



★ **Ground-breaking Ceremony for Construction of Regional-industry Factories in Songchon County Held**

★ **Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un Guides Firing Drill of KPA Large Combined Units**

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Ground-breaking Ceremony for Construction of Regional-industry Factories in Songchon County Held with Splendour Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un Makes Historic Speech at Ceremony



Thanks to the historic choice and crucial decision of the great Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea which has oriented and subordinated all the state affairs to ensuring and realizing the people's rights, interests and desire, the gigantic regional-industry revolution starts to dynamically push forward with the Regional Development 20x10 Policy adopted as a revolutionary line of the Party and the state.

A ground-breaking ceremony took place with splendour on February 28 for the construction of regional-industry factories in Songchon County as part of the project to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was present at the ceremony.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants raised enthusiastic cheers, extending boundless gratitude to him, the peerlessly prominent leader and the people's tender-hearted father who puts forward the people's happy laughter as an absolute standard of assessing the national power and a symbol of the mightiness of Korean-style socialism and makes a new history of great change for accomplishing the people's every ideal and desire in an all-round way.

Present at the ceremony were officials of the WPK Central Committee, the chief secretary of the South Phyongan Provincial Committee of the WPK, members of the non-permanent central committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, officials of ministries and national agencies, and officials and working people of South Phyongan Province and Songchon County.

Attending it were commanding officers of the Ministry of National Defence, commanders of the large combined units of the Korean People's Army and servicepersons involved in the construction.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.



The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivers a meaningful speech. Referring to the historic significance of declaring the great struggle to bring a new era of regional changes, he extends warm militant greetings on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the DPRK government to the soldier-builders, members of the non-permanent committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, officials of ministries, national agencies and other relevant units and to the working people of South Phyongan Province and Songchon County.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un delivered a meaningful speech. Referring to the historic significance of declaring the great struggle to bring a new era of regional changes, he extended warm militant greetings on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the DPRK government to the soldier-builders, members of the non-permanent committee for promoting the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, officials of ministries, national agencies and other relevant units and

to the working people of South Phyongan Province and Songchon County. He clarified again the intention of the Party Central Committee that made the People's Army take the lead in the ten-year revolution for realizing the Party's long-cherished desire, and set forth the principled issues and tasks to be held fast to and carried out in the implementation of the regional-industry development policy.







He expressed belief that the service personnel would confidently create an era of great changes for radically developing regions, regarding devoted service for the people as their bounden duty.

Deeply moved by his speech carrying the strong will of devoted service to provide the beloved people with the highest civilization and the happiest life in the world as well as deep faith in the service personnel taking the lead in the gigantic revolution for regional industries, all the participants broke into enthusiastic cheers.

Kim Jong Un personally handed over the regimental colours to the 124th regiments of the KPA, which were newly formed to implement the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

He took up the first spadeful of earth in commemoration of the groundbreaking.

Amid the boundless reverence and excitement of the participants, he pressed the detonator button. Then the sound of explosion resounded to herald the start of the historic regional-industry revolution.

He had a significant photo session with the military and political commanding officers of the construction regiments who are filled with the firm determination to vigorously lead the responsible and honourable grand construction struggle for carrying into practice the Party's crucial decision, regarding it as the supreme order and absolute truth.



On the Occasion of the First Groundbreaking for the Implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy

Speech Kim Jong Un Made at Ground-breaking Ceremony for Regional-industry Factories in Songchon County

February 28, Juche 113 (2024)

Comrades,
How do you do, beloved people in Songchon County?
Today a historic ceremony of breaking the ground with the greatest desire and ambition of our Party to implement the Regional Development 20×10 Policy is being held here in Songchon County, a typical intermediate, mountainous area in our country.
This signals the start of the great struggle for our Party's ten-year goal for bringing about comprehensive regional rejuvenation.
At this moment when we are making a vigorous step forward towards a grand transformation, a revolution in the regional industry, I picture in my mind's eye the future of regions that would be transformed year after year. As I do so, I feel the dignity and pride in the forthcoming struggle redoubled, and I am greatly moved by the thought that the people in all cities and counties in provinces, numbering more than ten million, will be provided with

substantial benefits in their living. On the other hand, to be frank, I feel remorseful for the fact that we are starting this revolution only now.
But, though this is a gathering held on an empty place with only an artist's impression unfolded, it will proclaim the beginning of an important revolutionary undertaking aimed at promoting the well-being of the regional people, and this amply proves the historic weight of the undertaking.
Officers and men of the 124th regiments under the services and corps at all levels of our army, who will play a vanguard role in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy,
Members of the non-permanent central promotion committee, officials of ministries, national agencies and other relevant units who are charged with the responsibility for leading and promoting transformation of regions,

And officials and working people from Songchon and other counties in South Phyongan Province who have come here with absolute support to and trust in our Party's new policy,
On behalf of the Party Central Committee and the government of the Republic, I extend hearty militant greetings to you.
Comrades,
It is indeed a revolution of great significance to build wonderful regional-industry factories with modern equipment and production lines in all cities and counties of the country in the coming ten years.
It was thought to be an inevitable and natural reality for too long that regions lag behind the capital city, but our Party, which regards it as a principle in its activities to pay constant and equal attention to the living of all the people throughout the country and actively solve the problems arising in their living, set removing the centuries-old concept as a historic task it should bravely shoulder however challenging it is.
Proceeding from this, the Eighth Central Committee of the Party set strengthening cities and counties and improving the rural living environment as an important line for the development of the state, and tried to find a way of opening a new era of comprehensive development, in which the capital city and regions would develop together.
And recently, it put forward the Regional Development 20×10 Policy that focuses on the comprehensive modernization of regional-industry factories which must be conducted without fail even by directing unprecedented efforts, and today the first ground-breaking ceremony for achieving a brilliant result of the policy has convened.
We are now pushing ahead with large-scale housing construction projects every year in the rural communities across the country as well as in the capital city, while ceaselessly raising the level of our self-defensive strength to protect the sovereignty of the state and independent life of the people and readjusting and developing all sectors of the national economy. Frankly speaking, in this situation it is easier said than done to decide on another ten-year campaign of creation, which is no less challenging than each of them, and open a new front.
But it is also a very pressing affair of the state to rebuild the regional economy on a completely new and advanced basis throughout the country and raise to a higher stage the basic material and cultural standards of living of the regional people, who make up the overwhelming majority of the population of the Republic.
We cannot keep our eyes away from this work any longer, nor can we delay it even a moment. We must press ahead with it unconditionally and persistently and bring about a definite result.
Anyone who is born on this land should lead an abundant and civilized life under the socialist policy of the state, whether they live in the capital city or regions, in towns or mountain villages, and it is the core of the new policy of regional development to see to it that they do so without fail.
The success of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy has already been confirmed.
Above all else, Party members and other people actively approve and support the new policy of the Party and the government.
As the new policy reflects the urgent demands and interests of all the people and clearly indicates the ways of its implementation, everyone welcomes and hails it. In particular, all the regional people accept it as their own and are optimistic that it will surely

