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TIBETAN CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

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Front page image: Zhu Weiqun, head of the inspection team to assess the 'campaign against 'black and evil forces' addresses the meeting along with TAR party secretary Wu Yingjie in Lhasa [Tibet Daily]

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China to intensify “struggles against Dalai clique and evil forces” in Tibet Autonomous Region

The meeting to review the findings of the inspection tour to assess the effectiveness of the ongoing special struggle against ‘black and evil’ forces in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) was held on 6 July in Lhasa.

Zhu Weiqun, the head of the inspection team called for the necessity of combining the special struggle and the struggle against Dalai clique with the special situation in TAR, reported the *China Tibet Network* on 7 August.

It was one of the six points of rectifications put forward by Zhu to resolve the outstanding problems of negligence and incompetence that the inspection team came across during the almost monthlong investigation in TAR.

Implemented nationwide since January 2018, the three-year long campaign against 'black and evil' forces has resulted in human rights violations due to the fact that China considers 'separatism' as one of the 'three evils' that must be eliminated at all costs.

With little evidence, Chinese authorities continue to detain or torture Tibetans for engaging in so-called separatist activities. The well-known example is the five-year sentence given to Tibetan language rights activist Tashi Wangchuk on the charge of 'inciting separatism'.

At the meeting, Zhu pointed out that Chinese authorities consider the anti-crime campaign as "a direct loyalty test for the party" and as "a powerful grasp of the important teachings of Xi Jinping on the importance of stability in Tibet as an important condition for the consolidation of border areas." He added that to achieve long term stability and harmony in the region, it was important to "focus on correct political position, strengthen overall governance by prioritising grassroots foundation, demonstrate the distinctive features of the anti-separatist struggle based on the special regional conditions, and make progress in the special struggle [against black and evil forces] by striking hard in accordance with law".

Zhu, former head of the ethnic and religious affairs committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference also underlined that one of the major problems with the implementation of the special struggle was the "gap between the learning and implementation of Xi Jinping's important instructions; inadequate understanding of the significance and profound connotations of the special struggle; inefficient analysis and prognosis of the situation of the special struggle; lack of coordination among various departments in various places in carrying out the special struggle; and the problem of not being strong enough in 'punishing strictly according to the law', 'destroying protective umbrellas' and 'severing networks'."

"The inseparable link between the special struggle against evil and the anti-separatist struggle is not close enough."

He further complained, "The inseparable link between the special struggle against evil and the anti-separatist struggle is not close enough."

Among the six points of rectification presented by Zhu, the first was the necessity to continuously raise political positions in order to set off a new upsurge in TAR's special struggle against black and evil forces. Party committees and governments at all levels must further deepen their understanding of the important instructions of Xi Jinping and the arrangements made

accordingly by the Party Central Committee, as well as to fully understand the significance and meaning of the special struggle in TAR from a comprehensive and strategic perspective, and fully mobilise relevant members. The initiative and enthusiasm of the relevant units and the people will leave no hiding places for the evil forces.

Secondly, it is to thoroughly eliminate the evil forces and social disorder by reinforcing organisation. Party committees and governments at all levels must clearly support the relevant departments in performing their duties in accordance with the law. The relevant offices at all levels must strengthen coordination, and the members of the leading group on the special struggle should clarify their responsibilities, promote the responsibility for eliminating evils and achieve practical results.

Thirdly, it is to strengthen the construction of the village party organisation and firmly build the foundation of the grassroots political power by carefully selecting the "two committees" [the village committee and village party committee], and building the grassroots party organisations into a strong fighting fortress to crack down on the separatist forces, so that the masses can become wealthy and long-term social stability can be maintained.

Fourth, it is necessary to combine the special situation of TAR with the special struggle and the struggle against Dalai clique.

The sixth is to attach great importance to the inspection work and conscientiously implement to the inspection work and

"7 cities and prefectures including various departments in 107 municipalities and counties, 57 townships and towns, and 61 villages were investigated."

conscientiously implement the rectification proposed. The TAR party committee and government must steadily achieve the "two maintenance" level by consciously coordinating with the standards set by the party's central committee in setting the benchmark of making real reforms to ensure that every corrective measure is in place.

