



## **Tibetan Parliament in Exile**

**Visit to Europe – 26 May – 23 June 2014**

### **Deputy Speaker**

#### **Khenpo Lopon Sonam Tenphel:**

**Mr. Khenpo Lopon Sonam Tenphel** was born at Rekhe in Kham in 1974. At the age of 13, he joined Nari Tashi Choeling monastery and received education in preliminary Buddhist teachings, meditations, rituals and others. In 1993, he came into exile and got an audience with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. After this, he joined Namdroling monastery in South India and received education in both Buddhist sutra and tantra teachings and earned a Lopon degree there. He also served as an assistant teacher and later as a teacher in the monastery. As appointed by Kyabje Drubwang Penor Rinpoche, he served with dedication as a disciplinarian at the monastery for three years.

He was earlier elected to the 14th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) and got re-elected to the 15th TPiE. Presently he is serving as the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament.

#### **Taglung Tsang Karma Chopel:**

**Mr. Taglung Tsang Karma Chopel** was born in 1949 at Labrang Kosa in Tradun, Tibet and lives in Dharamsala. He has a B.A. (Hons.) from Delhi University and B. Ed. from Bangalore University. He served as a teacher at CST, Bylakuppe, from 1975 to 1980 and later as Rector at CSTs Simla and Mussoorie from 1981 to 1989. He served for two consecutive terms, from 1977 to 1983,

and again from 1986 to 1989 in the Central Executive Committee of the Tibetan Youth Congress, mostly as Vice-President and became President for 1982-83. In 1994, he became the first President of the first Tibetan political party – the National Democratic Party of Tibet. He was elected to the ATPD in 1991 and re-elected for four consecutive terms. He was elected as the Chairman of the 13th ATPD for the first time, from September 2001 to March 2002. He got re-elected as the Speaker of the 14th TPIE on 31st May 2006, along with Mr. Penpa Tsering, and served on the post for the first half of its term. He was elected to the 15<sup>th</sup> TPIE.

### **Dawa Phunkeyi:**

**Mr. Dawa Phunkeyi** was born in 1963, in Dharamsala, India, where he is now the Chief Administrator of Tibetan Delek Hospital. He studied at the Tibetan Children's Village school, Dharamsala, and earned a Diploma in Health Management and a Post-graduate Diploma in Health Administration from CMC, Vellore, and St. John's Medical College, Bangalore, respectively. He was earlier a Project Officer in the Deptt. Of Health, CTA, and had also served as the Secretary of Tibetan Delek Hospital. He had also served other NGOs in various capacities, including as the President of the Regional Tibetan Youth Congress, the General Secretary of the National Democratic Party of Tibet, the Senior Vice-President of Indo-Tibetan Friendship Society, Director of Community Service Rotary Club, Dharamsala, and Vice President of the U-Tsang Cholkha Association. He has visited Australia, Italy, South Africa, and England in his official capacity and also USA and England privately. He became a Deputy for the first time during the 13<sup>th</sup> ATPD and till now he has been elected as the Member of Parliament.

### **Sonam Gyatso**

**Mr. Sonam Gyatso** was born in Lithang (Kham provinces).

In 2000 he joined Norling Institute for higher studies and studied on Tibetan Medicine, astrology, English, Chinese. From 2003-2006 he worked as a researcher in the norling research section and also as an editor of monthly Norwoe magazine. From 2006-2008 he worked as a Tibetan Teacher in T.C.V school Suja during which he was the editor of Education Magazine issued by the T.C.V. From 2009 he worked as the reporter in Tibet Express and also as a translator of International news. He is the member of standing committee of Lithang Association.

He was elected to the 15<sup>th</sup> TPIE.