

KIM JONG UN

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PYONGYANG GENERAL HOSPITAL
TO MARK THE 75TH FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE
WORKERS' PARTY OF KOREA**

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WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Speech at the Ground-breaking Ceremony
of the Pyongyang General Hospital
March 17, Juche 109 (2020)

Comrades,

Recently, the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee, and an enlarged meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee, of the Workers' Party of Korea were held. The two meetings analysed the situation facing our revolution and presented appropriate forms and tasks for the struggle ahead, as well as the means of conducting it.

This is an auspicious year for us, when we will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of our glorious Party. Already, the entire Party and the whole society, equipped with the ideas and spirit of the recent plenary meeting, are waging a massive struggle to implement the line of independent development and the relevant policies. They are doing so in the face of the harshest-ever circumstances, both internal and external.

In ensuring that we usher in without fail an historic and dynamic phase in the course of developing socialism of our own style this year, we are facing a number of challenging and colossal tasks. Of the fighting tasks, one is particularly important and worthwhile.

It is to build a modern general hospital. This is something our Party has long planned and aspired to do. We have gathered here today to launch this important and worthwhile project.

To be frank, at the recent plenary meeting of its

Central Committee, our Party conducted a comprehensive, scientific and open-hearted analysis and assessment of the present state of public health and medical services in the country. Acknowledging, to its misery and remorse, that there is no ideal, modern medical service establishment even in the capital city, it discussed building, for the good of the people's health, a modern general hospital first in Pyongyang, and decided on doing so during this 75th anniversary year of its founding.

Accordingly, the Party Central Committee postponed several construction projects planned for this year. It identified the construction of the Pyongyang General Hospital as a major project to be completed by the 75th anniversary of the Party's founding, one which should be given priority over other construction projects this year, the first year of the all-out frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough. Subsequently, over the past more than two months, it has made full preparations and examined the plan in detail, from selecting the site and drawing up the design, to forming construction forces and supplying the raw materials, with a view to finishing the project in the shortest time possible.

Having specified the direction of building a modern hospital with an eye to the distant future, and having had officials from various sectors visit some of the most advanced hospitals in the world, the Party provided high-level, priority guidance to designing.

As you can see from the artist's impression of the

planned Pyongyang General Hospital, the scale of the project is large. But time is short.

Since this project is a top priority and of the utmost concern to the Party, I decided to entrust it to my most reliable construction units—the Guards Hero Brigade and the Eighth Construction Bureau. I have also paid this unplanned visit, to offer you militant encouragement at the ground-breaking.

It is important that you fully understand the significance of this project, which has been a long-standing aspiration of the Party.

Our Party regards the people-first principle as its inherent nature and sacred political creed. So, protecting and improving the health of the people is a most pressing and honourable revolutionary undertaking, which it should shoulder and fulfil without fail, whatever the situation.

It is a source of the greatest happiness and encouragement for our Party that our people, the younger generations in particular, should be leading a healthy and cultured life by benefitting from the most advanced medical services provided under the socialist public health system.

In recent years, modern ophthalmic, dental and other specialist hospitals, as well as a children's hospital, have been built in Pyongyang. However, we cannot be satisfied with these achievements, as they are merely like grains of sand on a mountain when compared to the lofty ideals

and ambitions of our Party.

Now, with the mindset that we are starting everything from scratch, we should take the first step in building our public health service into one that is people-oriented and advanced.

If they had heard that a large, modern general hospital for our people was going to be built here, in such an ideal location in Pyongyang, Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il would have been delighted. The news will also bring pleasure to all our people, men and women, young and old.

The general hospital, when it is built, will be another priceless asset for better protecting the precious health and safety of our people. As a central base from which the country's public health sector can achieve a significant leap forward, it will serve as a springboard for consolidating and developing the socialist public health system.

I am fully confident that a wonderful general hospital will be built that will serve as an encouragement to the entire population as they join the all-out frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough. It will be built, thanks to the unshakable will demonstrated by the Workers' Party of Korea in recognizing that strengthening the public health sector is a political task for defending and adding lustre to the image of socialism of our style and a crucial undertaking to which the state must direct primary efforts, whatever the conditions and circumstances, and thanks

also to the ardent patriotic devotion of you, who have always responded loyally to the call of the Party.

Comrades,

The Party's basic aim is to ensure that, in building the Pyongyang General Hospital, the spirit of making selfless, devoted efforts for the people permeates the ongoing all-out frontal offensive to achieve a breakthrough. It also expects the spirit of carrying out the Party's instructions to the end and the construction speed created in the course of building the hospital to be rapidly propagated to all sectors of socialist construction.

It is the Party's lofty intention to develop a socialist public health service that is fully people-oriented and advanced, and that assumes complete responsibility for protecting the life of all the people and promoting their health. True to this intention, we should turn out as one in the effort to ensure that the project is completed without fail by the Party's 75th founding anniversary.

The Party values the people most, and this is a worthwhile undertaking for realizing the Party's plan to create another asset for them. So, all the civilian and military officials and builders seconded to this project should strive to create a miracle the like of which has never been seen before.

Little more than 200 days are left until the Party's founding anniversary.

Needless to say, it will not be easy to complete this gigantic project in such a short space of time.

The conditions for building the hospital are not very favourable, so we may experience many trials and difficulties in completing it. But we cannot leave the construction undone, nor can we sit idly by until the conditions are good enough.

