

KIM JONG UN

**LET US STEP UP THE BUILDING
OF A THRIVING COUNTRY
BY APPLYING KIM JONG IL'S
PATRIOTISM**

WORKING PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE WORLD, UNITE!

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Talk to Senior Officials of the Central Committee
of the Workers' Party of Korea
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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 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—of 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 an 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 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 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.