

CHINA

Guizhou aims to relocate its poor residents

Measure assists province in its fight to improve lives, provide better services

By YANG JUN in Guiyang and ZHENG JINRAN in Beijing

670,000 people

from poverty-stricken and barren regions in Guizhou province will be relocated this year.

erty, the governor added.

"We will take multiple measures to help relocated residents get jobs or start businesses, and make sure at least one member of the family has a stable income," she said.

Gao Fen, a deputy to the provincial people's congress and head of the financial department of Shiqian county, Tongren — where more than 700 residents moved in 2018 — said, "Relocation is a major step to improve the lives of residents in mountainous villages, providing them with new houses and better services."

The county has built kindergartens and primary schools near residential communities, the county government said, and more service centers are expected soon.

Wang Aduo, another legislator, said that cultural traditions for ethnic minorities also need protection "in a bid to better preserve their legacy, and to maintain their lifestyle in new places".

Zhao Yandi and Dong Xianwu in Guiyang contributed to this story.

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Guizhou province plans to relocate 670,000 people from poverty-stricken and barren regions this year, bringing the total of relocated people to 1.88 million in four years, the most in the country, the provincial government said.

This year, 1.68 million people nationwide are scheduled to be relocated under the 13th Five-Year Plan on Relocation for Poverty Alleviation (2016-20), and 40 percent will be in Guizhou.

Governor Shen Yiqin told the provincial people's congress on Sunday that it would not be an easy job, with the relocations being equivalent to moving 2,000-plus residents every day in the mountainous province.

It also requires massive support policies to serve the relocated residents, including employment and education, which are also challenging, Shen said, adding that the measures to alleviate poverty, including relocation, are "the top priority and the greatest task" this year.

Guizhou will provide 160,000 houses for relocated residents this year, Shen said, adding that more than 17 billion yuan (\$2.5 billion) is scheduled to support the process.

Guizhou has aimed high in fighting poverty in a bid to reach the core national goal of lifting all people out of poverty by 2020. In 2019, a total of 1.1 million residents are expected to escape pov-

Bridging cultures



Foreign tourists learn to write Spring Festival couplets on a glass bridge in Changsha, Hunan province, on Tuesday. Couplets are a traditional way to celebrate the holiday. YANG HUAFENG / CHINA NEWS SERVICE

91 direct-sellers ordered to review their management and marketing practices

By LI LEI
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The State Administration for Market Regulation and the Ministry of Commerce summoned 91 direct-selling enterprises on Tuesday, amid a 100-day national crackdown on wrongdoing in the health products market that began this month.

The enterprises were told to ensure the quality of their products and refrain from making exaggerated claims about their effects, according to a media release.

It said unlawful activities are frequently found in the direct-selling sector, which has seen rapid development in the country, and raise serious concerns among the public

because of potentially dire social consequences.

The companies were urged to remain on high alert and abide by the law. They were also ordered to improve internal management and offer channels to handle customer complaints and requests for returns or exchanges.

The direct-sellers were also told to carry out a self-examination in production, sales, customer service and internal management. They will also face random inspections organized by the regulators and be subject to punishment.

The meeting and the crackdown came after Tianjin-based Quanjian Nature Medicine Technology Development and several other health

product giants nationwide were probed over complaints they misled consumers about their products or for engaging in pyramid schemes.

Quanjian became the first high profile direct-seller probed last year. The investigation came after Dingxiang Doctor, a healthcare information-sharing platform, accused the company of making huge profits by misleading consumers. The chairman and founder of Quanjian has been detained, along with 16 employees.

The State Administration for Market Regulation and 12 other central government departments launched a nationwide crackdown on wrongdoing in the health products market on Jan 8.

Former Jiangxi vice-governor guilty of corruption; Party expels ex-mayor

By ZHANG YAN
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Li Yihuang, former vice-governor of Jiangxi province, was convicted of bribery, abusing power and misappropriating 147 million yuan (\$21.7 million) of public money and was sentenced to 18 years in prison by a court in Anhui province on Tuesday.

He was also fined 2.2 million yuan (\$325,900). His illicit gains will be confiscated and handed over to the State, according to the Intermediate People's Court of Anqing, Anhui province.

The court said that from 2004 to 2017, he took advantage of his position to funnel benefits to enterprises and individuals in business management, stock right transfers and bidding for projects and promotions. He accepted huge bribes, amounting to 15.7 million yuan.

For 13 years, he mainly served as the general manager and board chairman of Jiangxi Copper Corp, general manager and chairman of Jiangxi Copper Ltd, and vice-governor of Jiangxi.

From 2011 to 2014, while serving as the general manager and chairman of Jiangxi Copper, he directed his subordinates to fabricate items in the company's accounts and illegally used 2.68 million yuan of public funds, the court said.

Between March 2013 and May 2016, when serving as the vice-governor in Jiangxi, he directed the company's staff to redirect public funds of up to 147 million yuan. The money was offered to his family members through business operations, the court said.

In 2008, when Jiangxi Copper purchased the prospecting rights of a local silver mine, Li violated the regulation to purchase it at a



Li Yihuang, former vice-governor of Jiangxi province, was sentenced to 18 years in prison on Tuesday for taking bribes. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

147 million yuan

of public money was misappropriated by Li Yihuang, former vice-governor of Jiangxi province.

higher price, causing losses in State-owned assets of 20.8 million yuan.

