

A scenic landscape at sunset. A winding asphalt road with a metal guardrail curves through a lush green valley. To the right, a calm river reflects the golden light of the setting sun. In the background, a prominent mountain peak is silhouetted against the bright orange and yellow sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

**AFFECTION AND
DEVOTION**

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Foreword

A national leader will be worthy of whole-hearted support from his people, when he is steadfast in his will of devotion to their interests and also fully committed to protecting their destiny and improving their livelihood.

It is just some years ago that Kim Jong Un took the helm of the ruling Party, state and armed forces of the DPRK, and this period may be counted as a moment in human history. Over the course of these years the Korean people have become fully aware of how devoted the leader is to them.

With an ennobling view of the people, he has done all he can for their interests and welfare.

The Editorial Board publishes this book containing a selection from the numerous anecdotes that form a portrait of the DPRK's Supreme Leader.

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Changed Schedule

It was December 25, Juche 100 (2011), some days after General Kim Jong Il passed away.

The day of bidding the last farewell to him was drawing closer. Wails of grief were still heard across the country.

Kim Jong Un told officials that the ceremony of bidding the last farewell to the General should be held at 2 p.m. on December 28.

The officials were perplexed as the ceremony had been scheduled at 8 a.m.

He resumed:

“The last-farewell ceremony should be held in the afternoon lest Pyongyang citizens attending it shiver from cold. My intention is to ensure that they are not exposed to severe cold while they are waiting in the streets to bid the last farewell to the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il.”

State funerals used to be held in the morning and this was considered part of traditional etiquette.

He added:

“I think that whatever we do, we should first think about the interests of the people and this accords with

the lifetime intention of General Kim Jong Il who devoted his all to them.

“True to his intention, I decided to hold the last-farewell ceremony in the afternoon.”

He continued to say: It seems too early to hold the last-farewell ceremony at 8 a.m. If the ceremony is to be held at this hour, Pyongyang citizens have to gather at the designated places before 6 a.m. It will be dark and the coldest; I am afraid that some might not afford time to have breakfast. We must not make them wait for a long time in the open from the dawn of a cold winter day.

His words touched the heartstrings of the officials.

He went on:

“We should hold the ceremony of bidding the last farewell to General Kim Jong Il in the afternoon so that Pyongyang citizens who participate in the ceremony are not made uncomfortable. As the temperature goes up at the beginning of the afternoon, they will feel not so cold.

“According to the extended forecast, on the morning of the 28th, when the last-farewell ceremony will be held, the lowest temperature will be 5⁰C below zero and the highest temperature reach 0⁰C during the day. It might rise above zero, and then I will feel less worried.”

This was how the ceremony was held at 2 p.m.

Fish for the Mourners

On December 18, Juche 100 (2011), one day after General Kim Jong Il passed away, officials received a report that the planned amount of fish arrived at a port on the east coast on the evening of the 16th.

By that time Kim Jong Un was busy due to his heavy workload, so the officials hesitated to inform him of the fact.

Actually, the fish were associated with the General's benevolent care for Pyongyang citizens. Some months back, he was very pleased that Alaska pollack and herring had been supplied to the people in the capital city. In November he stressed the need to supply more hard-finned sandfish to the people across the country and took steps for providing Pyongyang citizens with those caught in deep sea. He also had Alaska pollack and herring obtained for them on the occasion of New Year's Day; at 9:13 p.m. on December 16, one day before his death, he wrote his signature on a document concerning the supply of fish.

Kim Jong Un was briefed on the arrival of fish and the document containing the General's last signature. Then he told officials that the fish were worth their

weight in gold and they should be supplied to the people as soon as possible. And he adopted specific measures to transport them to Pyongyang by enlisting the service personnel and by charter train.

Pyongyang citizens were very surprised when they were informed about the supply of fresh fish and wept tears of gratitude.

Ennobling Sense of Obligation

Kim Jong Un's view of the people and his people-centred philosophy are based on his boundless loyalty towards the great leaders and his sense of responsibility for the future of the country and nation.

On December 31, Juche 100 (2011), all the people in the country were in deep grief as they were to greet the new year after the death of General Kim Jong Il, fatherly leader of the nation whom they had believed in as in heaven. On this New Year's Eve Kim Jong Un was having talks with the commanding officers of the Korean People's Army.

He looked somewhat haggard as it was some ten days after the General's death. An officer told him that he must not overwork as the people were worried about his health, and another said that he should take a good rest and have regular meals.

He thanked them all for their concern about his health, and then said that as he was young, he could endure several sleepless nights.

