

KIM JONG UN

**ON STEPPING UP
THE BUILDING OF
A THRIVING COUNTRY**

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WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Let Us Step Up the Building of a Thriving Country by Applying Kim Jong Il's Patriotism

Talk to Senior Officials of the Central
Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea
July 26, 2012

In implementing the cause of building a thriving socialist country, it is essential to apply Kim Jong Il's patriotism.

I have already explained Kim Jong Il's patriotism on several occasions. However, officials still have a poor understanding of it, and they fail to apply it substantially in their practical activities with a proper methodology.

We emphasize Kim Jong Il's patriotism to encourage officials, Party members and other working people not merely to shout it as a slogan or hold it up like a banner, but to learn from the ennobling example of patriotism set by the great General Kim Jong Il and apply his patriotism thoroughly in their practical activities to build a thriving country.

The General was a peerless patriot; he loved his country and fellow people more ardently than anybody else did, and he devoted his whole life to achieving the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people. Thus he

performed imperishable exploits that are etched in the history of the country.

He always cherished deep in his heart his dear country and people.

When he saw a forest thickly wooded or a realigned vast rolling field, he would say to himself, “Green mountain” and “Green field,” picturing in his mind the future of a thriving country and the happiness our people would enjoy for generations to come. When he was visiting foreign countries, he would say with deep emotion, “My country, my nation,” because he missed his country and the people back home. When he saw a poorly-wooded mountain on a field guidance trip, he would be upset and comment that our country had been called a 3 000-*ri* land of golden tapestry since time immemorial, adding that we should turn it into a land of golden tapestry in the era of the Workers’ Party, and to be handed down to the coming generations. When he saw that army units had planted many trees on the mountains around their barracks and were tending them well, he would speak highly of their patriotism and call theirs, units of patriots. And when he saw a village and an army barracks that were well laid out and covered with apricot and persimmon trees, he called them an apricot-tree village and a persimmon-tree company, thus adding national fragrance to their names.

Having resolved to be the master of the revolution in Korea from the first day of embarking on the road of revolution, he defended and added brilliance to his socialist country by giving his all throughout his life, and he

continued to follow the road of love for his country and people until the last moment of his life.

The struggle to defend the socialist country was the most acute showdown with the imperialist allied forces, a struggle of unprecedented severity in its history. In order to overcome the harsh trials facing the country and defend it, the General set out on the long, arduous road of Songun-based leadership, displaying a do-or-die spirit.

The single parka he wore from the days of the Arduous March to the last days of his life is vivid evidence of how difficult was the path he had to tread to defend his socialist country. One year, looking back with deep emotion on the days of the trying ordeals, he referred to the parka he was wearing. He said that he wore it at the onset of the Arduous March after President Kim Il Sung had passed away, and that he kept wearing it because he could not forget those trials. He earnestly explained that the parka was a symbol of the Songun-based revolution. A parka gets thin if worn for a long time and cannot keep out the cold. Though the icy wind penetrated the old parka, his heart still burned with a sense of responsibility for defending his country. He held on to the parka for more than ten years, while all the time displaying a strong will and superhuman energy in continuing with his inspection of the military units at the front line and training the soldiers as a-match-for-a-hundred combatants. He climbed Chol Pass and Mt Osong braving howling snowstorms, visited Cho Island across a rough sea, and travelled to other frontline posts; all these places are

witnesses to the patriotic devotion he displayed on the road of Songun-based leadership to defend the country.

As we saw through the recent parade marking the centenary of the birth of the President, our country, which was robbed of its sovereignty a century ago due to its weak military strength, is demonstrating its dignity as a world-class military power; and it owes its matchless military might to the wise leadership of the General. Whenever we reflect on the road of Songun-based leadership the General followed shouldering the responsibility for the destiny of his country and nation, we realize how priceless and ennobling was the patriotism he possessed in defending our country, our motherland.

The thorny path he covered throughout his life with single-minded patriotic devotion led to our country's appearance being transformed and a solid cornerstone for building a prosperous and powerful nation being laid.

Even in the grim period when he was leading the struggle to defend socialism, he unfolded a far-reaching plan to build a thriving socialist country and wisely led the efforts to implement it. Under his energetic leadership the land across the country was realigned as befits a socialist country, gravitational waterways were built in many regions and rural villages were turned into socialist paradises. What is more, modern heavy- and light-industry factories were built in large numbers, existing factories were renovated to meet the demands of the new century, and fine monumental structures that

would contribute to the country's prosperity and the well-being of the generations to come were built in various parts of the country.

The introduction of CNC technology has effected an industrial revolution of our style in the new century, and it reveals the high level of his patriotism. I still remember vividly how in January 2010 he recollected with deep emotion that he had earnestly explained the details of CNC technology to officials who had no proper understanding of the technology, and thus stoked the flames of its introduction. During the period when the country was undergoing difficulties he had precious funds allocated to the introduction of CNC technology for the sake of the country's future prosperity, although he was haunted by the thought of the people who were suffering from food shortages. That he decided, even while shedding his heart's tears, to spend the precious funds, which was virtually everything in the country's coffers, on introducing CNC technology was a courageous action and the best choice; it was a decision born of his patriotic will to raise the international profile of his country, his motherland, by fostering its might and not by importing someone else's showy machines. Patriotism finds its highest expression in fostering the might of one's country for the sake of its prosperity. Great national strength makes it possible to defend the country and guarantees the happiness of the generations to come. Whenever he heard the song *Break through the Cutting Edge*, he would shed tears as he

recollected the arduous road he had travelled and the mental agony he had overcome in introducing CNC technology. Indeed, his tears were tears of ardent patriotism.

The epochal changes effected in our country and the proud realities unfolded in the prospering Songun Korea are all valuable fruits of his ennobling patriotism.

His burning love for his socialist country and people and his self-sacrificing devotion to the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people originated from his absolute trust in his people and his unbreakable confidence in the justness of the socialist system and the victory of the socialist cause. There can be no love and devotion that are separated from trust and confidence. It is from unshakable trust and confidence alone that genuine and warm love and unstinting devotion are produced. He said that there are no people in the world better than ours, and he always placed absolute trust in them. And saying, “Let’s see who laughs last,” he had firm confidence in the victorious future of the country. Because he firmly trusted in his people and the victorious future of the country as in himself, he was always devoted to the country and people and loved them ardently.

His warm love and devotion for the country and people also originated from his ennobling sense of mission. He cherished his ennobling sense of duty and the mission of being responsible for the destiny of the country and people entrusted to him by the President. Out of this sense he set

out on the long march of Songun-based leadership with a do-or-die resolve, and out of his ardent love for them, gave his all for the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the people.

In the light of its essential content and great vitality, the patriotism he cherished and applied in his practical activities is the most ennobling patriotism, and it can be associated only with his name. For this reason, when I speak of patriotism, I mean not patriotism in general, but Kim Jong Il's patriotism, the patriotism that he cherished and applied in the defence of his country and in making it prosperous.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism is the crystallization of socialist patriotism.

It is the most fervent and the warmest love for our socialist country and people and the most earnest and self-sacrificing devotion for the sake of the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people. It is genuine patriotism that holds dear every tree and every blade of grass in the country and requires one to devote one's heart and soul to looking after them.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism is based on an ennobling view on the motherland.

The General wrote in *The Embrace of My Motherland*, a classic song that he created in his early years, that the embrace of the country whose land glows under the radiant sun is the embrace of Marshal Kim Il Sung. Thus he presented the profound idea that to our people the

motherland is their leader and the embrace of their motherland is his embrace. One's motherland is not simply a place where one was born and grew up; it should be a place which guarantees a genuine life for the people and eternal happiness for posterity, which in turn is assured by the leader. A genuine life for the people and eternal happiness for posterity can be created and brought into bloom only by a leader who loves the country and people in real earnest and gives his all for their sake. The destiny of the country and people is unthinkable apart from their leader, and it can be defended and guaranteed only by him. Hence, devotion to the country is precisely loyalty to the leader, and loyalty to the leader is the highest expression of patriotism.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism is based on a noble view on people—believing in them as in heaven.

“The people are my God” was the General's motto throughout his life. He said that if there is an omnipotent entity in this world, it is the masses, not any god; it was his patriotic creed that the country exists because the people exist. His patriotic mind was always filled with the word *people*. If it is the wish of the people, I will pluck a star from the heavens or grow flowers even on a rock—this was the noble expression of his affection for the people, and his will. Even now, whenever I listen to the *Song of Affection for the People*, describing how the General's lifelong exploits that are as wide as the sea and as high as the sky were for the people alone, I cannot help shedding tears as I

recall the benevolent image of the General who valued the people all his life.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism is based on an ennobling view on the younger generation, and it stokes our feelings further.

The slogan "Let us live not merely for today but for tomorrow!" is a concentrated expression of his view on the younger generation. Whatever we do, we must do it most creditably and perfectly so that the coming generations can enjoy the benefits even in the distant future, even though we may not enjoy them in our lifetime—this was his ennobling intention and an earnest request he always made.

Kim Jong Il's patriotism is truly a precious spiritual legacy he bequeathed to our people and a practical example for us to follow.

It is valuable ideological and spiritual sustenance indispensable to all those who love their country and fellow people; it also provides those struggling for the sake of their country and fellow people with a powerful motive force that infuses them with courage and vigour. It will serve as a bright beacon in bringing up our people to be genuine patriots for generations to come, and as a compass to guide them in their life and struggle.

All our officials, Party members and other working people should learn a positive lesson from the ennobling patriotism of the General who devoted such tireless efforts to the country and people throughout his life, his heart burning with ardent love for them, and apply it in practice

just as it is, without adding anything to it or taking anything from it.

The education to implant Kim Jong Il's patriotism deep in the hearts of the people should be strengthened.

We should strengthen education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism so as to encourage all Party members, working people, service personnel and young people and students to understand its true meaning and cherish it in their hearts.

Education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism should be broad and thorough, and conducted through theoretical explanation.

This education should not be conducted by shouting slogans, but broadly and thoroughly and combined with theoretical explanations so as to inspire all Party members and other working people to have a clear understanding of the General's view on the country, on the people and on the younger generation, and to become genuine patriots who render loyal service to their country and people just as the General did. It should also inspire them to give and devote their patriotic sweat and blood for the future, when their desires will burst into bloom, despite the current hardship, just as our anti-Japanese revolutionary forerunners fought, dedicating their youth and life, for the future of their country and people.

Education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism should be conducted substantially in combination with practice.

The main mistake in the current education in patriotism

is that it is divorced from practice. Education that is separated from practice is pointless.

Patriotism is whole-hearted devotion to the country and people. Stressing that anxiety for one's country does not mean patriotism and patriotism in word alone is meaningless, the General said that if one is prepared to be patriotic, one should perform patriotic deeds out of a true spirit of patriotism. The spirit of patriotism should be expressed through practical activities designed for the well-being of the country and people. In answering the call of the country and people, one should not use mere words, but devote one's whole being; this is the proper stance of a patriot. Those who follow the road of genuine patriotism without hesitation or vacillation in any adversity, those who faithfully carry out promptly and to the letter the revolutionary tasks the country and people have assigned them, are genuine patriots.

