

Africa Will Never Forget

Kim Il Sung, the eternal President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, rendered a great contribution to accomplishing the cause of independence of mankind. Noteworthy in this regard is the assistance he gave to the African people in their struggle to achieve national liberation and build a new society.

“In Order to Make the Revolution, One Must Meet Comrade Kim Il Sung”

In the mid-1950s, the Algerian people, who had held the torch of armed struggle against imperialism and colonialism for the first time on the African continent, faced great obstacles.

At this juncture, President Kim Il Sung rendered active support to them.

In those days, the Korean people were not in a position to help others as postwar rehabilitation was going on in their country after the destructive Korean war (1950-1953). However, Kim Il Sung actively supported the line of armed struggle of the National Liberation Front of Algeria, and had unsparing material assistance given to it. The Day and Week of Algeria were instituted, and when a provisional government was established there, he ensured that the DPRK government recognized it and established diplomatic relations with it before any other country. In May 1975, he visited the country, deepening brotherly feelings with President Houari Boumediene, other Algerian leaders and people.

President Kim Il Sung's international cooperation for national liberation struggle of the African people was also rendered to the national liberation struggle of the Mozambican people.

Samora Machel, chairman of the Mozambique Liberation Front (Frelimo) and commander-in-chief of the Mozambican People's Liberation Army, visited the DPRK in September 1971. When he met him, President Kim Il Sung told him his opinions on the ways and means for winning victory in the struggle against the imperialists, saying that they should take the initiative at all times in their struggle. As Kim Il Sung told him, Machel, after returning home, built up the internal forces of the Frelimo, set up secret guerrilla bases in the bush and delivered blows at the enemy by relying on them, putting an end to the colonial rule at last. Declaring the complete independence of his country, he said: Thanks to the help President Kim Il Sung gave us, we were able to cut off the chains of colonial slavery which had shackled us as well as our ancestors and greet our liberation; let us extend thanks to him also on our ancestors' behalf.

Thanks to the teachings and assistance given by Kim Il Sung, many other countries in Africa such as Uganda, Zimbabwe and Namibia could achieve national liberation and independence.

In those days, the African people used to say, “In order to make the revolution, one must meet Comrade Kim Il Sung.”

Selfless Material and Spiritual Assistance

President Kim Il Sung rendered selfless material and spiritual assistance to the African countries in their building of a new society.

In the mid-1970s, President Gnassingbe Eyadema of Togo visited the DPRK and met President Kim Il Sung. He asked the host to tell him the precious experiences achieved in the DPRK. Kim Il Sung explained to him in detail the experience in turning the country into a socialist industrial state— independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence—on the basis of the Juche idea, starting his explanation with how his country built the first tractor by its own efforts. Later, when he learned that Togo was suffering from lack of native cadres, he said: We should build a party school for the country, and wonderfully at that; we should buy those materials that we cannot take from our country; we should build the school excellently to make it a present for the Togolese people. So the Higher School of the Rally of the Togolese People was built in the Lome, capital city of Togo, and the country could train many cadres capable of leading the building of a new society.

If African countries requested experts, Kim Il Sung saw to it that experts of the DPRK were dispatched to those countries; if they requested help in building factories and farms, he was never stingy in sending necessary funds and materials to them. The material and spiritual assistance covered not only the economic sector but the political, military, education, public health and sports sectors. The DPRK was not so rich as to render such a colossal amount of assistance to the African countries in those days. But Kim Il Sung would tell the Korean officials: Even though we have to tighten our belt, we should help the African countries with sincerity so that they can achieve complete independence in politics and the economy and stand on their own feet.

Thanks to the unstinted help and support offered by the DPRK many structures were built on the African continent—a brick factory in Arusha, and an agricultural research institute and a stadium in Zanzibar, Tanzania; a printing factory and a hall of culture in Benin, a hydroelectric power station in Ethiopia; an agricultural institute and national palace in Guinea; an experimental farm in Ghana; a friendship experimental farm in Zambia, government building in Lesotho; parliament building in the Central African Republic; an open-air theatre, and torch tower in Burkina Faso; and a stadium in the Seychelles.

President Sam Nujoma of Namibia, during his visit to the DPRK in September 1992, said, “If you, Comrade Kim Il Sung, had not given us wise instruction nor rendered unstinted material and spiritual assistance, my country Namibia would have been remained the only colonized country on the African continent. You, who gave us active assistance when we were experiencing difficulties, are a great teacher and benefactor of the Namibian people.”