He continued: The General went through all manner of hardships for the sake of the country and the people throughout his life; he worked at his office until 3 or 4

o'clock every morning, greeting dawn before anybody else. As I have been entrusted with all affairs of the Party, state and army today, I can fully understand why he did not take a rest in comfort even for a single day and had to continue his super-intensive forced march. Thinking that I am shouldering the destiny of the country and the people that I was entrusted with by the General, I am not content with what I have done, and I wish a day had more than 24 hours.

He stressed that he would follow the General's mode of revolution and lifestyle all his life and he would be the first to greet dawn in place of the General.

One spring day he said to officials: You are worrying about my health as I often burn the midnight oil. I am intent on finding solutions to economic problems and improving the people's livelihood. We are sons and daughters of the people. As such, we should devote our all for the sake of the people. As befits sons and daughters of this country we should brave the current trials. By bolstering up the country's economy and improving the people's livelihood, we should develop our country, our motherland, into a thriving socialist power where the people are well off and everything prospers. Now our people are undergoing difficulties but the day will surely come when they will lead a happy life recollecting today.

Happy Reply

It happened on lunar New Year's Day of Juche 101 (2012) when Kim Jong Un visited Mangyongdae Revolutionary School.

That day, according to its own plan, the school was serving its students with the traditional dish, *onban* (rice served in meat soup).

Seeing a student eating the food with relish, Kim Jong Un asked, **“What’s your favourite food?”**

“I like everything,” the boy replied.

“Then, what do you like best?”

“Um...well... I like all.”

A senior official of the school, who was standing beside him, felt upset, as the boy was too young to understand the question. The official whispered in his ear, telling him that the leader was asking which he liked best among boiled rice, noodles and rice-cakes.

But the student gazed at the official, looking more confused.

At that time, another student beside him rose and said that he liked noodles. Then, all other students said, almost in chorus, “We like all.”

Seeing them all with a bright smile, Kim Jong Un

said to the second student, **“You like noodles. What about rice-cakes?”**

“I like them, too,” he replied.

Seeing another boy standing up, he held him back and asked, **“Does *onban* taste good?”**

The latter replied yes.

After all, the students’ reply was the same.

They were still growing up and children at this age group are not usually fussy about their food. But they came from all around the country, so it is natural that some liked this dish and some others, that one.

When asked about their favourite foods, the children answered that they were eating all the foods with relish. This was because they did not want to worry the leader, who, despite his tight schedule, came to see them as he was afraid that they might be still grieving after the death of General Kim Jong Il.

Meticulous Attention to Detail

It was at dusk on January 30, Juche 101 (2012), when Kim Jong Un visited a new shop despite the biting cold.

The shop had yet to be inaugurated and the display cases were filled with a wide variety of commodities.

Surveying the interior of the shop, Kim Jong Un recollected how much concern General Kim Jong Il had directed to equipping the shop for the convenience of customers, particularly scientists and technicians, after fixing the site of the building himself.

He first looked round the household goods counter and then the daily necessities counter, where he examined *Cosmos*-brand hairpins.

As he was leading the way to another counter, he suddenly turned back, saying that he failed to see the spectacles on the daily necessities counter and he must go back there.

He picked a pair of black-coloured glasses from a case where a wide variety of spectacles including sunglasses were on display, and the accompanying officials noticed a shadow passing over his face.

He said, **“The spectacles display case has not been so well designed to make it easy to pick up glasses.**

The case should be revolving so that customers would find it easier to opt their choice among them.”

Then he tried on the sunglasses and asked where the mirror was.

A salesgirl standing nearby brought a mirror from the luxuries counter.

Noting that he did not intend to look at himself in the mirror, Kim Jong Un told the officials of the shop that there should be a mirror near the spectacles counter so that customers with glasses on could see in it.

They felt guilty about failing to prioritize the comfort of customers.

At the stationery counter he tried a ballpoint pen and stressed that there should be sheets of paper for customers to write on.

At the cosmetics counter he advised that there should be slips of paper of the shape of a small spoon for customers to use when smelling the scent of perfumes.

He went on to say: Customers usually spray perfumes on their hands to smell them. If they try one perfume and then another, the scents will mix and blend. Then they will find it difficult to select one among the products, so there should be perfumed slips for customers to use for the purpose of distinguishing between the scents.

Looking round the counters, he reiterated the

importance of improving customer service to ensure that scientists and technicians would keenly feel the General's affection for them.

On the third floor he went to the foodstuff counter. Seeing biscuits, sweets, bread and other sugary foods, he held one of the trolleys nearby.

