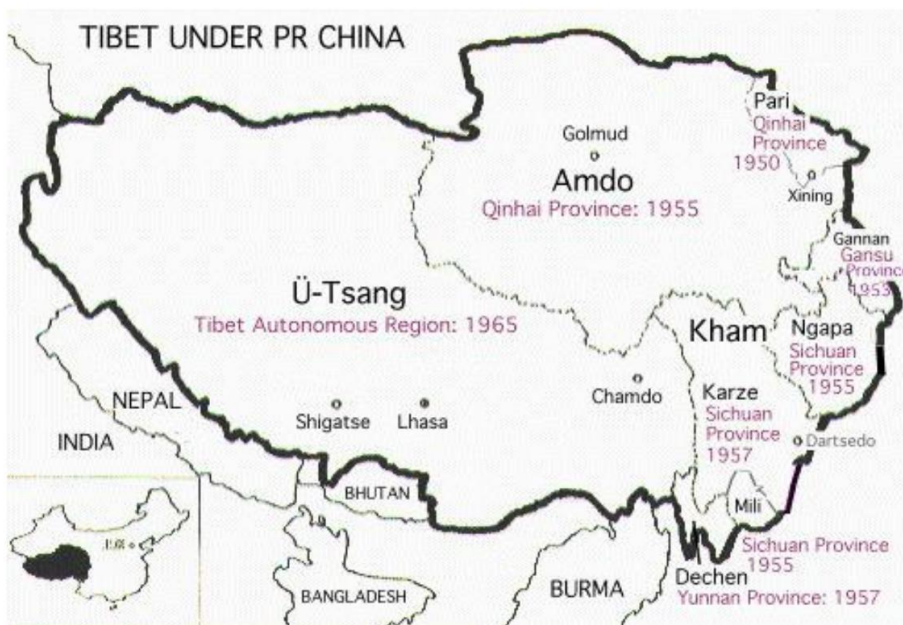
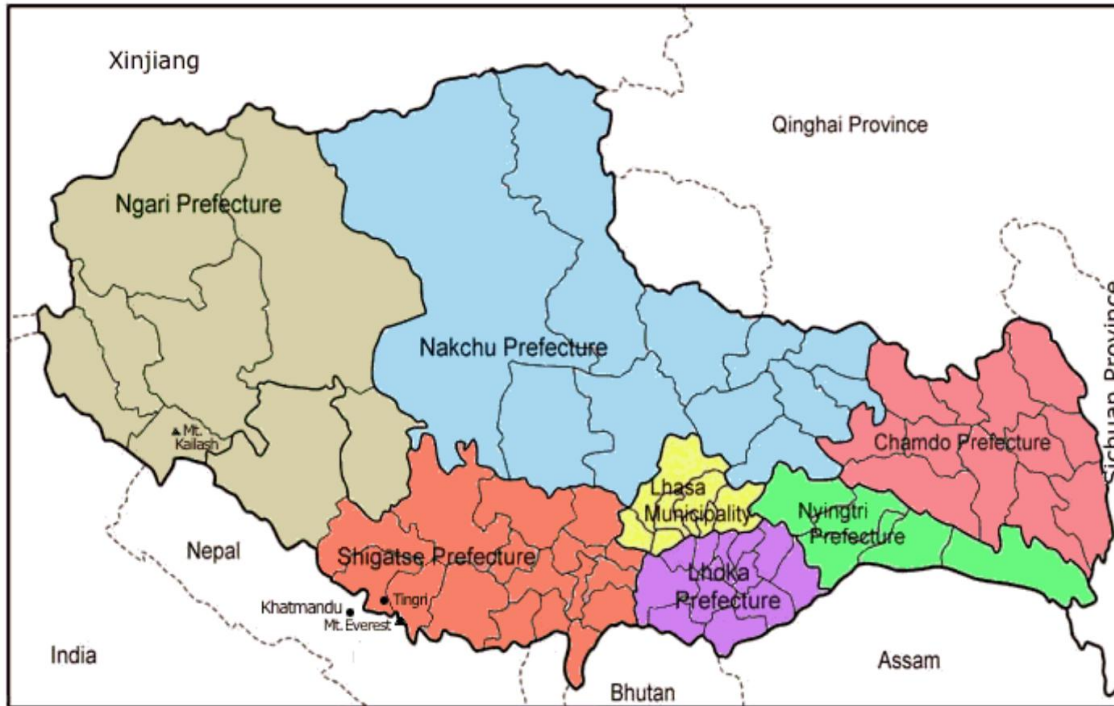




## TIBET INSIGHT 15-31 AUGUST, 2019



## TAR NEWS

### **Lhasa Municipal PSB holds press conference to present quarterly social security report**

August 16, 2019

The Municipal Party Committee of the Lhasa Public Security Bureau(PSB) held a press conference on August 15, and presented the second quarterly reports for 2019 of the Municipal People's Government and Municipal Party Security Bureau.

