

DECISIONS ON MEASURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL DEMOCRATIC-COALITION GOVERNMENTS OF NATIONALITIES

Adopted by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government on February 22, 1952

In accordance with the basic spirit of the policy towards nationalities, as laid down in the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, democratic-coalition governments of nationalities may be established in the following areas:

1. A province (or sub-province), municipality, special region, county, district, *hsiang* (or village) where the Han people constitute the overwhelming majority of the local population, while the people of national minorities make up 10 per cent or more of the population;
2. A province (or sub-province), municipality, special region, county, district, *hsiang* (or village) where the people of national minorities constitute less than 10 per cent of the local population, but where relations between the different nationalities are such as may affect the local administration in various aspects;
3. An area where the inhabitants belong to two or more national minorities, but joint autonomy is not being practised;
4. A locality within a national autonomous region where the Han inhabitants are exceptionally numerous;
5. Any other locality where, for some special reason, the establishment of a democratic-coalition government of nationalities is deemed necessary and is approved by the people's government of a Greater Administrative Area or by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government.
The purpose of establishing a local democratic coalition government of nationalities is to safeguard the right of the national minorities to equality in the local organ of state power. The name of the people's government need not thus be changed.

Each democratic-coalition government of nationalities is a form of state power at a local level. The general regulations, promulgated by the Central People's Government, governing the organization of the people's representative conferences and of the people's governments in provinces, municipalities, counties, districts, *hsiang* (or villages) shall, in general, apply to the organization of such bodies in areas where there are democratic-coalition governments, with the following supplementary provisions.

I. REGARDING THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVE CONFERENCES

1. The number of representatives from the different nationalities to the local people's representative conference shall be appropriately determined and allotted through consultation, on the basis of the ratio in population of the different nationalities in the given area. Due consideration shall be given to any national minority with an exceptionally small population.
2. Representatives from the different nationalities to the local people's representative conference may, according to actual relations between the nationalities in the area, be elected or appointed either separately or jointly by the people of the different nationalities.
3. The number and choice of members of the consultative committees, or the standing committees of the people's representative conferences, shall be decided through full consultation, with due consideration given to nationalities with relatively small populations.

The chairman of a consultative or standing committee may, according to conditions among the various nationalities, have a deputy or deputies.

4. Representatives from the different nationalities shall have the right to use their own national languages, both spoken and written, at meetings of the people's representative conferences, or their consultative or standing committees. At such meetings, the important reports, documents and addresses shall be translated, as far as possible, into the languages of all the participating nationalities, or else interpreters shall be provided.
5. The people's representative conferences shall attach the same importance to proposals and opinions put forward by representatives from national minorities as they do to those submitted by other representatives. Decisions on specific problems concerning a certain national minority shall be made only after agreement has been reached through full consultation with representatives from that national minority.

II. REGARDING THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

1. The number and choice of members of the people's government councils shall be decided through full consultation, with due consideration given to nationalities with relatively small populations.

2. The chairman of a people's government may, according to conditions among the nationalities in the area, have a deputy or several deputies.

3. The people's government councils shall respect the functions and powers of members from national minorities and shall, in particular, consult with them fully on questions concerning national minorities.

4. The various departments of the people's governments shall endeavour to absorb personnel of national minority origin into their work; they shall assist them in every manner, with proper consideration for their ways of life.

5. The people's governments shall, in the exercise of their functions and powers, adopt as far as possible the languages of local nationalities.

6. The people's governments shall introduce regional autonomy for nationalities to areas under their jurisdiction where people of national minorities are concentrated, in accordance with the General Programme of the People's Republic of China for the Implementation of Regional Autonomy for Nationalities.

7. The people's governments shall fully guarantee the right to national equality to the nationalities in areas under their jurisdiction; inculcate in the people of each nationality respect for the customs, traditions and religious beliefs of other nationalities; promote unity and mutual assistance among the nationalities; and outlaw national discrimination, oppression, or any act tending to provoke dissension between nationalities.

8. Within the limits of law and the decrees of the Central People's Government, as well as of the local people's governments of higher levels, local people's governments may draw up special regulations suited to the conditions among the nationalities in the areas under their jurisdiction. Such special regulations shall be submitted for approval to the people's governments of the two next higher levels and for registration through successive levels to the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government.