

The Advantages of Centralized and Unified Leadership of the CPC: A Case Study of Prevention and Control in the Early Stage of the Epidemic

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Abstract

In China, the Communist Party of China leads everything. At the beginning of the COVID-19, the Communist Party of China has always adhered to the people's position, strategized, scientifically deployed, condensed all forces, built the Great Wall against the epidemic, coordinated epidemic prevention and control and social stability and order, and took into account the economic and social development goals, so as to grasp both hands and hard, highlighting the great advantages of the CPC's centralized and unified leadership.

Key words: Prevention and control of COVID-19; Communist Party of China; Advantages of leadership

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At the end of 2019, a public health emergency COVID-19 swept Wuhan, China and spread to other provinces, seriously affecting people's lives and safety, hindering national economic development and affecting social order. On January 25, 2020, Xi Jinping presided over and delivered an important speech to the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, stressing that "in the face of the serious situation of the accelerating spread of the new coronavirus-infected pneumonia epidemic, it is necessary to strengthen the centralized and unified leadership of the Party Central Committee. Party committees and governments at all levels should enhance

"the four consciousnesses", firmly adhere to "four confidences" and "two maintenances", deeply understand the importance and urgency of preventing and controlling the new coronavirus-infected pneumonia epidemic, strengthen unified leadership and unified command, and unswervingly implement the decisions of the Party Central Committee."¹ After the outbreak of the epidemic, the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core attached great importance to it, held meetings for many times, studied and formulated effective plans, coordinated the forces of all Parties, united and led the broad masses of the people to resolutely fight against the epidemic, and the effect of anti-epidemic and epidemic prevention was remarkable. In this fight against epidemic prevention and control, the advantages of the CPC's centralized and unified leadership were fully demonstrated.

1. BUILD UP AN ANTI-EPIDEMIC FORTRESS BY UNITING VIGOROUS FORCES

Centralizing efforts to do major events is an important symbol of the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics, and the top priority to achieve this superiority is to unwaveringly adhere to the centralized and unified leadership of the Communist Party of China, in order to mobilize the masses most widely, coordinate the forces of all parties, bring together the strength of the masses, build the "Great Wall" to against epidemics, and win the fight against epidemic prevention and control.

1.1 Join Hands to Build a Defense Line Against the Epidemic

In the face of the epidemic, the whole people are undoubtedly a closely connected, interdependent and inseparable community of destiny. Under the centralized

¹ Study on prevention and control of novel coronavirus infection in pneumonia. *People's Daily*, 2020-1-26 (01).

and unified leadership of the Party, the Chinese people have made great efforts to jointly fight against the epidemic. The departments in various regions have strictly implemented the unified deployment of the Central Committee and the anti-epidemic policy of General Secretary Xi Jinping's "adhering to the national chess game". They have done their utmost to win the victory of the fight against epidemic prevention and control, and have provoked a heavy burden of epidemic prevention.

The National Health Commission established the National Aid to Hubei Anti-epidemic Medical Team, the Ministry of Science and Technology and relevant departments established a scientific research team and an expert group on the mechanism of joint prevention and control of coronavirus infection pneumonia, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences established a scientific research team. The Chinese Academy of Engineering mobilized relevant academicians to actively participate in the prevention and control of the epidemic, and medical materials enterprises urgently reworked and reproduced. The majority of medical staff actively respond to the call of the Party Central Committee, set up a team in a short time, without fear of hardships and hardships, will be personal safety outside, please combat epidemic line, help Hubei, Wuhan. Under the unified deployment and command of the CPC Central Committee and the Central Military Commission, the People's Army, bearing in mind its purpose and highlighting its nature, urgently launched the joint defense and control mechanism and rushed to the front line of epidemic prevention. As of February 17, 2020, "29 provinces (autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the Central Government) including Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps and the military system sent 30000 medical personnel to support Hubei, of which the military sent 4000 medical personnel."²

In the face of the severe epidemic situation, "the Central Military Commission issued a notice on resolutely implementing the important instructions of the Chairman, strengthening the leadership of the military party and winning the fight against epidemic prevention and control. It requires Party organizations and members at all levels to consciously use the decision-making instructions of the Party Central Committee and the Chairman to unify ideas and actions, and resolutely complete the epidemic prevention and control tasks entrusted to the army by the Party and the people."³ The majority of Party members and leading cadres strictly implement the decision-making and deployment of the Party Central Committee, closely unite the masses, adhere to their posts, and bravely

shoulder the important task of epidemic prevention. Together with the people, they have built a strong fortress for the victory of the epidemic prevention and control blocking war.