Education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism should be based on the reality and conducted in keeping with the specific situation.

Patriotism is not an abstract concept. It begins at home. It springs from the love for one's parents, spouse and children, the love for one's own home, village and workplace, and develops into love for one's country and fellow people. Those who do not feel any affection for their parents, spouses and children or for their homes, villages and workplaces cannot love their country and fellow people; they can never become genuine patriots. We should

educate all Party members and other working people to become genuine patriots who first love their parents, spouses and children and then shed sweat and give their all in sprucing up their homes, villages and workplaces so that they are better than others', and thus add lustre to their country, their motherland.

We should be effective in applying Kim Jong Il's patriotism in practical activities.

To apply Kim Jong Il's patriotism means to fully realize the General's intentions and desires for the prosperity of the country and the happiness of the generations to come; it also means to conduct all work for achieving the prosperity of the country in the way that he did. We should faithfully bring to completion the undertakings he planned and was carrying out in his lifetime, so that his ideals and desires are translated into the reality on this land.

The highest expression of patriotism is found in defending the motherland. Where there is the motherland, there are our Party, our government, our socialist system and the happy life of our people. A life dedicated to national defence is the most worthwhile, patriotic life. The service personnel of the People's Army who are standing at the forefront of national defence should firmly grasp the weapons of the revolution and steadfastly defend the outposts of the country; the people on the home front should support their Songun country by assisting the service personnel. All the people should treat military

affairs as important and study them in earnest. Should the enemy attack, they should launch a resolute counterattack and give play to their patriotism in the sacred war to defend their nation.

All officials, Party members and other working people should cherish Kim Jong Il's patriotism deep in their hearts and turn out in the effort to achieve the prosperity of their country, their motherland. This effort is a worthwhile struggle to materialize our people's centuries-old desires and a sacred patriotic struggle to implement the instructions of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il. We should become genuine patriots of the Songun era and build a thriving socialist country for others to see, like the generation who, upholding the patriotic appeal of President Kim Il Sung, built a new, democratic Korea shortly after its liberation, and like the heroes in the Chollima era who, despite being empty-handed, built a people's paradise on the debris in the post-war days.

For our nation, which has suffered many years of indescribable misfortune and pain, divided into north and south by outside forces, national reunification is the supreme national task, and it brooks no further delay. National reunification is patriotism, and national division is treachery to the nation. Those who sincerely love their country and nation, whether they live in the north, in the south or abroad, should valiantly turn out in the righteous struggle to reunify the country, true to the noble idea of loving their country and nation cherished by the peerless

patriot General Kim Jong Il.

Patriotism can be likened to a gemstone. Just as a gemstone keeps shining even under the ground, so the idea of loving one's country, however small it may be, is valuable and beautiful. We should regard patriotism as something valuable and beautiful, like a gemstone and volunteer to perform undertakings that are helpful to achieving the prosperity of the country and the well-being of the people. We should always ask ourselves what we have given for the good of the country and people, and should cultivate the idea of loving our country. Only then will we be able to display genuine patriotism even when planting a tree and shed sweat out of patriotism when digging up a spadeful of earth at a construction site.

Party and working people's organizations should fulfil their responsibilities and roles in the campaign to learn from Kim Jong Il's patriotism and apply it in their practical activities.

It is often said that Party work is work with the people, but the fact is that it fails to inspire and enlist the patriotism people cherish in their hearts. Both Party work and the work of working people's organizations are work with the people and for the country and the people, so they should naturally be geared to cultivating and giving play to the patriotism cherished by the people. Today, many of our Party members and other working people are serving their country and fellow people faithfully at their own posts, even though they may not be seen or appreciated. They are

all genuine patriots. Party and working people's organizations should value and appreciate the patriotic deeds performed by them, and raise the wind of patriotism throughout society so as to encourage everyone to take part in patriotic undertakings.

All state organs and social organizations should pay attention to education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism. In teaching in and applying Kim Jong Il's patriotism, educational institutions have a special role to play; they should orient their teaching to education in Kim Jong Il's patriotism, and combine their education closely with family and social education.

Officials should be exemplary in applying Kim Jong Il's patriotism.

They should not remain simply worrying about their country; as genuine patriots they should be prepared to throw themselves into supporting the country. The slogan "We serve the country and the people!" put forward by our Party is a patriotic slogan our officials should hold high. Officials should burn with greater patriotic enthusiasm than anybody else for the country and people, and should shed sweat in the vanguard of the people's patriotic struggle. When all officials work sincerely, giving their all and sharing good times and bad with the people, sometimes carrying burdens on their backs, all the people will, with a sense of patriotism, take an active part in building a prosperous country.

Some days ago I said that we should do our work so that

people raise a cheer for our Workers' Party at all times, wherever they are. This means that we should do our work efficiently so that they do so voluntarily not only at rallies but also when they are left alone on far-flung islands or deep in the mountains. When our officials, who have to serve the people, run until they drop, shedding their sweat, to make our country prosperous and provide the people with abundance in life, the people will cheer the Workers' Party from the bottom of their hearts at all times, wherever they may be.

Our Party demands that the whole country be completely enthusiastic about Kim Jong Il's patriotism. Then, with the surging might of patriotism and single-hearted unity final victory in building a thriving socialist country will be brought forward. Just as the President opened up the path of building a new country after liberation by kindling the flames of patriotism in his historic speech on his triumphant return in which he appealed for the building of a new, democratic Korea with those with strength giving strength, those with knowledge offering knowledge and those with money donating money, and just as the General overcame severe trials and opened the way to building a thriving socialist country by kindling the flames of patriotism in his letter in which he appealed to all the people to work energetically and with one purpose to make our country, our motherland, ever more prosperous, so our Party is going to establish a new milestone in building a thriving socialist country by

stoking the flames of patriotism with Kim Jong Il's patriotism as the initial spark. This is our Party's unshakable will and determination.

When the whole country is filled with Kim Jong Il's patriotism and all the people are applying it to the letter in their practical activities, our country will shine in the world as a thriving socialist country.

On Socialist Construction and the Internal and External Policies of the Government of the Republic at the Present Stage

Policy Speech at the First Session
of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

April 12, 2019

Dear Deputies,

The First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has convened at a time when the prestige and strength of our Republic as it advances along the road of independence are being demonstrated to the full and its socialist construction has entered a vital period.

With the election to the 14th Supreme People's Assembly having been held successfully amid the high political enthusiasm and active participation of all the people and with the government of the Republic having been reorganized, our State power has been further consolidated and the revolutionary advance of our people, united with one mind and will around the Workers' Party of Korea and the government of the Republic as they march confidently towards a higher goal of socialism, is being

further accelerated.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Deputies for having, on behalf of all the people, placed great trust in me so that I will continue to lead the overall work of the State as Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of our glorious country, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and I pledge myself to work with devotion for the development and prosperity of the Republic and the happiness of our people.

Comrades,

Accomplishing the socialist cause under the unfurled banner of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is a great and historic task facing the government of the Republic.

Modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the highest programme of our Party and the government of our Republic and the general direction and overall goal of the construction of a socialist State.

It is only when we thoroughly apply Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in State building and in State activities that we can develop our Republic into the eternal State of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il and creditably satisfy our people's demands for and ideals of independence, true to the wishes and resolve of the great leaders.

The government of our Republic will achieve a decisive victory in implementing the socialist cause by conducting more vigorously the struggle for modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

Comrades,

The major fighting task facing us in our efforts to model the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is to accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country.

Building a powerful socialist country is a historic stage in the struggle for achieving the final victory of socialism, and it can be accomplished with credit only by thoroughly applying the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building.

The Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building contain in a concentrated way the ideas on, and exploits in, State building of the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who developed our Republic into the most prestigious and the strongest socialist State in history; these ideas also indicate clearly the ways and means for accomplishing the socialist cause with the State government as a political weapon.

With the great Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building as its immutable guiding principle, the government of the Republic should raise the country's strategic position and national strength to a higher level and bring about a fundamental turn in accomplishing the Juche-oriented socialist cause.

The revolutionary line of independence should be

implemented in State building and State activities.

Independence is the political philosophy of our Republic, and it constitutes the core of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist ideas on State building. A socialist State can defend the country's prestige and the people's destiny, and build and perfect socialism as suited to its situation and by its own efforts, only by maintaining the principle of independence and a definite Juche-oriented stand in all its activities. The great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il identified independence as the lifeblood of the Korean revolution and the cornerstone in State building, and they advanced the revolution and construction in our own way while categorically rejecting the worship of big countries, dogmatism and high-handedness and pressure from outside forces. Under their wise leadership our Republic has been built and has developed into a socialist State that is independent in politics, self-sustaining in the economy and self-reliant in national defence, and it continues to demonstrate to the world its prestige and might as a powerful independent country. Its strategic position and influence are being enhanced on a daily basis, after it recently achieved the historic cause of developing the two fronts simultaneously amid a do-or-die confrontation with the imperialists, and it is leading the trend towards peace. Today the imperialists' wilful violation of the sovereignty of other countries is growing more undisguised than ever before, and several countries are being forced into a miserable plight as they have no strength with which to defend themselves; in

this world it is hard to find a country like our Republic that is steadfast in its adherence to the principle of independence and is guaranteeing the security of the State and the happiness of the people by its own efforts.

Holding fast to the revolutionary line of independence in State building and state activities is the consistent and immutable stand of our Republic.

Geographically, Korea is sandwiched between major countries and its territory remains divided. Our Republic is carrying out socialist construction at a time when hostile forces are resorting to more vicious schemes in trying to contain, undermine and stifle it. On the other hand, the contradictions and confrontations among the great powers in their pursuit of hegemony are worsening, regionally and worldwide.

Given the special circumstances of our revolution and the complexity of the present international situation, our Republic should build up its strength from the firm standpoint of independence and seek independent development in order to defend its sovereignty and dignity and achieve true prosperity. In the past, too, when the world socialist camp existed and the countries in it maintained cooperative relations to varying degrees, our Republic adhered to the principles of self-determination and independence in carrying out the revolution and construction, and it promoted socialist construction on the principle of self-reliance. Building socialism by its own efforts according to the revolutionary line of independence

is the basic principle our Republic must always maintain in State building.

Whatever wind may blow and whatever challenges and difficulties may lie ahead, our Republic will, in the future, too, make no concession or compromise where the fundamental interests of our State and people are concerned. It will resolve everything on the strength of self-reliance and self-development, as it steps up the building of a powerful socialist country in our own way and by our own efforts.

A crucial factor in applying the revolutionary line of independence to the building and activities of our State is to strengthen the motive force of our revolution and develop every field of social life in our own way. We should consolidate the country's politico-ideological position to make it rock-solid by equipping the people fully with the great Juche idea and the spirit of national independence and rallying them firmly behind the Party and the government of our Republic. The government will develop all the realms of the economy, defence and culture from a steadfast Juche-oriented stand and in our own way, and will never tolerate in the slightest the way or fashion of others.