come true.
This is the most precious and greatest power that defies comparison with any financial resources.
As our people are of the belief that all the policies of the Party and the government are for the promotion of their rights, interests and living and that any work the Party decides on and goes at turns into a happy reality, they unanimously and wholeheartedly support any struggle task it advances, however formidable and challenging it may be.
Thanks to this support, the political climate unique to our state is unusually solid, and all things designed by the Party and the government develop into proud realities with world-amazing, miraculous results.
It is our consistent manner of work to make a scientific and meticulous calculation and plan, and establish a powerful organizational and command system before we launch into all projects for the good of the people.
At the outset of 2024, a year of great importance in developing our revolution and state, the Party Central Committee paid great attention to the historic task of implementing the policy of regional development, making serious studies and holding in-depth discussions repeatedly.
It decided that the state should supply all the funds, manpower, cement and steel needed for the construction of regional-industry factories in cities and counties, and took timely measures for different problems like transport of building materials.
And it found new problems in the course of reconsidering the experience and present situation of Kimhwa County, which can be said to have undergone the preparatory stage or the pilot stage in implementing the policy, and set forth measures for preventing possible deviations.
In order to push ahead with the implementation of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy substantially and powerfully as an undertaking devolving on the Party Central Committee, officials of its Organizational Leadership Department visited the cities and counties, which are designated for construction this year, to learn about their specific situations, and correctly confirmed the orientation of construction after serious discussions with local officials and designers. Meanwhile, organs and a work system were set up so that the Party and the state can supervise and push ahead with this project, and they have begun to work.
Yesterday I went over and ratified a general report on the list of regional-industry factories to be built in 20 cities and counties this year as well as on their scales, sites and production lines.
Now we can say that we have calculated everything and made full preparations for building dozens of regional-industry factories in the 20 cities and counties within this year.
The point is how their construction, which has arisen as an urgent demand of the people and an important task of the Party and the government, will go ahead in reality and how effectively these factories will operate in the future.
Not only the officers and men of the People's Army and construction officials present here but also all the officials, Party members and other working people across the country should turn out in bringing about a revolution in the regional industry with a single mind and purpose; the capital city and regions, provinces and cities and counties should join their efforts; and the builders should actively cooperate with the sci-tech forces. In this way, I



believe, they can achieve successful results in different parts of the country, which we have dreamed of.

Comrades,
The army of the people, the foremost guardian, creator and implementer in our socialist state, has shouldered this difficult, yet honourable revolutionary task. This constitutes another important factor that boosts our conviction in the sure victory of this task.

At this time, too, our Party has put our army at the forefront of the ten-year revolution for shoring up the regional economy.

I feel grateful and reassured to see the militant appearance and soaring spirit of the officers and men of the 124th regiments who went immediately to the areas assigned to them in hearty response to the appeal of the Party Central Committee and have launched into the revolutionary work which would accelerate the new transformation of regions and comprehensive rejuvenation of our state.

Hoping that you will once again implant devoted service for the people into your hearts as your solemn duty, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize a few points for you who have advanced to the construction sites of regional-industry factories throughout the country.

As I said on February 8, when I visited the Ministry of National Defence on the anniversary of the founding of the army, the Party and the people place great trust in the People's Army whenever the revolution faces a task of grave importance and utmost urgency, and the latter lives up to their trust and expectation faithfully and without fail—this is a glorious tradition inherited from one century

into the next.

There is no doubt in the least about the fighting spirit, matchless self-sacrificing spirit and perfect creating style of the People's Army.

Mindful of being the creators of transformations in the new era, the officers and men dispatched to the 20 cities and counties across the country should ensure the highest quality in building the regional-industry factories, with a determination that they will not let their parents, brothers and sisters in their home towns and villages experience difficulties in their living any longer.

You should never forget even for a moment that each passing day of your struggle should be adorned with proud feats performed for defending the policy of the Party and the state and achieving the people's happiness.

How substantial transformation the Party's and the government's regional development policy would bring to cities and counties, and how tangible changes it would make in every aspect of the people's living conditions depends on your style of work. Bearing this in mind, you should make every effort to ensure the speed and quality of construction to the full.

Also in implementing the Party's slogan, "Everything for the improvement of the people's standard of living!" our service personnel should always be standard-bearers and set excellent examples.

They should display to the full our army's traits of being thoroughgoing, accurate and perfect in whatever they do—pushing ahead with the projects on schedule, meeting the technical and

engineering requirements and making maximum economies in the use of materials. By doing so, they will create symbols of our era, which will deserve praises of posterity, in this Songchon County and all other cities and counties in the country.

Your way of struggle should bring about a real improvement in all aspects by giving an influence on the ideological consciousness, work attitude and lifestyle of officials, working people and others in the relevant cities and counties, and turn into their revolutionary spirit, patriotism, creation and optimism as well as the culture of a new era. Only then can the intention of the Party Central Committee in putting you at the forefront of the revolution in the regional industry be implemented and your efforts be proved worthwhile.

I believe that the 20 flags to be awarded to the commanding officers of the 124th regiments today will be adorned with great feats and unparalleled patriotic exploits of our most revolutionary army of the people.

The chief secretary of the Party committee and chairman of the people's committee of Songchon County and all senior officials in other cities and counties across the country should make strenuous efforts.

They should keep it in mind that they are the direct performers of the great revolutionary undertaking for carrying out the Regional Development 20x10 Policy.

Even though the Party provides all the conditions and the People's Army undertakes the construction of factories, it is the Party and administrative and economic officials of cities and counties who should take full responsibility for operating the completed factories and ensure that the people under their charge enjoy substantial benefits from them.

Kim Jong Un referred to the policy-oriented requirements set forth by the Party Central Committee in building the regional-industry factories in cities and counties.

...
Chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should attach importance to three-way consultation from the designing stage so that factories can be built to suit the specific conditions of their respective regions and to leave nothing to be desired even in the future. They should also promote effective cooperation with the People's Army and vigorously enlist the local people to implement the Party policy.

If the factories fail to run on a normal footing owing to shortage of raw and other materials or any other problems after their production buildings have been set up in a splendid way and equipped with modern facilities, it will be a crime before the Party and the state, the people and the soldier-builders.

The chief secretaries should direct efforts from now on to creating raw-material bases and building up the technical forces of regional-industry factories, and definitely guarantee the long-term development of their cities and counties on the principle of self-reliance and on the strength of science and technology.

What is most important is that they should turn the process of transforming regional-industry factories into an effective occasion whereby officials and residents in their counties foster a determination and confidence that they should and can create an affluent life and civilization by valuing all the things in their native places, taking care of them with sincerity and making full use of them.

In other words, they should turn the process of implementing the new regional development policy into a process of strengthening

the functions and role of regional Party organizations and government organs and of remarkably stepping up the ideological, technological and cultural revolutions.