Deputy Chairman of the Propaganda Department of Lhasa Municipal Party Committee and Head of the Municipal People's Government's Information Office, Lhatsen presided over the conference while Li Yongping, spokesperson of the Lhasa Public Security Bureau issued a press release. Concerned branches under the Lhasa Municipal PSB, Traffic Police Unit, Anti-Drug Detachment of the Municipal Public Security Bureau, outlets of central media and the TAR mainstream media were invited to participate.

Presenting the Lhasa PSB report for the second quarter of 2019, Li Yongping noted that the PSB had detected eight cases of 'social evils' and arrested 58 suspects and uncovered three cases of illegal land business and arrested three persons. He added that the PSB relied heavily on the Community Grid System which 'increased' contact with villages and communities. Asked what measures the PSB will take ahead of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PRC to maintain social stability, he said that increased mobilization and deployment of police forces as prescribed by the Central PSB was done in the beginning of the year and 'social stability' campaigns were launched. The campaigns aim to enhance awareness on 'risks,' crackdown on serious 'criminal activities,' rectify social order, and concentrate on 'key places of concern.' He added that since the beginning of 2019, 75 various drug-related cases were cracked, 107 suspects of various types had been arrested, and more than 4,000 grams of drugs have been seized.

### **Panchen Lama visited Kyirong on the Tibet-Nepal Border**

August 28, 2019

Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama visited Kyirong district from August 19-24. At Kyirong he visited the Dzonggha Choedhe Monastery, Dolma Lhakhang, Phagpagon monastery, and the birth place of Milarepa in Drakar Taso district. He also visited Tamak (Daman village), a border village in Kyirong, which was formally incorporated as Chinese by the State Council in 2003. The village is at the extreme border of Tibet-Nepal border. On August 23, the Panchen Lama visited Malang village, which was affected by the 2015 earthquake in Nepal. He inspected the Earthquake Relief Memorial Hall and watched the documentary on disasters and post-disaster relief construction. He told the people of Kyirong that ‘they are born in good times and happy life because of the good policies of the party and the government.’ He told them that they should make good use of the party’s people centred policies.

### **Ngari PSB held campaign and pays tribute to ‘revolutionary martyrs’**

August 15, 2019

As in other parts of TAR, the Ngari (Ch:Ali) Public Security Bureau recently held a ‘not forgetting old heart and remembering new mission’ propaganda campaign and also paid tribute to ‘revolutionary martyrs.’ Liu Yuejin (recently appointed) member of TAR Public Security Bureau and Ant-Terrorism Commissioner and Phuntsok, member of the Public Security Bureau, visited the Martyrs cemetery in Ngari and paid tribute to Li Disan who was the earliest to reach Tibet as part of the PLA on August 23, 1951 and ‘liberated Nagri.’ Li’s ‘advance force to Tibet comprised 136 soldiers, of whom 63 died on the Ngari Plateau. A commemorative function was held at the site. Zhang Huiming, Deputy Secretary of Ngari Committee, Secretary of the Political and Legal Committee and Secretary of the Ngari PSB accompanied by Inspector General Ten Sangpo participated in the event. All PSB officers except those on-duty participated.

### **TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie meets Panchen Lama**

August 16, 2019

On August 14, TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie met Gyaltzen Norbu, the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama in Lhasa. Chairman of TAR People’s Congress Lobsang Gyalsten, and other TAR leaders like Danke, Liu Jiang, Zukhang Thupten Khedup, Sonam Rinzin also attended the

meeting. The TAR Party Secretary thanked the Panchen Lama for the ‘smooth’ running of various Buddhist and social activities that he carried out in TAR in the past two months in Shigatse, Nagchu and Ngari, and especially for spending 20 days in Nagchu and Ngari. The Panchen Lama publicized the Party’s ethnic and religious policies and educated the public on promotion of unity, social stability and harmony.

