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**TIBET INSIGHT JANUARY 23-31 2024**

**TAR NEWS**

**TAR Party Secretary calls for strong military measures at the Tibet Military Region's Second Plenary Session**

January 24, 2024

The second plenary (enlarged) meeting of the 11th Tibet Military Region Party Committee was held on January 23, in Lhasa. Wang Junzheng, TAR Party Secretary and First Secretary of the Party Committee of the Tibet Military Region, delivered a speech highlighting the necessity of adhering to Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. He stressed the importance of fully implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Strengthening the Military and the Party's Strategy for Governance in Tibet in the New Era. He said the focus remains on advancing national defense and military modernization, fulfilling the "sacred mission" of consolidating borders and stabilizing Tibet, and contributing to the comprehensive construction of a socialist modern New Tibet.

Wang Junzheng also emphasised the need to firmly protect the southwestern border (referring to Tibet), of the motherland, to give equal emphasis to troop presence and public reassurance, and prioritize both border security and development to guarantee the strengthening of border defense and security. Wang Junzheng praised the Tibet Military Region Party Committee's accomplishments in the previous year, and their commitment to executing decisions made by the CCP Central Committee. He said the soldiers actively engaged in local economic and social development, exhibiting loyalty and a fresh approach for the people's army and stressed that 2024 is pivotal for implementing the deployments of the 10th TAR Party Congress. He stressed the importance of enhancing political stances, missions, and responsibilities to build a robust military and propel military-industry development. He also stressed the importance of political army building to create loyal and excellent troops, called for an intensified political correction

and training approach, combining correction with learning and education. The objective, Wang Junzheng said, is to establish a consistent, standard, and efficient correction environment. He added that to secure enduring peace, stability, and high quality development in Tibet, the protection and defense of the southwestern border (Tibet's borders), active involvement in significant events and initiatives, and enhanced military-civilian coordination mechanisms are important.

Wang Junzheng also emphasised the equal importance of stationing troops and reassuring people, border security, and development. He asserted that through ongoing efforts to advance military-civilian integration and strengthen unity, the Tibet Military Region seeks to uphold and advance traditions, encouraging joint collaboration between military and civilians in thought and action.

Wang Junzheng called on party committees at all levels to meet their political duties in managing the armed forces. Localities and departments were instructed to back the military, give precedence to military families, and improve service management for retired soldiers. Awards were granted to exceptional units and individual representatives to acknowledge their contributions.

Yin Hongxing, Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee and Political Commissar of the Tibet Military Region (Lieutenant General) presided over the meeting, with Wang Kai, Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee and Commander of the Tibet Military Region (Lieutenant General), in attendance among others. The meeting concluded with awards honoring "exemplary units and individuals" for their outstanding contributions.

### **A Special Meeting of all the Heads of the TAR PSBs held in Lhasa**

January 27, 2024

On January 25, a meeting of all the heads of the Public Security Bureaus (PSB) of all the prefectures within the TAR was held in the presence of Zhang Hongbo, the Director of the TAR PSB and Vice Chairman of the TAR People's Government and Deputy Secretary of the TAR Party Committee. The meeting discussed the spirit of "important meetings and instructions", assessed the overall situation, evaluated work reports and delegated work responsibilities for 2024.

The meeting reiterated the need to

- Adhere to Xi Jinping’s socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics as the guidance
- To resolutely implement the decisions and deployments of the CCP Central Committee, the TAR Party Committee, TAR People’s Government, the Ministry of Public Security of the CCP Central Committee, and the Legal and Political Committee of the TAR
- To strive for modernization of public security work in the TAR
- To steadfastly defend “national” political security to the highest standard
- To ensure overall and high social stability, improve quality and efficiency
- To propagate a strong and effective law-based public security system
- To create a top-notch public security force with strict standards,
- To speed up the improvement of public security capabilities, ensure security in line with new development patterns, and achieve high-quality development with a strong focus on security.
- To complete annual public security tasks in the TAR with both quality and quantity

### **TAR holds Conscription Meeting for 2024 Military recruitment**

January 27, 2024

The 2024 TAR-wide conscription teleconference was held in Lhasa on January 26 morning. Drawing from the principles of the National Conscription Work Conference, the TAR conscription meeting reviewed the work report of 2023 and outlined plans for conscription work in 2024. The conscription teleconference was attended by Wei Xiuchang, Vice Chairman of TAR People’s Government, Zhou Zhigang, Deputy Commander of the Tibet Military Region(Major General) , and Shi Xiaofeng, Deputy Director of the Political Work Department of the Tibet Military Region (Major General), among others. Li Shizhong, Chief of Staff (Major General) of the Tibet Military Region, chaired the meeting.