1.2 Pooling Resources to Fight the Epidemic

Adequate medical supplies and anti-epidemic funds are important conditions for overcoming the epidemic. The COVID-19 has the characteristics of rapid propagation, wide range and difficult prevention and control. With the sharp increase in the number of confirmed and suspected infections, the shortage of beds, medical supplies and funds have brought serious challenges to the epidemic prevention work.

On January 29, 2020, Li Keqiang chaired a leading group meeting of the central government to deal with the epidemic situation of new coronavirus infection pneumonia. The meeting pointed out that "we should do a good job of medical prevention and control material support, and scientifically optimize the allocation and use of key materials. All regions should quickly organize medical protective clothing, masks, medical goggles, negative pressure ambulances, related drugs and other production enterprises to resume reproduction, and study and implement tax and financial support policies."⁴ Under the unified leadership and deployment of the Party Central Committee, the focus is highlighted, resources are integrated, medical facilities and isolation areas are expanded, and lovers from all walks of life are called upon to contribute enthusiastically, and medical material production departments are urgently reworked and reproduced to provide medical materials to the maximum extent possible for epidemic prevention. On February 2, Huoshenshan Hospital officially delivered the medical team, adding 1000 beds. On February 5, Leishenshan Hospital began to receive treatment of patients, adding 32 wards. The two hospitals were built only half a month, which vividly reflected the Chinese strength and speed under the leadership of the CPC.

In addition to the supply of medical supplies, the fight against the epidemic requires huge financial support. Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Ministry of Finance has actively implemented the scientific deployment of the CPC Central Committee and earnestly fulfilled its function of providing funds for epidemic prevention and control. "As of March 4, finance departments at all levels had allocated a total of 110.48 billion yuan for epidemic prevention and control."⁵ In response to the call of the CPC Central Committee, the Party members also made donations. "By March 26, more than 79.01 million Party

² The Hard Force to Fight the Epidemic - - Record the Medical Work in Hubei Province. *People's Daily*, 2020-2-01(01).

³ Stick to the President Xi's important instructions to strengthen the leadership of the military party and win the fight against epidemic prevention and control. *People's Daily*, 2020-2-01(01).

⁴ Further Study on the Situation of Epidemic Prevention and Control and Deployment to Strengthen Prevention and Control. *People's Daily*, 2020-1-30(01).

⁵ All levels of financial investment in epidemic prevention and control funds 1104.8 billion yuan. *People's Daily*, 2020-3-06(01).

members had voluntarily donated 8.26 billion yuan.”⁶ All these have laid a solid material foundation for winning the battle against the epidemic.

2. SAFEGUARD PEOPLE “S LIVELIHOOD AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL STABILITY

The outbreak of COVID-19 and its wide spread in a short time not only pose a direct threat to people’s lives and health, but also pose a serious challenge to China’s social and livelihood. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed : “Doing a good job in epidemic prevention and control is directly related to people’s life safety and health, directly related to the overall economic and social stability, and also related to China’s opening up.”⁷ In this regard, the Party Central Committee has held meetings on many occasions to study the epidemic situation, deploy and guide the prevention and control of the epidemic. Under the centralized and unified leadership of the Party Central Committee, the Party committees and governments at all levels are resolutely subordinate to the Central Committee, and all departments coordinate and jointly prevent and control the epidemic. While resolutely fighting the epidemic, they strive to safeguard people’s livelihood and stabilize social order.

2.1 Safeguard the People’s Livelihood

In the face of the urgent situation of the spread of the epidemic, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee held a meeting to study the prevention and control of the epidemic of COVID-19. General Secretary Xi Jinping stressed that “the epidemic is an order, and prevention and control is a responsibility. Party committees and governments at all levels must be deployed in accordance with the decision-making of the Party Central Committee, fully mobilize and comprehensively deploy, comprehensively strengthen work, put people’s life safety and health in the first place, and take epidemic prevention and control work as the most important work at present.” Under the centralized and unified leadership and scientific deployment of the Party Central Committee, the prevention and control of the epidemic should adhere to the principle of exhaustion, governance, early detection, early reporting, early isolation and early treatment, strive to improve the treatment rate and cure rate, reduce the infection rate and fatality rate, adhere to the people-centered work orientation, scientific epidemic prevention, coordinate all anti-epidemic resources, create medical conditions,

⁶ More than 7901 million Chinese Communist Party members actively contributed to support the epidemic prevention and control work. *People’s Daily*, 2020-3-29(01).