Our Republic has a bright, promising future ahead, as it is steadily developing on the strong basis of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence, with the Party and the people achieving solid unity to form a powerful motive force of the revolution.

It is essential to apply the people-first principle to the

letter in all aspects of State activities and social life.

This principle is a political ideal of regarding the masses of the people as masters of the revolution and construction, relying on them and making selfless, devoted efforts for their sake. It embodies the Juche-oriented revolutionary philosophy that the people are the most precious and powerful beings in the world; it reflects the unwavering commitment of our Party and the government of our Republic to love the people dearly and satisfy their demands and interests.

The people are the root of our socialist State and its foundation; and they are responsible for developing it. All the activities of our Party and government organs should be wholly oriented and subordinated to safeguarding and realizing the people's demands and interests and faithfully serving them—this is the way to promote the revolution and construction with success and bring the viability and advantages of socialism into full play.

Maintaining the viewpoint and attitude of prioritizing the people in the activities of the State presents itself as an important matter, in view of the fact that abuses of power, bureaucratism and other violations of their interests may appear among officials in the course of socialist construction. The negative practices of lording it over the people and abusing the authority granted by them will impair the prestige of socialism and its people-oriented character, and weaken the people's support for and trust in the Party and the State. Ultimately, they may even threaten

the very existence of our socialist system.

With a view to carrying forward and holding high the ennobling ideas and intentions of the great leaders, who believed in the people as in heaven and devoted their lives to the interests of the people, our Party defined the essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, the guiding ideology of our revolution, as the people-first principle; it then gave absolute priority to applying the Juche-oriented view on the people, a people-oriented philosophy, in the activities of the Party and the State.

The slogan “Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!” encapsulates the people-first principle maintained by our Party and the government of our Republic. In all spheres of State and social life we have given top and absolute priority to that which is oriented to the people and popular among them; and we have spared no investment in their wellbeing. In recent years our State has launched gigantic construction projects in a bold manner. This is not because there is a surplus of funds in the country’s coffers; these projects are aimed at providing our people, who are the best in the world, with better conditions for leading a happy, cultured life.

Our Party and the government of our Republic have acted resolutely in declaring war on the abuse of power, bureaucratism and corruption, which are infringing on the people’s interests, and waged an intensive struggle against such practices, having identified it as a matter with a vital bearing on the existence of our State.

In the course of the endeavour to apply the people-first principle in all the activities of the Party and the State and in all fields of social life, the Party, the State and the people have formed a community in which they share the same destiny with one another; and our Republic has advanced dynamically along the orbit of its development, never flinching in the face of unprecedented trials and difficulties.

As socialist construction progresses, we should pay closer attention to applying the people-first principle. Then we can double the dynamic for the advancement of our revolution and continue to demonstrate the advantages unique to our style of socialism, those which other countries cannot imitate.

That the Party and the State make selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people, and the people support their Party and State whole-heartedly, entrusting their destiny and future entirely to them, is the genuine features of our State, which embodies the people-first principle.

The government of the Republic will invariably hold fast to the people-first principle as the core of its mainstay, and, by relying on the strength of the people, strive to hasten the bright future of socialism that they aspire after.

The overall affairs of the State should be subjected to Party leadership in every way possible.

Party leadership is an intrinsic requirement in the building of a socialist State and a lifeline of its activities. A party is the incarnation of the demands and interests of

the masses, and only under its leadership can the socialist State perform its mission as their servant with credit and properly organize and undertake unified guidance over all realms of social life and all regions, as well as overall socialist construction. A socialist government, if it is not led by a revolutionary party, will lose its intrinsic nature and fall prey to the reactionaries and plotters, with the result that the people cannot escape the pitiful plight of political orphans.

Our Party is the veteran and seasoned General Staff of the revolution, which has gained rich experience and outstanding leadership skills and abilities in the course of leading several stages of social revolution and socialist construction. Boundless dignity and confidence in sure victory is instilled in our people by the leadership of our Party, which is bringing about world-startling, miraculous achievements one after another while leading the gigantic campaign of creation for building a powerful socialist country amid an acute confrontation with hostile forces.

Party leadership over State activities should always be based on political guidance, policy-oriented guidance. The Party is the guiding force that provides the guidelines to be followed by the socialist government and guides all State activities so that they are conducted properly; and the State is the executor and performer of the Party's lines and policies. Proceeding from these interrelations between the Party and the government, our Party has shown close concern for encouraging its organizations to exercise unified control over

the affairs of their sectors and units and to give political and policy-oriented guidance to them in the efforts to realize its leadership over State activities. If the Party, a political leadership body, is involved in administrative work and resorts to technical methods, it will not only deviate from its main principle, but also paralyse the functions of the administrative organs and, by impairing its authority, end up harming the revolution and construction.

At present, the government of our Republic is effecting satisfactory unified leadership over the State and society by relying on the revolutionary guiding ideology and scientific strategy and tactics advanced by the Workers' Party of Korea. In the future, too, it should remain faithful to the Party's ideas and leadership, so that it can perform its mission of representing the rights of the masses of the people to independence, organizing their creative abilities and activities, taking care of their lives and protecting their interests.

When it strictly adheres to the ideas and principles, elucidated by Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, for building a socialist State our Republic will be built more splendidly as an independent powerful State that no one would dare provoke, a people's State in which the people's ideals are fully realized, and a great State that leads the world by giving full scope to its unlimited potential for development; then the victory of the socialist cause will be brought closer.

Comrades,

The core task facing our Republic at the present stage of the struggle to build a powerful socialist country is to consolidate the material foundations of socialism by concentrating all our national resources on economic construction.

Economic self-sufficiency is a material guarantee and prerequisite for building an independent State. Only with a dependable independent and strong economic capability is it possible to defend the dignity of a State and steadily increase its political and military might.

The present political situation demands that our State hold higher the banner of self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

Recently, the United States has been growing uneasy about the security of its mainland in the face of our rapidly-developing nuclear armed force. At the negotiating table, it has talked a lot about improved relations and peace; but at the same time, it is resorting to every conceivable scheme to prolong economic sanctions, with the aim of preventing us from following the path we have chosen and of disarming us first in order to create the conditions for realizing its ambition of overthrowing our social system. As a prerequisite for lifting sanctions, it is raising demands that run counter to the fundamental interests of our State, and as

a result, the confrontation between our country and the United States is bound to be drawn out and the hostile forces' sanctions will persist. We have built socialism in the face of their persistent sanctions, but we must neither become accustomed to the situation nor slacken the speed of our revolution's advance. For those who cannot thwart us by force, sanctions are a last resort. However, they are an intolerable challenge for us; we must never connive at or remain indifferent to sanctions, but act resolutely to frustrate them. Just as we put an end to the prolonged nuclear threat by dint of our own nuclear armaments, so we must frustrate the hostile forces' sanctions on the strength of our self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

We have the capabilities and foundations for independent development to revitalize our national economy and raise it to the advanced international level in the shortest possible time. The foundations of our self-sustaining economy that have been laid for several decades, our able scientific and technical personnel, and the creative strength of our heroic people who have made self-reliance part of their mental qualities and are brimming with patriotic enthusiasm—these constitute our valuable strategic resources. By making the most of these enormous and unlimited potentialities, we can create another legend of world-startling, miraculous successes and advance ahead of others by making a greater leap forward.

When we adhere to the line of building an independent national economy and give full play to the revolutionary

spirit of self-reliance, we can achieve remarkable development with a strength that others can neither fathom nor imagine.

The strategic policy pursued by our Party and the government of our Republic in promoting socialist economic construction is to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific.

The independence and Juche character of the national economy should be consolidated in every way possible.

We must strive hard to achieve self-sufficiency in energy, fuel and raw materials, which constitute the basic guarantee for independent economic development.

The electric-power industry should, by maintaining and strengthening its existing bases, maximize the production of electricity, put power supply on a scientific and rational basis, and actively develop the hydraulic, tidal, atomic and other promising sources of energy so as to create greater generating capacity.

Coal and other mines, which stand at the primary front for economic development, should give precedence to prospecting and tunnelling, and concentrate their efforts on mechanizing extraction and transport; in this way they can significantly increase the production of coal, the food of industry, and minerals.

The metallurgical industry should establish a new, modern and large-scale iron production system suited to our actual conditions by solving the scientific and technological problems arising at the Juche-oriented iron

production bases and operating them properly. The chemical industry should turn itself into a Juche-oriented, energy- and labour-saving industry that is wholly reliant on locally-available raw and other materials. By doing so, it should meet the domestic demand for fertilizer, chemical fibre, synthetic plastics and various other chemical goods.

Supplies of food and consumer goods, which are decisive to improving the people's livelihood, should be improved as a matter of urgency.

The agricultural sector should pay special attention to ensuring the supply of seeds, fertilizer and water and securing the land under cultivation. It should introduce scientific farming methods and raise the rate of mechanization of farm work, and thus attain without fail the grain production target set by the Party. Modern stockbreeding bases such as chicken and pig farms should be built and existing ones renovated, domestic animals should be raised in a scientific way, and a mass movement should be launched to raise ruminants. Also, a turn should be brought about in the production and processing of seafood by consolidating the material and technical foundations of the fishing industry.

Light industry establishments should strictly carry out recycling as one of their strategies, along with the strategy of relying on locally-available raw and other materials; they should also step up the modernization of their production lines and put great efforts into developing new

products. In this way, they should ensure that a larger quantity and variety of quality consumer goods are supplied to the people.

We should undertake grand construction projects more vigorously to provide the people with more affluent and cultured living conditions. The construction sector should make innovations in its architectural design and construction methods and raise the standard of technical equipment at construction units in order to build world-class structures in larger numbers. The building materials industry should bolster the capacity of cement production and decisively raise the proportion of domestically-produced finishing materials.

The transport sector should adopt revolutionary measures for improving rail and water transport in conformity with the actual conditions in our country, and find unique solutions to the problem of passenger transport in the capital city and provincial seats.

We should improve the structure of the national economy still further, develop all its branches in a harmonious way and attain an international competitive edge in the magnesia and graphite industries and other promising economic sectors.

We should make proactive efforts to put the national economy on a modern and IT footing so as to transform the country's economy decisively into one that is knowledge-based.

We should work out strategies and targets for

developing the machine-building and electronics industries and such hi-tech sectors as the information, nano-technology and biological industries, and concentrate investment on them. Every sector should build a parent, standard factory where science and technology are integrated with production and all production lines are remote-controlled, intelligent and fully automated, and by generalizing its experiences, raise the overall economy to the advanced world level.

We should develop the local economy and reenergize our external economic work.

Provinces, cities and counties should build and develop the local economy with its own characteristics by giving full scope to their natural and geographical advantages and properly sustaining their economic, technical and traditional features. The State should empower local authorities to stand on their own feet and develop by themselves, and take practical steps to this end.

The external economic sector should conduct international economic cooperation, technical exchanges and trading activities in a multifaceted, proactive and tactical way on the principle of strictly abiding by the line of building an independent national economy and in the direction of reinforcing the fields and links essential for strengthening the country's economic foundations.