Expressing his full support to Zhu, the TAR party secretary Wu Yingjie, who was present at the meeting along with Qi Zhala, deputy party secretary and TAR governor, said the TAR authorities would thoroughly implement the rectification proposal. Wu Yingjie emphasised that "carrying out the special struggle to eliminate evils is related to the overall long-term social stability, to the consolidation of people's loyalty and the political power, and to the political security of the country and the unity of the motherland. Therefore, all departments at all levels in the region should strengthen the 'four comprehensives', reinforce 'four self-confidences", and achieve "two maintenance" to "thoroughly realise the new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics and implement Xi Jinping's instructions on maintaining stability along the border."

The inspection team headed by Zhu and deployed by the party central committee was

stationed in TAR this year from 10 June to 2 July. The team undertook investigation in seven cities and prefectures including various departments in 107 municipalities and counties, 57 townships and towns, and 61 villages.

“Reincarnation not a matter of individual right but symbol of Party’s rule over Tibet”

The opening ceremony of the special training course for representatives of Tibetan Buddhism on the reincarnation of Tibetan spiritual leaders was held on 23 August in Lhasa, the *Tibet Daily* reported on 24 August.

Attended by the main guest Solang Renzeng (Sonam Rinzin), vice chairman of the TAR Political Consultative Conference, the meeting emphasised that the reincarnation of Tibetan Buddhist spiritual leaders had “never been a simple religious matter, nor a living Buddha’s individual right, but an important embodiment of implementing the party’s strategy of managing Tibet.”

“Faced with the grim and complicated situation of the anti-separatist struggle, the Tibetan Buddhist monks and high-ranking religious leaders must stand firm to meet major challenges, cope with difficult situations, win complex struggles, adhere to the direction of sinicization, and never allow management management affairs to be controlled by the Dalai clique.”

The meeting further directed the representatives of the Tibetan Buddhist community participating in the special training course to thoroughly study and fully implement the ‘four standards’ political ideology introduced by president Xi Jinping, that requires “politically reliability, religious accomplishment, moral integrity capable of impressing the public, and willingness to play an active role at critical moments.”

In addition, the training participants were required to systematically study the laws and regulations, religious rituals, and historical customs related to the Chinese government’s management of Tibetan reincarnations.

Inspection teams to investigate the enforcement of Grassland Law dispatched

Early this month, Chinese authorities in Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) held the first plenary meeting to mark the launch of inspection groups to investigate the enforcement of the TAR Implementation Regulations on Grassland Law, reported the *Tibet Daily* on 7 August. The meeting was presided over by Chimey Rigzin, deputy director of TAR People's Congress.

China's grassland law and its implementation have been criticised over the years by many scientists and social scientists for its exclusionary approach that ignores the interests of local nomads and farmers.

The inspection would lead to further violations of the rights of local residents including their right to livelihood and residence of their choice.

The meeting stressed that the grassland law enforcement investigation follows the important direction and methods introduced by president Xi Jinping, the party central committee and other relevant departments of TAR, as well as a significant supervisory activity initiated by the TAR People's Congress in 2019.

According to the meeting, the inspection teams are tasked with assessing the status of Grassland Law implementation in the region, grassland carrying capacity (capacity to support a certain number of herds), discuss relevant methods and suggestions on issues related to grassland protection.

Since 6 August, inspection teams have been dispatched to 25 counties including Gamba (Ch: Gangba) County in Shigatse Prefecture where the main occupation of local people is animal husbandry. The inspection will be carried out for a period of two weeks and will focus on on-site inspections, grassland protection, construction, operation, degradation, enforcement and livestock-grassland balance.

In the past several decades, China has created many laws, edicts and bureaucracies to both boost production and later to exclude nomads from their pastures, in the name of sustainability. These institutions were created without any consultation with the traditional users of the grasslands, or any recognition of

their intimate understanding of rangeland dynamics. These programs to intensify production and the conservationist sustainability programs have had damaging consequences: degradation of land, and impoverishment of the nomads.

40 million kWh of hydropower transferred from TAR to Beijing in July

A total of 40 million kWh of hydropower from TAR was transferred to Beijing in July this year, marking the successful completion of the first Tibet-Beijing hydropower transaction, according to a 22 August report on *China Tibet Network* citing the State Grid Beijing Electric Power Company.