Wu Yingjie pointed out that “at present, the economic and social development of TAR has improved, living standards of all ethnic groups have improved remarkably, and the society has continued to be harmonious and stable. The achievement of these achievements lies in the strong leadership and cordial care of the CCP Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core.” He added “Xi Jinping’s Socialism with Chinese Characteristics in the new Era especially his guidance on stability of the border and of religious circles attributed to the current situation of Tibet.” The Panchen Lama shared his experience and recounted that “the living conditions of people even in the remote areas of Western Tibet has improved with electricity, water heating and that he is happy and touched”. He added “before the democratic reform in Tibet” and under the feudal serf system of the theocratic nature of Tibetan system, Buddhism became a political tool for the serf owners to oppress the serfs.” He said “today because of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, Tibetan Buddhism is in the best phase of history.”

### **Party’s Resident Teams in Nagchu establishes Party Branch**

August 09, 2019

The TAR Party Committee’s resident teams in Nagchu established a ‘temporary party branch’ at the collection site of Caterpillar Fungus collection area which is mandated to organize ideological re-education exchanges, and to enhance the compliance of masses to the ‘four consciousness.’ The village resident teams in Nagchu started their ‘re-education campaigns’ with peasants and herdsmen, and “guided them to change their stereotypical mindset, thoughts and behaviours.”

Some Physicians of the TAR Health Planning Commission were invited to Nima County of Nagchu and established health clinics which conducted free health check-ups of 126 people. The

Nagchu Development and Reform Commission's Dzongkhang Township Task Force in Nima County distributed 76,000 Yuan to 76 households, and purchased 12,900 kilograms of green barley, 6450 kilograms of glutinous rice, 76 bags of flour, 76 barrels of rapeseed oil, and 76 bags of rice, while the United Front Work Department of Shentsa County contacted individuals and students groups to distribute 500 pieces of clothing to 'poor people.'

### **Mayor of Nepal's Tokha led a delegation to Nagchu**

August 16, 2019

Prakash Adikari, Mayor of Nepal's Tokha City led a delegation to Tibet's Nagchu Prefecture for a three-day exchange visit from August 13-15, 2019. Deputy Secretary of Nagchu Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Nagchu, Liu Quan and Deputy Mayor of the Municipal People's Government, Li Yaxiang welcomed Prakash Adikari and his team who arrived in Nagchu by train from Lhasa. A memorandum on *Establishing a Friendly City to City Relationship* was signed at the Municipal People's Government Hall. Liu Quan emphasized that China and Nepal are close to each other and are close and friendly neighbours and important partners. With the implementation of the "Belt and Road", the two countries have deepened exchanges and cooperation in the political, economic and cultural fields. Prakash Adhikari thanked the Nagchu Municipal Committee and the Municipal People's Government in Tibet for their warm reception. He said Nepal has a long history of friendly bilateral relations with China, adding "as the first important site for the Nepal-China Railway to enter Nepal, Tokha City believes that under the in-depth exchanges and cooperation between the two sides, it will bring more happiness and well-being to the people of both sides, which will be the common development of Kathmandu and Tibet."

The Nagchu-Tokha City Cooperation and Exchange Symposium was held in the conference room of the Municipal People's Government on August 15, and Li Yaxiang, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal People's Government, presided over the meeting. The Municipal Agricultural and Rural Bureau, the Bureau of Cultural Tourism, the Bureau of Commerce, Health Planning Commission and the Education Bureau respectively proposed specific exchanges and cooperation proposals.

## **Standing Member of CCP CC and Head of CPPCC's Inspection tour in Tibet**

August 22, 2019

CCP CC Politburo Standing Committee member and Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Wang Yang was on an inspection tour to Tibet from August 19 to 21. He visited Lhoka (Ch:Shannan), Ngari (Ch:Ali) and Lhasa's poverty alleviation and resettlement sites and industrial parks and met cadres of monasteries and village committees.

