

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

# KIM JONG UN

## **SPEECH AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF A HOSPITAL AND LEISURE COMPLEX IN KANGDONG COUNTY UNDER THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 20×10 POLICY**

*February 6, 2025*

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Comrades,

Dear residents of Kangdong County, who have turned out as one in the first stage of struggle in the new year with soaring confidence and patriotic enthusiasm,

Officers and men of the Guards hero construction unit and the 124<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and members of the non-permanent promotion committee who will open the prelude to the heroic struggle in 2025 that will be etched in history as another year of great victory,

2025 is a significant year in which we will build further on the successes of the first stage of the pioneering struggle for comprehensively developing socialism. The work for this year is getting underway with the construction of a hospital and leisure complex here in Kangdong County.

This can be regarded as the starting point of our efforts to achieve the ideals and ambition of the Party and government to guarantee people's rights and interests, promote their health, and build a brighter and rosier future for them. As I greet the moment when the construction projects we have long aspired to implement for the sake of the precious people of this country and their vibrant beautiful life

are finally getting underway, my heart is beating with delight at the thought that we have decided on and made preparations for a truly worthwhile and proud task.

I feel particularly happy that the sincerity of our Party and government will bring further wealth to people in the provinces. It is also gratifying that the eye-opening changes of the new era are being seen in another part of our country.

Through this historic groundbreaking ceremony, we are marking a meaningful starting point in the effort to accelerate the building of a civilized and prosperous country by giving people nationwide the hope and promise that they will receive advanced medical services and enjoy a civilized material and cultural life in their own regions, as well as by bringing about substantial, new qualitative changes in the regions.

At this moment, when we are taking another giant step towards great changes, I extend the utmost encouragement and warm militant greetings to the officers and men of the Guards unit and the 124<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Capital City Defence Corps who, in advancing to the new construction sites, are carrying forward their tradition of standing faithfully in the vanguard of the struggle for bringing about the

prosperity of the country and the wellbeing of the people.

I also extend militant greetings to the members of the design sector at all levels and the non-permanent promotion committee for regional development who have contributed to the rapid launch of these projects through a strenuous struggle, as well as to the officials and working people in the building-materials industry and other associated sectors who are firmly supporting the vast construction projects with unprecedented increased production, true to the decisions of the plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee on expanding substantial regional rejuvenation.

Comrades,

The first step in all our work is always like this. But I want to start by stressing how much importance and significance we attach to the projects that are about to be launched.

This is because herein lies the answer to why we are building them at a time when other vast construction projects are already underway and it is hard to find spare manpower, and why we must complete them at the highest standard on time and without fail.

Our Party's regional development plan is aimed at ensuring that people in the provinces not only enjoy

the same material life as that enjoyed by the citizens of the capital, but also lead a healthy life without any worries in an environment that is as cultured and sanitary as in the capital.

In other words, ideally the regional development policy will result in the whole country being put on an even cultural level by building up the regions so that they are as wonderful as the capital is and transforming the environment in the provinces so that people can enjoy a cultured life.

It is now virtually certain that, with modern light-industry factories being built in every city and county over the next ten years, people in the provinces will be able to attain the same level as city dwellers in terms of their material and economic life. Yet it is quite obvious that this alone will not eliminate the regions' inherent cultural backwardness and underdevelopment.

Cities and counties do not currently have adequate facilities for providing proper medical services to their inhabitants, nor do they have any decent welfare service facilities. This means that they hardly qualify as the cultural centres of their respective regions and that the cultural standards of people in the provinces are much lower than those of the citizens of the capital.

Signs of the regions' backwardness and underdevelopment are more obvious in the sphere of cultural life than in that of material life. And the most serious of the gaps between urban and rural communities are evident in the sectors of public health, sanitation, science and education.

It would be impossible ever to eliminate this cultural backwardness in the regions if, for one reason or another, we put off the necessary endeavour to rectify it while refusing to accept the stark reality and simply discussing the feasibility. So, the Party Central Committee made an unusual, revolutionary resolve to act decisively in injecting advanced science, technology and civilization into all the cities, counties and even mountainous regions across the country, thus bringing about an uninterrupted advance towards the already-defined goals of regional development.

There is another key point worth highlighting in our proposal for prioritizing the construction of modern public health facilities and multifunctional cultural amenities in cities and counties.

The principal method we should employ in the comprehensive development of the regions is to encourage them to achieve all-round self-sustainability while providing them with state guidance and assistance.

In other words, the state should provide the regions with the material and technical foundations and conditions they need to stand on their own feet. On this basis, they can then build for themselves sufficiently powerful forces and potentials for achieving steady and sustainable development.