This is precisely the main purpose set by the Party in drawing up the plan for the revolution in the regional industry.

If one is firm in their resolve to make their life affluent by their own efforts, they can turn a stone into a treasure and there is nothing they cannot do. The chief secretaries of city and county Party committees should prove this first by transforming themselves and through their practice.

Another important point they should never neglect: They should pay particular attention and take thoroughgoing measures so that the work of improving the living standards of the local people bears no negative result of imposing burdens on them.

All the officials and builders who are to engage in building regional-industry factories, projects to be vigorously promoted in cities and counties across the country, should devote their wisdom and energy to the responsible work of successfully carrying out the Party's plan and improving the people's living standards, and present proud creations for the country, the revolution and the coming generations.

Comrades,
At the end of this year, we will witness a new transformation in the 20 cities and counties across the country, including here in Songchon County, where modern regional-industry factories, the first fruits of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy, will have been built.

And ten years later solid foundations for regional rejuvenation, a long-cherished desire, will have been laid so that we can feel worthwhile to see the production bases running at full throttle and hear the people's happy laughter resounding across the country.

Herein lies the boundless pride and honour of our revolutionary work and struggle.

The sacred and great undertaking, which we conducted merely with words for decades and which we did not dare to go at, has really begun now.

For an era of great transformation, in which we will develop the regional economy rapidly in our own way while renovating rural communities,

Towards an era, in which we build the most wonderful factories for the people on our land by our own hands and in which we create the people's happiness to the full with our own resources and technology,

Let us all build and create with confidence and vigour.

Today commanding officers of the large combined units at all levels, under which 124th regiments have been organized, and commanders of all these regiments are present here.

I appeal to our army through you.

Officers and men of the People's Army,
Always fight bravely in the vanguard of the struggle to create and defend the people's happiness and to realize the cherished desire of our Party!

The Party, the country and the people believe in you!

Officers and men, who have turned out in this gigantic struggle today, will be remembered for ever as the most steel-strong fighters representing a great era.

Let us make selfless and devoted efforts for the good of our great people!

Forward for our sacred struggle!



Kim Jong Un Pays Congratulatory Visit to Ministry of National Defence



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, pays a congratulatory visit to the DPRK Ministry of National Defence on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, paid a congratulatory visit to the DPRK Ministry of National Defence on the afternoon of February 8, on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the KPA.

He was accompanied by his respected daughter.

He was also accompanied by the secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK.

A ceremony of greeting Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, took place.

After receiving a salute from the head of the guard of honour of the KPA, he reviewed the guard of honour and the glorious colours of the three services.

He was presented with fragrant bouquets by KPA officers.

Major commanding officers of the KPA and the commanders of the large combined units greeted him in the humblest reverence.

There took place a march-past of the guard of honour of the KPA. Kim Jong Un had a photo taken with the KPA generals to be recorded in the army-building history.

The commanding officers of the army paid the highest tribute to the great brilliant commander who has developed the KPA into the powerful and matchless revolutionary armed forces and the patriotic vanguard which reliably guarantee the defence of the sovereignty and enhancement of the prestige of the country and has put them

forward to be the vanguard of the times with his outstanding army-building idea and energetic leadership.

Kim Jong Un made a significant speech in congratulation of the heroic KPA officers and men celebrating the day of army founding.

Paying his noble respects to the course of heroic development of the KPA which has effected a great turn in building a prosperous country with a powerful army while fully safeguarding the security, rights and interests of the country and the people and the ideas and



A ceremony of greeting Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, takes place.

Kim Jong Un receives a salute from the head of the guard of honour of the KPA and reviews the guard of honour and the glorious colours of the three services.



cause of the Party in the faithful discharge of the sacred mission entrusted to it by the times and history for 76 years from the first days of its founding to this day, he extended congratulations and thanks to all the service personnel of the army on the occasion of army founding day on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the DPRK government and reflecting the desire of all the people.

The heroic struggle of our army has inscribed in history the truth that only the state and people who advance with their army in the vanguard of the revolution can achieve steady and uninterrupted development and prosperity in the face of all the challenges and crises, he said, highly praising the great feats of the revolutionary armed forces reliably defending the inviolable sovereignty of the country and the honour of the people with staunch revolutionary faith, steadfast patriotism, unparalleled heroism and mettle, and devoted service.

He declared that the WPK, which has assumed an absolute mission for the country and people, will hasten the advent of a bright future of the Republic, and ardently called upon the service personnel of the entire army to fight vigorously, with full confidence and optimism that we will win a great new victory, sharing one mind and intention.

When Kim Jong Un finished his speech, stormy cheers of “Hurrah!” resounded in the sky of February.

All the participants loudly shouted the slogans of “Kim Jong Un” and “Devoted defence”, full of ardent enthusiasm to share the ideology, intention and destiny with the Party Central Committee forever and to fully display the might and mettle of the powerful revolutionary army for eternal peace on this land and prosperity and happiness of posterity, cherishing the trust of the great brilliant commander as their greatest honour.



Kim Jong Un has a photo taken with the KPA generals to be recorded in the army-building history.





Kim Jong Un makes a significant speech in congratulation of the heroic KPA officers and men celebrating Army Day.

Paying his noble respects to the course of heroic development of the KPA which has led the great turn toward a prosperous country with a powerful army while firmly defending the security and interests of the country and people and the ideology and cause of the Party by loyally undertaking the sacred mission entrusted by the times and history for 76 years since its founding, Kim Jong Un extends warm congratulations to the service personnel of the entire army on Army Day on behalf of the Party Central Committee, the DPRK government and all the people across the country.





Speech Kim Jong Un Made During Congratulatory Visit to Ministry of National Defence

February 8, Juche 113 (2024)

Officials of the Ministry of National Defence, the highest command organ of the armed forces of our Republic, and non-commissioned officers and soldiers present here at this grand celebration of the founding anniversary of our glorious army,

Dependable officers and soldiers of the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th corps who are currently on the frontline defending our country's borders,

Officers and soldiers of the Pyongyang-defending corps who are reliably performing their honourable mission of defending the capital city,

Officers and soldiers of all the other corps and mechanized infantry, tank and armoured units who are firmly defending our country's territory and waters in its eastern and western regions,

Officers and soldiers of the 12th Corps on the northern border and the Border Guards,

Courageous officers and soldiers of our other services,

All other officers and soldiers of the Korean People's Army,

On the 76th anniversary of the founding of the KPA, a proud

holiday for our state and our people, I extend to you warm congratulations and greetings.

Availing myself of this important opportunity, I offer my heartfelt tribute to the revolutionary forerunners, the KPA martyrs and the respected war veterans who, through imperishable feats of meritorious service and miracles, glorified the early days and decades of great victories in the history of building a Juche-oriented army.

My warm thanks also go to all the people, including the soldiers' families across the country, who are fully supporting our Party's cause of building a powerful army.