Putting two boxes of biscuits into it, he said:

“The trolleys beside the confectionary counter are for shoppers to use when carrying their purchases. I am putting the biscuits into a trolley to buy them, but you must not think that they are the best ones.”

This joke gave rise to a burst of laughter.

After a moment Kim Jong Un wheeled the trolley down the aisle between the display cases, and officials understood that he was doing so to see whether there might be any inconvenience for shoppers pushing the trolleys.

A Proposal Turned Down

On the 14th of February, Juche 101 (2012), Kim Jong Un received a letter from the residents in Manpho, Jagang Province, who moved into new houses.

It reads in part:

“Our dear respected leader Kim Jong Un,

We are longing to see you even in our dreams. To mark the Day of the Shining Star, 245 households in Manpho have moved into the new houses that have been built on the bank of the Amnok under General Kim Jong Il’s and your benevolent care. As we have gathered together to celebrate the happy event, we are sending you this letter to express our deep gratitude to you for your parental concern.

The demise of the General has caused you great pain and we know that you are overcoming your sorrow and doing your best for the good of the people the General entrusted to you. We are moved to tears for your unremitting care and deep trust. We appreciate your warm affection for us...”

The General said that Manpho was keeping socialism in its original form and it was a model in all aspects for the whole country to follow. On his several visits to the

town he underlined the importance of redeveloping it as befits a border town of the country. And Kim Jong Un took a series of steps to build new houses for the residents on the bank of the Amnok. To live up to the General's and Kim Jong Un's affection and trust they worked hard to reap a bumper harvest, thus overfulfilling the cereals production plan for the previous year.

Citing these facts, the letter ended as follows:

Our yearning for the General grows stronger as our town has been transformed beyond recognition and our living standards are improving as a result of good farming. We feel so guilty as none of us ever prepared a good meal for the General who devoted his whole life to the good of the people. With a strong yearning for him and out of our unshakeable loyalty to him, we have collected 100 tons out of the white-polished rice we harvested last year and packed them in 50kg bags. Our wish is that you accept our sincere donation for the erection of a statue of the General.

Kim Jong Un wrote in his reply to this letter:

“The chief secretary of the Jagang Provincial Party Committee,

The chief secretary of the Manpho City Party Committee,

I have rejoiced at the news that the residents in

Manpho were very pleased to move to new houses which had been constructed under the care of the General.

In the future the officials of the provincial and city Party committees should make sure that his warm affection would go down for long along with the new houses. They should always pay meticulous concern to the problem of people's living and their troubles and resolve them in time. They should also give priority to their interests in all aspects of their work. In this way they should implement our Party's people-oriented policies and honour the name of the General forever. I thank the people in Manpho for proposing to donate 100 tons of white-polished rice, which they collected with utmost care, for the soldiers who have been seconded to the erection of a statue of the General.

I am very grateful to them. I accept their sincerity but I decline their proposal.

I will convey to the great General the sincere devotion with which our people support their leader maintaining close ties of kinship with him.

I advise that true to the noble intentions of the General who loved his people and devoted his life entirely to their interests and well-being, the officials of the provincial and city Party committees apportion

the whole amount of the rice among the local people and their children as a token of his affection for them.

I believe you will do so without fail.

The letter from the people in Manpho has given me great encouragement and I have hardened my determination to redouble my efforts for the revolution.

Kim Jong Un

February 14, 2012”

Playing Area in a Department Store

On May 30, Juche 101 (2012), Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Children's Department Store that had yet to be inaugurated.

After looking round the three floors of the department store, he said to the accompanying officials, **“There should be a playing area for children on each floor of this department store.”**

They were surprised at his words, and then he explained that while adults were doing the rounds of the counters to buy goods, children could spend their time playing in the area. He added that a certain area on each floor should be allotted for the sake of children, instead of making a separate playing room for them, and such area should be equipped with recreational apparatuses, stressing that then the extra-wide space in front of counters would decrease.

A few days later, he had thousands of recreational apparatuses sent to the department store.

One month later, he visited it again and told its senior official that if children grew interested in recreational apparatuses, they would be unwilling to go back home, so there would be no need for their parents to worry about

their naughty children. This is why I said during my previous visit that the Pyongyang Children's Department Store must have playing areas for children, he added.

The official was deeply moved. She brought up two sons and now had two grandsons; she herself took pains to look after the children inside stores. But she failed to think that it would be better to set up a playing area in her store.

Sibilant Sound

The following happened on May 30, Juche 101 (2012), when Kim Jong Un was on a balcony of the 45-storey apartment block, the highest one in Changjon Street, Pyongyang.