⁷ Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to strengthen the prevention and control of coronavirus-infected pneumonia. *People’s Daily*, 2020-2-04(01).

pay close attention to scientific research and research and development of anti-epidemic drugs, and call on the people of the whole country to work together to build an epidemic prevention fort, and do everything possible to ensure the safety and health of the people.

The outbreak has undoubtedly brought serious challenges to China’s economy and society, such as the production sector is forced to temporarily stop production, transportation and logistics emergency stagnation and other adverse effects, such problems will inevitably endanger people’s livelihood. Under the centralized and unified leadership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the relevant departments should earnestly supply living materials, increase market supply capacity, and ensure the stable supply of necessities for people in Hubei, Wuhan and even the whole country. In response to the problem that affected by the epidemic cannot maintain their normal life affected by the epidemic situation, the Central Leading Group for the Prevention and Control of the New Type of Coronal Pneumonia issued a notice on March 6 that the people in difficulty should be guaranteed during the prevention and control of the epidemic situation. The notice stressed that “the people in difficulty should be guaranteed during the prevention and control of the epidemic situation to better solve the sudden, urgent and temporary life difficulties faced by some people during the prevention and control of the epidemic situation, and the basic care service needs of the people with special difficulties. The social security network should be closely organized and firmly win the people’s war, the overall war and the blocking war.”⁸

2.2 Stabilize Social Order

History has consistently proved that a stable social situation is a prerequisite for the prosperity of any country and society, and is also an important goal for the development of any country and society. Without a harmonious and stable social environment, reform and development lose their wings and have no two wheels. The outbreak of the epidemic has disrupted the normal order of our society, seriously endangering the safety and health of the people, disturbing the people’s livelihood, at the same time, it has produced many bad problems such as spreading rumors, sending the country difficult to finance, disturbing the order, which are not conducive to the prevention and control of the epidemic and social stability. Therefore, it is urgent to do a good job in maintaining the normal order of the society. On February 5, 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping presided over the third meeting of the Central Committee on the Comprehensive Rule of Law and delivered an important speech, emphasizing that scientific prevention and control according to law is

⁸ Further Do Well the Safeguard Work for the Difficult Masses during the Epidemic Prevention and Control. *People’s Daily*, 2020-3-08(01).

essential during the tight period of epidemic prevention and control. “We should strengthen law enforcement such as public security management and market supervision, intensify efforts to crack down on illegal acts of violence against medical personnel, severely investigate and punish all kinds of illegal acts that raise the prices of epidemic prevention supplies and people’s livelihood commodities, and severely crack down on illegal and criminal acts that undermine epidemic prevention and control by resisting epidemic prevention and control, violent injury to doctors, making fakes and selling fakes, and creating rumors, so as to ensure social stability and order.”⁹

Under the centralized and unified leadership of the Party, China has introduced and improved relevant legislation to provide strong legal protection for epidemic prevention and control. All departments in various regions adhere to scientific prevention and control according to law, and strictly punish illegal transactions of wild animals according to law. Unlawful acts such as hoarding of medical materials, making counterfeits and selling inferior goods, illegal business, and disturbing public order by individuals or groups, should be well publicized on the rule of law for the prevention and control of epidemics, guide the people to consciously abide by the law, and promote the spirit of the rule of law, without adding disturbance in special periods. Leading cadres at all levels actively carry out the unified command and deployment of the Party Central Committee, use the rule of law thinking and rule of law to deal with the epidemic crisis, effectively maintain social stability, strengthen public security protection, and promote the stability of the epidemic situation.

3. COORDINATING EPIDEMIC PREVENTION AND CONTROL WITH TWO-WAY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Doing epidemic prevention and control work well and promoting economic and social development are complementary. To promote the stable operation of the economy and society, it is necessary to overcome the new coronavirus epidemic and solve the problems for economic development. Winning the prevention and control of the epidemic also needs to promote economic and social development to provide a solid guarantee. 2020 is the key year for China to achieve its first 100-year goal, build a well-off society in an all-round way, complete the 13th Five-Year Plan and win the great victory of poverty alleviation. In recent years, the global economic downturn has brought great challenges to China’s economic and

social development. The outbreak of the COVID-19 has caused serious obstacles to the realization of China’s development goals. While striving to prevent and control the epidemic, it is essential to promote steady economic development. The epidemic prevention and control is difficult to win in the short term, but the economic and social development cannot be stagnated. As General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out, “the economy and society are a dynamic circulatory system, and can not be stopped for a long time”, we must look at the long term, and coordinate the epidemic prevention and control and economic development. (Xi, 2020, Feb. 24)