In view of both the lessons we have drawn from the recent decades of stagnant regional development and the need for regional development to be a powerful motive force for the development of our state, the key to success is that each region should build its own self-supporting development capability.

The most important factor in regional transformation can be identified in the local forces for leading economic and cultural rejuvenation, that is, the spiritual and cultural preparedness of people in the provinces.

Well-qualified economic and technical forces will be required to ensure the proper operation of the modern regional-industry factories which are now under construction full steam. And each city and county should train talented personnel systematically so that it can make effective use of its own characteristics in paving a varied and unique path to development.

The faster regional development spreads nationwide, the greater these demands will become.



To this end, an essential and inevitable element is the leisure complex which we are about to begin building.

This multifunctional leisure complex will, by ceaselessly providing the people of the region with the latest scientific and cultural nourishment, serve as fertile ground and a cradle for training them as proud masters capable of running modern industry on their own, as well as for identifying and training talented people.

I am sure that once the sci-tech learning base is furnished with high-performance IT means and databases on the latest sci-tech achievements, it will be of great help to the regional population, the young people and children in particular, in becoming familiar with modern science and culture and acquiring the insight and qualifications they need to lead their region's economic and cultural development.

The new leisure complex will be furnished with facilities for people to watch films and enjoy sporting and cultural activities, commercial outlets with a clean sanitary environment, as well as various other welfare service facilities. Needless to say, as a cultural base it will be highly efficient in further enlightening the people, developing richer emotional feelings in them, and training them to be pioneers and creators of a new culture.

If cities and counties are to function effectively not merely as comprehensive centres of regional development but also as regional bases leading the cultural revolution in the countryside and maintaining economic and cultural ties between urban and rural communities, they must have the necessary means and conditions for expediting the assimilation of the peasantry to the working class and of rural areas into urban ones by promoting the rapid absorption of modern science and technology and actively disseminating advanced urban culture.

Without such means and conditions, our rural communities will lag far behind in terms of modern civilization, and they will be unable to approach the threshold of the new era of the socialist countryside.

The conclusion we can draw from this is obvious.

Only when we eliminate the differences in the cultural and intellectual levels between the citizens of the capital and people in the provinces, and between urban and rural dwellers, can our new regional development policy fully display its validity and vitality as a policy for ensuring the eternal prosperity of our regions both in name and in reality and for eliminating the urban-rural gap once and for all.

Building modern public health facilities and multifunctional bases for cultural activities in cities

and counties is a crucial and most urgent task that is of great strategic importance in accelerating the simultaneous and balanced development of all fields and all regions and bringing forward the complete victory of socialism.

It is a task that brooks no further delay.

We are facing a decisive period in which we should develop the cities and counties strategically, proactively and consciously.

We should always be mindful that our generation has shouldered the responsibility for this great cause of historic significance, which we must undertake just now.

The eternal prosperity of our regions is synonymous with the permanent future of our state and our style of socialism.

Comrades,

The leisure complexes we are planning to build in the cities and counties are something that has never been conceived of before in regional construction.

We are also blazing a trail in building modern hospitals. A hospital is a functional building that requires technical compatibility from the lowest units of the infrastructure to every item of medical equipment and every device. Building one is dozens of times as costly as erecting an apartment block or an

industrial facility. Setting up an adequately-equipped hospital is challenging, since it requires advanced building techniques, expensive materials and considerable funding.

Despite the difficulty, we should build excellent hospitals in the cities and counties as symbols of the socialist public health service of our era. They should embody the Party's plan for modernizing public health and its Juche-based concept of architectural aesthetic beauty.

The fact is that hospital construction in cities and counties is an important project we conceived of and worked out a long time before we planned the construction of industrial factories in the regions.

As a project for guaranteeing our people's life and safety and promoting their health, this naturally takes the priority among all the projects our Party has planned and is undertaking to transform our regions and build a cultured, prosperous state.

It is nonsensical to talk about the strength and development of a state and argue over the advantages of its system, if that state is unwilling and unable to take responsibility for its people's life and health.

A country's public health situation affords a glimpse into its political climate and level of civilization, and the quality of life of its citizens. In

this sense, public health can be said to represent a nation's absolute values.

In the current era, laying solid foundations for the public health sector presents itself as a matter with a direct bearing on the security of a country and its future. The demand for protecting life and promoting health has grown rapidly. This being the case, our view and stand is that public health should naturally develop well ahead of the sectors associated with people's material and economic life.

Modernizing our public health sector and making it more advanced is the top priority for our Party and government.

