

## Instructions of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Establishing Ethnic Democratic United Governments in Areas of Ethnic Diversity

(April 3, 1950)

To Southwest Bureau, Northwest Bureau, Central-South Bureau, South China Sub-Bureau, East China Bureau, Shandong Sub-Bureau, North China Bureau, Northeast Bureau:

We have received your telegram of March 27. In regions and counties where the Han nationality coexists with ethnic groups such as Tibetan, Miao, and Yi, the principle should be followed that, when the local minority nationalities are in the majority, the allocation of seats in the local government committees and people's representative conferences should be based on the population ratio of each nationality. A significant number of cooperative individuals from the minority nationalities should be actively involved in the government work. If the local minority nationalities are in the minority, each minority nationality should have a proportionate representation in the local government agencies.

The formation of a united government of ethnic democracy, with substantial participation from minority nationalities, is of great significance in gaining the trust of the minority nationalities and cultivating minority cadres. Special attention should be paid to ensuring that the minority representatives in various levels of united government can reflect the demands and opinions of their respective nationalities. When the government deals with issues related to minority nationalities, thorough consultations with minority representatives should take place to seek their agreement before making decisions.

In areas newly liberated, it may be temporarily impractical to form government committees strictly according to the above principle. In such cases, an interim solution could be the establishment of ethnic consultation committees. When issues concerning ethnic groups arise, they can be first discussed by the consultation committee, obtaining majority agreement, and then decisions can be made by the government. However, this transitional approach must aim to establish government committees based on the above principle as soon as possible in practical work.

Simultaneously, all aspects of the government's work in areas with ethnic diversity are closely related to various ethnic groups. Therefore, the entire local government should handle minority nationalities' affairs, and there is no need to establish a separate Ethnic Affairs Commission to avoid diluting the responsibility of the government committees and their departments for minority nationality work, leading to inadequate resolution of issues related to minority nationalities. Provincial-level governments, such as Guizhou and Yunnan, may need to establish Ethnic Affairs Commissions, whereas provinces like Qinghai and Xinjiang, including those with more than two sizable ethnic groups, should organize their governments based on the aforementioned principles for the organization of specialized county governments in ethnically diverse areas. In such cases, there is no need for a separate Ethnic Affairs Commission. If already established, it can function as a research and liaison body.

If you have differing opinions or other suggestions, please inform us.

Central Committee