In order to give full play to the potential of our self-sustaining socialist economy, comprehensive measures should be adopted for enlisting all the human

and material resources and potentialities of the country in a coordinated way and utilizing the new elements and driving force for economic development.

The country's economic work should be conducted under the State's unified control and supervision, and in accordance with its strategic plan and command.

We should adopt a scientific and practical strategy and phased plans for the economic development of the State and execute them without fail. The structure and work system should be adjusted so that enterprises can arrange and conduct production and management activities smoothly while fully satisfying the needs of the State's unified guidance over and strategic management of economic work.

The State's institutional and legal conditions and environment relating to economic affairs should be improved and iron discipline established so that economic organs and enterprises give priority to the national interests and the promotion of the people's wellbeing, and observe law and order strictly.

We should further improve planning in line with the essential requirements of the socialist economy and deal with pricing, monetary and financial matters—key links in the chain of economic management—in accordance with economic laws and principles and in such a way as to reap a profit in reality. By doing so we can encourage enterprises and producers to work with great interest and enthusiasm. Steps should be taken to conduct economic

management on the basis of scientific calculations so that it can be done as appropriately and effectively as possible. Raw and other materials, funds and manpower should be used as economically as possible and expenditure should be cost-effective so that all the resources of the country can contribute fully to the development of the State.

The main forces that propel a self-sustaining economy are talents and science and technology.

We should make it part of our national traits to set store by talents and science and technology, and identify and appoint talents to suitable posts so that they can take the lead in production and the development of technology; and we should also steadily increase State investment in the field of science and technology.

We should reach proper decisions on major scientific and technological tasks and projects which are strategic, pivotal, profitable and economically important, and concentrate our forces and funds on them to ensure that science and technology can render a decisive service to reenergizing the overall economy and developing the hi-tech industry.

We should build up the political and military might of our Republic.

Our political and ideological might is founded on the advantages and stability of the political system of our socialist State. We should provide all the people with genuine political rights and dignity and give full play to the political and ideological advantages of our system, in

which the whole country, united in ideology, purpose and moral obligation, is making uninterrupted progress.

The government of the Republic should regard the people's interests as the absolute standard and give primary consideration to their will and desires in formulating and carrying out its policies; in this way, we can encourage broad sections of the working masses, including workers, farmers and intellectuals, to take an active part in the management of the State and society as befits the genuine masters of State administration.

The government should give definite precedence to political and ideological work as required by the intrinsic nature of socialist society, so as to train all the members of society into true advocates of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and further consolidate the political and ideological unity and cohesion of our State.

The government of the Republic should perfect the legal system of the State and intensify the role of law in State and social life.

The laws of the Republic are powerful weapons for defending the gains of the revolution, consolidating and developing the socialist system, and championing and guaranteeing the people's rights and interests. In line with the intensification of the revolution and construction, laws and regulations should be subdivided and specified on the basis of the requirements of the Party's policies and reflecting the prevailing reality, so as to legislate and perfect them in a scientific way; they should be modified

and supplemented whenever it is necessary, so that they can reliably guarantee the administration of the people-oriented politics of the socialist State. We need to thoroughly establish a habit of socialist law observance throughout society so that all the people respect the State laws out of a noble sense of duty and abide by them on a voluntary and obligatory basis; law-enforcement organs should enhance their role, never permit double standards of discipline in enforcing laws, and strictly adhere to scientific accuracy, objectivity, impartiality and prudence in applying laws; in this way, we can create the most advantageous socialist law-governed State in which laws safeguard the people and the people observe the laws.

Our self-reliant defence capability is a powerful and valuable weapon for defending the sovereignty of our Republic.

The peaceful atmosphere that has begun to be created on the Korean peninsula is not stable, and the hostile forces have not abandoned their attempt to invade our Republic. Always keeping in mind the absolute truth that peace can be guaranteed only by powerful military strength, we should hold fast to the principle of self-reliant defence and continue to build up the country's defence capability.

The government of the Republic will provide, on a preferential basis and in full, the human and material resources necessary for strengthening the People's Army, arming all the people and fortifying the whole country; it will steadily raise our national defence capability by

putting the defence industry on a highly Juche-oriented and modern footing.

We should develop our own unique socialist culture.

It is important to create a climate of giving top priority to education throughout the country and bring about a radical improvement in education in our own way so as to overtake the educational level of the developed countries. The education sector should strengthen the ranks of teachers, improve the quality of education as demanded by the trend of developing modern education, and thus train larger numbers of talented personnel who will shoulder the scientific and technological development of the country and socialist construction.

Upholding the slogan of making all the people well versed in science and technology, we should enrol all the working people in the study-while-you-work system and prepare them as intelligent workers.

The government of the Republic should pay special attention to the socialist health service. By further improving medical services, raising medical science and technology to the cutting-edge standard and consolidating the material and technical foundations of the health service sector, it can ensure that people enjoy even greater benefits from our country's socialist healthcare system.

The sector of culture and arts should create larger numbers of masterpieces representing the demands of the times and aspirations of the people, and the sector of cinematic art, in particular, should kindle the flames of an

upsurge in film-making in the new century, thus playing the role of pacesetter in opening up a new golden age for the development of socialist culture.

Sports play a vital role in consolidating a nation's strength and exalting its resourcefulness and prestige. A nationwide effort should be directed to developing sports science and specialized sporting techniques and organizing mass-based sports activities on a wide scale. At the same time, sports facilities should be increased in number and the existing ones renovated with an eye to satisfactorily hosting even international games.

Establishing a socialist way of life and moral discipline is a serious political struggle and an acute class struggle for safeguarding and adding lustre to our ideology and system.

We should encourage all members of society, with a high sense of pride and self-confidence that our culture, our way of life and our morality are the best, to give full play to the collectivist way of life and moral traits; and we should also encourage them to play an active part in creating and enjoying the revolutionary and optimistic cultured way of life of our own style that suits the aesthetic sensibilities of today for aspiring after cultural development. We should firmly defend the ideological and cultural position of our State by strictly guarding against the slightest expression of immoral and alien phenomena that poison the people spiritually and degenerate and debase society, intensifying legal sanctions against them, and improving ideological education and struggle.

In order to carry out the enormous revolutionary tasks facing the government of the Republic successfully, people's government organs should enhance their functions and roles.

They should further intensify their unified guidance over the whole society as required by the developing revolution.

They should consolidate and develop the socialist political system and continue to accelerate economic and cultural construction. In particular, they should give precedence to economic work and concentrate on improving the people's living standards. They should bring every realm of social life and every region under their supervision and provide unified guidance over them, while giving free rein to the creativity of individual sectors and units.

People's government organs should, as appropriate to their basic duty, establish the trait of making selfless, devoted efforts for the good of the people.

They should always pay heed to the people's opinions, plan and organize their work to reflect their demands, find out what can be done for them and carry it through to completion, and enlist them in carrying out the Party's lines and policies. They should give top priority to the people's interests and comfort, and take responsible care of their livelihood.

They should properly enforce the advantageous people-oriented policies, including free compulsory education and free medical care, which General Kim Jong Il pursued invariably even in the most trying

days, so that the people can feel keenly the benefits of the socialist country in their daily life and turn out in working for its prosperity.

People's government organs should maintain it as their iron rule to work only under the Party's leadership.

They should organize and carry out all their work with the Party's ideas and policies as their yardstick; by proactively defending the Party's policies and implementing with credit the revolutionary tasks advanced by the Party, they can give full play to the validity of our Party's policies. Party organizations at all levels should step up the collective guidance over the activities of government organs in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution, and actively encourage all their officials to fulfil their responsibilities and perform their basic duties for the revolution.

The officials of people's government organs at all levels should enhance their sense of responsibility and their roles.

The present stirring reality urgently demands that our officials take the lead in the general offensive and wage a vigorous struggle in order to discharge their duties as befits the leading personnel of the revolution.

The officials of people's government organs should possess a high degree of the Party spirit and revolutionary principles and conduct their work in a daring and proactive manner, with the attitude that they are fully responsible for it. Courage and action arise out of trust in the Party, whereas timidity and acts of basing their actions on how

people look at them result from a lack of trust in the Party. The officials of people's government organs should decisively root out the passive approach of expediting their work only when the Party throws its full weight behind them, and nurture the staunch revolutionary work style of carrying through the tasks set by the Party even though their bodies are torn to pieces. They should constantly cultivate their abilities to conceive, organize, supervise, guide and develop their work in order to become versatile workers who are capable of carrying out all tasks with credit. They should acquire our Party's methods of working with the masses, set personal examples in all their undertakings and work tirelessly for the good of the people. Cherishing deep in their hearts the true meaning of our Party's affection for the people, they should be infinitely courteous to them and become their faithful servants, at all times sharing weal and woe with them and working with devotion for them.

3

Comrades,

Our historic struggle for national reunification, the long-cherished desire of the nation, has now entered a new phase.

We have adopted a succession of momentous measures to improve inter-Korean relations and ensure peace on the

Korean peninsula, with a firm resolve to achieve without fail the cause of national reunification, to which the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il devoted their heart and soul for their entire life.

Last year we held three rounds of historic north-south summit meetings and talks, and we adopted inter-Korean declarations, thus bringing about a dramatic turn in the relationship. They were events of great significance which transformed the grave situation that was teetering on the brink of war breaking out at any moment, and which heralded the start of a new journey to national reunification.

The entire nation is now ardently hoping that the historic Panmunjom Declaration and the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration will be fully implemented so that the peaceful atmosphere on the Korean peninsula will continue and inter-Korean relations will improve without interruption.

The south Korean conservative forces, however, are responding to the aspirations of the nation and the unanimous expectations of the international community with perfidious words and behaviour, and are battling to return inter-Korean relations back to what they were in the period before the publication of the Panmunjom Declaration.

The United States is openly trying to force “speed adjustment” on the south Korean authorities and doing everything it can to subordinate the implementation of inter-Korean agreements to its anti-DPRK policy marked by sanctions and pressure.

As a result, a grave situation has been created, in which

we must decide whether to ease the tension on the Korean peninsula and maintain the atmosphere of inter-Korean rapprochement, or to return to the past when the tension was spiraling towards catastrophe with the danger of war looming large.

We cannot sit back with folded arms and ignore the current situation, which is causing serious concern over the destiny and future of the nation and peace and security in the region; instead, we must take proactive measures without delay to resolve it in line with the unanimous aspirations of all the fellow countrymen.

To this end, it is necessary above all to take a proper stand and attitude of invariably adhering to and implementing the inter-Korean declarations, which embody the unanimous will of the nation, whatever the difficulties and obstacles in the way.

I would like to make it clear once again that, as I have already declared, it is my firm determination to turn, together with the south Korean authorities, inter-Korean relations into a lasting and durable relationship of reconciliation and cooperation and write a new history of the nation that achieves the peace and co-prosperity desired by all the countrymen.