He was enjoying the panoramic view of the area centred on Mansu Hill, when he heard a sibilant sound coming from a window. He opened it a little and then closed it.

The officials were perplexed.

He told them that he just heard a sibilant sound. They tried with all their ears, finding that he was right.

He said that the scenery outside the apartment was beautiful, but conversely, the sound from the windows was annoying.

The balcony was over 100 metres above ground level and it was blowing hard outside.

Measures had already been adopted for preventing a strong wind from coming in, but no one cared so much about the barely audible sound. Officials presumed that it was a double window, so a slight wind would not cause any inconvenience for the residents.

Kim Jong Un said in a resolute tone that the people should not be allowed to live in such flats and prompt steps should be taken for sealing the windows.

An overhauling campaign followed shortly afterwards.

A New Courtyard

It happened just after news got about that Kim Jong Un visited the renovated Kyongsang Kindergarten in Changjon Street.

A crowd gathered around the kindergarten, only to see soldier-builders digging up the newly paved courtyard. They stood dumbfounded because they presumed that it was wide and well-designed as suited to the preschoolers' psychological characteristics.

A staff of the kindergarten told them the following story:

On May 30, Juche 101 (2012), the day before, when Kim Jong Un visited the kindergarten, it was very hot outside.

He stood long on the courtyard under the blazing sun and the accompanying officials tried to guide him into the kindergarten. But he halted and looked at the playground with a serious look.

There were some amusement facilities on the newly paved yard.

He told officials that the courtyard of the kindergarten was paved with asphalt but it was not good to pave the playground in the same fashion. It should be covered with

sand or turned into a green area, he pointed out. He added that children might suffer injuries if they fell from a swing on the pavement.

He said to the official in charge of the construction project, **“The playground of Kyongsang Kindergarten should be covered with sand or turned into a green area lest the children get injured.”**

The officials felt guilty about paying scant concern to the naughty children who would play on the asphalt pavement. They simply assumed that the playground would be clean even on a rainy day.

However, Kim Jong Un identified the drawback of the playground at first glance.

True to his intention the soldier-builders transformed the courtyard overnight, digging up the asphalt pavement, covering the courtyard with rubber mats and turning the playground into a green area.

Five Red Stars Drawn as a Token of Blessing

On October 10, Juche 101 (2012), Kim Jong Un was reading a letter from a 5-year-old boy, called Ho Jun Hyok, at Kinmaul Kindergarten No. 1 in Moranbong District, Pyongyang.

Some months before, his mother had died of an incurable disease.

In the letter with his photo enclosed, the boy said that he had been studying hard without any worry and learned to write with a pen, adding that he sent over 150 letters to soldiers and his writing style was appreciated at a TV show. He wrote about how he recited a poem and sang a song, expressing his firm resolve to become a soldier.

After reading the letter, Kim Jong Un wrote on it some words to the effect that the boy was admirable and he should become a good man in the future. Then he drew five red stars on the letter.

The news about this reply moved the people across the country, as well as the boy.

Actually Kim Jong Un was very busy that day, because it was the 67th founding anniversary of the

Workers' Party of Korea. At 0:00 a.m. he visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun in which President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il lie in state, accompanied by the members of the WPK Central Military Commission and the then National Defence Commission and the staff officers of the Supreme Headquarters. Then he spent the whole day giving important instructions on the celebrations of the significant anniversary.

His reply to the letter from an ordinary child reflected the leader's warm affection for children and his steadfast determination to translate their beautiful dreams into reality.

“Special Privilege”

It happened when the Munsu Water Park was built on the bank of the picturesque Taedong River to mark the 68th anniversary of the Workers’ Party of Korea.

Around lunchtime on October 13, Juche 102 (2013), Kim Jong Un visited the water park after receiving a report that it was soon to be inaugurated.

Looking round the new facility, he said: The indoor and outdoor wading pools are wonderful, and the wave pool looks like a beach. It was designed well and the soldier-builders are very skilful.

Then he instructed that at 16:00 the water park should be opened for the officials in his company.

The officials were half surprised and half pleased. Most of them were now grandfathers and the leader had the water park built for the good of ordinary people. They could not understand why he was giving them such a “privilege.”

Anyhow, they thought it was a good opportunity for relieving their fatigue.

What attracted them most were steep water slides, which varied in name, shape and colour. Riding a roller coaster slide was a really thrilling experience.

While the old officials were enjoying themselves, Kim Jong Un came to the water park again. He took a close look at the seams of a slide and said that they should be polished with care to avoid physical injury.