The meeting emphasised the importance of following Xi Jinping’s thoughts on socialism with Chinese characteristics for the new era, thoroughly implementing Xi Jinping Thought on strengthening the army, and to conscript first-class soldiers. The meeting highlighted the need to implement conscription efforts from a political and strategic perspective and stressed the importance of unity, teamwork, and responsibility at all levels. In addition, the meeting emphasised long-term planning, improving incentive measures, strict supervision and

accountability, and completing the annual conscription task with high standards and high quality.

## **First Special Recruitment Fair for Retired Military Personnel held in Lhasa**

January 29, 2024

The first special recruitment fair for retired military personnel was held in Lhasa on January 29 at the Tibet Cultural and Creative Park. The recruitment fair was a collaborative effort between the Lhasa City Bureau of Veterans Affairs and Tibet Menghong Cultural and Educational Consulting Co., Ltd., with support from the veterans affairs bureaus in various counties and districts of Lhasa. Its primary goal was to actively promote and facilitate the implementation of employment and entrepreneurship policies for retired military personnel, assist them in expanding their job opportunities and “making more meaningful contributions.”

Jian Mengjie, the Chairman of Tibet Menghong Cultural and Educational Consulting Co., Ltd., said "Our company currently employs over 20 retired military personnel who have demonstrated remarkable discipline and resilience in their work. Therefore, we organized this special recruitment fair to offer more than 60 specific positions, such as public relations, security personnel, executive instructors, and marketing specialists, with the hope that they can successfully apply and continue to exemplify outstanding qualities such as dedication and loyalty to the Party even after retiring from the military."

During the fair, retired military personnel from various counties or districts completed registration forms and engaged in discussions with companies to understand job requirements, salary offers, and responsibilities. Sangpo, a retired individual from 2020, applied for the position of executive instructor, believing it to be a fitting role to leverage his strengths and contribute effectively. He shared, "I came to this job fair after receiving a notice from our county's veterans affairs bureau. The positions offered here are practical and suitable for us retired soldiers. I applied for the instructor position based on my experience as a squad leader in the army. I am confident in my ability to utilize my strengths and experience in this role. I am committed to maintaining the qualities of retired military personnel without fading, staying true to my original intentions, working harder, and continuing to make a difference."

70 retired military personnel applied for jobs at the fair, with 42 signing letters of intent on the spot. In recent years, the Lhasa City Bureau of Veterans Affairs has placed significant focus on the employment and entrepreneurship of retired military personnel, actively collaborating with reputable enterprises in Lhasa to provide platforms, resources, and information for retired military personnel seeking employment opportunities. This initiative aims to establish a sustained mechanism to better assist retired military personnel in achieving independent employment, enhancing their sense of accomplishment, happiness, and security.

Xie Jie, Deputy Director of the Placement Section at the Lhasa City Bureau of Veterans Affairs, emphasized the bureau's ongoing commitment to delivering diverse services and support for retired military personnel. In the year 2024, it is anticipated that two special recruitment fairs for retired military personnel will be organized, aiming to address more employment challenges and enable retired military personnel to integrate into society more effectively after retirement and realize their potential.

## **NGARI (CH:ALI) NEWS**

### **Purang County of Ngari holds symposium of Religious Representatives**

January 29, 2024

On January 26, Purang County of Ngari Prefecture organized a symposium of religious representatives in the county. Li Ping, Party Secretary of Purang County Party Committee and Vice Chairman of the County's People's Political Consultative Conference (PPCC), attended and spoke. Choesang, the Deputy County Party Secretary and Director of the Standing Committee of the County People's Congress, presided over the meeting, which was attended by county-level leaders. Representatives from the County United Front Work Leadership Group, the County Religious Work Leadership Group, party secretaries from various townships, and representatives from the entire religious community participated in the symposium.

The meeting emphasized that representatives from the religious community should thoroughly study and implement Xi Jinping's important instructions on promoting the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism including continuously enhancing ideological consciousness, political consciousness, and voluntary actions in advancing the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism,

firmly and decisively upholding the leadership of the Communist Party of China, remaining unwavering in following the socialist path with Chinese characteristics, and steadfastly maintaining the direction of the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism.