As I stand here, I cannot find adequate words to express my thanks to the officers and soldiers of our army who are striving more forcefully than anybody else, shouldering mounting tasks day after day, and my appreciation for their outstanding feats.

Whenever I recall the words People's Army, my heart grows warm and I feel moved by the reminder of its heroic image.

These past 76 years have been truly glorious for our army, filled

with numerous tales to tell and with victories and feats, despite the manifold trials.

There would be no end to recounting the great feats our army has performed for the people's security and wellbeing in defence of the most righteous ideas and cause and in the faithful discharge of the sacred mission entrusted to it by the times and history from the first days of its founding to this day.

The most brilliant feat our army has performed in its history of heroic struggle is to have remained boundlessly faithful to its inherent mission of defending our sovereignty. Thus it has reliably safeguarded the right to independence and dignity of the country and the people and ensured peace and stability for them in the face of the military threats and blackmail by the imperialists and the danger of war.

Our revolution has written an unprecedented chapter in history in which the cause of founding an army was accomplished before the founding of a state. This was because sovereignty itself is something that can be defended and exercised only by means of revolutionary violence to frustrate the imperialist tyranny, in other words, only by winning the fight against it.

Our People's Army was a gain our people achieved through a protracted struggle to win back their lost rights to exist and develop, freedom and every other right. Its most important and sacred mission has been to firmly defend our sovereignty so that it would never again be taken away from us or violated.

Shouldering the historic and challenging duty of safeguarding our nation's sovereignty, it has for 76-long years been undaunted in hewing out the arduous path of fierce political and class struggle that is decisive to who prevails over whom.

While following an untrodden path for one decade after another, our People's Army service personnel have, at the cost of their blood and lives, performed countless feats on the battlefield and recorded other heroic achievements.

Because our People's Army has resolutely foiled every manner of challenge and threat from the hostile forces wherever we exercise our national sovereignty and reliably defended our country's borders, it has been possible to fully safeguard the security, rights and interests of the country and the people and the ideas and cause of the Party. Thanks to its ennobling sacrifice and its history of heroic victory, our people, grasping state power firmly in their hands, could strongly exercise their rights in the political, military, economic, cultural and diplomatic fields and effect a great turn in building a prosperous country with a powerful army.

The absolute might, prestige and dignity achieved by our state that we see today are based on the priceless feats and victories gained by our People's Army at the cost of blood, sweat and sacrifice.

Our Party, in aspiring to building a more powerful and prosperous state, aims at winning back and squarely exercising all its rights to independence. In this, the priority task is to gain the eternal, unchallenged security of the state.

To this end, we must possess the absolute might to stand up to any provocation, and sufficient strength to constrain the enemy.

After recently reviewing our nation's history of division and confrontation, our Party and government designated the puppet Republic of Korea as the most dangerous and primary enemy state and implacable archenemy. They resolved to make it state policy to occupy and subjugate its territory in time of emergency. This is an absolutely correct measure for our state's eternal security and its

future peace and stability.

In this way we have rid ourselves on our own initiative of the fetters of unrealistic developments in which, ensnared by the rhetoric of our compatriots, we felt obliged to strive for dialogue and cooperation, even if only for form's sake, with the ROK puppets who are scheming to bring down the government of our Republic and dreaming of unification through absorption. Having clearly defined the puppet ROK as a state hostile to us, we are legally entitled to strike and annihilate it at any moment if it dares to provoke us. We are now in a position to defend the prestige of our country as an independent and sovereign state, a socialist state, and to deal with our surrounding environment based on a more comprehensive approach in order to attain our national interests while building up our military strength and maintaining a harder-line response stance.

This policy switch and our staunch attitude towards the enemy are decisions of weighty importance which we could adopt because our army is fully prepared in terms of both the will to defend our national sovereignty and its military and technical capabilities.

It is an everyday occurrence in the present world for national sovereignty and territory to be violated ruthlessly and blood to be shed as a result of the imperialists' policy of achieving supremacy and their violent moves of aggression. In this situation it is our revolutionary armed forces alone, led by the Workers' Party of Korea, that are honourably defending the dignity of our country and people while achieving undeniable victories at every stage of the anti-imperialist confrontation.

The chapters recording the glorious history of the Republic's armed forces, in which they have been developed and strengthened into an invincible army firmly safeguarding the security and sovereignty of our state, have always been written together with the chapters of their gigantic creation and construction efforts for the country and the people.

Our country and people always feel grateful to the army for its massive efforts, and they celebrate army founding day as a national holiday. This is because the People's Army has performed more remarkable exploits than others could manage, not only in defending our national sovereignty but also in building socialism and promoting the people's welfare.

The loyal and dependable ranks that share weal and woe with the Party readily accept its orders and directives whether they are military missions or economic tasks, and always carry them out without delay and in the most perfect and thoroughgoing way—this is our People's Army.

Long explanations have never been necessary for our soldiers.

Our army inherently understands the Party's concerns without the help of any explanation. Aware of the arrival of historic moments when it must come to the fore, it goes without hesitation to the theatres of struggle and faces the most enormous hardships.

The colours of all our army units contain the brief words For the Eternal Prosperity of the Country and Security of the People, but the role and mission entrusted by these words are weighty, and inscribed on these colours are not only military exploits.

In the protracted course from the first days of rebuilding the country on the rubble after the war until today, socialist construction has been our primary revolutionary task, as important for the People's Army as defending the country's sovereignty. This task



has never been treated any more lightly or been deferred, however harsh and severe the circumstances.

The metallurgical-industry bases and coal and ore mines which constitute the foundation of the national economy, the railways and roads which constitute the country's arteries, and the crop fields, irrigation waterways and reclaimed tidelands which serve the improvement of the people's livelihood—all the development and creative projects undertaken across the country are associated with the exploits of our army.

The spirits of the times which will remain an eternal part of history, and the monumental structures erected on the strength of these spirits have all been created by the People's Army.

Our officers and soldiers have never regretted giving all the precious things in their life—dignity, glory, honour and happiness—true to the proud name People's Army.

Following the genuine and beautiful traces left by our army with its revolutionary and steadfast mettle and patriotic enthusiasm, the appearance of our country has been transformed, cradles of life have been created, and people's happy laughter is resounding.

Last year alone, our service personnel led the way in performing great feats for achieving breakthroughs on all fronts and in all theatres, ranging from housing construction conducted in a three-dimensional manner in the capital city, the Komdok area and various other parts of the country, to irrigation and border barricade projects and the struggle to increase grain production and recover from natural disasters.

All our generals, our officers and their wives, and our ordinary soldiers took the lead in overcoming the food shortage that arose at the outset of the year by cutting their rations; they carried out without fail the tasks the Party entrusted to them by waging a more progressive and offensive struggle. Thus they recorded the year as

the most glorious in the history of the army's development, filled with legendary exploits and miracles.