He told the officials that he wanted them to have a try on the water slides to see if their seams were polished well enough for the convenience of people, stressing the need to avoid possible harm by using silicone putty.

Not Merely for a Day and Half

One January day in Juche 103 (2014), a senior official of the State Academy of Sciences, who had accompanied Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un all day long from early morning, was summoned by him again in the evening. At the moment he felt a sudden urge to write about the leader's benevolent care for scientists under the title "A Day and Half for Scientists."

The previous afternoon Kim Jong Un gave an official in the field of science and education instructions as to the construction of a scientists street in the Unjong Science Park. At dawn that day he telephoned the latter, saying that he thought all night over how to name the new street, and he spent the whole morning making the rounds of the State Academy of Sciences, as he gave advice on the ways for developing the country's science. In the afternoon he headed to Lake Yonphung in a mountainous region, where a scientists holiday camp would be built.

The above official of the State Academy of Sciences was moved to tears, at the sight of his car covered with a thick layer of dust. Being summoned by the leader again in the evening, he could see how much pain he took for the benefit of scientists.

This was why he decided to write about what the leader did for a day and half.

That evening, another official told Kim Jong Un on behalf of the senior official of the State Academy of Sciences about the title. Other officials seemed to be agreeing to his decision.

After a good while, Kim Jong Un said that he had been concerned about scientists not merely for a day and half.

Officials wondered what he really meant.

The leader resumed, laughing loud, that he had cared for them all the year round, not merely for a day and half.

This was not a simple joke.

What he was concerned about the previous year alone, even in the hottest days, were mostly associated with scientists in the country—the construction of apartment buildings for scientists, the new Unha Scientists Street, twin apartment buildings for educationalists at Kim Il Sung University, and the holding of a national conference of scientists and technicians.

Parental Affection

On June 1, Juche 103 (2014), Kim Jong Un made a phone call to an official in the afternoon.

He said, **“Today is the International Children’s Day. What are the children at the Pyongyang Orphanage doing?”**

In the morning that official went to the orphanage to congratulate the children, as instructed by Kim Jong Un. He told Kim Jong Un what he saw at the orphanage. The children had breakfast, prepared with various foodstuffs sent by Kim Jong Un, and enjoyed the holiday with the officials of several units and many residents in Pyongyang who visited it to congratulate them.

The above official told Kim Jong Un that the children grew taller and stronger, adding that they all had a fair complexion and they were happy with the gifts from him.

Then Kim Jong Un asked, **“What did the children eat for lunch?”**

The official replied that the Okryu Restaurant brought noodles and some cooks from the restaurants and other public catering services in the district came to

prepare different kinds of dishes for the children.

Kim Jong Un was not happy with the reply and said, **“I am afraid if the children liked noodles.”** He then asked what the menu was for supper. The official was unable to answer, because he failed to inquire about the menu after seeing a sumptuous feast at lunchtime. He replied that he did not pay concern to the menu for supper and he would ask about it soon.

Kim Jong Un changed the subject, asking him the number of the teachers and children at the orphanage. The official was unable to give him a correct answer. Kim Jong Un said the number, adding that it might not be exact and he should inquire about it.

With a feeling of guilty conscience, the official asked about the teachers and children at the orphanage. He was greatly surprised to see that Kim Jong Un remembered the exact number.

Some hours later, Kim Jong Un visited the orphanage. He told officials about how to feed children honey and manage their nutrition, saying that taking honey before a meal is good for weak children.

He continued: I was told that the children ate noodles for lunch. Usually, children are not fond of noodles.

The fact that the children at the orphanage ate noodles

for lunch weighed down on his mind, so he visited it bringing with him pheasants and yogurt.

After explaining how to cook eggs, he said that the children should be given not merely boiled rice but snacks as well and yogurt should be taken after a meal.

Socks in the Korean Style

On August 6, Juche 103 (2014), an official of the Pyongyang Hosiery Factory arrived at his office early in the morning. In those days, with the growing domestic demand for its products, children's socks in particular, the factory was booming.

While making arrangements for work, he was told that Kim Jong Un was on the way to the factory. He ran out to make some necessary preparations, only to see that the leader was already in the compound of the factory.

Kim Jong Un had a handshake with the official and, guided by him, made the rounds of the shop floor.

Looking round the sample display room, he halted in front of a children's socks case. He said with a smile on his face that among the samples there were many pretty socks bearing animal patterns.

He picked up a pair of socks with a Pooh pattern in exotic style and took a careful look at them for a while. Then he told officials that it would be good to produce socks embroidered with the animals from the Korean animation *The Clever Raccoon Dog*.