In his speech Li Ping said these efforts are to ensure unity with the Party and shared goals with the country, to fully implement the Party's new governance strategy for Tibet in the new era, adhere to the "five favorable conditions" standards, inherit and promote the fine traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, and act as models of patriotism, dedication to learning, law abidance, and safeguarding the country for the people.

He added “it is crucial to always align with Xi Jinping, the core of the CCP Central Party Committee, in ideology, goals, and actions, devote efforts to loving and respecting the Party, and be loyal and devoted defenders of the core.” He stated “it is important to take the lead in strengthening policy learning in promoting the Sinicization of Tibetan Buddhism, correctly interpreting religious doctrines and regulations” and to make new contributions to assisting the County Party Committee's development strategies of "maintaining stability, achieving prosperity, creating an eco-friendly city, and strengthening the border and solidifying the county.”

### **Village resident working team distributes gifts to foster “care for the party”**

January 31, 2024

On January 29, 2024, the twelfth resident working team of Chacu village in Mami Township of Gertse county distributed “gifts” worth 15,000 yuan including Tsampa (barley), salt, cooking oil, and thermos bottles to each of the 184 households in the village. The distribution was aimed at “bringing joy and warmth to the villagers and fostering a sense of care from the party and government, to propagate national unity and instill appreciation for the Party's efforts.”

The village resident working team spoke about the spirit of the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress, the Fifth Plenary Session of the 10th TAR Party Committee to the villagers. The villagers were encouraged to understand the significance of the "two establishments" and strengthen the “four consciousnesses” and “four confidences.”

## NYINGTRI (CH:LINZHI) NEWS

### **Authorities in Nyingtri claimed to have installed 488 Medical Insurance Settlement Terminals**

January 22, 2024

Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee claims to have accomplished the installation of medical insurance settlement terminals in all 488 administrative villages, establishing a vital connection between village doctors and the medical insurance settlement system. According to the Municipal Party Committee this achievement, completed on November 13, 2023, represents a successful step in providing immediate settlement services for medical insurance, particularly to rural areas. The Nyingtri City Medical Insurance Bureau recognized this completion as a significant livelihood project as they are committed to maintaining a focus on technical integration and the digitization of medical insurance business codes. Furthermore, the Bureau collaborated with China Bank Nyingtri Branch, investing 3.528 million yuan in a project aimed at improving access and satisfaction for grassroots insured populations seeking medical treatment. As part of this initiative, training sessions for the operation of medical insurance settlement terminals have been conducted for 902 grassroots medical personnel in Nyingtri City.

The Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee said the project yielded 163 medical insurance settlements through village doctors, resulting in expenses of 31,320.06 yuan, with a coordinated settlement of 677.94 yuan. These accomplishments have significantly increased the confidence of various ethnic groups in Nyingtri City in local insurance participation, drug purchase, and medical treatment, it said.

Looking ahead, the Nyingtri City Medical Insurance Bureau aims to intensify training for medical personnel at the township and village levels. They also plan to collaborate with relevant departments to implement instant settlement services for grassroots medical insurance networking, ultimately promoting the high-quality development of medical security services.

## **Nyingtri holds 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Nyingtri People's Government**

January 26, 2024

Bata, Deputy Secretary of the Municipal Party Committee and Mayor of Nyingtri, chaired the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the Second Session of the People's Government of Nyingtri city on January 25. The meeting focused on the tasks outlined in the Nyingtri People's Government Work Report and emphasized the importance of the current year for Nyingtri's development.

The work report provided a detailed plan comprising 105 specific work tasks across various aspects, serving as a 'responsibility' document and construction plan for the year. All levels and departments were urged to proactively carry out their responsibilities, be innovative, and complete tasks with high quality and quantity.

The session stressed the importance of the current year as a crucial period for implementing the "14th Five-Year Plan" and for promoting high-quality development and reform. It stressed the need to align with Xi Jinping's directives on Tibet's work and the Party's strategies, comprehensively implement the spirit of various Party sessions, and promote key measures such as reforms, opening up, and ecological development. The session also emphasized on improving scientific capabilities, enhancing decision-making abilities, and seizing policy opportunities were highlighted as essential.

Additionally, it emphasized the importance of driving investment, accelerating project construction, enhancing industry development, particularly in agriculture, rural areas, and tourism.