Were it not for the outstanding role and contribution of the People's Army, we would not be reviewing the work of last year with such pride or have created such a decisively favourable situation for comprehensive rejuvenation, full of high spirits and confidence, as we do today.

The year 2023 can be called a highlight and a most brilliant page in the long and glorious history of victory written by our country and people on the strength of the vanguard role of the army, with its elite ideology and most powerful fighting efficiency.

Our army is currently undertaking the most sacred and gigantic struggle of the ten-year revolution to radically transform regional industry in response to the call of the Party. Its proud colours are fluttering vigorously, calling for a fresh upswing in the revolution across the country.

These colours, permeated with the red soul and innumerable feats of the People's Army soldiers, add greater brilliance and force to our fluttering national flag, and create an image of how the future will be transformed.

It is a source of great pride and immense strength for our Party that it has an army in which it can place the greatest trust and to which it can assign the vanguard role in the revolution in peaceful and good times as well as during the times when the country is experiencing harsh trials.

Despite the great pains they have endured, with their belts always tightened, on the two fronts of national defence and socialist construction, the faithful officers and soldiers of the People's Army have striven with a single heart and without any vacillation. They have cherished the outlook on the revolution and life of having nothing to desire but praise from their Supreme Commander,

regarding their pride in being of one mind with him as a source of their greatest happiness. I always gain great strength and courage from them.

The heroic struggle of our army has inscribed in history the truth that only the state and people who advance with their army in the vanguard of the revolution can achieve steady and uninterrupted development and prosperity in the face of all the challenges and crises.

Availing myself of this significant opportunity, on behalf of the Central Committee of our Party and the government of our Republic, and reflecting the desire of all the people, I would like to extend once again congratulations and thanks to all the service personnel of the heroic KPA on the occasion of army founding day.

Comrades,

Resting on all the feats and achievements associated with your hard struggle are the nation's dignity you must safeguard with your lives and the people's ideals you must attain at any cost.

The WPK, which has assumed an absolute mission for the country and people, will always rely on the courage and loyalty of the revolutionary armed forces and hasten the advent of a bright future of our Republic with you.

However grave the situation and however manifold the difficulties along the way, we feel certain that, as long as we have the army, and however formidable and gigantic the revolutionary tasks, we can be confident of the coming victory as long as the army undertakes to perform them—this is the feeling of the people of this country.

You should live up to the people's trust and, through your strenuous struggle and its perfect outcome, fully defend their belief in Party policy as a science and the reality.

Comrades,

Our army should have greater strength. Having achieved invincibility, it can prevent war and safeguard peace without fail.

Peace is not something to be begged for or bartered over in negotiations.

Across our border, the mutations who are in power are now running amok, whipping up a war hysteria and threatening the security of our state with their guns levelled at us.

Let us remember once again that war breaks out without prior notice.

We should be prepared at all times for war.

If the enemy dares to resort to armed force against our state, we will make a bold decision to change and enlist without hesitation all the super-powerful means in our hands and annihilate them.

Comrades,

All our service personnel have always stood in the vanguard in supporting the Party's ideas and cause. They should reliably defend the inviolable sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, our glorious motherland, and the honour of the Korean people with staunch revolutionary faith, steadfast patriotism, unparalleled heroism and mettle, and devoted service. They should demonstrate to the full the spiritual characteristics and resilience of the KPA in the ongoing sacred struggle to hasten the comprehensive development and prosperity of our country.

Our Party, state and people, with invincible ranks, elite revolutionary armed forces, will always be victorious.

For the eternal prosperity of our country and the security of our people, let us fight vigorously, with full confidence and optimism that we will win a great new victory, sharing one mind and intention.

Eternal glory to our proud revolutionary armed forces!

Long live the heroic Korean People's Army!

Banquet Given to Celebrate 76th Anniversary of KPA



A banquet was given on February 8 on the occasion of the 76th founding anniversary of the heroic Korean People's Army.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was present at the banquet.

Present there at invitation were commanding officers of the

Ministry of National Defence, commanders of the large combined units and other generals of the KPA.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un appeared at the hall together with his respected daughter, all the generals of the army broke into enthusiastic cheers, paying the highest tribute to Kim Jong Un, peerlessly brilliant commander who has developed the Korean People's Army into an invincible

revolutionary army which has recorded proud victory and performed only brilliant feats in the 70-odd-year militant journey.

Cadres of the Central Committee of the WPK attended the significant banquet.

An art performance was given before the banquet.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the Central Committee of the WPK, made a speech at the banquet.

All the participants toasted the good health of Kim Jong Un who has built the strongest revolutionary armed forces in the world and led them to the ever-victorious path, and vigorous development and immortal feats of the heroic KPA shouldering the destiny and future of our state and people.

Kim Jong Un Guides Test Fire of Surface-to-Sea Missile Padasuri-6



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, guided the evaluation test fire of new-type surface-to-sea missile Padasuri-6 to be equipped by the navy on the morning of February 14.

The missiles flew over the East Sea for more than 1 400 seconds to hit the target boat.

Kim Jong Un expressed great satisfaction over the results of the test fire and made an important conclusion on the plan of reorganizing the combat formation of the coastal missile battalions of the east and the west sea fleets.

He set forth the ways for reliably defending the maritime border by deploying surface-to-sea missile forces in the forward area and strengthening them to the maximum and thoroughly containing and frustrating the adventurous attempt of

the enemy navy.

Recalling the fact that the ROK puppets let various kinds of battleships intrude into the waters of the DPRK to seriously encroach upon its sovereignty under the pretext of control of fishing boats and ships of a third country and maritime patrol while making desperate efforts to preserve the "northern limit line," a ghost one without any ground in the light of international law or legal justification, he stressed the need for the DPRK to thoroughly defend the maritime sovereignty by force of arms and actions, not by any rhetoric, statement and public notice.

He gave important instructions to bolster up military preparedness particularly in the border waters north of Yonphyong Island and Paengnyong Island frequently invaded by the enemies' warships including destroyers, escort ships and speedboats.

He said that it is not important how many

lines exist in the West Sea of Korea and there is no need to thrash out the rights and wrongs. What is clear is that when the enemy intrudes into the maritime border

recognized by us, we will regard it as an encroachment upon the sovereignty of the DPRK and an armed provocation against it, he affirmed.

Steadfast is the stand and will of the Korean People's Army to firmly defend the state sovereignty and security with its legitimate and rightful exercise of the right

to self-defence by dint of strong military muscle, he said, setting forth military tasks for reliably defending the coastline and the maritime border of the country.



Kim Jong Un Inspects Major Munitions Factory

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at a major munitions factory.

He was accompanied by secretaries of the Central Committee of the WPK.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted by chairman of the Second Economy Commission and leading officials of the factory on the spot.

Going round various places of the factory, he learned in detail about the modernization of production processes and the current production.