The above official of the factory was embarrassed about the alien design.

Kim Jong Un reiterated that the three friends—raccoon dog, cat and bear—featured in the film would make a good pattern for the socks.

A Granite Chair

On October 21, Juche 103 (2014), Kim Jong Un visited the newly-built Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp.

He was very pleased to see another resort for scientists and technicians in the country.

The following happened when he was being guided around the Grapevine Park.

Walking along the pavement, he halted at the third section of the park and gazed at a granite chair, which looked quite imposing compared with others around it.

A beautifully-embroidered cushion on the big chair caught his attention, since other cushions were made of straw.

He looked questioningly at the officials in his company.

To the leader, an official explained in a somewhat boastful tone: The chair was cut from a granite rock that weighed nearly 400kg. The soldier-builders made it with all sincerity as they thought that for you, it would be good for relieving the fatigue of a long inspection trip. They embroidered the cushion stitch by stitch with duck feathers in it.

Then the official pleaded with the leader to sit on it and have a rest even for a moment.

But the latter kept mum with a serious face, alternately looking at the big chair and others around it.

After a while, he asked the official whether it was a throne or a symbol of power. This question dumbfounded him and other officials.

Actually, the soldiers made the chair with special care, in the hope that they would bring pleasure to the leader who had been working day and night.

Kim Jong Un asked them for whom the chair was needed.

Yet, there was no reply.

The leader said in a soft voice: Such formalism must be eliminated. It is more important to educate the soldiers in genuine patriotism. I do not like this sort of favour.

Golden Cushion

Kim Jong Un visited the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp on October 21, Juche 103 (2014), in advance of its inauguration.

Nestling in a dense forest, the holiday camp consisted of many buildings in various shapes for lodging and a variety of services, as well as a long access corridor.

In particular, the general service centre was equipped with latest recreational apparatuses and sporting equipment, indoor wading pool, barber's shop, beauty salon, dining hall and banquet hall.

After looking round the general service centre, he headed to block No. 5 via the multi-purpose outdoor playground.

He was satisfied to see the entrance hall, bedrooms and washrooms. Coming out to the balcony, he enjoyed the view of the general service centre and blocks for holidaymakers, highly praising their architectural designs.

Walking along the access corridor, he came to a halt and made an abrupt gesture, ordering some photographers to step out of where they were. Looking down, they found themselves standing on the lawn beside the walkway.

This scene reminded the officials of what the leader had said a few minutes ago:

“Indeed, the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp can be called a golden cushion for our scientists and technicians. For our Party, it was a courageous measure to embark on the project for building this holiday camp.”

A Promise Kept

The following happened on October 28, Juche 103 (2014), when Kim Jong Un, together with Pyongyang citizens, saw a women's soccer match between the national team and the Wolmido team at the renovated May Day Stadium.

When the game was over, he waved back to the cheering players, coaches and spectators.

Stepping out of the stadium, he changed the theme and asked an official whether Kim Jong was among the spectators. He recalled that he had not met the ping-pong player before, telling the official to go and get her as soon as possible.

The official was surprised because Kim Jong Un did not forget the promise he had made ten days previously. That day he had met the gold medallists and their coaches who were back from the 17th Asian Games and many other world championships.

With a benign smile on his face, he said to them: I have been looking forward to seeing you. This time you have defended the dignity of our Republic and demonstrated it to the whole world.

In particular, he highly praised the women's soccer

players and their chief coach for winning the first place at the above Asian Games.

Then he approached ping-pong players and their coaches, looking as if he were finding someone. He asked why Kim Jong was not present there. An official answered that she was abroad for an international competition.

He praised Kim Hyok Bong and Kim Jong, a pair of ping-pong players, for fighting strenuously to the last and winning gold in mixed doubles at the 17th Asian Games. He felt sorry that he could not see the girl and promised that he would summon her on another occasion.

It was soon afterwards that the leader summoned the ping-pong player as he had promised. Seeing the girl bowing low, he commended her successes.

He said to her: You have exalted the honour of the country by winning the mixed doubles title at the 52nd ITTF World Championships and then at the 17th Asian Games. You are laudable, indeed. I hope you will train harder and score better successes at the coming world championships.

He then had a photograph taken with her.

A New Door

On New Year's Day in Juche 104 (2015), which marked the 70th anniversary of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage.

The dining hall, playroom, bedrooms, area for intelligent games and all others were furnished in the best possible fashion as befits a palace for children.