In order to untangle the prevailing unsavoury situation, heighten the positive atmosphere for improved relations the north and the south created with so much effort and ensure that it bears significant fruit in the form of peace and reunification, it is important to put an end to the big-power

worship, which mars the spirit of independence, and to the policy of dependence on foreign forces, which encroaches on the common interests of the nation, and to subordinate everything to improving relations.

I think that if the south Korean authorities truly want improved relations, peace and reunification, they should return to the original intention they had at the time of the Panmunjom summit and the September Pyongyang summit, and fulfil the responsibilities they have assumed before the nation by sincerely implementing the north-south declarations.

They should not waver in their attitude depending on how they see the wind blowing, nor pose as a meddlesome “mediator” and “facilitator” wasting time on foreign trips; instead they should be a responsible party in defending the interests of the nation and speaking up with the firm mentality of members of the nation.

It is our consistent assertion that it is imperative to smash the underhand schemes of the hostile anti-reunification and anti-peace forces at home and abroad in order to sustain the atmosphere of improved inter-Korean relations.

It is essential to realize before it is too late that neither progress in inter-Korean relations nor any fruit of peace and prosperity can be expected if the hawkish forces in the south Korean military, who persist in their veiled hostility by resuming jointly with the United States the military exercises, under a different name which it had previously been agreed would be discontinued, continue to be allowed

to make reckless moves, and unless the anachronistic arrogance and hostile policy of the United States, which is creating artificial obstacles in the way of the improved relationship by presenting arbitrary outrageous demands, are eradicated.

All the fellow countrymen in the north and the south and abroad should, for the sake of the destiny and future of the nation, resolutely check and foil the moves of the United States and south Korean conservative forces that are acting contrary to the historic tide towards improved inter-Korean relations and peaceful reunification.

If they are truly willing to work for the improvement of north-south relations, peace and reunification, the south Korean authorities should sympathize with our stand and resolve, keep pace with us and make the courageous decision to show their sincerity through practical action, not through words.

Our Party and the government of our Republic will continue to work with sincerity and perseverance to achieve the sustained development of north-south relations and the peaceful reunification of the country, solemnly cherishing the aspirations and desires of the nation in the future, too.

Comrades,

The first-ever DPRK-US summit talks, which were held in Singapore in June last year in the world's spotlight, were a momentous occasion that brought the hope of peace to the Korean peninsula where fire had been exchanged; and the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement was a historic

declaration announcing to the world that the two countries, which had been hostile to each other from one century into the next, would write a new history in their relationship, and therefore it won the full support and approval of the peace-loving international community.

The DPRK voluntarily took crucial and significant steps, including the discontinuation of nuclear testing and the test-firing of intercontinental ballistic missiles, thereby making the first move towards confidence-building, which is the key to the removal of bilateral hostile relations, and it also adopted the broadminded measure of realizing the repatriation of the war remains of US soldiers, something that had been requested by the US President, as a show of its resolve to sincerely implement the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement, which is a milestone in the development of a new bilateral relationship.

However, the second DPRK-US summit talks held in Hanoi last February raised strong doubts over whether the steps we took as a strategic, courageous decision were right, and they were an occasion that gave us a sense of caution concerning whether the United States is genuinely interested in improving bilateral relations.

At the talks we expressed our resolve to establish the essential stages and course to be followed without fail for implementing the June 12 DPRK-US Joint Statement in the interests of both sides, and to take more prudent and trustworthy steps, and looked forward to a positive response of the United States.

But the United States came to the negotiating table with only completely unrealizable approaches in its mind.

In other words, without any definite orientation or methodology, they were not prepared to solve problems with us at the negotiating table.

With that sort of thinking, the United States will not be able to move us an inch or get what it wants, even if it sits with us a hundred times, a thousand times.

It has recently conducted a test for the simulated interception of our intercontinental ballistic missiles and resumed the military exercises the US President had committed himself to suspending, while making other hostile moves contrary to the spirit of the June 12 Joint Statement in a more undisguised way. We find this seriously antagonistic.

I am extremely displeased with such a trend.

As waves rise when the wind blows, so the more pronounced the hostile US policy towards the DPRK becomes, the tougher our counteraction will become.

Although it is strongly hinting at the settlement of issues through dialogue, as it considers a third round of DPRK-US summit talks, the United States still pays no attention to the withdrawal of its hostile policy, which would be the basic way of establishing a new bilateral relationship; instead, it mistakenly believes that it can subdue us by exerting maximum pressure on us.

We, of course, attach importance to settling issues through dialogue and negotiations, but the US-style

dialogue of unilaterally pushing its demands does not suit us, nor are we interested in it.

Although the United States calls for a negotiated settlement to issues, it is stirring up hostility to us day after day, which is an act that is as foolish and risky as attempting to put out a fire with oil.

Given the deep-rooted animosity between the DPRK and the United States, in order to implement the June 12 Joint Statement both sides should abandon their unilateral terms and seek a constructive solution that meets the interests of both.

To this end, it is essential above all for the United States to adopt a new approach towards us with a new way, after abandoning the current one.

The United States talks a lot about holding the third round of bilateral summit talks, but we are neither happy nor willing to see a repeat of talks like the Hanoi summit.

However, as President Trump regularly observes, the personal relations between him and me are not hostile like the relationship between the two countries, and we still maintain good relations; if we want, we can send and receive letters enquiring about each other's health at any time.

If the United States were to ask for a third round of summit talks, it must be on the condition that the United States has the right attitude and finds a methodology that can be shared with us; then we are willing to have another try.

But in my opinion, at this moment, it comes to my mind that there is no need for me to be obsessed over the summit

talks with the United States out of a desperate desire for the lifting of sanctions.

Anyway, we will be patient and wait until the end of this year to see whether the United States makes such courageous decision or not, but it will obviously be hard to get a good opportunity like the last time again.

In future, I will put my signature on an agreement without hesitation only when it contains fair clauses which conform to the interests of both sides and which are acceptable to each of them, and this depends entirely on the stand the United States adopts and its approach to us.

What is obvious is that if it sticks to its current political way of calculation, the prospects for problem-solving will be bleak, and the situation very dangerous.

At this crucial time, I hope that the United States will reach a well-advised judgment and the second hand of the clock of DPRK-US showdown which was stopped with so much difficulty will never move again.

The government of the Republic will strengthen and develop the bonds of friendship and cooperation with all the countries of the world that respect the sovereignty of our country and are friendly to it, and will advance hand in hand with all the peace-loving forces of the world to establish a lasting and durable peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

Comrades,

As I have just said, I will no longer be obsessed with such a trivial issue as the hostile forces lifting sanctions,

but will open up the way to prosperity by our own efforts.

Although the goal of our struggle is demanding, and challenges and difficulties stand in the way of our socialist construction as ever, our Party and the government of our Republic are steadfast in their resolve to open a new phase of prosperity and achieve the ideal and goal of building a powerful country by our own efforts under the unfurled banner of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

The road of independence leads to prosperity and victory. Nothing can reverse or stop the dynamic advance of our State and people that have an unshakable faith and resolve to pave their own way by themselves with confidence in their own strength.

Let us all join the general advance to successfully accomplish the cause of building a powerful socialist country, holding higher the banner of great Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism and firmly rallied behind the Party and the government of the Republic.

**Policy Speech at the Seventh
Session of the 14th Supreme People's
Assembly of the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea**

September 8, 2022

Dear comrade Deputies,

Esteemed Chairman of the Standing Committee and
Deputy Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly,

Dear observers,

The Seventh Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly, convened in the lead-up to the anniversary of the founding of our glorious country, has furnished us with vital legal tools for implementing the major policies of the Party and the government.

In particular, the adoption of a law reflecting the unanimous will of all the Korean people on the nation's nuclear forces policy is a significant event that proclaims at home and abroad that we have the legal right to possess a war deterrent as a means of defending our state.

Thus we have achieved another key historic breakthrough in establishing a political and institutional mechanism for decisively guaranteeing the security of our state and people into the distant future.

I affirm that the policy on our nuclear forces has been

enshrined in law at this point in history, which is very important in view of the current state of our revolution, the present situation, and the mission of our Republic's nuclear forces, and I express my gratitude to all the Deputies for adopting with unanimous approval this most important of laws at such a vital moment.

I also extend warm encouragement and greetings to the Deputies who, as representatives of the people, are devoting all their efforts, wisdom and passion to consolidate our state power and make it rock-solid, and to accomplish the struggle objectives advanced at the Eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Comrades,

The higher the stage of socialist construction we reach for achieving the independence of the masses, the greater become the challenge and resistance from the imperialists.

Imperialism's inherent nature and means of existence is aggression and plunder, and as long as it exists the source of war cannot be eliminated. Therefore, in the course of historical development, it is inevitable that there is antagonism and a struggle between imperialism and socialism, which aspires after independence and peace.

Therefore, it is a crucial and vital requirement in achieving the steady development and prosperity of socialism that conditions and an environment be created that allow no threat of aggression; to this end, we should possess the absolute strength with which to overwhelm the enemy.

Our Republic, as a citadel of the anti-imperialist struggle and a fortress of socialism, has, in the face of every manner of intervention and pressure by hostile forces, been resolute in promoting the construction of a self-reliant national defence capability according to its own timetable. By doing so, it brought to an end the era when the US imperialists enforced a unilateral nuclear threat.

And today it has accomplished the historic cause of making permanent legal confirmation of the policy on the nuclear forces.

This is a clear demonstration of the independent resolve of the government of the Republic and its will to defend the sovereignty and interests of the state.

From its very earliest days our Republic has been subjected to a nuclear threat from the United States, the first country to use nuclear weapons and the largest nuclear power in the world. Our nuclear weapons are a means of containment and the ultimate weapon which it has acquired by waging an arduous and bloody struggle for scores of years to defend its dignity and security and completely remove the danger of a nuclear war.

Citing the absurd sophistry that by possessing nuclear weapons and strengthening our self-defence capability we are posing a serious threat to global peace and regional security, the United States is now obsessed with spreading rumours in the international arena designed to demonize the government of our Republic. It is also intent on enforcing the harshest-ever sanction regime and blockade,

and on conducting a political and military offensive, aimed at bringing us under its control psychologically and physically, to the point of even enlisting all its vassal forces.

What the United States is trying to achieve is not merely the removal of our nuclear weapons. Its final objective is one day to overthrow our government by inducing us to abandon our nuclear weapons and, further, to give up our self-defence capability, or at least to make that capability inferior to its own.

Through an unprecedented sanction regime and blockade, it is attempting to create a harsh environment for us, and to exhaust us and foster a sense of uncertainty and threat with regard to the environment for the country's stable development. It is hoping to make us think about the cost of opting for nuclear weapons and to induce and incite complaints among our people about their Party and government. Its ultimate aim is to convince us to give up our nuclear weapons of our own accord.

Never!

The enemy is guilty of a grave misjudgment and miscalculation.

Let them impose sanctions for 100, nay 1 000 days, or even ten or 100 years.

We will not give up our right to self-defence on which the country's right to existence and the future security of the state and the people depend, simply to escape or circumvent our current difficulties. We will never give up

our nuclear weapons, however harsh the circumstances may be in the face of the political and military conditions the United States has created on the Korean peninsula; moreover, we must take a long-term view in containing the United States, our nuclear enemy state.