He highly praised the factory for having undergone a radical change in its appearance as befitting a core and vanguard factory in the field of munitions industry, radically improved the modernization level of production processes and steadily accelerated the work for increasing production capacity.

He once again stressed the important duty of the factory and set forth the important tasks for improving the quality of munitions and decisively increasing production as required by the prevailing situation and the developing revolution.

The key to the increased production lies in giving full play to the mental power of the workers in the munitions industry, the producers, he said, stressing that the factory should vigorously conduct the political work so that they are better aware of the Party's policy on bolstering up the defence capability and the requirements of the situation than others and effect a surge in production by dint of ardent patriotism, thoroughgoing viewpoint on the archenemy and will toward the enemy, and should scrupulously organize and command production and thus make a radical innovation in munitions production.

He indicated the issue for the factory and other major core factories to constantly push ahead with the modernization and the work for steadily expanding production capacity as required by the developing era of ultra-modern defence science and technology and the orientation for the Second Economy Commission to start an important new plan.





Kim Jong Un Gives Field Guidance at Nampho Dockyard



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at the Nampho Dockyard.

Accompanying him were senior officials of the WPK Central Committee and commander of the Navy of the Korean People's Army.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by leading officials of the dockyard .

Making the rounds of various production processes and shipbuilding site, he learned in detail about the overall situation of the dockyard and its technical equipment level.

Saying that the dockyard is charged with a very important task in developing the country's shipbuilding industry and strengthening its naval force, he set forth the revolutionary policy of struggle for the dockyard to usher in a new era of the shipbuilding industry.

He was reported in detail on the building of various warships and the preparations for a new huge plan decided and assigned by the Eighth WPK Congress.

Acquainting himself with the present situations such as the issues of building technology, design, capacity buildup and the supply of materials and products under contract and settling the knotty problems, he gave an instruction on pushing ahead with the planned building of ships to unconditionally complete them within the period of the five-year plan.

He set forth the orientation for further strengthening the material and technical foundations of the dockyard in keeping with the important requirement for dynamically promoting the prospective development of the shipbuilding industry, and took important measures.



Saying that the Nampho Dockyard is charged with a very important task in developing the country's shipbuilding industry and strengthening its naval force, Kim Jong Un sets forth the revolutionary policy of struggle for it to usher in a new era of the shipbuilding industry.



He earnestly reiterated that the Party members and other workers at the dockyard, who have a brilliant tradition of remaining true to the Party's defence and economic policies by fully displaying the steadfast spirit of devoted implementation and the fighting spirit of self-reliance in the annals of the revolution, should take the lead in successfully and thoroughly carrying into practice the plan of the Party which is determined to usher in a new heyday in the buildup of

the Juche-based naval force.

And he expressed expectation that the workers of the dockyard would successfully build on the world level the major warships, desired and decided by the WPK, by boosting still further their considerable ability and power of tenacious execution with boundless loyalty to the Party and the revolution and with patriotism.

Kim Jong Un Inspects Major Operational Training Base in Western Area



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the WPK and president of the State Affairs of the DPRK, inspects a major operational training base of the KPA in the western area on March 6 to make rounds of training facilities and guide the actual manoeuvres of units.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, inspected a major operational training base of the Korean People's Army in the western area on March 6 to make rounds of training facilities and guide the actual manoeuvres of units.

Accompanying him was Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Military

Commission.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by commanding officers of the KPA.

He learned in detail about the facilities and training grounds in the base.

He appreciated the fact that all the elements have been built in a practical way so that various kinds of training can be conducted in high intensity in an actual war atmosphere, true to the important





The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un mounts the observation post and receives a report on the program for actual manoeuvres of the units planned that day before guiding the drill.

military policy-oriented tasks set forth before the army by the Party Central Committee. And he stressed the need to make positive use of them so as to practically contribute to strengthening the combat capability of the People's Army, further consolidate the material and

technical foundation and properly conduct the maintenance work for them.

He mounted the observation post and received a report on the program for actual manoeuvres of the units planned that day before



guiding the drill.

Taking part in the drill were combat units at all levels recruited according to the plan.

Expressing his great satisfaction over the training of servicepersons,

Kim Jong Un highly praised the strong revolutionary spirit and the indomitable fighting spirit of the combatants who are keeping their perfect battle readiness.

Saying that he felt very glad and inspired to see the soldiers display





to the full the brave stamina of a stalwart fighter in the training environment little different from actual war, he encouraged the servicemen, who are fulfilling their duty always with battlefield in their mind, with ardent patriotism.

Stressing the need for the KPA to further intensify training at present, he set forth important tasks for intensifying practical actual-war drills to ensure victory in war.

To contain the constant threat of the enemies with overwhelming force, successfully control even their slightest attempt at igniting a war and correctly carry out the important mission in contingency, our army should always make more exact demands on itself in keeping with the aspects of changing and developing modern warfare and steadily intensify actual war drills aimed at rapidly improving its combat capabilities for perfect war preparedness,

he said, underscoring the need for the units at all levels of the entire army to dynamically usher in a new heyday of intensifying war preparations in line with the requirements of the prevailing situation.

The country is secure and its people's security is defended and their happiness is created thanks to our army, the genuine defender and servant of the people that dashes forward in the van of the era, taking

charge of both national defence and socialist construction, he said, adding that our army should continue to reliably play the leading role in our great era, bearing deep in mind the trust and expectation of the Party and the people.

That day he had a photo session with the dependable combatants who powerfully demonstrated a-match-for-a-hundred fighting efficiency in the drill with their strong will and courage.



Kim Jong Un has a photo session with the dependable combatants who powerfully demonstrated a match-for-a-hundred fighting efficiency in the drill with their strong will and courage.



Kim Jong Un Guides Firing Drill of KPA Large Combined Units



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, guided the artillery firing drill of the large combined units of the Korean People's Army on March 7.

Accompanying him was Pak Jong Chon, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Military Commission.

The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un was greeted at the training ground by commanding officers of the KPA.

The drill was aimed at increasing the combat readiness posture and actual war capability of artillerymen by inspecting and evaluating the firepower strike capability of the artillery units under the KPA large combined units in the way of power demonstration and competition.

The drill started with the power demonstration firing of the long-range artillery sub-units near the border who are performing important military missions for war deterrence by putting the enemy's capital in their striking range. The artillery sub-units selected from the large combined units were to take the firing positions according to the order of firing set by lot and fire at the targets and then to be ranked by summing up the number of hits and the time taken for fulfilling their firepower missions.

Kim Jong Un mounted the observation post and was briefed on the plan for the drill, before guiding it.

In the drill, the commanders of the KPA large combined units took charge of fire control over the artillery sub-units of their units and decided on the method of firing the artillery pieces according to their determination.

The valiant artillerymen involved in the drill fully displayed the rapid and accurate marksmanship they have steadily refined in the

days of actual war drills for the mobilization of artillerymen for war, always aware of their mission for defending the country, and thus fully demonstrated the high combat capability of the all-round artillerymen prepared as a-match-for-a-hundred fighters.