After looking round the indoor and outdoor wading pools, he walked along the corridor and stopped in front of a small door into the changing room.

The head of the orphanage said with an amused smile: The room had no door during your previous visit. As you instructed, the soldiers installed this door for two days.

On hearing this, Kim Jong Un said: It is good that they installed this door into the changing room. Last time there was no door here. It was right and proper to have it installed for the room.

At this remark, all burst into laughter.

In fact, the door into the changing room was not included in the original design.

During his visit to the baby home in October the previous year, Kim Jong Un said that the room should

have a door. All the officials in his company could not understand why. He explained that if there was no door, the children changing clothes would be seen from the outside. He added, laughing loud, that it was not decent to make them stand naked before the eyes of a passer-by. Others joined the laughter, being struck with admiration for his keen observation.

As the officials were recollecting this episode, Kim Jong Un said: Though the orphans are young, we should install the door so that when changing clothes, they will not be seen from the outside. From an early age they need to be taught about a decent manner.

He stressed that the children should be well educated to observe due decorum in all aspects of life.

Meaning of *Hwanggumhae*

The following happened on May 8, Juche 104 (2015), when Kim Jong Un visited the Sinpho Deep-Sea Fishery Complex on the east coast.

The officials of the complex were very pleased to meet Kim Jong Un, but a senior official in charge of the civilian fishing sector, who came there onboard the plane sent by the leader, felt guilty. It was because the fishing stations run by the army were booming both on the East and West seas but the catch of fish in the civilian sector was poor.

Kim Jong Un said to the senior official, **“I have visited the Sinpho Deep-Sea Fishery Complex before any other civilian fishing enterprises, with the aim of encouraging it to stand in the vanguard of the struggle to create a new history of ‘gold seas’.”**

The latter reflected on how the fishing sector had thrived under the leadership of President Kim Il Sung.

At that time, the East Sea of Korea was famous for a huge haul of fish and every family in the country had a plentiful stock of fish in all seasons, year after year.

Later, the fishing industry began to falter owing to the hostile forces’ vicious schemes to isolate the country.

To bolster up the fishing industry amid the ever-growing sanctions and blockade was a “war without gunshot” and a struggle to defend socialism.

But the above official had failed to work as efficiently as he should.

Kim Jong Un said to the official: The fishing sector is now a major point of attack in the struggle to improve the people’s living standards. It is imperative to build many high-performance fishing boats in modern styles. It would be good to name the new models of boats built by the civilian sector, *Hwanggumhae* (gold sea). I named the fishing boats sent to the army units, *Tanphung* (maple), in the hope that they would land a big haul of fish just as farmers reap a rich harvest in autumn. It is reasonable to name the new models *Hwanggumhae*, in the sense that they should steer the course of creating the history of “gold seas.”

“The Most Precious Thing”

In August Juche 104 (2015) heavy flood befell Rason in the northern tip of the country, causing enormous losses, both human and material.

The following happened in early September that year, when the restoration work was in full swing. One day the headquarters was informed that some residents demolished their own houses even though they were in need of small repairs. They did so because they heard that the service personnel would build better houses for the homeless families. They did not subdue their desire to live in the fine houses to be built under the care of the Party. Anyhow, it was unacceptable that they only sought their selfish interests without caring about the difficulties facing the country.

On September 17, some days after that, Kim Jong Un visited the site of the restoration work.

Being briefed on what happened, he said in a soft voice that the rehabilitation campaign in Rason was not merely a project to repair the damage caused by the natural calamity but a struggle to defend the dignity of the country and justify the people’s trust in the Party.

He continued to say, **“You say that some residents**

in the flood-hit area destroyed their own houses in need of small repairs, as they heard the news that the Party took steps for building new houses for the victims. We must not make an issue of this.”

The officials in his company kept mum without understanding why.

To them, the leader said, **“If they had not trusted in the Party, they would not have done so. To us, the most precious thing is the people’s trust in the Party. This is just what is the most valuable.”**

As they were obsessed with the reconstruction costs, the officials could not consider this matter with the feelings of a mother caring more for a mischievous child.

Ryomyong Street Construction Suspended

In August Juche 105 (2016) heavy flood hit six cities and counties in North Hamgyong Province along the Tuman River, leaving a great many residents homeless. It was in the midst of the 200-day campaign (June 1-December 15) for increased production, which was going full steam ahead across the country.

The natural calamity was caused by a violent storm and tidal waves from the East Sea of Korea.