Our people are well aware of the numerous historical events in the 20th and 21st centuries, in which some countries saw and are seeing their final days and a tragic end as a result of wrong choices they made in the face of the US imperialists' overwhelming stereotyped preaching and sophistry, sanctions and pressure, and military threat.

Nuclear weapons guarantee the security of the government of our Republic and of the coming generations, and our generation will not sacrifice them in the interests of immediate and obvious economic benefits. We will not seek to find personal comfort or to escape our current difficulties, persuaded by the enemy's deceitful preaching and persistent pressure, nor will we change our mind even if this may mean our difficulties worsening.

In other words, we will remain the greatest and most steadfast generation in the history of our Republic.

The United States will never realize its ambitions with regard to our state or convince our people to change their mind.

Whose side is time on?

It is the enemy who are feeling hard-pressed now. We do not feel hard-pressed, and we are fully able to live by

our own efforts and in our own way, even in the present circumstances.

Our absolute strength is continuing to rise at an exponential speed, as is the security threat the US is facing, in direct proportion to the increase in the period of suffering imposed on our people by its brutal hostile policy.

The nuclear forces of our Republic will act responsibly in performing their important mission to contain the grave current political and military provocations against our state from the United States and its vassal forces and the perspective threat from them. This was made clear in today's legal statute.

Our Republic values most its independence and self-respect and the destiny of its people; it never tolerates hostile acts that may do them harm, and it stands by its word. Because of this, it could take such an audacious political decision as to enshrine its nuclear forces policy in law.

At a time when the pursuit of hegemony is more rampant than ever, the world will clearly realize once again what is a truly independent, powerful country and a just state, and how mighty is the unquenchable spirit of our Republic in dealing squarely with the United States, the empire of evil.

Comrades,

When I look back on the arduous and protracted journey taken by our revolution since it was launched with two pistols, the countless historic events associated with it

tug at my heartstrings.

The successes we have achieved are truly great. They feel even weightier and more valuable because they are a fruit of the unstinted support and encouragement from all the people, their precious sweat and blood, and their unprecedented painstaking efforts.

The fact is, we had to build up our Republic's nuclear forces and perfect its combat preparedness while standing alone in confronting the allied imperialist forces and dealing with their inhumane and outrageous sanctions and attempts at suffocation. It was a do-or-die battle we had to fight in the face of untold trials and suffering.

It meant that our beloved children and all the other people had to tighten their belts still further and suffer from greater hunger, and that all our dear families had to undergo appalling difficulties in life.

This was an unavoidable choice we had to make to win a greater victory. It was also an untrodden path on which we had to be prepared to suffer unbearable loss, with an end that was hard to envision.

Nevertheless, our people gave their complete support to our Party for the cause which it had launched, trusting in them alone, and they committed single-hearted, all-out efforts to it, despite all manner of hardships.

Of course, our scientists and technicians have made tangible contributions to accomplishing the historic cause of building up the nation's nuclear forces; yet, but for our people, who remained fully convinced of victory and

refused to yield to all the intolerable and persistent suffering, we could not have reached the end of the road of possessing nuclear weapons, nor could our Republic have greeted today, when the policy of the nuclear forces has been enshrined in law.

By overcoming every manner of trials by dint of their unique, strenuous fortitude and patriotism, our people have finally raised the glory and dignity of our state to such a height that no one would ever dispute it.

On behalf of the Party and government, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our people throughout the country.

Comrades,

That the policy on the nuclear forces has been enshrined in law in accordance with the unanimous desire and iron will of all the people, is of tremendous significance.

With it, the position of our nation as a nuclear state has become irreversible.

If our nuclear policy is ever to be changed, the world has to change, as should the political and military environment on the Korean peninsula.

We will never give up our nuclear weapons or denuclearize first, nor will we negotiate to this end or use our nuclear weapons as a bargaining chip.

Its nuclear weapons represent our nation's dignity and honour; they symbolize the absolute might of our Republic and are a source of great pride for the Korean people.

As long as nuclear weapons and imperialism remain on Earth and as long as the United States and its vassal forces

refuse to halt their anti-DPRK manoeuvrings, our journey to build up our nuclear forces will not end.

Our Republic's nuclear forces represent the destiny of the country and people and their lasting prestige—this is our steadfast stand.

We have drawn a line of no retreat regarding our nuclear weapons, so there will no longer be any bargaining over them. Herein lies the greatest significance of enshrining the policy on the nuclear forces in law.

This event has made the peace-loving stand of the government of our Republic and our policy on the nation's nuclear forces more transparent and legitimate.

It is humanity's desire to live in a peaceful world free from aggression and war.

Yet, peace does not come of its own accord simply because people desire it; it is something that we can achieve and defend only when we are strong enough to contain the imperialist tyranny.

Our Republic's legalization of the policy on the nuclear forces constitutes a righteous blow to the imperialists who are violating and attempting to undermine the right to independence and peace.

Our Republic's nuclear forces exist and will be used to defend our territory, people and self-respect, as well as global peace and security, from the imperialist tyranny, and not to intervene in the internal affairs of other nations or pursue hegemony. Accordingly, in no way do they pose any threat to those nations and peoples that are friendly to

us and desire peace.

In view of their inherent characteristics, the standards and principles of management, operation and other matters related to nuclear weapons need to be clearly stipulated by law.

Otherwise, those nuclear weapons could be mismanaged and misused for other purposes, or employed in pursuance of unjustifiable ends, which could drag humanity into a terrible nuclear holocaust at any moment.

The new law on the policy of our Republic's nuclear forces lays out clear and detailed provisions relating to, for example, the mission and composition of the nuclear forces, control and command over them, the principles and conditions for their use, and their maintenance and safeguarding.

So, the law fully accords with the desire of humanity for justice and peace, and there is no room for anyone to pick a quarrel over, or question, our nuclear forces in the future.

This legal tool, aimed at fully guaranteeing the historic advance towards the comprehensive development of our own style of socialism, constitutes, together with the proud victories and successes we have achieved this year, an epoch-making occasion for enhancing the fighting spirit of all our people.

This year the government of our Republic has been faced with the heavy task of building a high road to fulfilling the five-year plan laid out by the Eighth Party Congress.

Every aspect of the efforts to carry it out has met with unprecedented trials and ordeals, but our courageous and progressive struggle has borne more valuable fruits.

We rapidly overcame the threat from the public health crisis, the first of its kind since the founding of our state, by waging a tenacious struggle based on single-hearted unity—the unity of one mind and one body—and we defended the security of the state and people by returning the whole country to a clean zone. This was a great victory we achieved this year.

In the face of the doubts of the whole world, we displayed to the full the politico-ideological might and superiority of the socialist system by bringing the unprecedented battle against the epidemic to a victorious conclusion in record-breaking time. This instilled greater confidence and pride in the people across the country and actively encouraged them to make more dynamic efforts for socialist construction.

In addition to the extremely grave health crisis, the country also suffered a series of natural disasters. However, all the people redoubled their efforts, with no sign of pessimism, disappointment, fear or despair, and determinedly pushed ahead with this year's formidable struggle tasks, including the immediate farming work and major construction projects. These are also miraculous achievements in which we should take great pride.

Such key industrial sectors as the metallurgical, chemical, electric-power and coal-mining industries, and

rail transport, which are the buttresses of our self-supporting economy, and several other sectors directly related to improving the people's standard of living have scored laudable successes in fulfilling their production plans by waging an offensive struggle.

The unified guidance and management of overall state affairs, including economic work, are being further stepped up with their socialist character enhanced, and medium- and long-term projects are being designed and promoted with an eye to decades in the future. In this way we are laying the foundations and creating assets for the country's economic development and the people's improved wellbeing.

Sci-tech research has been decisively oriented to solving practical problems in accordance with pragmatic plans and objectives. The country's education is developing in a balanced way, with the focus on training able talents. The public health sector has gained valuable experience with which to deal with any type of epidemic and other public health crisis. And significant progress has been made this year in developing socialist culture.

The victories and successes we have achieved this year clearly testify to the fact that our Republic is advancing vigorously towards comprehensive development and rejuvenation without any sign of stagnation, marking-time or frustration, and that it is overcoming the challenges, both subjective and objective, in all sectors.

Comrades,

Our Republic, holding higher the banner of independence and justice, has assumed a heavy responsibility before the times and history, and this demands a more vigorous struggle and advance, and a greater victory.

There is no doubt that the reactionary forces of all hues, shocked at our Republic's political measure of enshrining the policy on the nuclear forces in law, will become even more relentless and desperate.

The challenges and obstacles lying along our way will never be removed unless the hostile forces rid themselves of their deeply-ingrained, intuitive delusion that some day, by employing such stereotypical tricks as threats and intimidation, sanctions and allurements, they may completely disarm us of our nuclear weapons and bring about the collapse of our system.

The world will watch with keen interest how our people stick to their choice of building a powerful socialist country, how the DPRK carries out its resolve, and what other amazing miracles will be worked on this land.

To grow stronger in the face of trials and to develop and advance steadily by building on the successes it has already gained is a unique trait of our Republic, which it has demonstrated throughout the course it has followed.

As this immutable law dictates, we should continue to grow stronger in the future, too, and accomplish the struggle tasks we have set ourselves unconditionally and to perfection, without ever deviating from the road we have chosen.

Today the government of our Republic is faced with the task of thoroughly maintaining and implementing the Party's lines and policies, with the aim of achieving fresh innovations and development in every field, as befits the prestige of our state.

The primary revolutionary task facing the government of our Republic is to maximize our ultimate strength and ensure the invincibility of our armed forces by giving top priority and importance to building up our national defence capability.

In view of the geopolitical features and strategic position of our country and the prevailing situation facing our revolution, it has been an essential requirement for our state to establish absolute military supremacy over the imperialist forces of aggression.

The United States, hugely fearful of what it might soon be facing after it witnessed those developments in our defence capability that we have publicly revealed in recent years, is continuing to cling to its heinous strategy of sanctions and blockade. At the same time, it is guilty of serious sabre-rattling through the large-scale deployment of its nuclear weapons around the Korean peninsula.

Moreover, the present south Korean regime is trumpeting the south Korea-US combined defence posture, which it says is being enhanced by reinforcing the commitment to the south Korea-US "extended deterrence" and strengthening its own "deterrence" and "response capabilities" under the so-called south Korean-style

“three-axis system.” In all of this, it is asserting the brigandish logic of containing us to make up for its army’s military inferiority. It is also stepping up its dangerous military manoeuvres and the modernization of its armaments, which is further aggravating the military tension in the region.

These serious developments show that the military situation around our state has assumed a protracted nature, going from bad to worse. Accordingly, we need to be thoroughly prepared.

However, the situation, aggravated by the enemy’s moves, has provided us with excellent conditions and the perfect environment for stepping up the development of our military forces and, more importantly, justness for strengthening our self-defence capability and, ultimately, good reason for building it up on a priority basis.