A meeting was convened in Lhasa by TAR Party Committee in the presence of top TAR leaders including Wu Yingjie, Qi Zhala and Lobsang Gyaltsen. Wang Yang raised the following points:

- Efforts at making sure people are kept warm and fed should be sustainable
- Notable progress has made in poverty alleviation projects but more needs to be done, and the success of poverty alleviation projects should be a showcase to the people that they are being 'cared and loved' by the party
- Unifying thoughts and ideological standing is important
- Tibet is at the forefront of struggle against 'Dalai Clique' and that a balanced strategy should be developed to maintain religious affairs and 'anti-secession struggles.'
- Management of monastic institutions should be strengthened, and it is important to ward off 'hidden evils'

Wang Yang was accompanied to Lhoka and Ngari by TAR Party Secretary Wu Yingjie. During his stay in Lhasa, he met the former Vice Chairman of CPPCC, Phakpa Lha Gelek Namgyal.

## **New 'Social Security Card' For Tibetans launched in Lhasa**

August 23, 2019

The Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) said the Lhasa Human Resource and Public Security Bureau had launched a new social security card for Tibetans in Lhasa. The cards give access to a wide range of social services including banking, welfare, and medical insurance, and will be linked to a social-credit system that cuts off benefits to Tibetans deemed disloyal to Beijing's rule. It said electronic data collected by the cards, which replace a wide range of separate cards already in use, could be used to monitor and "directly punish individuals



with penalties such as loss of employment or pension, torture, imprisonment or worse. Citing Chinese media reports, ICT said that 2.7 million of the new cards have already been distributed across TAR, with a total of 3 million to be issued by the end of the year. John Jones, campaign advocacy manager for the London-based Free Tibet, said the cards had been launched in limited areas of Tibet, “starting with Nyingchi prefecture back in 2017, and then moving to other places like Lhasa and then to eastern Tibet.”

### **‘Special lectures’ on reincarnation of ‘living Buddhas of Tibetan Buddhism’ in Lhasa**

August 21, 2019

The United Front Work Department of Qushui County Committee of Lhasa invited the Deputy Researcher of the Institute of Religious Studies of TAR’s Institute of Social Sciences to give a special lecture on ‘Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism.’ The lecture was followed by an exhibition. The Deputy Director of the County Party Committee and the first Deputy Head of the County’s Religious Work Leading Group, Tsering Dhondup presided over the lecture. The Standing Committee of the County Party Committee, Minister of the United Front Work Department and Deputy Leader of the County’s Religious Work Leading Group, Phuntsok, the county's 19 administrative village directors, secretaries, and 139 village group leaders totalling more than 160 people attended the lecture. Tsering Dhondup spoke on the system of incarnations in Tibetan Buddhism starting with the Qing Dynasty, and said that the incarnations must be chosen out of the golden urn and need the central government’s approval. He added “the reincarnation of the Living Buddha is related to the great cause of strengthening national unity and building a beautiful Tibet” and is related to maintaining social stability, safeguarding national security and the reunification of the motherland, and related to China's foreign relations and international image. He said while relying on the "Regulations on Religious Affairs", each village group should carry out religious work in its own jurisdiction and the vast number of monks and nuns should educate and guide people so that the masses can adapt Buddhism to socialism. The cadres of the village group said that the training will let them know more about the reincarnation system of the living Buddha.

## **Exhibition on reincarnation of ‘living Buddhas’ in Shigatse**

August 19, 2019

The United Front Work Department (UFWD) of Shigatse organized successive exhibitions at the Tashi Lhunpo and Phuntsokling Monasteries of Shigatse on ‘reincarnation of living Buddhas’.

The Exhibition was held simultaneously for the monks, nuns, and Temple Management cadres at the two monasteries and they were explained the ‘ways and means of selecting reincarnations of living Buddhas’ in Tibetan Buddhism with the Chinese appointed-Panchen Lama as the role model. Lobsang Dekyong, Vice Chairman of Lhatse County and the Executive Deputy Director of the Phuntsok Temple Management Committee, told the monks, nuns and Temple cadres to be loyal to the party, and be resolute in not following “the Fake Buddha.”