Early in September, Kim Jong Un summoned the senior officials of the Party Central Committee and told them about the catastrophic damage, saying that a terrible storm of wind and rain, the worst-ever in the country's history of meteorological observation, befell North Hamgyong Province and it caused catastrophic damage in many of its cities and counties.

He paused for a few seconds, looking heartrending.

He said, **“Owing to this unexpected natural calamity, the goal of the 200-day campaign has been changed.”**

The officials stood dumbfounded.

He went on:

“A lot of people have been left homeless in the wake of the heavy flood. It would be meaningless to achieve the goal of the 200-day campaign without finding a solution to this problem.

“We need to change the goal of the campaign and pay our primary attention to restoring the flood-stricken area.”

The officials were very surprised when he ordered a halt to the construction of Ryomyong Street.

From the outset the construction project was a matter of worldwide concern, not simply because of the announcement that the large-scale construction would be carried to completion in some months. The controversial point was that the project began amid the harshest-ever sanctions and blockade imposed by the hostile forces.

The officials stood dumb, not understanding why the construction had to be suspended at its last stage.

To them, Kim Jong Un explained: As we declared, the construction of Ryomyong Street is a fierce showdown between socialism and imperialism. It was planned to be completed by the end of this year, but this project should be suspended. You need to have a clear understanding of the reason. We must not be indifferent to the suffering of the flood victims who are now living in the open, so we cannot carry on the construction project

for the present. Even though we complete the project, it cannot be called a success. The new street is built for the people's wellbeing, too.

He gazed thoughtfully at the officials for a good while and resumed: All officials, service personnel and working people should turn out with one accord in the restoration campaign, fully aware of the Party's intention to concentrate all efforts on building houses for the residents in the flood-stricken area. The construction forces engaged in the Ryomyong Street project should be diverted for the restoration campaign. Also, those units in charge of transporting materials to the construction site of the new street should be enlisted in the campaign.

Accordingly, the construction of the magnificent street was suspended and the whole country focused its attention on restoring the flood-stricken area.

A Boy's Dream Comes True

It happened one night in October Juche 105 (2016) when the restoration campaign was in full swing in the wake of the heavy flood that hit the northern part of North Hamgyong Province.

A boy in Musan County of the province had a dream in which he, together with his classmates, had a good time in the aquarium and indoor wading pool at the Songdowon International Children's Camp.

He woke at dawn the following morning, feeling a strong longing for what he saw in his dream. Even at school, he looked quite depressed as he was telling his friends about the dream.

Soon afterwards, a teacher brought them the surprising news that Kim Jong Un arranged another term at the Songdowon International Children's Camp for the children in the flood-stricken area.

The boy could not believe his ears. Not long before, about 1 000 children in the area had gone camping at the Songdowon International Children's Camp. On top of that, cold winter was near at hand.

The teacher related the following story.

A few days ago, Kim Jong Un said to some officials,

“I had the schoolchildren in the flood-hit northern area sent to the Songdowon International Children’s Camp. I have been told that the children, as well as their parents and local officials, are very happy about it.”

He smiled brightly as if seeing the happy residents face to face.

After a minute, he resumed, **“You say that among the junior middle school students in the affected area, 670 or so were not sent to the children’s camp. It would be good to arrange another camping term this year for the remaining students.”**

“All your beautiful dreams will surely come true since you are in the embrace of the benevolent leader,” said the teacher, finishing her story.

Solemn Pledge

Having seen out Juche 105 (2016), a year of excitement, which was adorned with miraculous feats noteworthy in the sacred history of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea, the Korean people saw in Juche 106 (2017) with confident hope for a better future.

On the morning of New Year's Day, all the people sat in front of TV sets to see their Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un deliver a New Year address.

At last his speech began, unfolding an ambitious blueprint for realizing the people's dreams and ideals.

Listening to this speech, the people recollected the past year with deep emotion.

“My desire was burning all the time, but I spent the past year feeling anxious and remorseful over my lack of ability. I am hardening my resolve to seek out more tasks for the sake of the people this year and make redoubled, devoted efforts to this end.”

When he said this, the people shed tears of gratitude to the leader for his sincere devotion to their interests and his outstanding contribution to the Korean revolution.

In fact, the year 2016 witnessed a series of meaningful events and miraculous achievements.

Concluding his address, the Supreme Leader said:

“All our people used to sing the song *We Are the Happiest in the World*, feeling optimistic about the future with confidence in the great Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. I will work with devotion to ensure that the past era does not remain a moment in history but is re-created in the present era. On this first morning of the new year I swear to become a true servant who is loyal to our people and supports them faithfully with a pure conscience.”

AFFECTION AND DEVOTION

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