The Ministry of National Defence and the defence industry of the Republic recognize the prevailing situation as the most favourable opportunity for building up our military capability.

Our defence industry should adhere strictly to the planned orientation of its development, true to the defence development strategy put forward by the Party Congress, and go ahead full steam with the development of a new generation of military hardware that is suited to modern warfare.

Most importantly, it is imperative to enhance the combat reliability and operational efficiency of our nuclear

forces by steadily expanding the scope for the operation of our tactical nuclear weapons and diversifying and improving the means of their deployment. In this way we can achieve the all-round consolidation of our nuclear combat posture.

We also need to steadily step up the deployment of cutting-edge strategic and tactical weapons systems for combat, and to direct every effort to significantly improving our country's war deterrent.

We should further strengthen the politico-ideological might that is unique to our state and give fullest play to it in all sectors.

Our people are all firmly united with one ideology and will, and with noble virtues and human feeling, and they are making devoted efforts for the prosperity of their country—this is the advantage unique to our country and the motive force behind all the great miracles we have achieved on this land.

The might of single-hearted unity—the invincible might of our style of socialism and the most powerful weapon of our state—should be further consolidated in ideology, purpose and moral obligation.

We must thoroughly apply the people-first politics of our Party in overall state affairs and step up the activities of state power to ensure that all the people take an active part in political affairs as masters of the state and society.

We should instil in all the members of society a sense of pride and dignity in having the best ideology, system,

culture and lifestyle, and inspire them to continue to give full play to the collectivist spirit, communist virtues and the beautiful traits of our society.

Our country will always prosper when all the people remain faithful to their civic duties while putting the interests of the state and the collective first in their consideration, and when they live and work as genuine socialist working people who commit their patriotic feelings to the development and prosperity of their country.

We should direct great efforts to preparing all the people and service personnel of the People's Army as vanguard class fighters and combatants who firmly safeguard their socialist country with a steadfast viewpoint on the archenemy and other enemies. In this way we can consolidate our politico-ideological and class positions.

The government of the Republic should push ahead dynamically with the struggle for implementing the five-year plan for national economic development and should follow up on the success at the next stage.

The most important revolutionary task facing the government is, by implementing the five-year plan without fail, to consolidate the foundations for achieving the comprehensive development of our own style of socialism and to find satisfactory solutions to such pressing problems concerning the improvement of the people's living standards as those of food and consumer goods.

The five-year plan is aimed at advancing towards sustained economic growth and a significant improvement

in the people's living standards on the basis of the country's economic situation and current potential.

Once the five-year plan has been implemented, the overall national economy will be on a growth orbit in which its work system, the links among its sectors and its self-supporting foundations have been readjusted and reinforced and substantial changes have been brought about in solving the problems of food, clothing and housing for the people.

Already, in the past year and eight months, in accordance with the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, the lifeblood and integrity of the country's economy have been further strengthened, many irrationalities in economic management have been rectified, and the normalization of production, the renovation of production lines and the provision of domestic raw and other materials have been actively promoted. In particular, the launch of a vigorous drive for building 50 000 flats in Pyongyang and for regional and rural construction has opened up bright prospects for solving the housing problem.

As the Eighth Party Congress made clear, GDP will increase by over 40 percent and the production of consumer goods by over 30 percent by the end of 2025 as compared to 2020. This shows that carrying out the five-year plan guarantees a boost for the country's economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, and for marching confidently

towards a more gigantic struggle at the next stage.

Although the economic difficulties currently facing us are severe, the government of the Republic, having assumed responsibility for the destiny and livelihood of the people, must set a correct struggle orientation for implementing the five-year plan and execute it forcefully, thereby ensuring that excellent results are achieved.

The Cabinet, as the country's economic headquarters, should properly regulate economic construction and development along the lines of strictly supervising overall economic work and pushing ahead with it as a whole.

In dealing with overall economic work for the country, it is important for our Cabinet to efficiently plan and direct the undertakings for developing the national economy as a whole in a synchronized and balanced way.

...

The Cabinet should focus on the key sectors which are the cornerstone of the country's economy. At the same time it should be concerned about, take responsibility for and look after other economic sectors and the people's overall livelihood.

The system and order of placing the country's economic work under the control of the Cabinet are being strengthened. In line with this, the Cabinet should assume proper control of overall production and other economic activities, ensure organic links and cooperation among economic sectors, and take practical and timely steps for boosting those sectors that are lagging behind or are

backward. In this way it can ensure balance, smoothness and efficiency in the country's economic work.

It should direct major, sustained efforts to agricultural production and the development of light industry with a view to settling the problems of food and consumer goods in the near future.

All the economic policies of our Party and government are geared towards providing the people with an affluent life with nothing to envy by fully satisfying their material and economic needs.

We are pressing on with socialist construction, and it is, when all is said and done, a struggle for building the ideal society the people desire and dream about. So, the more we step up the struggle, the more substantial results we will reap for the benefit of the people.

If we fail to solve even the most elementary problems arising in the people's livelihood, and subject the people to enduring hardship, then our economic work will be futile, no matter how hard we try.

In stabilizing and improving the people's livelihood, nothing is more important than solving the problems of food and consumer goods.

During the five-year plan period, we should hit the national target for grain production without fail so as to supply the people with enough food, and should increase production in light industry in terms of both quality and quantity so as to solve the problems of daily necessities and basic foodstuffs.

An important task to this end is to put farming on a stable footing, increase agricultural productivity, adjust the structure of grain production, and improve grain procurement and food supply.

Since the conditions and environment for farming are expected to become more unfavourable, it is necessary to take steps to cope.

Scientific and technological initiatives such as the seed revolution should be made the main link in the whole chain of farming, if we are to attain a high and stable harvest without being affected by any change in the climatic conditions. The whole country should be mobilized to provide labour assistance to the countryside, and sufficient amounts of materials supplied to meet the annual farming needs.

Officials in particular should acknowledge that the climatic conditions will be unfavourable, carry out an overall assessment of agricultural production, and, in line with this, provide scientific and planned guidance for farming.

An important way of reducing the imbalance in agricultural production and increasing its stability is to restore and improve irrigation facilities.

The whole country should join the effort to carry out the project for rebuilding irrigation facilities without fail in two or three years by restoring or readjusting what has been destroyed or is old, and by installing more where necessary.

The area where wheat is cultivated, and its output, have

begun to increase this year; from now on they should be increased annually. Simultaneously, the work of storing and processing the harvest should be carried out properly so that the policy of the Party and government on improving the people's diet can prove its practical worth.

...

Rural rejuvenation should be stepped up under the banner of the rural revolution programme in the new era.

Rural rejuvenation means solving the socialist rural question and is part of the struggle to defend socialism.

As is set out in the rural revolution programme in the new era, the primary task in this is to enlighten the agricultural workers.

Only when the level of consciousness of the agricultural workers, who are the masters of the rural revolution, is raised can they have a clear understanding of the rural revolution programme in the new era, play the core and leading role in implementing it, and make a positive contribution to further developing the socialist countryside as required by the rapidly-changing times.

In order to broaden the agricultural workers' ideological consciousness, it is necessary to make the rural areas more modern and progressive.

We should push ahead energetically with the work of upgrading the agricultural production environment. This includes putting agricultural production on a scientific, modern and IT footing and introducing a high level of mechanization into farm work. By doing this, we will not

only bring about a change in the ideological consciousness of the agricultural workers, but also transform and enrich all the rural communities.

We should draw up proper plans for rural construction that accord with the local and geographical features, with the main emphasis on housing construction. And we should carry these plans out step by step so that the rapid rejuvenation of our country's rural communities is tangible and appreciated by the farmers.

We should boost the country's fishing industry so that the people can be supplied with more fish.

The fishing industry should conduct various fish farming activities steadily and extensively. These should include releasing fries and cage-net fish farming in all rivers and lakes, while simultaneously undertaking brisk sea fishing and sea culture.

In this, it is important to conduct regular scientific investigation into the state of the conservation and propagation of aquatic resources and, based on this, increase aquatic production on a planned basis.

We need to give a spur to the revolution in light industry so as to solve the problem of consumer goods.

...

Improving the quality of consumer goods is the essence and basic orientation of the revolution in light industry.

If we are so bent on fulfilling immediate plans that we continue to produce low-quality consumer goods, ignoring the needs and desires of the people who are becoming more

cultured by the day, then the country's light industry will drift into a vicious cycle and there will be no hope for its development.

The light industry sector should help its scientists, technicians and workers to broaden their horizons and steadily raise their technical level and skills. It should make exacting demands for ensuring the quality of the raw and other materials, and for modernizing production lines and quality control work. In this way, it can fully guarantee the quality of consumer goods with the people's appraisal as the standard.

By bolstering regional industries across the country, we should usher in a new era in which regions are transformed and develop by themselves.

If the local-industry factories in all the cities and counties play their proper role, they can solve a number of problems in developing the country's economy and improving people's living standards.

Having renovated its local-industry factories, Kimhwa County is meeting local demand with its own sources of raw materials. We should push ahead powerfully with the work of expanding this practical experience to all the cities and counties across the country.

With regard to this, the state should establish a committee to take responsibility for renovating the local-industry factories in cities and counties, including their design and the execution of their construction, and push ahead with the projects.

However, the current capacity of cities and counties is weak. So, after the factories have been renovated, we should take steps for securing raw materials for them and making initial investment in them until they can stand on their own feet.

Local-industry factories should focus on improving the quality of their products. In this way they can make a substantial contribution to improving the livelihood of the local people. And they should ensure expanded reproduction so that they can operate by their own efforts.

In implementing the five-year plan for national economic development, key industries should continue to fly the banner and take the overall lead in the national economy.

Key industries are the cornerstone and mainstay in our self-supporting economy; only when these sectors achieve an upsurge in production can the overall national economy rise up and a bright vista for economic development at the next stage be created.

To this end, the Party and the government have already disbursed a large sum of money to the metallurgical and chemical industries, and they intend to adopt further economic and practical measures necessary for renovating the electric-power industry and various other key industries, expanding their capacity, and putting their production on a normal track.

The metallurgical, chemical and other key industrial sectors, as they strive to implement the plans pertaining to

the strategy of readjustment and reinforcement, should carry out their production plans without fail and without delay. By doing so, they can build up a more powerful motive force and potential for the growth and development of the national economy.

In particular, the management of labour, equipment and technology should be regulated according to well-thought-out plans so as to prevent economic losses resulting from various equipment-related accidents, and a closer connection between production and consumption should be established from the standpoint of the state so as to enable the key industrial sectors to work without interruption.

All sectors and units of the national economy should make a tangible contribution to national economic development and the improvement of the people's livelihood by improving business and enterprise management in such a way that they can maximize profits while saving on everything, including labour, energy, materials and land, starting from the viewpoint that economizing is synonymous with increased production and patriotism.

We need to draw up plans for long-term undertakings of great significance in the country's economic development and the improvement of the people's living standards, make scrupulous arrangements for them, and push ahead with them in a planned way and stage by stage.

Simply maintaining present production on the excuse of

the country's economic difficulties is merely self-preservation and retreat, and an expression of abandoning the revolution.

