

# Letters to Sir Tashi Phuntsho

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## From His Students And Colleagues

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## **Introductory note By Kuenga Choegyel.**

Dear friends,

Sir Tashi Phuntsho who has dedicatedly served the nation as a teacher for the last 38 years and more than 25 years in NIVI has retired from the service on 31st of October, 2012. We all know that he has opened a new road to the educational opportunities for the visually impaired through developing Dzongkha Braille Code.

I wish to produce a booklet compiling everybody's views.

Kindly at least share a paragraph.

Kuenga Choegyel

National Institute for the Visually Impaired,

Khaling, Bhutan.

## Letter from Pema Chhogyel, SEN Division.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the information. I think it is a good initiative. We really appreciate and thank his great service. I have been trying for his extension at different levels and in several options but could not help

“To me, Sir Tashi Phuntsho has been a great source of knowledge, dignity and well-being. His dedication to the persons with disabilities is selfless and genuine. We will always cherish his enlightening commitment for the good cause and uplifting the livelihood of disabilities in Bhutan.

We will miss him greatly!

MAY HIS GREATNESS ALWAYS BE IN HIS HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN LIFE.”

Best regards.

Sincerely

Pema Chhogyel.

## Letter from Pema Dorji, India.

Dear sir,

Thank you very much for sharing this even with me as well. This is really a good initiative and informative to all of us, sir.

Although we are technically departing from one of our highly indebted faculties, Tashi sir will still remain as a member of our Institute. Needless to talk about the contributions he has made to the nation as a whole and in particular to the Institute during his service time, because everything Tashi sir has done is known to everybody's knowledge. Tashi sir is more than a teacher- he was a productive civil servant, a caring father, loving brother, faithful friend and many more. I know very well how Tashi sir used to stay and deal with us in the school. I always miss those memorable times.

Nevertheless, we shall continue to keep in touch with him and I sincerely believe in staying together as always. Everybody in the visually impaired society will remember him and be connected with him, I assure.

Sir, thank you for providing a space for me to share my views although I could not make in words my deep seated thoughts on what all I have to dedicate to our Tashi sir. I must consider myself to be lucky because I got this mail today (my last night to have access with net facility). I will be on my way to Bhutan from tomorrow. Once again thank you sir...

Sincerely,

Pema Dorji

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.

## Letter from Mr. Kelzang Dorji, NIVI, Khaling.



Dear all,

Sir Tashi Phuntsho, a very dedicated teacher especially for the visually impaired has been retired since 31st of October. To me, he has been not only a teacher but a loving parent who has taught us lots of social values beside his tireless teaching routine. He is a person who performs his duty without having the authority to remind him. Especially in the field of repairing brailers and mending clothes have been done staying late after the school hours and made sure that every visually impaired student gets a braiiler and a torn cloth mended at any time. No one had hardly waited impatiently for his service because everything has been done in time. Therefore, I really would miss his whole hearted service. I personally thank him for serving the visually impaired people of Bhutan almost for his whole service period. With his retirement, there will be a problem of getting the brailers repaired

on time. Surely, many of us will miss his service. But nevertheless, he also need his preparation to live comfortably for the rest of his life. let's all pray for his prosperous life and be blessed by almighty eternally for he has done so much for us. He will be remembered in my prayers always.

“What I am today is all because of you sir. You picked me up from the dust and now I have become independent. I shall never foreget your kind and tireless service rendered. May almighty bless you always.”

Regards,

Kelzang Dorji (teacher)

NIVI Khaling.

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### **Letter from Tenzin Jamtsho, Kanglung.**

Dear sir,

why our life is always subjected to all these kinds of pain and sorrows? If this life is the gift of the god, why there is clashes between happiness and the sadness? Why our life is imperfect and happening what is not expected?

Sir, these are the questions I got in my mind as soon as I got the message of your retirement of out surprise all of which the above questions are unable to answer. Sir, you're the light for we the visually impaired. Because of your contribution of dzongkha code, we're able to access to all kinds of sacred religious text which would have remain as dream without the contribution of yours. Sir, we'd have been very glad if sir could have continued your service for some more years as your service is highly respected in the life of we the visually impaired. Even then, sir, I on behalf of all the sherubtsean out here would like to express our hearty gratitude

for the immense contributions that you've gifted to us as a whole of institute and especially to we the visually impaired in everything.

