

36. Is it good for the village working group to participate in minority ethnicity ritual activities?

The village working group participation, upon invitation, in minority ethnic ritual activities like weddings, funerals, circumcisions, naming ceremonies can play a positive role in strengthening the socialization, communication and intermingling of people of various ethnicities. This mainly includes the following aspects:

First, it enables the working group to better adapt to rural life. Cadres mostly come from higher-level government organs. Many young comrades have grown up and lived in cities their whole lives, and, after graduation, have gone straight to work in government organs. Hence, they are unfamiliar with and do not understand rural life. Through participating in minority ethnic ritual activities, they can directly experience the customs, religious rituals, and diets and lifestyles of ethnic minorities, and it helps cadres to become accustomed and integrated into rural life as quickly as possible.

Second, it helps make cadre and the masses relationships more intimate. Participating in ethnic ritual activities can psychologically and emotionally narrow the distance between the working group and the masses, realizing the goal of being able to access families, to talk with them, and to connect their minds. Establishing earnest friendship with people of various ethnicities in courtyards, between fields, and under the same roof, celebrating with them, chatting with them, being down to earth with them, and removing the bureaucratic air lay a solid foundation for carrying out the work better.

Third, it enables the working group to guide religious believers to be integrated into secular life. By participating in ethnic ritual activities, one can use modern culture and secular lifestyle to offset the infiltration and spread of extremist religious thinking, weaken a religious atmosphere, curb activities that violate regulations, guide religious believers away from the influence of extremist religious thinking; and strive to create an atmosphere that upholds scientific and civilized life.

Fourth, it enables the working group to gain a deeper understanding of public sentiment. Participating in ethnic ritual activities can help working group members grasp in detail the familial circumstances, income status, and tendencies of thought of all ethnic groups in a relaxed and cheerful environment; and improve the relevance and effectiveness of mass work.

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