Our people's high aspirations and demands place an obligation on our Party to make our country more prosperous, bring our people greater happiness, and provide them with better care and living conditions.

Come what may, we must complete the construction of a splendid hospital at the earliest possible date, and make it ready for the people.

Whether construction is finished by the set date or not depends entirely on our efforts.

The conditions are poor and many difficulties lie ahead. However, we are sure to overcome any difficulties we may encounter in the course of construction if we work actively by enlisting all our efforts, based on the understanding that no one else will bring us happiness and create a future for us, and that we must achieve happiness by means of our own efforts and forge our future with our own hands.

We should raise the fierce flames of the speed campaign, demonstrating the same indomitable mental strength as we displayed, under the Party's leadership, when ushering in the great golden age of construction; and we should launch a loyal offensive, a fierce 24-7 struggle and a resolute lightning campaign so that we add

brilliance to the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Party with the completion of this proud, monumental edifice.

Our Party demands that all major edifices should be absolutely perfect in terms of both their functionality and their quality. This ensures that they meet the requirements of the present era and the people's needs, and that they can effectively serve the people's life not only for the present but also in the distant future.

When we refer to a *major edifice* we mean a building that, because it has lasting value, can in no way be considered expendable.

Even though the design is good and the materials used in its construction are the best, the quality of a major edifice cannot be guaranteed if the building work is not executed properly.

Lowering the quality of building work on the plea of finishing the project as quickly as possible, or slowing the speed on the plea of improving the quality, runs counter to the thinking and demands of the Party, and is totally alien to the speed campaign we are calling for.

As you know better than I do, if we have to repeat the work owing to errors in the construction process, large amounts of labour, materials and funds will be wasted and the speed of construction impeded. The result will be that the project cannot be finished on schedule. Worse still, if this major edifice has to be repaired immediately after its inauguration, the people will be severely

inconvenienced; and any failure to guarantee its lifespan may incur the grave consequence of undermining confidence in our buildings.

Let me emphasize once again: It is the heaviest and noblest duty of all the builders to guarantee construction quality.

The quality of a building should be ensured not through control by the supervisory organs, but by the pure loyalty and conscience shown for the Party and the people by the commanding officers, Party members, soldiers and working people who are responsible for every process of the building work.

The work the builders are doing is an undertaking for the good of the country, the people and themselves. It is increasing the number of precious national assets to be handed down through the generations. With this in mind, they should all give full play to their collective wisdom and skills by acting responsibly and guiding and helping one another to improve the quality of this major edifice.

They should root out any bad habits and poor attitudes, such as working in a slipshod manner, that are contrary to the scientific and technological requirements and building practices. They should strictly observe building standards and practices during each construction process and be unsparing with their pure conscience, regardless of whether they are appreciated or not. In this way, they can ensure that the project achieves the highest possible quality.

It is vital that the builders step up the economy drive on every square inch of the construction site and create a climate of making maximum economies in the use of building materials, including cement, steel and timber; it is also essential that they maintain an attitude and stand befitting masters, display a high sense of responsibility, and demonstrate their devotion in every construction process.

The construction supervisory organs should, true to their mission and duty, enhance their role and sense of responsibility and ensure that the whole process of building this hospital becomes a model, and an example, in meeting the requirements of the design and execution of building work.

The construction speed can be accelerated if precedence is given to supplying the building materials and equipment.

The Cabinet, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Metallurgical Industry, the Ministry of Construction and Building-materials Industry, the Ministry of Forestry and other ministries, as well as central organs, and factories and enterprises, should organize and guide production in minute detail and stoke up the flames of the drive for increased production. By doing so, they can ensure that the materials and equipment needed in construction are supplied as early as possible.

To this end, it is vital for the workers of Sangwon and Sunchon to produce enough quality cement, and for the

metallurgical industry to turn out large quantities of iron and steel.

The relevant organs and enterprises should produce and deliver the fuel oil, timber, glass and other supplies needed for the construction project without delay. They should also step up the work of greening the area, according to a well-worked-out plan.

The relevant units, including the Ministry of Public Health, should train the officials, doctors and nurses who will work at the Pyongyang General Hospital. They should also take practical steps for putting medical services on an intelligent and IT footing, and work responsibly to prepare the medicines, supplies and various items of equipment required for operating the hospital.

The political section of the construction coordination commission should give full vent to the climate of heightened effort and competition. To this end, and in order vigorously to propel the successful completion of the building work, it should cover the construction site with militant Party slogans and red flags, and launch an uninterrupted, accurately-targetted and focused ideological offensive.

All the commanding officials should be fully aware that they are entirely responsible before the Party for the completion of this important building work. They should organize and command the construction work in a three-dimensional way; and they should always be at the forefront of the charge, giving powerful encouragement

to the builders to perform heroic feats by means of their self-sacrificing efforts and revolutionary trait of setting personal examples.

Comrades,

The Pyongyang General Hospital, which, despite the manifold difficulties and hardships, will rise high in the centre of the capital, will be a structure that not only demonstrates the true spirit of our country as it advances vigorously towards a better future by frustrating with good humour the cruel sanctions and blockade imposed by hostile forces, but also highlights the constancy of our revolution.

Let us all strive hard, by truly devoting our sweat and blood, for this honourable and worthwhile construction project and for the sake of our valuable people, and build on this very spot a wonderful hospital for the people that will be the envy of the world.