Kim Jong Un expressed his great satisfaction over the fact that all the artillery sub-units involved in the drill are fully ready for constant mobilization for battle.

He personally went to the firing position and warmly congratulated the brave artillery combatants who fully demonstrated the might of the KPA and the honour of a-match-for-a-hundred artillerymen.







He stressed the need to train all the artillerymen of the whole army into experts in artillery engagement and a-match-for-a-hundred crack gunners by further boosting their enthusiasm for training and emulation and thus prepare them to rapidly and accurately fulfill any combat mission assigned to them in actual battle as in the present drill, and set forth important tasks for rounding off the artillery war preparations.

He said that it is necessary to push forward more vigorously the

work for making preparations for regular combat mobilization so that all the artillery sub-units can take the initiative with merciless and rapid strikes at the moment of their entry into an actual war and organize more effectively the actual manoeuvres for remarkably increasing the combat capability of the artillerymen with realistic and scientific training goals envisaging different situations and thus continue to increase the might of the artillery, the pride and core of the KPA, in every way.

Ground-breaking Ceremony for Building 10 000 Flats at Third Stage in Hwasong Area Held Respected Comrade Kim Jong Un Attends Ground-breaking Ceremony



A ground-breaking ceremony for 2024 project to build 10 000 flats in Pyongyang, the third-stage project, took place on February 23 in the Hwasong area, where new streets are built every year and a sea change brought about.

Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, attended the ground-breaking ceremony.

When the respected Comrade Kim Jong Un arrived at the venue of the ceremony, all the participants broke into cheers of "hurrah!", looking up to Kim Jong Un, the great artist of creation and benevolent father of the people who is ushering in a new era of stirring change and prosperity of the whole country with his rare wisdom and outstanding leadership.

Present there were Kim Tok Hun and Jo Yong Won, members

of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee, officials of the Cabinet, armed forces organs, ministries and national agencies, officials of Pyongyang Municipality and military and civilian builders.

The national anthem of the DPRK was solemnly played.

Kim Tok Hun, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau

of the Central Committee of the WPK, vice-president of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and premier of the Cabinet, made a speech at the ceremony.

He referred to the fact that preparations for the grand construction of a new stage have been dynamically made thanks to the earnest instructions and meticulous guidance of Kim Jong Un who said that the true nature and duty of our Party and government is to



unconditionally keep a promise made to the people, despite stern trials, and that it is essential to live up to the expectations of the people without fail through ceaseless vigorous offensive.

A group of peculiar dwelling houses and public establishments including educational, public health, commercial and neighbourhood-serving amenities, which will be built at the third stage after the successful construction of the new streets at the first and second stages

in the Hwasong area, will make the capital city of Pyongyang more beautiful along with the area which will be a modern administrative district, he said.

Saying that the stirring era when the capital city, provinces and other parts of the country are vibrant with extraordinary determination, patriotic enthusiasm, and new spirit of development and prosperity is inspiring the builders of the capital city with

greater courage and strenuous efforts, he ardently called upon all the builders to struggle more dynamically for the happy laughter and bright future of their beloved parents, siblings and children, for the defence of the decisions of the Eighth Congress of our Party and for the comprehensive rejuvenation and development of our state.

Kim Jong Un pressed the detonator to declare the start of construction of 10 000 flats at the third stage in the Hwasong area.

Fireworks were set off to celebrate the start of the project, together with great explosion and cheers of excitement.

Kim Jong Un warmly encouraged the builders who were full of enthusiasm to firmly guarantee with signal revolutionary fruition the construction struggle being steadily and dynamically carried out by the WPK as a far-sighted patriotic undertaking for bringing earlier the prosperous and bright future of the Republic.



Kim Jong Un Gives Field Guidance at Regional-industry Factories in Kimhwa County



Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, gave field guidance at the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County on February 7.

Accompanying him were senior officials of the WPK Central Committee.

Kim Jong Un was greeted on the spot by chief secretary of the Kimhwa County Committee of Kangwon Province of the WPK, and leading officials of the relevant factories.

He said that he came to the spot to learn once again about the renovation, management and the architectural styles of the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County, which were built on a trial basis, to confirm the detailed orientation of the construction of regional-industry factories to be newly built on a full scale in different parts of the country from this year, the first year of the promotion of the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

He went round the foodstuff and daily necessities factories and paper mill to learn in detail about the situation.

As was emphasized at the recent meeting of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, it is important to take into full account the building of raw material bases, their conditions and the possibility of supply of raw materials before launching the construction of regional-industry factories, he said, specifying the issues to be reconsidered, re-deliberated and decided by relevant sectors in implementing the Regional Development 20×10 Policy.

Stressing that it is an urgent task arising in improving the material living standards of the locals at present, and also a political issue related to the character of our revolution, to build regional-industry factories in a modern way and revitalize production, he set forth the principled requirements to be met and important tasks to be carried out in building regional-industry factories.



Stressing that it is an urgent task arising in improving the material living standards of the locals at present, and also a political issue related to the character of the revolution, to build regional-industry factories in a modern way and revitalize production, Kim Jong Un sets forth the principled requirements to be met and important tasks to be carried out in building regional-industry factories.

Reminding the officials of the decision of the Party Central Committee on setting the architectural styles and the level of modernization of the regional-industry factories to be built from this year higher than those in Kimhwa County, he stressed the need to steadily introduce new things with an innovative and creative attitude and display a sense of responsibility while overcoming shortcomings in implementing the new regional development policy, instead of mechanically following and emulating the experience gained in

modernizing the regional-industry factories in the county.

He said that the specific conditions of cities and counties, including the detailed characteristics, economic potential, prospect for development and number of population, should be fully taken into consideration and the size, production capacity and construction site of a regional-industry factory should be set under scientific calculation and, on this basis, designs of its buildings should be improved from a practical viewpoint and its construction should be

carried on under a well-thought-out plan.

After going round the regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County, he clarified important tasks including those of making sustained efforts to improve quality by building product analysis rooms as required by regulations and establishing a proper product inspection system, of improving the qualifications of technicians and skilled workers, and of building up solid raw material bases and supplying raw materials needed for production in a responsible

manner. He also specified principled issues to be tackled in using funds allotted for the construction of city and county regional-industry factories.

He also indicated the tasks to be fulfilled in the management of regional-industry factories in Kimhwa County.

He said that we should surely open up a new era, in which regions change, as a reality without fail through correct execution of the Regional Development 20x10 Policy this year. In this way we can



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make a breakthrough in attaining the prospective 10-year goal and fully demonstrate the advantages of the Korean-style socialist system, the validity of the Party's policy and the inexhaustible potentiality of our state for development, he added. He then ardently called on

all the leading officials, commanding officers and soldier-builders to turn out in the struggle to achieve what the Party has long aspired to and bring about a great change in the regional development without fail.