## **Mass education campaign in Nyingchi on “I and My motherland”**

August 16, 2019

Nyingchi (Linzhi) has started a patriotic education campaign called ‘Three Ones’ of ‘Me and my Motherland’. This is part of the city’s publicity work to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and 60 years of ‘Democratic Reform’ in Tibet. The party secretary and propaganda teams of all levels of Nyingchi visited villages, schools, monasteries and enterprises and met grassroots cadres and masses. They carried out a thematic presentation on development of the CCP, differences in old and new Tibet, and the concept of China as ‘one big family’. The key message delivered to ‘all the cadres and masses were to closely unite with and consider General Secretary Xi as the core and be the guardian of the sacred home and builder of a happy home’. The latter referred to the ‘xiaokang’ border defense village. As part of this, Gonpo Jinda county took 25 representatives from four villages to Lhasa to see the exhibition at the ‘Million Serf Liberation Memorial Hall’, as part of a patriotic re-education of the masses and to make them aware of the dark cruel past of Tibet and prosperity of the new Tibet. The propaganda department of Nyingchi organized a selection of the patriotic national unity education base from five cities, including Linzhi Military Division and the Military History Museum. The local authorities were encouraged to record a series of videos on the theme ‘Singing a song to the party’ to show a new image of people and cadres and how they actively respond to the calls of



the party.

## **Lhoka signs tourism cooperation with three Chinese cities, TAR**

August 17, 2019

On August 16, the Tibetan Yarlung Cultural Festival was held in Lhoka (Shannan). The same day, Lhoka signed a tourism cooperation deal with Hunan, Hubei and Chongqing provinces to promote tourism in Shannan. The deal embodies four aspects of tourism related aid:

- 1) *Attracting more tourists to Shannan:* The three provinces are to actively support travel and transport for a certain number of tourists every year to Tibet.
- 2) *Aiding tourism promotion and cooperation:* Lhoka has to participate in various tourism promotion activities organized by these three provinces and jointly promote Lhoka as a tourist destination
- 3) *Assisting tourism personnel training:* Lhoka should organize media, tourism enterprises and experts to conduct on-site inspections as needed. Lhoka also has to use the provincial propaganda media platform to promote Lhoka's tourism. The three provinces will take turns to train a group of tourist related administrative management talent and provide support to people of Lhoka to visit different cities and villages of the three provinces.
- 4) *Assisting in tourism comprehensive infrastructure construction:* This includes providing material for overall tourism planning and infrastructure building, state-specific investment and aid, and particularly building scenic spots and acquiring new features of tourism in the rural areas of Lhoka.

The three provinces will use their tourism aid resources and support to make Lhoka an important world tourist destination and build the most comprehensive infrastructure to improve the overall services related to tourism. The Yarlung Cultural Festival is an annual festival, and this year it was jointly organized by Hubei and Lhoka. A sub-meeting of this is planned to be held at Wuhan in September.

## **Lhoka held a Hydropower Development Coordination Meeting**

August 18, 2019

A hydropower development meeting with the chairmen and Party Secretaries was held in Lhoka (Shannan) on August 17 and attended by, among others, He Pei, Secretary General of the Lhoka Municipal Standing Committee, Zhang Fuchen, Deputy Mayor, Tan Jiwen, President of the Tibet Kaitou Group, Liu Yong, General Manager of Huaneng Yajiang Company and Deputy Secretary of Party Committee, Xia Yiyong, General Manager of the Huadian Tibet Energy Co., Ltd. and Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee, and Wu Guanye, Chief Engineer of the Huadong East China Electric Power Survey and Design Research Co., Ltd..

Xu Chengcang, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the TAR People's Congress and Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee attended the meeting. He told the gathering to implement 'Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era', and especially his important instructions on the regulation of borders. He emphasised that the Party has always chosen only those with high political conscious and they should maintain a high degree of ideological and political action as per the guidance of Party Central Committee with 'Comrade Xi Jinping as the core'. He asked them to fully understand the great significance of the hydropower development project and, along with improving their their political position, they should know when to seize the opportunities and make investments. Xu Chengcang expressed his gratitude to the Kaitou Group, Huaneng Group, Huadian Group and Huadong Electric Power Survey and Design Institute for their long-term support for Shannan's reform, development and stability. He said all these enterprises have talked about politics and the overall situation for a long time, and resolutely implemented Xi Jinping's thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era. He hoped that all enterprises firmly establish "four consciousness", strengthen "four self-confidences", and achieve "two maintenances".