Genuine patriots are those who fight on by sticking to the principle of planning, making arrangements for and performing any undertakings, be they big or small, so that their descendants can enjoy the fruits to the full, even in the distant future.

If we are to work genuinely for the good of the people and the prosperity of the country, we should set ourselves noble ideals and goals while persisting with the struggle to achieve them.

We need to keep channelling major efforts into projects that will provide our people with better and excellent living conditions in the future, including the construction of 50 000 flats in Pyongyang and large-scale greenhouse farms.

If we are to continue to undertake ambitious construction projects in the future, too, we should build large-capacity building-materials production bases in Pyongyang and the local areas and produce and supply good quality building materials, including finishing materials, by ourselves.

Through the struggle to continuously carry out long-term grand construction projects and successfully complete them, we can demonstrate the development level of our state, where the people's long-cherished desires are being met one after another, and secure its rosy future.

We need to make scientific calculations and accurate

action plans for long-term economic projects, including the construction of a major canal linking the East and West seas of Korea and, once they are launched, to make a nationwide effort to ensure that we make a success of them.

Among the important affairs the government of the Republic should push ahead with for the present are land administration and disaster prevention.

The heavy human casualties and material damage caused by extreme weather events are a serious challenge now being faced by the whole world, and disasters are occurring every year in our country, too.

Conserving rivers is akin to controlling the weather conditions, and river improvement is an intermediate- and long-range undertaking.

At present, river improvement work is being limited to dredging and building retaining walls along the riverbanks. It should be conducted according to intermediate- and long-range plans, in other words, a scientific river improvement strategy.

We should put water management on a scientific basis by carrying out an accurate assessment of the water adjusting capacity of the country's rivers and streams, creating buffer points based on a proper judgment, and perfecting the system of water management.

...

We need to continue directing a major effort to building up our national disaster prevention capacity so as to minimize the damage from natural phenomena. For the

present, all provinces, cities and counties should ensure that they possess adequate forces and equipment for saving people in the event of flooding.

We should push ahead more powerfully on a nationwide scale with the protection and management of the land and environment. This should include a forest restoration campaign, soil erosion control, dike projects for tide-water control, and road reconstruction.

Comrades,

It is the consistent policy of the government of the Republic to attach importance to education, science and technology, and public health, and to direct efforts to their development.

At present, we are badly in need more than ever before of a larger number of skilled individuals with practical abilities, as well as scientific and technological breakthroughs geared towards solving the actual problems we are facing.

The government of the Republic should put forward a talent strategy, a strategy of sci-tech development, as the core strategy for the comprehensive rejuvenation of the state, and give a powerful boost to its implementation.

The country's education is currently failing to follow the global trends in development and meet the requirements of the times in terms of its quality.

Our education is not aimed at training able talents with practical abilities, and is merely education for education's sake, or for attaining grades. Therefore, it is of little help to

national development.

The education sector should identify the best subjects for enabling students to spend their time and energy on acquiring more practical knowledge that is applicable in practice. It should radically improve the quality of universal 12-year compulsory education so as to enhance the ability of students pre-eminently, beyond comparison.

Kim Chaek University of Technology and other technical colleges should steadily raise the level of their education up to the world standard in order to ensure that all its graduates are competent and prominent scientific and technological talents.

A nationwide effort should continuously be directed to providing all teachers and students in Pyongyang and the local areas with ideal conditions for their education, practice and study.

The level and role of science and technology should be raised and the resources of technical talents should be effectively promoted and managed.

...

The development of science and technology requires that research means and talents should be made ready. So, nationwide attention should constantly be paid to the matter and substantial measures be taken to resolve it.

As I have emphasized time and again, the scientific research sector should guard strictly against the attitude of simply making up the numbers of research achievements. Rather, it should present proper sci-tech results, even if

only a few in number each year, which are capable of actually shoring up the country's economy.

All sectors and units should regularly study and substantially review the operation of sci-tech learning spaces, which are important bases for making all the people well versed in science and technology, and should steadily step up the dissemination of science and technology so as to activate the mass technical innovation drive.

...

We need to make sure that sci-tech achievements are shared, absorbed and propagated, that good conditions are provided for gaining access to sci-tech data, and that outstanding units, scientists and technicians are given preferential treatment and recognition. This will help the climate of attaching importance to science and technology to pervade the whole society.

We should steadily improve our medical services in order to protect and promote the life and health of our people.

The recent public health crisis led to a comprehensive re-evaluation of the current state of our public health sector, and the urgency of raising its level and capacity has become all the more evident.

The most pressing problems in medical services should be resolved first, from the standpoint that the life and health of the people are the top priority.

Since the country is unable to produce all the medical supplies it needs by itself, those needed for the people's

medical treatment and the promotion of their health should be provided in full, even if they have to be imported.

Along with this, the establishment and modernization of pharmaceuticals, medical appliances and medical supplies factories should be actively promoted so as to domestically produce and supply various medicines and essential medical supplies. We must also press ahead in a planned way with the work of upgrading provincial, city and county hospitals and bringing pharmacies up to standard.

We need to ensure that all the doctors and nurses in the public health sector are fully qualified as protectors of human life, and as communists.

They should be encouraged to emulate the spiritual world of self-sacrificing devotion displayed by the medical workers who moved the people during the recent struggle to eradicate the malignant virus; in this way we can ensure that outstanding medical workers who cherish the word *devotion* deep in their hearts are found all across the country.

Efforts should be directed to raising medical science and technology to the world standard, and to developing an ideal people-oriented, advanced and efficient medical care system.

We should step up the building of our national anti-epidemic capacity.

This is a national issue of paramount importance that must not be delayed even for a moment, as there are various possibilities that malignant infectious diseases may

continue to break out both at present and in the future.

It is important to carry out those tasks put forward at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Central Committee and the National Meeting of Reviewing the Emergency Anti-epidemic Work that relate to building the state's anti-epidemic capacity, and also to examine them on a case-by-case basis.

In particular, the state should at all times be alert to the volatile epidemic situation outside the country and the characteristics of diseases, and pay attention to developing our capacity for promptly detecting and controlling a disease, should it enter our territory.

...

Recently, the World Health Organization and public health institutions in different countries have been warning of the need to be thoroughly prepared to cope with influenza as well as the spread of COVID-19 this winter.

And our epidemic experts are of the opinion that the antibody titres built up among our people during the outbreak of the epidemic in May and June, will begin to decline around October.

Therefore, while administering vaccines in a responsible manner, we should recommend that, from November, all residents wear masks for their own protection.

...

Comrades,

In the present international situation we can see that the contradictions between justice and injustice and between

the progressive and the reactionary, especially the balance of power around the Korean peninsula, are more pronounced, and that the change from a unipolar world advocated by the US into a multipolar world is being accelerated significantly.

Our Republic will develop its foreign relations proactively in line with the development trend in the current international situation and its position as a powerful independent country.

In the field of external affairs, the foremost mission of the Republic's diplomacy, which it must hold fast to, is to defend the dignity of our Party, enhance our national prestige and champion the national interests, settling any issues which arise in international relations in the interests of our revolution.

It should develop its external relations in a multifaceted way as it further expands and develops friendly and cooperative relations with the neighbouring countries and collaborates with all countries and nations which oppose and reject the imperialists' aggression and interference, domination and subordination and which aspire after independence and justice, regardless of any differences in ideology and system.

Along with this, it should try to find a way of making diplomatic efforts for developing multifaceted exchanges and cooperation with those capitalist countries that respect our country and are friendly to it.

In order to build on today's proud victory and achieve

an even greater victory in socialist construction by carrying out these tasks facing the government of the Republic, we should thoroughly establish the Party's unified leadership system in state building and activities.

The government of the Republic should organize and guide all affairs with the lines and policies of the Party as the absolute criteria, and orient its activities decisively to carrying out the Party's policies.

All government agencies should establish the revolutionary habit of accepting and implementing the decisions and instructions of the Party unconditionally without the slightest excuse or pretext, and make it an iron rule which is inviolable in any circumstances to report all problems to the Party and deal with them in accordance with its decision.

The functions and role of the people's government organs should be enhanced.

The work of government organs, which embrace all domains of social life, is enormous and highly complex, and their duty and role are just as important.

All government organs should perform their duty faithfully, fully aware of their mission to represent the dignified government of the Republic in their regions and to assume responsibility for the people's livelihood.

They should take full charge of the policies and instructions of the Party and government for their regions and units, draw up plans and give guidance in a responsible way so that they are fully implemented, and should create

positive conditions and a positive environment in which institutions, enterprises, cooperative organizations and residents can carry out their work and activities smoothly and effectively.

They should make devoted efforts to ensure that all the children and families enjoy the benefits of the people-oriented policies of the Party and government fairly and without exception, always learn about problems relating to the people's lives, including the matters of drinking water and fuel, and adopt carefully-thought-out measures in advance to prevent even the slightest inconvenience or trouble.

All officials, as leading members of the revolution, should have extraordinary ideological preparedness and determination and make strenuous efforts.

In our society, officials should be servants in the true sense of the word.

The word *official* is not something related to any honour or authority, and the value of officials' existence is inconceivable separated from their natural mission of serving the people.

If officials enjoy a life of comfort and luxury, this is not true socialism, and they are adding to the people's troubles.

Officials should never forget that their positions require them to shoulder a heavier burden and to work harder for the Party and revolution, and the country and people. They should be boundlessly faithful to their duties, always feeling under pressure and experiencing an acute sense of

responsibility, without being distracted for even a moment.

When there is a new job to be done, they should not avoid it or adopt stopgap measures, but should take the lead by drawing up a detailed plan, commanding the work and throwing themselves into it with the trait of setting a personal example so as to bring about good results.

They should heighten their sense of responsibility and increase their role in work, constantly cultivate their mind and morality in order to live honourably before the Party and people, and become truly vital officials who know nothing but the revolution and work, and can fulfil their duties flawlessly.

...

Comrade Deputies,

We will soon be celebrating the 74th anniversary of the founding of the glorious Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On this significant occasion, our Republic brilliantly recorded in its proud history another grand event that demonstrates more clearly the prestige of our dignified and independent powerful country.

With our noble ideals and our sacred cause rising to a higher stage of success and victory, we can brave and overcome the more severe ordeals and adversity.

Today our struggle is accompanied by unprecedentedly extreme difficulties, and we do not know what kind of challenge we may face next.

Yet it is clear to all that our Republic is progressing

without the slightest hesitation and vacillation and will continuously advance and grow stronger in the future, too.

This is because our cause, our ideology and our line all represent justice and truth, and we have the great might of the firm single-hearted unity of the Party and the masses which nobody can break.

Comrades,

Victory is surely on our side, and the more we exert ourselves, the sooner that victory will come.

For the eternal prosperity of our Republic, our beloved mother, for the promotion of the well-being of our great people, and for the victorious advance of our unique style of socialism, let us all march forward more dynamically, closely rallied behind the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea with one mind and purpose.

Long live the Democratic People's Republic of Korea!

KIM JONG UN
ON STEPPING UP
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