In brief, the meeting urged all levels and departments to work with dedication, adopt a sense of responsibility, and ensure safety and stability within society.

### **Metok County People's Government Work Report**

The Metok County People's Government Work Report was presented by Mayor Li Jicheng, at the 12<sup>th</sup> People's Congress of Metok County on January 22, 2024. Reviewing work for the Year 2023, the Mayor of Metok County Li Jicheng, stated that significant progress was achieved in terms of Metok's development in 2023. He reported that "Under Xi Jinping Thought, guided by strong leadership, the focus was on the "Four Significant Matters" and the

"Four Creations," in line with Nyingtri's overall strategy and "Two Places, Five Zones" goals. He said high-quality development drove various aspects of work, resulting in a projected regional GDP of 950 million yuan, an 80.9% increase in fixed asset investment, and positive growth in various economic indicators. Li Jicheng further said that development efforts concentrated on project-led growth, with 121 key projects implemented at city and county levels, totaling 759 million yuan. Investments expanded to strengthen the development foundation, leading to improvements in water supply, road infrastructure, and progress in key projects like the West Gong 35kV transmission and transformation project. He said efficiency was enhanced through distinctive features, focusing on integrating tourism and building the Region's brand. He pointed out the following achievements and initiatives in Metok county in 2023:

- The implementation of a policy to cancel entrance fees, along with key cultural and tourism projects, contributed to the creation of a renowned tourist county.
- Various platforms like "Cloud Tour Mêtok" and business-tourism integration initiatives were launched, boosting tourism revenue significantly.
- Agricultural modernization saw progress with new tea processing enterprises and increased processing capacity
- Clean energy industry, and land protection were also prioritized, ensuring balanced development
- Implementation of key reform tasks, innovations in institutional mechanisms, and improvements in the business environment. The completion of 59 key reform tasks and 24 innovations demonstrated a commitment to sustained development vitality, he said.
- A focus on reducing approval time and simplifying processes led to a more efficient regional integrated platform, processing a total of 31,962 items

Li Jicheng also presented the work plans for 2024 in the following areas:

1. Deepen Reform and Innovation
  - To implement 78 key reform tasks
  - To consolidate state-owned enterprise reforms and enhance market vitality
  - To advance the reform of collective forest tenure rights
  - To conduct the fifth national economic census
  - To control government debt scale and prevent debt risks.

## 2. Strengthen Regional Exchange and Cooperation

- Metok to integrate into economic circles of Greater Shangri-La and Chengdu-Chongqing twin cities
- To participate in exhibitions and sales activities
- To explore enclave economy and promote Metok enterprises in Nyingtri Economic Development Zone
- To strengthen coordination with national ministries and commissions

## 3. Optimize the Business Environment

- To deepen "Internet + government services" and "integrated windows"
- To Implement cross-departmental "double random, one public" supervision
- To continue policies to reduce taxes and fees
- To deepen cooperation between government and banks

## 4. Promote Project Construction

- Improve project construction quality and efficiency
- Enhance communication and coordination with higher-level departments
- Strive for completion of government investment in key projects

## 5. To establish a trade and logistics distribution center for Metok specialty agricultural products

## 6. Vigorously Promote Investment Attraction

- Prioritize investment attraction and support industrial development and Tibet
- Implement measures for promoting high-quality development through reform and investment
- Strengthen leadership's guarantee for key investment projects

## 7. Strengthen Stability Maintenance

- To establish and improve national security work system
- To implement emergency response system and continue inspections to "resolve conflicts"
- To Consolidate achievements in ethnic and religious work

## 8. Improve Government Efficiency

- To strengthen political leadership and loyalty
- Promote administration according to law and adherence to norms
- Uphold integrity and public service, fight against corruption, and control expenditure
- Implement strict party governance, observe discipline, and rectify the "four winds"

### **NAGCHU (CH:NAGQU)**

#### **Nagchu holds training on the 14<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan for Monastic Management Cadres**

January 27, 2024

On January 25, the Nagchu (Ch:Nagqu) Socialist College held the inaugural session for a training course on the "14th Five-Year Plan" for officials of the Monastic Management Committees. Kelsang Tsering, President of Nagchu Socialist College, presided over the opening session, and Cui Haiqiang, Deputy Minister of the United Front Department of the Nagchu Municipal Party Committee, attended the meeting and delivered a speech. Officials from 11 counties (districts) monastic management committees participated in the training. Courses in the training includes

