

## **Moral Obligation of a Great Man for the African Continent**

The African continent is closely associated with the internationalist obligation of President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994), who extended material and spiritual assistance to the countries when they started building new societies.

In the mid-1970s the Togolese president, leading a large-scale delegation, visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. When he met Kim Il Sung, he asked the latter to tell him the experiences of the DPRK.

Kim Il Sung said that economic self-reliance was the foundation of political independence, emphasizing that without building a self-reliant national economy run by one's own resources, technology and native cadres one could not overcome the economic pressure of the imperialists nor defend the political sovereignty.

On learning that Togo lacked its native cadres, Kim Il Sung ensured that the relevant DPRK officials went to the country to build a party school and provide technical assistance to an irrigation project.

This is how the high school of the Rally of the Togolese People was built in the capital of Togo, where officials who could guide the building of a new society were trained.

In March 1981, the Tanzanian president visited the DPRK. When he met Kim Il Sung, he told him about the situation of agriculture in his country and asked him assistance in this regard. His greatest concern was irrigation, water pumps in particular.

Kim Il Sung told them that he could give them a big water pump, but in the future they should make their own water pumps, and showed him a water pump factory.

Explaining in detail how the factory was built and developed, he told his Tanzanian counterpart that the DPRK could help Tanzania with the building of a water pump factory. What he meant was that it was necessary for the African countries to get assistance but what was important was that they should follow the road of self-reliance, believing in their own strength.

A Tanzanian official who accompanied his president said: President Kim Il Sung encouraged us to be self-reliant by showing us a water pump factory; other countries would have thought of making money by selling water pumps to us; the experience of self-reliance achieved by the DPRK is indeed the assistance we urgently need.

The Madagascan president said: Other countries would catch some fish for us when

we were hungry; this meant we should always depend on those countries in the future, but President Kim Il Sung taught us how to catch fish so that we could catch fish on our own whenever we wanted.

Under the close attention of Kim Il Sung to the development of agriculture in the African countries, agricultural institutes were built in Tanzania and Guinea and the DPRK agricultural technicians were dispatched to these countries to extend technical assistance.

Out of his respect for Kim Il Sung, Guinean president saw to it that the institute built in his country was named the Kim Il Sung Agricultural Institute.

The assistance Kim Il Sung extended to the African people contained his sincere sense of obligation.

When cholera broke out in a country, Kim Il Sung instructed that the DPRK medical team dispatched to that country should not avoid the cholera patients but take necessary preventive measures and do their best to treat the patients.

When Benin asked him to send able doctors, officials in the field of the planned economy and technicians of ceramic production, Kim Il Sung solved the problems without hesitation.

A brick factory in Tanzania, a stadium in Zanzibar, a printing factory in Benin, a hydroelectric power station in Ethiopia, the National Palace in Guinea, the irrigation facilities built in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda and other countries, government building in Lesotho, the Parliament building in the Central African Republic, an open-air theatre and torch tower of the revolution in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, a stadium in Victoria, the capital of the Seychelles, and others all tell of Kim Il Sung's sense of international obligation.

The DPRK assisted the African countries not because it was richer than others, but out of the sincere sense of international obligation of Kim Il Sung who instructed to help the African countries so that they could achieve complete political and economic independence from the imperialists and develop by their own efforts.

The African countries will always remember the noble sense of international obligation of Kim Il Sung.