Greatest National Holiday Celebrated



People from all walks of life place floral baskets and flower bouquets before the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il on Mansu Hill on the occasion of the auspicious February holiday.



Senior Party and government officials visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay homage to the great leaders.



A national photo exhibition "Great leadership, immortal exploits" and a stamp show "Great life" are held.



The Korean people celebrated with splendour February 16, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

All the people across the country paid the highest tribute to Kim Jong Il who regarded "The people are my God" as his lifelong motto and led the socialist cause of Juche along the road of victory with his outstanding ideology, energetic leadership and patriotic devotion.

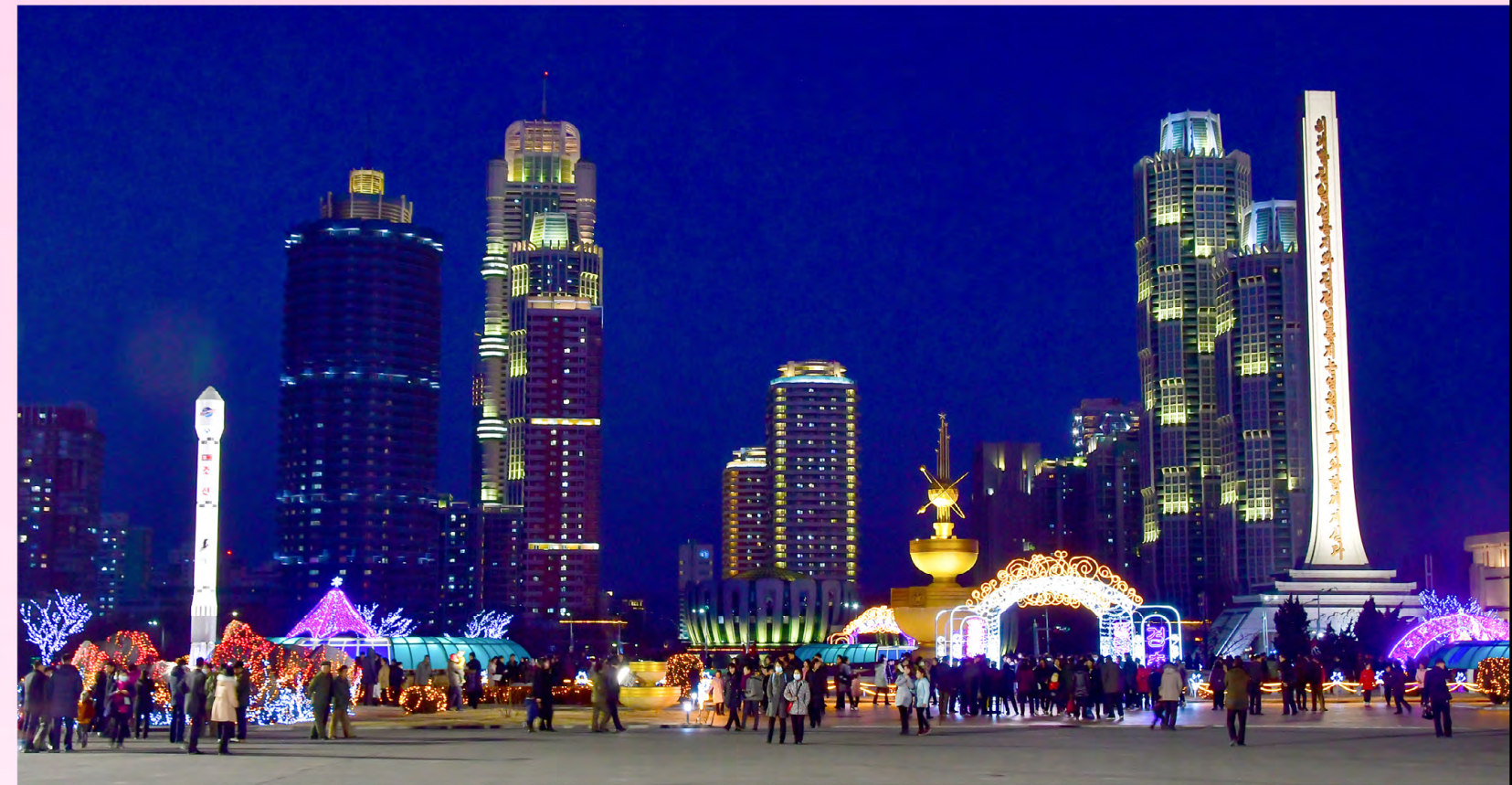
Endless streams of people flowed to the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, the supreme sanctuary of Juche where President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il are preserved in their lifetime appearance, and the statues of the great leaders in all parts of the country.

Looking back upon the past days when they made strenuous efforts to realize their dream and ideal of building a thriving country under the guidance of the Chairman, the greatest leader of revolution in the world, they cherished more deeply that his august name and benevolent image would remain forever as the symbol of invincibility of socialist Korea and its banner of victory.

At the photo shows held in every province (municipality) they recollected the ennobling life of the Chairman as the father of the



An evening gala of youth and students takes place.



Streets in the capital city of Pyongyang are decorated in dazzling illuminations.



people who was always among the people to instil in them invincible power and fighting will and sowed the precious seeds for the prosperity of posterity and cultivated them with care.

Songs of yearning and praise for the great man who performed the indelible exploits for the country and revolution, the times and history with his outstanding ideology and extraordinary leadership resounded across the country.

The People's Art Festival in celebration of the birth anniversary of the Chairman was held in splendour in the Pyongyang Grand

Theatre, Ponghwa Art Theatre, Central Youth Hall and other places.

At the Moranbong Theatre, Pyongyang Circus Theatre and National Theatre were given a concert of the National Symphony Orchestra, joint performance of the National Acrobatic Troupe and National Folk Art Troupe, and a drama "Devoted Service for the Good of the People". And splendid outdoor performances held in various parts of the capital city added optimism and delight to the citizens celebrating the holiday.

Provincial art troupes and provincial-level artistic teams gave



performances in Anju, Hamhung and other places.

Youth and students across the country held dancing parties in high spirits of taking the lead in carrying out the plans and intentions of the Workers' Party of Korea to add brilliance to the dignity and might of the country with a display of their youthful vigour and enthusiasm.

A model aircraft demonstration was given by the players of the provincial aviation club in Kanggye, Jagang Province.

On the occasion of the greatest national holiday, schoolchildren in various parts of the country joined the Korean Children's Union,



taking a pledge to prepare themselves as dependable pillars who would shoulder the future of socialist Korea in the warm embrace of the respected fatherly Marshal Kim Jong Un.

That evening, fireworks were displayed in the city of Samjiyon, the sacred place of the revolution.

Fireworks were also displayed in the cities of Nampho, Sinuiju, Chongjin and Hyesan and other parts of the country, adding to the festive mood.

Text: Kim Son Gyong

People's Art Festival held in celebration of the February holiday





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