Lending a familiar 'poverty alleviation' spin to the exploitation of Tibet's natural resources to primarily fuel Chinese economy, the report claimed that the hydropower transaction between TAR and Beijing was "an important measure to implement the central government's strategic plan to tackle poverty", adding that, "Tibet is an important clean energy strategic reserve base in China with abundant electricity during the flood season" that helps to meet "the urgent demand for clean energy".

Under the "Electricity Aid to Tibet" project organised by the Beijing Electricity Trading Center, an agreement was signed to transfer hydropower from TAR to Beijing.

The State Grid Beijing Electric Power Company purchase electricity from eight

hydropower stations, such as Jinhe Shui and Guoduo, during the summer season when the hydropower resource is abundant.

The hydropower boom period during the summer season coincides with the peak electricity demands in Beijing thus contributing to solving power requirements in the capital city, the report added.

Similar projects of transferring electricity to Chinese cities have been implemented in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region since 2016. Under the so-called "Electricity Aid to Xinjiang" agreements organised by the Beijing Electricity Trading Center, Xinjiang will transmit 1TWh of electricity to Jiangsu, 0.3TWh to Jiangxi, 0.2TWh to Tianjin, 1.006TWh to Guangdong and 0.3TWh to Beijing.

UFWD seminar claims Tibetan reincarnation system related to China's political stability

A seminar on popularising the Chinese government narrative on the Tibetan Buddhist reincarnation system witnessed an establishment intellectual advancing the notion that the system of continuing religious lineage through age-old Tibetan tradition of recognising incarnations of highly realised Buddhist spiritual teachers is a political matter directly connected with China's policy of "maintaining social stability, safeguarding national security and the reunification of the

motherland, and China's foreign relations and international image."

These remarks were made by Tsering Dunzhu (Dhundup), deputy researcher of the Institute of Religious Studies of the TAR Institute of Social Sciences at the seminar organised by the County Committee of the United Front Work Department on 19 August in Chushur County near Lhasa, reported the China Tibet Network 22 August citing the County Committee UFWD.

"Village cadres must grasp the correct methods in religious work, earnestly regard religious work as mass work, and accurately carry out ideological education"

According to the report, Tsering Dunzhu explained the history of the Tibetan Buddhist reincarnation system by tracing the origin of the first reincarnation including the various shortcomings prevalent among the early incarnations and the practice of managing the reincarnation system by the Qing rulers. Relying on purported historical facts, he claimed that the reincarnation must follow the requirement of adhering to religious rituals and historical customs, searching for reincarnations within the country, churning of the golden urn, and central government approval.

He further claimed that the reincarnation system was related to the "great cause of 'strengthening national unity and building

beautiful Tibet” and therefore required every village to carry out religious work in its own jurisdiction in accordance with the ‘Regulations on Religious Affairs’.

He pointed out that the “village cadres must grasp the correct methods in religious work, earnestly regard religious work as mass work, and accurately carry out ideological education so that the masses can correctly understand the party's principles and policies on religious work.”

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Tsering Bazhu (Bhagdro), deputy director of the County Party Committee and the first deputy head of the County Leading Group on Religious Work presided over the seminar. More than 160 people attended the seminar including the standing committee members of the County Party committee, minister of the United Front Work Department, directors of the County's 19 administrative villages and secretaries, and 139 directors of village committees.

The seminar ended with all the participants visiting a special exhibition on the "Reincarnation of Living Buddhas".

‘Tibetan Buddhist colleges must be turned into important centres of patriotic education’

In further confirmation of its ongoing policy to turn religious places into bastion of Party's power and influence, a senior Party official in TAR called on the monks and other religious personnel to make every effort to turn the branch of Tibetan Buddhist College at Drepung Monastery into an important base for patriotic education’, the *Lhasa Evening News* reported on 20 August.

On his visit to the monastery on 17 August, the TAR Party Standing Committee member and secretary of the Lhasa Municipal Party Committee Baima Wangdui said the newly built branch at the monastery “should always adhere to the correct direction of running schools, innovative concepts of running the school system and teaching models” so that the Tibet Buddhist College Branch can be turned into “an important base for patriotic education that could promote the cultivation of patriotic and law-abiding monks and nuns, strengthen national unity, enable the production of talented religious individuals with firm political stand and patriotic love.”