Setting up modern hospitals in all cities and counties to bring advanced medical services closer to people in the provinces and enable them all to freely enjoy the benefits of modern medicine, at the same time as building a first-class general hospital in the capital as befits the pivot and hub of our country's public health sector so that its techniques, experience and exemplary practices can be spread across the country—this is the Party's plan for modernizing public health.

Reconstructing hospitals in the cities and counties in parallel with building the general hospital in the capital is in line with the mission of

socialist public health to take responsibility for the life and health of the entire population. It also fully accords with our new regional development policy, and is the fastest path to development based on the advantages of our system.

Today's groundbreaking ceremony marks the starting point on this great road, and is a decisive step forward and a major watershed for the future.

That is why I entrusted the country's best designers with drawing up the blueprints for the city and county hospitals. I pointed to the necessity of meeting the specialized technical requirements in designing all the elements, ranging from the site selection, structural layout and distribution of the buildings to the arrangement of the work flow, so as to maximize the convenience of such medical services as diagnosis and the treatment of patients and preclude the occurrence of such abnormalities as in-hospital infection.

I would like to add that the new hospitals to be built in the cities and counties will be divided into four categories according to the regional population. This year hospitals will be built here in Kangdong County and in Ryonggang County and the city of Kusong, one in each region and all three of different sizes, on a trial basis.

This year we should build these hospitals as models

and accumulate experience in the process. Then, starting next year, we are planning to set up hospitals in 20 cities and counties simultaneously, one in each region, on an annual basis.

By the close of this year a modern hospital will have arisen here, and in the coming ten years, excellent medical service facilities will appear in all the country's cities and counties. When I think of this, I feel immensely proud of our truly worthwhile and valuable struggle.

The Party Central Committee will do its best to ensure that the regional population receives advanced treatment at modern hospitals.

Kangdong County, ministries, national agencies and other associated units should work in a responsible manner under a detailed plan to build up the ranks of medical workers and service staff and enable the new facilities to render a substantial contribution to promoting residents' health and wellbeing and developing the region's culture.

Making responsible preparations for the hospitals' operation to ensure advanced services for people in the regions should be done in parallel with the building work.

The most serious problem is that our public health workers have a limited understanding of what a

comprehensive modern medical facility is and lack experience in operating its equipment.

In short, their academic qualifications and medical skills are inadequate. It is important to organize effective technical training sessions for medical workers so that they can work properly after the hospitals are inaugurated, and ensure that technicians and skilled workers are fully versed in their specialist fields.

In particular, strong demands need to be made on medical workers so that they remain up to date with the diagnostic and therapeutic methods of modern trends in medical development, raise the level of their technical skills and qualifications, and improve their knowledge of foreign languages.

All officials, including leading cadres of the Party and government, should take a creative stand and attitude befitting masters in the effort to cement the foundations of the country's public health sector. They should clearly identify what they need to do and play their proper role.

Comrades,

We are faced with the important task of breathing fresh life into our socialist public health service.

The rapids of a new revolution in public health have risen to join the waves of the regional industrial



revolution which will soon sweep the whole country.

I affirm that our public health sector will develop anew as the soil for cultivating the strength of life of this country and as the strong root of regional rejuvenation.

This year, 2025, will be recorded in our country's history as the first year of the public health revolution.

Let us remember this moment today when our socialist public health service sets sail for the new horizon of development.

Dear soldier-builders, who are courageously advancing in the vanguard of the construction revolution in our era,

The Party has always placed unshakable trust in the People's Army's outstanding revolutionary character and creative spirit.

The officers and men of the Guards hero construction unit have, in support of our Party's sincere wish and through their heroic and resourceful labour, built for the people splendid monumental edifices representative of the era. In the same spirit as they displayed in doing this, they should fully demonstrate their unique creativity and versatility also in building the Kangdong County Hospital.

The commanding officers of the 124<sup>th</sup> Regiment should work in a sweeping way and with scrupulous

care in planning and directing the construction process, so that the soaring morale of the soldier-masses can bring about great success in construction.

Then they can dynamically push ahead with the overall construction work, according to the schedule.

Your unyielding offensive spirit and militant work style will encourage all the people to display patriotism and strive for increased production in their effort to glorify the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Party and its Ninth Congress.

I hope that all the soldier-builders, highly conscious that they are responsible for the frontline posts of the regional revolution, will work with utmost sincerity to ensure the perfect quality of their building work, and thus complete excellent structures the levels of specialization and functional qualities of which are fully guaranteed.

Let us never forget that the heavier the burden our army bears, the earlier the new era of regional transformation will come and the greater the benefits our beloved parents, brothers and sisters will enjoy.

My beloved comrades-in-arms, generals, officers and men of the People's Army,

Let us all fight with even greater courage and more vigour to achieve the great ideals of our people and the victory of our cause!

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