still call him DC Yapla even after many years he had left the region.

Cherryla Namgyal as an officer in the Social Welfare Advisory Board had in her own way helped numerous social organization to make life better for the deprived sections so the society. She was always ready to help and motivate social workers in the state to deliver to the masses the National vision of development and social justice.

The Affected Citizens of Teesta and the Lepchas pray to almighty to give strength to the bereaved families to bear with the irreparable loss and thank them for the continued support they had rendered to the departed souls in their service to Sikkim and humanity.

Tseten Lepcha, Vice-President ACT