A Ceremony of Remembrance
A TRIBUTE TO H.E. LAMA DOBOOM TULKU RINPOCHE
February 17, 2024
Deshmukh Auditorium India International Centre Delhi

H.E. Lama Doboom Tulku Rinpoche's loss has been felt deeply and widely by a range of admirers, students, and associates.

Founder Managing Trustee Lama Doboom Tulku was remembered with fondness, respect, and devotion at a two-hour ceremony organized by the World Buddhist Culture Trust at the India International Centre Auditorium on what would have been his 83rd birthday, 17 February 2024. We gathered at the Auditorium of his favourite IIC to a stage that was decorated with flowers and butter lamps.

The morning began with a screening of video messages of remembrance in which eminent scholars and associates from across the world sent their messages. H.E. Ling Rinpoche described him as a very learned Lama who was also a personal friend devoted to carrying out His Holiness the Dalai Lama's wishes. Ven. Olande Ananda from Holland remembered Rinpoche as a kalyanmitra, particularly remembering his visit to Tibet and encountering the ruins of Doboom Tulku's hermitage. Lama Glenn Mullin, joining from Mongolia, remembered his "true lama" for his sense of humour, Prof. Darrol Bryant from Canada recalled a close personal family association going beyond various collaborations, also paying tribute to his generosity and good humour. Srivasta Goswami ji from Vrindavan noted that he was like a laughing Buddha who "never surrendered to suffering."

Monks from the Drepung Monastery led by H.E. Khensur Dagyab Tokden Rinpoche and H.E. Khen Rinpoche then came on stage to chant the Pajnaparamita Heart Sutra and the Swift Return Prayer in Tibetan in deep, sonorous voices. Shri K. N. Shrivastava offered a khatag to Rinpoche's image and lit a lamp before speaking movingly about his close and warm association with Doboom Rinpoche, even before joining as Director of IIC, appreciating his simplicity, warmth and good humour. This was followed by Dr. Maya Joshi's tribute in which she warmly recalled a long personal and professional association with both Tibet House and WBCT and the rich range of academic and cultural activities he engaged in. Dhrupad singer Vidushi Aditi Sharma Garg offered a heartfelt musical tribute followed by Shri Kiran Ganguli recalling his various projects with Rinpoche, describing himself as Sancho Panza to Rinpoche's Don Quixote, admiring his dextrous ability to make impossible projects come to fruition. Sudhamahi Raghunathan ji, who has co-authored Rinpoche's memoirs, took those present on an evocative journey of his birth and recognition as a Tulku in Tibet's Kham province, pointing to his mischievous childhood and later adventures as a newly arrived refugee. All the speakers painted a picture of a learned, wise, resourceful, humour-loving, and optimistic persona who managed to find a way out of difficult situations. Lama Doboom appreciated Sanskrit chants and the program ended appropriately with another musical tribute by Vidushi Subhadra Desai ji who moved the audience as she chanted the Prajnaparamita Hridayasutra in her sonorous voice, remembering that it was Rinpoche who initiated her into singing Buddhist Sanskrit texts.

The vote of thanks by Ven. Geshe Tenzin Dorjee, Managing Trustee of the World Buddhist Culture Trust, told the story of how Rinpoche had asked him to take over the running of the

Trust in January 2023, paving the way for a smooth transition of the activities he had initiated.

Ms. Sadhna Shrivastava then announced that everyone present was invited to pay their floral tributes and also take a look at the exhibition outside the auditorium. All gathered were also invited to refreshments in the sunny veranda of the IIC, where the fond remembrances continued in an atmosphere of bon homie that Rinpoche would have appreciated.

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