Training primarily focused on enhancing capabilities and employed a combination of policy theory training, on-site teaching, and exchanges with courses including lectures on "Strengthening the Awareness of the Chinese National Community, Model Creation of Ethnic Unity in monasteries," "History and Principles of the Reincarnation of Living Buddhas in Tibetan Buddhism," "Adhering to the Sinicization Direction of Tibetan Buddhism, "Taking Responsibility to Manage monasteries with a diligent and enterprising Attitude," "History of Tibet's Relationship with the Motherland," and "Theoretical and Practical Implementation of Monastery Financial and Tax Policies." On-site teaching included visits to Changdu monastery in Ni Rong County and Xiaodeng monastery in Seni District to learn from good experiences and practices in monastery management, party building, and ethnic unity. A place for the participants to talk and share ideas was created to discuss topics like "Emphasizing the Bottom Line and Dealing with Big Risks" and "Roles and Duties of Monastic Management Officials in the New Situation."

Cui Haiqiang stressed the importance of learning diligently and urged everyone to understand how crucial the training is. He encouraged them to connect theoretical knowledge with real experiences, think carefully about new situations and challenges in monastic management, and find innovative ways to approach their work. Participants were also encouraged to actively participate in discussions, share their experiences, use what they learned in their practical work, and apply the knowledge to future strategies. Lastly, they were reminded to follow rules, maintain a positive learning environment, and stick to organized work procedures.

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN TIBETAN ETHNIC AREAS OUTSIDE OF TAR**

### **China jailed Tibetan monk for unapproved religious activities**

January 24, 2024

A Tibetan Buddhist monk named Lobsang Tashi was sentenced to three years in jail in China's historically Tibetan region of Sichuan province in 2021. The charges included leading prayer ceremonies during the Covid-19 lockdown and refusing to fly the Chinese national flag at his monastery. Additionally, he was found guilty of making offerings for those who died during the pandemic to the Dalai Lama and the India-based abbot of his monastery. Tashi, who was the former religious chant-master of Kirti Monastery, was arrested on June 10, 2021, and had a secret trial in the following months. The specific date and location of the trial remain unknown. Tashi, currently serving his sentence in Menyang Prison near Chengdu, is expected to complete his jail term later this year.

### **Year-End Leadership Visit: New Year Condolences and Community Engagement in Drachu County in Sichuan**

January 30, 2024

At the year's end, leaders including Xu Lei, Executive Vice Governor, and Wang Quan, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the State People's Congress of Sichuan visited Drachu (Ch: Heishui) County for New Year on behalf of the State Party Committee and government. They expressed warmth and care to those in need, elderly party members, and religious representatives, and extended holiday greetings. The leaders visited the Public Security Bureau, County Central Tibetan Hospital, and local party school, expressing gratitude to troops and political and legal cadres for their efforts in maintaining social harmony and stability. They

emphasized the importance of fulfilling duties responsibly in the new year. The group also inspected living conditions in the dormitories of Tibetan cadres and conducted checks on fire prevention measures. At Sershul monastery, they learned about monastic management and religious activities, conveyed greetings and encouraged religious representatives and monks to adhere to party leadership. The leaders also visited old party members and people in need, addressing their living conditions and ensuring relevant departments offer support to solve their difficulties.

### **EXILE TIBETAN NEWS**

#### **Imperial records prove Tibet was not part of China'**

January 26, 2024

A retired Chinese university professor presented evidence challenging China's official claim that "Tibet has been part of China since ancient times." This revelation occurred during a hearing on the 'Legal Status of Tibet' in the Estonian Parliament, chaired by Juku-Kalle Raid. The professor, Hon. Shiang Lau, cited Chinese imperial records from the Ming and Qing dynasties, proving that Tibet was not documented as part of China during those periods. The hearing included contributions from various speakers, including Sikyong Penpa Tsering of the Central Tibetan Administration, Tibet legal expert Dr Michael van Walt van Praag, and Representative Mr Sonam Frasi from the Office of Tibet, London. About 35 parliamentarians, journalists, academics, and Tibet supporters attended the gathering.

According to the report, Dr. Michael van Walt provided legal perspectives that reinforced Hon-Shiang Lau's testimony. He emphasized that China, by pressuring its trading partners to declare "Tibet as an internal issue of China," is attempting to legitimize its occupation of Tibet and violate the Tibetan people's right to self-determination, constituting a breach of international law.

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