In recent years, Chinese authorities have built Tibetan Buddhist Colleges and branches all over Tibet including the TAR Buddhist College in Chushur (Ch: Quxu) County near Lhasa, which opened in 2011. Branches of the TAR Buddhist College are now being built in major traditional monasteries such as Drepung, Gaden and Sera in Lhasa as well as Tashi Lhunpo Monastery in Shigatse City. The motive behind building these so-called modern Buddhist colleges is to rear the next generation of monks and nuns that are politically loyal to the Party and the Chinese state.

Wangdui visited the monastery as part of his ongoing investigation to assess the situation and effectiveness of the government's ideological campaigns on 'four standards' policy to foster politically reliable monks and nuns in TAR.

In his meetings with the Drepung Monastery Management Committee and other officials and cadres including the resident cadres, he reiterated that it was "necessary to thoroughly implement the important instructions of president Xi Jinping on religious work, adhere to the basic principles of the party's religious work, and constantly promote the practice of following 'four standards' to become advanced and monk education, and actively guide religion to adapt to a socialist society".

He also pointed out that Drepung Monastery had innovated ways and

and methods in carrying out a series of ideological campaign activities thus taking the lead in building a team of monks and nuns who are "politically reliable, religiously accomplished, morally convincing, and can take initiative during critical periods".

He called on the monks and other religious personnel at the monastery to "fight against the separatist activities of the 14th Dalai Lama and the Dalai clique by consciously safeguarding the motherland" and to "always be grateful to the Party and loyal to the Chinese motherland".

He stressed that the monastery should always prioritise stability at all levels, pay close attention to the implementation of various stability maintenance measures, as well as require monks and departments at all levels to bear responsibility of maintaining stability and harmony in the monastery.

Chinese provincial governor affirms commitment to aid-Tibet program's political objectives

On a visit to investigate and assess the 'counterpart aid' program in Nagchu (Ch: Naqu) City in TAR from 30 July to 1 August, the Zhejiang provincial governor Yuan Jiajun stated that the program was a "major strategy devised by the party central committee and a major political task that must be achieved", and added, "Zhejiang will resolutely bear the

political responsibility and thoroughly implement general secretary Xi Jinping's important instructions on maintaining stability along the border, creating an all round well-off society, focusing on targeted poverty alleviation, and doing a good job of helping the Tibetans”.

Yuan made the remarks at Zhejiang-Tibet counterpart support work meeting was held on 30 July in Lhasa. The governor along with the provincial party secretary Che Jun led a delegation from Zhejiang to inspect aid projects in Nagchu, reported the *Tibet Daily* on 3 August.

Yuan further emphasised the necessity to “comprehensively strengthen the planning and guidance on counterpart aid program under the 13th Five-Year Plan and plan for the 14th Five-Year Plan” so that “the successful results of poverty alleviation in counties such as Diru (Ch: Biru) and Lhari (Ch: Jiali) County can be consolidated and victory over poverty is ensured in the Sernye (Ch: Seni) district at the end of this year.”

On their arrival in Lhasa from Zhejiang, the delegation went straight to the ‘Lhasa-Zhejiang Apartment’ and met with the ninth batch of cadres from Zhejiang Province who had just entered Tibet. The ‘Lhasa-Zhejiang Apartment’ was built in October 2017 for cadres and party members from the province.

Yuan inspected the living conditions of the Zhejiang cadres at the apartment and

encouraged them to ‘stay true to the [party's] original aspiration and hold on to the mission’, win the fight against poverty in Nagchu despite the thin air and hardships, consider Nagchu as the second home.”

The delegation was accompanied by TAR party secretary Wu Yingjie; TAR deputy party secretary and governor Qi Zala; party secretary of TAR Political Consultative Conference Ding Yexian; and deputy party secretary of the TAR party committee Zhuang Yan during the investigation and at the meeting.

Special photo exhibition on Tibetan reincarnation system held at Pelkor Chode Monastery in Gyantse

Local Chinese authorities held a special exhibition on the Tibetan Buddhist reincarnation system on 16 August at the Pelkor Chode Monastery (also known as Palcho Monastery) in Gyantse (Ch: Jiangyan) County, Shigatse City, TAR, according to 19 August report on *China Tibet Network*.

About 55 people that participated in the exhibition included the leaders and staff of the County United Front Work Department, Religious and Ethnic Affairs Bureau, party members and cadres of the Palcho Monastery Management Committee, officers from the monastery police station, as well as monastic and lay population.

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