3.1 Precise and Orderly Resumption of Work and Production

Accurate and orderly reproduction is an urgent task to win the fight against epidemic prevention and control, promote the smooth operation of economic society and realize the goal of economic and social development. On February 3, 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping presided over the meeting of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The meeting stressed that “under the premise of doing a good job of prevention and control, we should fully support and organize to promote the rework and reproduction of all kinds of production enterprises, increase financial support, increase the protection of enterprise reproduction and employment, make good use of the policy of supporting enterprises to stabilize posts, increase the construction of new investment projects, and actively promote construction projects.” The rapid spread of the epidemic, prevention and control is difficult, resulting in the necessity of late rework and reproduction is delayed, which is extremely unfavorable for economic and social development. While grasping the epidemic is not relaxed and resolutely fighting against the epidemic prevention and control, it is very important to promote the rework and reproduction work scientifically and orderly. Doing a good job in accurate and orderly rework and reproduction is an important guarantee to ensure the material supply of epidemic prevention and control and win the complete victory of epidemic prevention and control. It is also an important measure to enrich the people’s “rice bag” and “vegetable basket” and ensure people’s livelihood and social stability. It is also a key measure to stabilize employment and production and maintain stable economic and social development.

Under the unified command and deployment of the central party committee and government departments at all levels as a whole the epidemic prevention and control and the development of society and economy, a good resume work and production mix, do two hands hard and highly sure traffic as advance to return to work and production “pioneers” of the important position, according to the differences of regional outbreak science in order to restore the traffic order, The government has

⁹ Comprehensively improving the ability of prevention and control according to law to provide strong legal protection for epidemic prevention and control. *People’s Daily*, 2020-2-06(01).

taken strong measures to ensure that employees can safely return to work through point-to-point and other modes of transportation. It has introduced relevant policies to maintain market order, cut taxes and fees with targeted measures, provided financial support, provided protective materials, helped enterprises tide over difficulties, and helped resume work and production in various ways. "As of March 13, with the exception of Hubei Province, the average operating rate of industrial enterprises above designated size in China has exceeded 95 percent, the average rate of employees returning to work is about 80 percent, and the operating rate of small and medium-sized enterprises has reached about 60 percent." (Lu, Li, Zhao, & Yu, 2020)

3.2 Continuing Poverty Alleviation

Since the 18th National People's Congress of the Communist Party of China(CPC), the CPC Central Committee, with General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core, has attached great importance to the work of poverty alleviation. Under the strong leadership of the CPC, China has made great achievements in poverty alleviation and gained high recognition from the international community. At the same time, it also highlights the great advantages of the CPC's centralized and unified leadership and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. By the end of February 2020, "601 of the 832 poverty-stricken counties have announced the removal of caps, 179 are being checked out, and 52 are not removed, and the overall regional poverty has been basically solved", the economic development of poverty-stricken areas shows a good trend, the ecological environment and infrastructure are further optimized, and the living standards of the people are significantly improved (Xi, 2020, Mar, 06). However, the unexpected epidemic has had an immeasurable impact on China's economy and society, and has also brought new challenges to the fight against poverty. Such as the people in poor areas cannot go out to work normally, the family income is reduced, the traffic cannot operate normally, the products are unsold, the economic development is blocked, the poverty alleviation work cannot be carried out normally, and the work burden is increased. These unfavorable factors have increased the resistance of China's decisive victory in the fight against poverty. On March 6, General Secretary Xi Jinping, at the Symposium on a decisive victory over poverty eradication, stressed that "the total poverty eradication of the rural poor under the current standards by 2020 is a solemn commitment made by the Party Central Committee to the people of the country and must be achieved on schedule without any setbacks and flexibility." (Xi, 2020, Mar. 06)

Under the centralized and unified leadership of the Party, all departments in all regions strictly implement the decision-making and deployment of the Party Central Committee, do a good job in precise and scientific

prevention and control of zoning and grading, do a good job in epidemic prevention and control, ensure the safety and health of the people, and overcome the impact of the epidemic. At the same time, they shoulder the task of poverty alleviation, fully support the rehabilitation and reproduction of enterprises, ensure the priority employment of the people in poverty-stricken areas, orderly promote the start-up and rehabilitation of poverty-stricken industries, and take multiple measures to help the economic recovery of poverty-stricken areas, consolidate the achievements of poverty alleviation, strictly control and ensure that the people in poverty-stricken areas are truly out of poverty and out of poverty.

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