Although we're meet to depart, sir, you and your memory will never be away from us and will assure and promise that our togetherness will never end. It'll continue not only for this generation but for thousands of generation to come. Sir, we wish you good luck in every step that you take in your life. Our good wishes and prayers are always with you for your successful and prosperous life.

Until then, This is Tenzin Jamtsho from Sherubtse, on behalf of friends out here signing up this short message with a peace of prayer saying, "May my sir be happy and be peaceful".

Bye and safe journey from all of us, the Sherubtsean.

Yours sincerely,

Tenzin Jamtsho.

## Letter from Gembo Tenzin, Bumthang

Dear Sir,

so sorry to learn about the retirement of Sir Tashi Phuntsho from NIVI on 31st of last month respectively. In fact we the visually impaired person in this country are immensely grateful for Sir Tashi Phuntsho's his most dedicated tireless service being initiated at the institute over last more than 26 years with loyalty and affection. I particularly do remember of my stay there at the institute during 1981-1982 studying under Sir Tashi Phuntsho of which all I find extremely beneficial in my day to day life today. Although I got nothing to offer in return at this stage, I join other colleagues in wishing Sir Tashi Phuntsho a very good health, contentment, peace and happiness so for ever. May the almighty bless you always!

Sincerely yours: Gembo Tenzin

Bumthang.

## **Letter from dr. Sanga Dorji JDWNR Hospital, Thimphu**

I also would like to dedicate my sincere appreciation to Sir Tashi Phuntso's tireless service to the visually impaired children in Bhutan. We all know very well how much Sir Tashi's is attached to NIVI and everyone associated with this institute. No doubt, all mighty will always reward persons who genuinely served the helpless and did with genuine heart. I like to wish him a peaceful and prosperous retired life. After having worked for the nation and also needy children of Bhutan for almost 4 decades, it is time for Sir to have time for himself and for his family. We will all be there, if he needs our service in life.

Regards,

Sanga Dorji.

## Letter from Santabir Rai, Thimphu

Dear Sir,

The retirement of one of our senior most teachers Mr. Tashi Phuntsho has brought a great shock to many of us. It is a loss not only to NIVI but as of whole nation.

During his long term serving career as I know sir Tashi played an instrumental role in educating and raising young visually impaired children from early 70s. Thus, we shall call him a single father of consecutive generation of students. Serving term of our teacher ends but our memory being with him would not end. The retired teacher with his greatness had a tireless journey from Zangley Muenselling to NID to NIVI. we highly appreciate for his long dedication to public service.

Hello Sir!

You had a long working life there was no time for you to rest finally you have leisure time to spend happily with your family. Every student of yours across the country wishes healthy life ahead.

Regards

Santabir Rai

## **Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Kippenes, the founding father of Norway**

We really want to express our appreciation and also our admiration for the hard work and sincere dedication Lopen Tashi Phuntsho has given to the visually impaired of Bhutan through his unselfish service at School for the Blind / Zangley Muenselling / NIVI through more than 26 years. Your work, Lopen, has not only been highly professional in the classroom but you have also had an attitude of dedication which has given your students the unique experience of being valuable and trusted persons. The confidence thus being given to your students is a lasting personal asset in their lives.

Besides this you have contributed in practical ways with repairing broken braille machines and in later years also created the Dzongkha Braille.

You also remain in our memories as a very good and trusted colleague during many years.

We wish you all the best in the years to come and look forward meeting you again.

With warm greetings from

Reidun and Einar

## **Message from Mr. Pema Gyeltshen, Teacher, NIVI, Khaling**

Dear Sir,

Nothing can measure your great contribution to the service of visually impaired of Bhutan. We firmly believe that all visually impaired who are able to make contribution to the nation and leading comfortable lives today are the fruits of your selfless and wholehearted efforts. Therefore, I on the behalf of all the children (low vision and blind) and on my own behalf would like to thank respected sir for your

valuable service. We will treasure your kind support services deep in our hearts all the time.

Lastly, may all of us unconditionally pray and wish you a happy, long and prosperous life ahead.

Yours Faithfully,

Pema Gyeltshen.

(teacher, NIVI, Khaling).

## Message from Monorath Bisua, Samtse



Dear all,

I would like to express my gratitude to our most dedicated teacher Sir Tashi Phuntsho. I would like to say that, he has taught us lots of social values. I am also one of the senior students of Sir Tashi Phuntsho. I was a child when I joined school in 1975. I would have not known anything, if I had not joined the school.

What I am today is all because of you Sir. I have become independent now. I will always remember you in my prayers. I personally would like to thank you for serving the visually impaired people of Bhutan. I shall never forget your kind and tireless service rendered.