The participating companies stressed that Shannan attaches great importance to the development of hydropower, and in accordance with the work requirements of the Shannan, efforts will be intensified to accelerate progress and promote hydropower development to a new level. The report doesn't specify any specific hydropower projects or new developments in the region, but

focused more on strengthening the political position of all the enterprises

### **Nyingchi held the 93rd Standing Committee of the Municipal Party Committee**

August 23, 2019

Ma Shengchang, Secretary of the Nyingchi Municipal Party Committee presided over the 93rd Standing Committee meeting of the Municipal Party Committee to convey the spirit of the central and TAR's recent developments. Liu Yeqiang, member of the Municipal Standing Committee, Zhu Jiang, Secretary of the Political and Legal Party Committee and Municipal PSB, Yang Chewei, Deputy Mayor and Yudrung, Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee, attended the meeting. Ma Shengchang asked the meeting to remember Xi Jinping's speech at the '15th Collective Learning' meeting of the Central Political Bureau and the spirit of his speech in Inner Mongolia on 'not forgetting the initial heart and remembering the mission'.

The meeting focused on the 'district public security work conference', with Ma Shengchang pointing out that public security organs should combine their work with theme education and understand the important exposition of the party and implementation rules set by the party. Each individual should take political responsibility to 'promote one party and protect one party', emphasizing the importance of one party. The members in the security committees were told to focus on the 'actual situation' and 'hidden danger' and risks in various fields in Nyingchi. He reiterated the message of the 13th Steering Group of the Central Government in supervising the situation in TAR and told them 'to conscientiously study and implement the important guiding spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping on the special fight against evil, where they were to crack down the evil forces in first year, eradicate those from roots in the second year and finally in the third year, they should find a long-term solution.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE TAR**

### **Heavy armed police presence at Kanlho horse race in Gansu**

August 15, 2019

The Kanlho Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Gansu opened its annual traditional horse-race

festival with more than 30, 000 participants and spectators from nearby provinces like Qinghai and Sichuan. The authorities also deployed unusually large numbers of plainclothes police officers in the crowds and the festival ground was surrounded by armed personnel. Radio Free Asia reported (August 15) this was due to the fear of spontaneous protests against Chinese rule. It said authorities often ban such gatherings or place them under strict surveillance by security forces. Quoting an American tourist to Tibet, RFA said the Chinese have deployed their military around Lhasa and at the outskirts of various towns with armed personnel and armoured vehicles to project power and force to the people apprehending that something like Hong Kong could happen in Tibet. The tourist was quoted as also saying that Tibetans are treated like East Turkestan people and live in great fear. The people's deepest fear was that their freedom to practice Buddhism would be taken away. They are forced to have a picture of Xi Jinping in every home with failure to do so potentially leading to arrest, torture and disappearance.

### **Markham County, Sichuan starts campaign to build grassroots ideology position**

August 16, 2019

At the beginning of this year, Markham county formulated and issued a guideline called '2019 Annual Specialized learning content and arrangement for the groups and party committees members' to affirm and strengthen their ideological positions for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and 60th anniversary of the democratic reform in Tibet. This campaign exhorts cadres and party committee members to be companions of the 'three firsts' to deepen the core values of the party and lead online public positions. The three focuses of the campaign are:

*i) Be the first one theory construction:*

Cadres and party workers at the propaganda, ideological and cultural departments to study the excerpts of Xi on various issues and particularly poverty alleviation and actively propagate them to the masses. The cadres and party members have organized more than eight meetings to discuss and study the same.

*ii) Be the first in leading it:*

Cadres and committee members should excel and be exemplary in leading and

teaching the masses of the ‘*four consciousness and four loves*’ and ‘*not forget the initial heart and remember the new mission*’. The county has carried out 683 public meetings and distributed more than 11,000 propaganda materials covering 32,000 people from various villages.

*iii) Be the first one to seize the online position:*

The county gives great importance to the county’s role in strengthening the party’s ideology on online network and social media. The cadres were to pay attention to make a positive propaganda, grasp and pre-empt correct direction of the online public opinion and lead the discussion on the online debate. In this effort, the Markham Government News Network published 315 messages, and 997 bilingual information and videos since the beginning of this year, using platforms such as WeChat and Weibo.

### **South African journalists and academics visit Tibet**

August 20, 2019

The Chinese Embassy in South Africa invited a group of journalists and academics from South Africa and Zimbabwe to Lhasa as official guests. They were hosted at the Shangri-la Hotel. The group included representatives from the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), South Africa News Television, Daily Maverick, 702 Radio, The University of Cape Town, Zimbabwe African News agency and others. They meet delegates from The Tibet Daily, Tibet People’s Radio and Television Station and experts from TASS. They were taken to Potala, Jokhang, Tibet Museum - Exhibition Hall of Serf Emancipation, Branch of China Tibetology Research Centre and for a one day trek to lake Namtso.

