

Dharamshala, 23rd Sep-26<sup>th</sup> Sep 2008 - **The fifth National Convention** of the **National Democratic Party of Tibet** held at the Toepa Community hall. Ms. Gyari Dolma, the Deputy Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile was the chief guest of the function. She categorically stated that her presence at the gathering was not official but on a personal capacity.

About a hundred people gathered for the opening ceremony including representatives from various Non Governmental Organizations of the Tibetan Community. The three-day meeting discussed various Tibet related issues, Kalon Tripa's election related campaigns, and the organization's future activities.

Addressing the Gathering, Ms Gyari Dolma said that the 'special meeting' in November which the NDPT will attend as a Tibetan NGO should represent the opinions of the general public. Though the meeting is held in exile, she said that the 'special meeting' is equally a platform for the Tibetans inside Tibet and that efforts should be made to bring out the views and opinions of the people inside Tibet, and present it during the 'special meeting' in November.

Tibetans acted to bring a lasting solution to the Tibet issue.

Also present at the gathering was the President of the Tibetan Youth Congress Tsewang Rinzin who said that his organization and the NDPT shares a mother and son relationship as NDPT was born on September 2, 1994 as result of a TYC's Annual Working Committee meeting. Rinzin said that every Tibetan must work towards fulfilling the wishes of the Dalai Lama to democratize the Tibetan communities.

NDPT is the first Tibetan political party but is yet to fight election as multi-party system does not exist in the Tibetan community. The Tibetan parliament in exile comprises of 46 seats, 10 each from the three traditional provinces, 2 each from 5 religious traditions, 1 from North America, 2 from Europe, and 3 directly appointed by the Dalai Lama. However, the current Parliament has 43 members as the Dalai Lama did not appoint anyone for the 14th Parliament.

The National Convention was concluded by electing the new executive members of the NDPT. The elected Central executive members are:

- Chime Youngdung – President
- Ashang Lhakpa Tsering -Vice-president
- Phuntsok Tsering - Vice-president
- Sonam Sangpo- International Relation secretary
- Pema Tenzin- Information secretary
- Yangdol- General Secretary
- Dhondup Tsering- Finance Secretary
- Purang Paljor- Finance Secretary
- Karma Gyatso- Joint Secretary
- Sonam Tsering- Joint Secretary
- Sonam Gyal- Joint Secretary