I wish you a prosperous life.

God bless you.

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### **A Word of Gratitude.**

Mr. Tashi Phuntsho, one of the senior most teachers in National Institute of Disabled, owes my deepest gratitude for having been a caring teacher, inculcating a lot of social values, making me a good citizen of my country. He has always been a role model to me and was a great guide and mentor in Mathematics, English and other subjects during my primary education.

May I thank him whole heartedly for dedicating his service to the visually impaired citizens of Bhutan. Mr. Tashi Phuntsho was the moulding guru, without whom I would have remained in darkness. May God bless him.

Mono Rath Biswa

(Receptionist)

Samtse College of Education.

### **Message from Mrs. Gro\_Holm Rypestol, Norway**

Dear Lopen Tashi Phuntsho,

I just want to send my warmest greetings to one of the finest and first teachers in this school, Mr Tashi Phuntsho. I admire you highly and am so glad that we came to meet way back in the 1970-ies. I still remember very well the evening we sat together in that school (of which I have forgotten the name) when I was trekking in the mountains to find blind students. I had Jamtsho with me. You then told me that you had a wish to come to Khaling and teach the blind. And not long after you came. You have done a marvellous job. Always in a quiet and pleasant way. We could always trust you. In every matter.

You were so good with the students, and I am sure you have lots and lots of good memories in your heart.

I was also so happy to be able to welcome you to my home in Norway. That was a great moment for me, as I hope it was for you.

Now you have retired, and I myself will start my retirement in a few months. So we have both had the same, lifelong commitment to teaching. It has been a good life for me, and I know you may say the very same Lope Tashi Phuntsho.

I also want to say thank you for inviting my three daughters and me ohn that very good dinner last April. We all enjoyed it so much, and my daughters ask me to greet you.

You have been a model for the future teachers of Bhutan. Steadfast, trustworthy, polite, full of knowledge and a warm peronality. The official Bhutan has a lot to thank you for.

May you have a fine retirement and good days and years to come.

God bless you dear Tashi Phuntsho.

Lopen Gro

Norway.

## Letter from Karin, Norway



Dear Tashi Phuntsho!

I remember you very well, my good old fellow-teacher from 1985-89.

You had a special gift for the youngest students, -always interested and caring.

You saw each one and you had time to sit down and talk with them on your lap, and joke with them.

You got your education in Great Britain. It can not have been easy for you to travel there all alone,

as the culture in Bhutan in olden days and England then, was very different indeed. But you managed all that, to bring home the knowledge to the blind children in your own country. That was WELL DONE Tashi!

And your wife was the best weaver in the village. I still have the belts and tableclothes made by her.

I was very happy when I heard you had come back to the Institute once again to teach. My request to you is: "Why not drop in now and then, to teach part time?" Your great wisdom and kind nature are needed there for new students to come. Anyway, I wish you a good time now when you take a rest too. Send my greetings to all our common friends in Khaling and around Bhutan. May God bless you and the Institute!.



Best wishes from Your friend in Norway, Karin Kristiansen Win.

## Message from Amrith



Dear Tashi sir,

I also would like to join my friends in wishing you a very very peaceful life after several years of selfless contributions to the lives of the visually impaired Bhutanese either directly or indirectly. You have really been a great source of inspiration and encouragement for us and we owe you immense gratitude for what we are today. I still remember when I first joined NIVI in 1990, you were the principal figure in charge of our general welfare apart from being a regular teacher. I personally feel grateful for kindly helping me cope with academic life throughout my early school days. I can never afford to forget those days when you took us on trekking to Rigsum Goenpa in Trashy Yangtse in 1992 and other local visits you initiated during our exam breaks. More than a teacher, you were our parents who had a special sense of care and concern for us. Some of the jokes you had shared with us and the some of the funniest names you used to call us with such as 'Ratu' for me, 'Serkong' for Serpey, etc. still linger in my memories afresh. You were really one of the most important persons in the institute that made all of us feel at home. Your contribution to the invention of Dzongkha Braille codes also deserves our equal gratitude and appreciation because had it not been for your commitment and hard work, we might not have got the opportunity to study Dzongkha language. So, from the core of my heart, I pay you respect and honour your

unwavering commitment to serve the visually impaired people of Bhutan. I think we, as your students, have been able to make you feel proud of what you have done to us during your active service. We shall forever cherish your love, blessings and wishes.

(Amrith Bdr Subba)

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