Wednesday 8 January 2025

Seldom has I watched domestic news for these days. One reason there are all fake good news and I definitely know the pattern of how these state media and portals tell stories always with happy endings. Irronically, an elderly sheperd had told me that he watched these kind of news sometimes to alleviate the pain when felt despatately sad even though he knew they were not true. Perhaps that was one of the motivations that the government constantly cencored the Internet and broadcasts. In addition and to my surprise, this old man added that in this country we were treated as animals were done by farmers in a farm. He presumably hadn’t read the famous book entitled “Animal Farm” written by George Orwell. All he has is that the long and deprived life gave him-wisdom.

Whereas, there was a real news which continued being repeated by my colleagues. It was that an rural area in Tibet was hit by a powerfull earthquake which could be estimated 6.8 magnitude. What worse was that the epic center was in the center of a village and thus the surrounding hamlets were severely destructed. The number of casualties has drastically increased to hundreds with more and more dead bodies were found in the rubbles. I send my condolences to the residents who suffered in such a bittlerly cold winter and lost familes in this devastated earthquake.

Tibet with its breathtaking landscape is one of the most popular attractions to the tourists both from China and the rest of the world. Every here and there, you can find cows and sheep chewing their hey on the vast grassland which extends as far as the eye can see. And you can visit impressive and spectacular lakes which are like sapphires scattered in this astonishing plateau. In addition, the two largest rivers in China, Yangtze River and Yellow River, are all originated from the snow-covered mountains in Tibet and then wind through the gorges, valleys and forests from west to east down to the Pacific Ocean.

Above all, all I wish is that this tranquil countryside could recover from this catastrophic disaster and the residents there could live peaful life and enjoy the promodial humman joy as in the past thousands of years.