"Because he showed repentance for his crimes and actively confessed to his crimes and cooperated with the judicial officers to return the money, we handed down a lenient sentence," a statement released by the court on Wednesday said.

In a separate development, Cai Zongze, former mayor of Shantou, Guangdong province, was expelled from the Party and deprived of his retirement benefits, according to

the Guangdong Commission of Supervision on Tuesday.

It said he lost his ideals and beliefs and betrayed the Party's purpose, violating political discipline and resisting the Party organization's supervision.

The commission said he violated the eight frugality codes to have a golf membership card and play golf, and he violated Party discipline in accepting gifts and property.

Cai was also accused of neglecting his duty and causing great losses of State-owned assets. He abused power to benefit others and accepted their bribes either paid in cash or property. He also illegally possessed firearms.

The criminal evidence in the case will be sent to prosecutors for charges and his illicit assets will be confiscated, the commission said.

Man waits 18 years for trial, is acquitted

By ZHANG YANGFEI
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Zhang Yuxi, a resident of Xiayi county, Henan province, was acquitted of a charge of intentional injury by a local court on Tuesday after being released 18 years ago on bail pending trial.

Zhang was involved in a dispute in 1992 with another resident, Zhang Gongshe, which led to violent scuffles between members of the two families. Zhang Gongshe's father, Zhang Chaoming, was rendered unconscious during the fight and died.

Zhang Yuxi was later detained and prosecuted on a charge of intentional injury in 1997. According to the indictment by the local prosecutor, Zhang Yuxi hit Zhang Chaoming's forehead with an iron rake, causing the older man to fall into a coma and later die.

"I have lived as a suspect ... My mother and wife moved away with my two children. After I was released on bail I could only seek a living elsewhere."

Zhang Yuxi, who was acquitted of a charge of intentional injury arising from a fight in 1997

The local court sentenced Zhang Yuxi to 11 years in prison in 1997 and he appealed.

In October 1997, the Shangqiu Intermediate People's Court ruled that Zhang Yuxi's case was unclear and the evidence was insufficient, and it revoked the judgment and sent the case back for retrial.

In 2001, police detained Zhang Yuxi's cousin Zhang Shengli in Zhejiang province on charges of being involved in the fight. The local court found Zhang Shengli was guilty of killing Zhang Chaoming and sentenced him to 13 years in prison.

Zhang Yuxi, who had been held in custody for nine years, was released on bail pending trial.

Zhang then waited another 18 years — until Saturday, when he received a subpoena from the court ordering him to stand trial on Tuesday.

Zheng Xiaojing, Zhang's defense lawyer, said the trial was focused on finding out who caused Zhang Chaoming's death, and this time their evidence was found to be sufficient.

"The effective judgment in 2001 has already proved that Zhang Shengli was the only individual involved in the killing of Zhang Shengli, so we were confident that Zhang Yuxi is innocent," the lawyer said.

She said the trial being delayed for such a long period of time violated the law, and now that Zhang has been acquitted he will apply for state compensation.

Zhang Yuxi told Ynet.com that he felt very emotional when he received the subpoena.

"I have lived as a suspect. Our farmland has gone. My mother and wife moved away with my two children. After I was released on bail I could only seek a living elsewhere," he said.

Recalling the fight 27 years ago, Zhang said that he had been stabbed in the leg by Zhang Gongshe at the beginning of the fight and he "didn't even know someone was dead" until he was brought to the police station.

"I didn't kill anyone. I should be acquitted. I believe the court will give me justice," he told Ynet.com before the trial.

When asked about his future plans, Zhang said he still wants to go back to the village, build a new house and continue to be a farmer and grow crops.



Zhang Yingrong of Danzhai county, Guizhou province, carries newly purchased furniture on Sunday to his new home. He was relocated recently. HUANG XIAOHA / FOR CHINA DAILY

Briefly

BEIJING Emir of Qatar makes state visit

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani will pay a state visit to China from Wednesday to Thursday at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang announced on Tuesday. The visit will be the emir's second to China as a head of state. His first visit was in November 2014, during which the two nations upgraded bilateral ties to a strategic partnership.

HAINAN Rescue center set up in South China Sea

The Ministry of Transport opened a maritime rescue center at Yongshu reef in the Nansha Islands on Tuesday, to better protect navigation and transport safety in the South China Sea. The center will offer better support to maritime rescue operations in the southern part of the sea. In July, the ministry sent a rescue ship to Zhubi reef of the Nansha Islands. In October, another rescue ship was sent to the region as a replacement. Over the past six months, the two ships have rescued 16 people and two ships in eight operations.

FUJIAN Bus hijacker gets death sentence

Qiu Rihui, 49, who hijacked a bus and rammed it into pedestrians, killing eight, was sentenced to death in Fujian province, the Longyan Intermediate People's Court announced on Tuesday. The incident happened at about 3:20 pm in the city of Longyan on Dec 25. The court sentenced Qiu on Monday for intentional homicide and endangering public safety.

HUNAN Man executed for deadly rampage

A man convicted of killing 15 people in an SUV crash was executed on Tuesday in Hunan province after approval by the Supreme People's Court, according to the Hengyang Intermediate People's Court. Yang Zanyun deliberately drove his Land Rover SUV into a crowd in a square in Hengdong county on Sept 12. He then continued to attack people with a shovel and knife. The attack left 15 dead and 43 injured. Yang was sentenced to death for endangering public safety. The sentence was approved by the top court on Jan 18.

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