**The first Gurkha soldier driving for the Royal family**

I, 30252405 LCpl Bishworam Tamang, a member of the 10 Queen’s Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment was born on 23rd July 1995 in a village called Pyughar, located in Sindhuplachok district of Nepal. After undergoing a rigorous selection process, I was enlisted into the Brigade of Gorkhas on 18th December 2015. After successfully completing the demanding 9 months Combat Infantryman Course (CIC) at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick, I joined the 10 Queens Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment on 14th October 2016.

It is an honour me to serve in the British Army, and I have always been deeply inspired by the Royal family and harboured a long-standing aspiration to serve them in a close capacity. After undergoing three rigorous interviews for staff car driver role for The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester – the first in the regiment, the second in the 20 SQN, and the third at the Kensington palace- I triumphantly secured this monumental opportunity, not just for myself but also for the Brigade of Gurkhas. The moment I received the news of my selection for this prestigious role, an overwhelming sense of joy engulfed me. I eagerly shared my ecstatic tale with my dear mother and other family members, their pride in me overflowed. They bestowed upon me with “abundant blessings and expressed their heartfelt wishes for a safe journey ahead”.

As the first Gurkha soldier entrusted with this great responsibility, I am aware of the weighty obligations that accompany it, However, I am incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by an unwavering support network, including the dedicated team at the 20 SQN and the invaluable guidance from the Royal household. Their advice and assistance have been always instrumental in carrying out my duties with utmost dedication and professionalism. Prior to my inaugural meeting with the Royal Highness the Duke and Duchess, I was filled with trepidation, and my complexion betrayed my nervousness. However, their gracious approach and friendly greeting of “Namaste” instantly dispelled all my apprehension, leaving me at ease and free from pressure.

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in a momentous coronation event and receive the esteemed King Charles III coronation medal. The experience was full of excitement, and I felt deeply honoured. Being behind the wheel of the Rolls Royce for the first time, with the Duke and Duchess, and witnessing the vast crowd gathered around the palace during this auspicious occasion, I experienced an overwhelming sense of responsibility and pressure. However, being a part of the historic event the happiness and pride that I felt in my heart dissolved all the pressure. If camera had captured the moment, it would have shown me driving with a constant smile on my face.

Since my appointment on 7th November 2022, I have profoundly enjoyed my role and constantly sought to improv my service to the Royal family. I express my gratitude to the chain of command and my colleagues for entrusting me with this once in a lifetime opportunity. I pledge to uphold the reputation and honour of my ancestors by giving my fullest effort in my role and will strive to maintain the highest standard of this highly regarded position.