Before their departure from South Africa, Chinese Ambassador Lin Songtian told them “Seeing is Believing” and that the idea of the visit was to dispel western propagated anti-Chinese myths about Tibet. Peter Fabricius, writing in the Daily Maverick asked ‘A trip to Tibet: Whose country is it anyway?’ TASS held a symposium views were exchanged on economic and agriculture development, poverty alleviation, integration of media development with external

communications, reform and development in Tibet and children's education.

### **Chinese Tech Company Bars Tibetan from Job Application**

August 21, 2019

Lens Technology, a major technology company based in the Chinese province of Hunan, recently posted a job advertisement which bars Tibetan, Uyghurs and other minorities from applying. It states "it can accept other ethnic minorities for the job posting as long as they are not Tibetan, Uyghur, Mongolian or Sichuanese". Lens Technology has over 60,000 workers and it sells glass touch panels for digital devices and have supplied components for use in Apple products. Apart from the above-mentioned minorities, the company also disqualifies those with tattoos, piercings or criminal records and stipulates that workers should be between 16 to 50 years of age.

### **You Quan visited Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan**

July 22, 2019

You Quan, member of the CCP CC and the head of the CCP CC United Front Work Department (UFWD), visited Chengdu and Aba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture from August 19-21. He visited villages, monasteries and religious sites, and inspected 'relocated' settlements and interacted with the grassroots party cadres. His key message was 'to establish a long term mechanism for the temple management based on law and that all the important religious figures should play an active role in promoting religion with Chinese characteristics and unite religious believers towards the party and government'. He told them 'to adhere to Xi Jinping's new era of socialism with Chinese characteristics, focus on promoting national unity and religion according to law, and resolutely win the fight against poverty to ensure building a stable and well-off Tibetan community'

You Quan also visited the Red Culture Education Base, Hongyuan, Ngawa (Aba), where he asked people to remember the revolutionary martyrs and reiterated the campaign of 'not forgetting the initial heart and remembering the new mission'. He told them to strengthen the



base for Red Culture and National Unity. He encouraged the masses and local cadres to thoroughly implement the national work policy and promote more ethnic exchanges and constantly build up the awareness of the Chinese nation. During his investigation, he visited branches of the provincial party committees and Sichuan Federation of Industry and Commerce. He asked the Sichuan UWFD to further consolidate power in tackling the risks and focus on development.

## **DIASPORA TIBETAN NEWS**

### **Sogyal Rinpoche passes away**

September 01, 2019

Sogyal Rinpoche, a charismatic Tibetan Buddhist teacher and author of a best-seller who abruptly retired after several of his students accused him of multiple acts of sexual, physical and emotional abuse, died on August 28, 2019 in a hospital in Thailand. He was in his early 70s.

Two months earlier, Sogyal Rinpoche's reputation as a popular teacher of Buddhism unraveled when eight students wrote a damning, heart-rending letter that outlined allegations of years of abuse. The letter compelled Sogyal Rinpoche to step down as spiritual director of his organization, Rigpa, an international network of Buddhist learning centers, and enter a "period of retreat and reflection."

(Comment: Sogyal Rinpoche was born as Sonam Gyaltzen Lakar in 1947 in Kham, in eastern Tibet, and studied under various Tibetan Buddhist masters like Jamyang Khyentse Chökyi Lodrö. After fleeing with his family to India from the occupying Chinese Army in 1955, he was educated in Catholic and Anglican schools. He left for England to study comparative religion at Trinity College, Cambridge, but did not graduate.)

### **TYC leads March for Hong Kong in New Delhi**

August 30, 2019

The Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) undertook a peace march on August 30, in New Delhi in support of the Hong Kong protestors. Tibetans walked from Sansad Marg to Jantar Mantar in

Connaught Place, New Delhi dressed in black and carrying black umbrellas with messages painted on it. A TYC press release said, “This march supports the aspirations of the Hong Kong protest which demands to protect the basic human rights and democracy in Hong Kong.”

(Comment: TYC, with over 35,000 members, is spread across 88 regional chapters around the world and is fighting for Tibet’s independence from China.)

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CCCA'S